



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.8°C L 26.8

CHITTAGONG H 33.0°C L 25.6

SYLHET H 34.7°C L 25.5

RAJSHAHI H 33.0°C L 26.4

KHULNA H 31.6°C L 25.2

BARISAL H 31.3°C L 25.3

RANGPUR H 32.3°C L 27.7

COX'S BAZAR H 31.4°C L 24.0

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:38pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31am. Country's highest temperature 34.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius in Teknaf.

## India may pass citizenship bill for neighbouring minorities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A bill to amend the Indian Citizenship Act to help Hindus, Sikhs and other minority groups migrating from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan acquire Indian citizenship easily is expected to be considered and possibly passed by both Houses of the Indian parliament when their sessions resume from tomorrow.

The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha, the Lower House, on July 18 when Home Minister Rajnath Singh said many persons of Indian origin of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have applied for citizenship but have been unable to provide proof of their Indian origins.

An official statement yesterday said the bill would be among other proposed legislations which would be taken up in the Lok Sabha during the session of parliament beginning tomorrow after a two-day break.

In the Rajya Sabha, time SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Piles of mud and soil on the capital's Rishikesh Das Road beside the dug-up spots where the city corporation is setting up underground pipes to mitigate the waterlogging crisis, create more obstacles for the residents, especially amid rain. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: HELEMUL ALAM

## No bar on renting out houses to bachelors

Says DMP

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday reiterated its "no bar" stance on renting out houses to bachelors saying it only wanted landlords to gather their tenants details as part of an intensified anti-militancy campaign.

"Police has not imposed any restriction on landlords in renting out their houses to bachelors," DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah said after inaugurating a new website of DMP at its headquarters.

"We have just asked the landlords to collect National Identity Cards (NID) and other details of their tenants in a prescribed form and submit those to the police station concerned," he further said.

The DMP chief's comments came a week after police issued a statement amid reports that many landlords declined to rent out young bachelors their houses in view of extra SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# Road digging adds to residents' woes

HELEMUL ALAM

Even though the road digging work during the rainy seasons apart from intensifying the already impossible traffic jams create misery and hazards for the residents of the capital, Dhaka South City Corporation has started the digging work at Rishikesh Das Road in Old Dhaka.

The work, to reduce the waterlogging problem of the area by setting up underground pipes, started in June but its progress is very slow.

While visiting the area recently, this correspondent saw that only around 10pc work of the half kilometre project was completed. The workers did not even remove the mud from the spot

and piles of soil have been kept beside spots being dug up, creating obstacles for the residents and vehicles.

Asma Akhtar, mother of a class III student of a local school, said crossing the portion where the work is ongoing has become a constant struggle.

"The condition turns worse during rain as walking through the muddy and slippery road gets risky. Even the rickshaw-pullers demand more fare, instead of Tk 10, I end up paying Tk 25," she said.

Mohammad Mamun, a resident of the area, said the construction work is going on from Ekrampur square, which connects three roads to Gopal Shah Lane and Kazi Gupta Lane crossing.

He said the road is a vital one as

people from various areas go to different educational institutes through it.

The authority should use more manpower and equipment to speed up the work, he said, adding that the work started from Ekrampur crossing but did not see much progress.

He said there were some damaged pipelines from where water started leaking when the digging began for which the work remained shut for a week.

Anowar, a resident of Laxmi Bazar, said two motorcyclists had fallen in the ditch a few days back but luckily they suffered no serious injury.

Abul Mia, who is involved with the work, said as there are several utility lines under the soil, they are struggling

## Freedom of speech must for democracy

Sultana Kamal tells mock parliamentary debate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom of speech and people's security and right to justice must be ensured to promote democracy and development, viewed rights activist Sultana Kamal.

"Democracy and development are interconnected. Development in any country is constrained if democracy does not prevail," she added, according to a press release.

She was speaking as the chief guest at a mock parliamentary debate, "Whether limited democracy is acceptable for sustainable development" organised by the

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## New jail, old problems

UNB, Keraniganj

Barley one week into their shifting from the old Dhaka Central Jail, the inmates of the newly-built Keraniganj Central Jail have started grappling with various problems, including incomplete amenities.

Scarcity of water, delayed meals and inability to meet visitors are the major problems they had to experience initially.

Among them, crisis of water is most acute. The inmates are suffering from water crisis due to unplanned water management.

During a recent visit, the news agency found that there was only one room for meeting visitors in the jail, which always remains cramped. The inmates have to meet visitors crossing an overwhelming crowd.

Some of the visitors even had to go back without meeting prisoners.

Many while talking to the news agency expressed necessity of at least two more visitors' rooms.

Besides, foods are cooked in firewood

stoves in absence of gas connection, resulting in delay in distribution of meals among the inmates.

Jailer Nesar Alam said they are identifying the prisoners' problems and scores of them have already been informed to the higher authorities, who will take necessary measures accordingly.

Ayesha, mother of an inmate, said she failed to meet her son due to the intolerable crowd in the visitors' shed.

She also alleged that those who pay Tk 500 and Tk 1,000 can get the chance to meet their relatives.

Experts said the problems would be solved once the authorities concerned take steps to set up an adequate number of water pumps, construct two more visitors' rooms, install clay ovens until the gas connection comes and set up some tin-shed waiting rooms.

Some 6,000 prisoners from Dhaka Central Jail were shifted to Keraniganj jail on July 29.

## Threat to EU security on rise

Europol report reveals

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union has said a number of recent terrorist incidents targeting westerners in Bangladesh might lead to an increased future risk of attacks and kidnappings.

The Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, in its Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT), 2016 said the overall threat to the security of the EU has increased and remains on an upward trajectory.

The emergence of branches of IS and al-Qaeda in South-East Asia, and a number of terrorist incidents targeting the westerners in Bangladesh, might lead to an increased future risk of attacks and kidnappings in those regions, it claimed.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, however, recently said investigators identified all home-grown militants, but found no members of IS in Bangladesh.

The report said several European jihadists hold prominent positions in IS and are likely to maintain contact with terrorist networks in their home countries.

This new edition of the report, which Europol has produced on an annual basis since 2006, provides an overview of the failed, foiled and completed terrorist attacks that took place in the EU during 2015, and of arrests, convictions and penalties issued.



## A normal child, only ageing fast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He takes food on his own and plays with others. He gets amused when pets pass by him. His behaviour and sense is also like many other children of his age.

But what separates him from them is his condition. The four-year-old Bayezid Hossain of Magura looks like an 80-year-old man. He is diagnosed with premature ageing condition progeria.

Bayezid with his swollen face, wrinkled skin, hollow eyes, aching joints and other old-age signs including small jaw, was admitted to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday around 8:00am.

He was initially diagnosed with progeria by a five-member medical team of Magura Sadar Hospital (MSH), which later suggested sending him to DMCH for treatment and research by specialists.

A six-member medical board will be formed at the institute today to examine and treat the boy, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, the institute's chief coordinator.

Nothing can be said before they start

treating him, he added.

Bayezid's mother Tripti Khatun and father Lablu Shikder earlier said their son was born four years ago with the face resembling that of an elderly man.

He got all the teeth within nine months of his birth, but learnt to walk very late, at the age of three-and-a-half years, mentioned Lablu.

He can also recognise alphabet and his memory is good too, added his mother Tripti hoping to see her son's physical condition become normal.

Tripti said, "Every day around 20 to 50 people from nearby localities throng our home to see the boy. Here [DMCH] too, many people are coming to see him."

The signs of old age are getting even clearer day by day, added the parents, who consulted different physicians for his treatment, but to no avail owing to a lack of money.

Lablu told The Daily Star that doctors at Magura Sadar Hospital (MSH) referred his only child to DMCH, adding that they came to the hospital accordingly with the hope that their son would be cured.

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## Sylhet PDB officials go on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Employees of the Sylhet office of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) yesterday went on a daylong strike, protesting an agreement of the authorities concerned to transform the board into a company without consulting them.

However, emergency services were out of the purview of the strike.

Md Atiqul Islam, general secretary of Sylhet-Sunamganj Collective Bargaining Agency (CBA), said the BPDB chairman signed an agreement after meeting the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources to turn the board into a company.

"Many employees might lose their jobs for this sort of decision. We are stoutly protesting it and will go for a tougher demonstration if our opinions are not considered in this regard," the CBA leader added.

They will, however, resume working today.

## First Dhaka Neuroscience Summit held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first ever Dhaka Neuroscience Summit 2016 was held yesterday with a call to create awareness to prevent the risk of stroke.

The summit, which was held at BIAM foundation, was inaugurated by former health minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque.

Maj Gen (retd) Jibon Kanai Das, head of Sir William Beveridge Foundation, and famous neuro surgeons from Bangladesh and India

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## Ethnic children still lack access to proper edu

UN experts say ahead of int'l day of indigenous peoples

UNB, Dhaka

Though it has been nearly 10 years since the United Nations has adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous children and youth still lack full access to adequate, accessible and appropriate forms of education.

A group of four UN experts on indigenous issues made the observation in a joint statement made public on Friday, according to a message received here from Geneva.

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