

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.0 L 25.5	H 34.8 L 26.1	H 34.6 L 23.3	H 33.4 L 22.8	H 34.5 L 24.5	H 34.5 L 24.3	H 32.8 L 22.0	H 33.5 L 26.0

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:59am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Dhaka and lowest 19.2 in Tentulia.

AL council to go live on Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 20th national council of ruling Awami League will be streamed live from the verified Facebook page of the party, opening up an opportunity for the grassroots party leaders and activists to get connected online.

This online coverage will continue round the clock till the closing session of the council on Sunday, said Sabbir Bin Shams, executive director of the party's research wing CRI. The Center for Research and Information (CRI) will supervise the online coverage on facebook.com/awamileague.1949.

Sabbir said this initiative was aimed to make sure that grassroots activists could also stand in solidarity with the participants at the venue, making the council inclusive.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with others offers prayers after laying the foundation stone of the 31-storey Bangabandhu Media Complex on the Jatiya Press Club premises in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Students protest assault on twins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police were yet to arrest Jibon Karim Babu, who beat up the twin sisters, students of BCIC College in the capital's Mirpur on Wednesday, while teachers and fellow students yesterday formed a human chain in front of the college demanding his punishment.

The students vandalised Babu's restaurant Ahona Fast Food and Khabar Hotel in the area, said witnesses.

They also vandalised few vehicles and blocked the road for over two hours since 11:00am, they added.

"I wish we will get due justice soon," Ahsan Habib, victims' father, told The Daily Star. He said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid also called him and assured of justice.

Principal of the college Ashok Kumar Saha said they were worried if the sisters did not get due justice it may create panic among other students. Syed Mamun Mostafa, assistant commissioner (Darus Salam zone) of Mirpur Division, said they have held a person already and working on arresting Babu.

Meanwhile, neighbours said Babu who lived with his mother near his restaurants, left their rented house after the incident. The twin sisters, aged 16, were beaten up severely by the hotelier when they were returning home from college.

Babu hurled abusive words at them when they were waiting for a bus around 11:30am. As they protested, Babu along with two of his staff swooped on them with bamboo sticks, leaving them critically injured.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also condemned the incident yesterday.

DMP plans barring hawkers in buses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) plans to bar hawkers from running businesses in public buses to stop doping incidents.

Most doping cases occur in public buses and the perpetrators impersonate hawkers and passengers, reasoned Detective Branch of police Joint Commissioner Abdul Baten at a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre.

The decision will be finalised after a discussion with transport owners, workers and leaders while police will conduct regular drives and take legal action, he said.

The briefing follows the arrest of 19 alleged doping gang members, aged between 19 and 35 years, Wednesday night.

Law enforcement must to ensure safe roads

Says Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National unity is crucial to formulation of appropriate laws and their implementation for road safety as well as curbing irregularities in this sector, said Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan yesterday.

Addressing a press conference he said, "Unwillingness of the politicians over road accidents makes me worried. We often observe that the politicians called for national unity on different issues. But we do not know what their thinking about road accidents is?"

"If the issue is included in their election manifesto, the number of road accident will be reduced," he said.

Ilias held the press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity to announce programmes to observe "Jatiya Nirapad Sarak Dibas" tomorrow.

He said he along with some experts and World Health Organization placed some suggestions, including increase in the punishment for the accused drivers and compensation for the victims, to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and officials concerned in different ministries in February.

The government ensured them that they would let them know whether they accept the suggestions, he said, adding that there has been no response to it for seven months.

He, however, heard from different sources that BRTA and the ministries concerned have proposed to bring changes to the existing laws which will be placed soon in the cabinet, said Ilias.

The speakers said when different organisations made a call for stern actions against the accused transport workers, the political leaders stay mum.

Rather, in some cases, they talked in favour of them, they added.

Nirapad Sarak Chai will march from the capital's Shilpakala Academy to Shaheed Minar around 10:30am tomorrow, marking the day.

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BARISAL SHER-E-BANGLA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL Ill-equipped to handle emergencies

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barisal

Last week, Rima Akter was brought to the emergency unit of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal after she had consumed poison.

Her worried family, hailing from Gouronodi -- around 40km away from the hospital, waited for around 20 minutes to get a stretcher trolley to carry her to the medicine unit on the third floor.

Once they got the trolley, they found out the elevator was not working due to load shedding.

Desperate, her relatives and a hospital staff carried Rima to the third floor as her condition worsened.

But it was too late and she eventually died there. The family claimed that she would have survived if she had got treatment on time. Rima was just 24.

This has become an everyday scenario at the emergency unit as it has only three trolleys for carrying patients whereas some 450 patients throng the unit daily, informed Gazi Ataur Rahman, a staff of the unit. "We need at least nine trolleys to tackle the rush", he said.

Two more trolleys will be added to the fleet soon, said Dr SM Sirazul Islam, director of the hospital, adding, they are also facing a manpower crisis.

Patients need some 15 to 30 minutes to reach the referred wards on trolleys from the emergency room, situated at the west corner of the hospital, as the doctors keep on sending the patient to different wards, said the hospital staff.

But the sufferings worsen when they



PHOTO: M. JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

Worried but resolute Sunil carries his ailing mother to see a doctor since few available stretcher trolleys at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital are not only impossible to find, but also stay occupied. The patients' suffering also escalates as the hospital's elevators remain out of order for frequent load shedding and maintenance work. The photo was taken last week.

find that the elevators are not working due to power failures, said patients and their families.

The hospital has 10 elevators, three of which were installed recently. Six elevators operate from the morning till evening, after that two others operate till 10:00pm, while at night one elevator remains open, informed Sanjib Kumar Debnath, sub-assistant engineer (electrical) of Public Works Department (PWD).

"When elevators do not work, we have to carry patients on our shoulders..." said Abdul Rahim, who pushes



Students of old Dhaka's Jagannath University bring out a colourful procession on the campus, marking its 11th founding anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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JnU celebrates 11th founding anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and employees of old Dhaka's Jagannath University (JnU) observed its 11th founding anniversary yesterday, through colourful programmes.

JnU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mijanur Rahman inaugurated the celebration hoisting the national flag and releasing pigeons as well as balloons in front of the university Shaheed Minar.

Clad in traditional dresses, the students, teachers and staff later joined a procession and paraded around the campus. It was followed by a concert of James and other singers.

In 1868, Jagannath Roy Chowdhury founded a school, which was upgraded to a college in 1884. The college was turned into a public university on October 20, 2005.

It has 21,000 students now.

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