

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 30.2 L 24.2

CHITTAGONG
H 33.0 L 25.3

SYLHET
H 26.9 L 25.7

RAJSHAHI
H 27.7 L 24.0

KHULNA
H 30.5 L 24.2

BARISAL
H 31.0 L 24.0

RANGPUR
H 28.0 L 22.6

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.6 L 25.5

Light rain is likely in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, reports UNB. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am. Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Kutubdia and lowest 18.5 in Tentulia.



With a utility service provider digging up soil to install underground pipes for nearly a week, a light shower now suffices to turn the road into a completely muddy one, impeding vehicular movement and causing sufferings to pedestrians. The photo was taken in the capital's Gabtali bus stand area around noon yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS IN brief

'Dhaka Wasa to supply 80pc water from surface sources'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government will supply 80 percent of water from surface sources within two to four years to mitigate the capital's groundwater dependency, said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, minister for local government, rural development and cooperatives, yesterday. The groundwater level has been alarmingly declining, so the government has taken the initiative, he said at a seminar as the chief guest. Currently, 78 percent water of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority comes from ground while 22 percent from the surface through treatment plants, according to DWasa.

CPB congress today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 11th congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will begin today in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan to form its central committee and control commission for the next four years. The four-day congress will start at 2:00pm. Leaders of left-leaning parties from India, USA, UK, China, Russia, North Korea and Nepal will participate in the congress, which will see 683 district representatives. Party insiders said incumbent President Mujahidul Islam Selim and General Secretary Sayed Abu Zafar Ahmed will remain in their posts as there are no powerful candidates to compete with them.

Permission must for operating drone, flying devices: CAAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) yesterday issued an instruction to individuals or organisations for seeking written permission to operate drone or remote control flying devices. An individual or organisation will have to seek written permission from CAAB at least 45 days before flying of drones or any remote control flying devices in the country's airspace, Rezaul Karim, public relations officer of CAAB, told The Daily Star last evening.

Six penalised for taking CU admission test for others

CU CORRESPONDENT
A mobile court on Wednesday jailed three people, including a Dhaka University student, for one year each and fined three others for giving proxy in B unit admission test of Chittagong University. The jailed are Imran Hossain, 21, a student of the TV and Film Studies department of DU, Aman Ullah, 19, and Arafatul Islam, 19. Meanwhile, Shakil Hossain, 18, Mohsin Mia, 19, and Jahid Hossain, 18, were fined Tk 2,000 each. The CU authority detained another person -- Aliraz Razu Chowdhury, 19, -- for the same offence yesterday.

Ctg snatchers rule the nights

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg
If you are a CNG-run auto-rickshaw passenger in Chittagong city, next time you get on one, be careful. Chances are high that you might lose your belongings and even life at the hands of the snatchers. Due to inactiveness of the law enforcers, at least 10 to 12 groups of armed criminals are roaming the city at night in their auto-rickshaws in search of prey. On Sunday, Mohammed Ali, 46, a timber merchant, got in a Hathazari-bound auto-rickshaw from Muradpur around 8:00pm. A passenger was already inside and two more got in from separate stations. As soon as the auto-rickshaw reached Amin Jute Mill area, the passengers started beating him. They took away his belongings, put pepper powder in his eyes and threw him out of the vehicle. All along, the driver continued driving. When Ali started screaming, locals chased

and stopped the vehicle. Three of the snatchers were handed over to police while another fled. Ali was lucky that he was not killed. But Jahangir Alam, 35, of Feni, and Nasir Uddin, 34, of Noakhali, were not. On October 13, Jahangir, a garment worker, took an auto-rickshaw from Nimtala around 8:00pm. The next day his body was found in Ambagan area. He was suffocated to death and his belongings were looted by a group of four snatchers, who were later arrested. On October 14, around 2:00am, Md Nasir came to Pahartali area to see his ailing mother. His stabbed body was found near the Pahartali eye hospital. A team of Police Bureau of Investigation led by Inspector Sontos Kumar Chakma arrested two persons using mobile phone technology. The duo, Imran Hossain Bappi, 22, and Suman, 30, confessed to a Chittagong court that a group of five snatchers led by one

Ismail Hossain Tempo murdered Nasir while snatching his phone. Tempo was a listed criminal and an accused in at least 15 cases, said Sontos, adding that he was now out in bail. According to Sontos, at least 10 to 12 snatching groups were active in the city. "We have increased patrol, are conducting drives and keeping an eye on the listed criminals," said Additional Police Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Debdas Bhattacharia. Contacted, Haider Azom Chowdhury, general secretary of Chittagong Metropolitan Auto Rickshaw Baby Taxi Owners' Association, said, "Some unscrupulous people bring the vehicles from outside of the city. If any of the city auto-rickshaw drivers are found involved, we have requested the law enforcement agencies to take strict measures." However, some victims doubted whether police were sincere in arresting the culprits. While talking to the residents of Nimtala,

Foy's Lake and Chawkbazar, many told this correspondent that the snatching incidents had increased due to lax monitoring. Regular patrolling and monitoring during night was a must, they said. Mostafa Emran Shohel, a local journalist, was stabbed and robbed by eight to 10 armed snatchers on College Road in Mohsin School Gate on July 1. He filed a case with Chawkbazar Police Station, but to no avail. "Police would have been able to arrest the criminals if they had tried sincerely," said a frustrated Emran. Another victim of snatching was a police constable. Mohammed Siddique, of Pahartali Police Station, was hacked and robbed of Tk 10,000 and two mobile phones by four machete-wielding snatchers on July 10. Police were yet to arrest the criminals or recover the valuables. "Only when anyone loses life police become active," said a victim, requesting anonymity.

Ministries' concerted efforts must to curb malnutrition

Experts tell discussion
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Highlighting the government's different initiatives focusing on nutrition, health specialists yesterday stressed coordination among health, agriculture and nutrition systems. The ministries of health, agriculture and food should coordinate in designing dietary food habits for the people so that the government's targets to eradicate malnutrition problem can be successful, they added. The specialists made these remarks while addressing a discussion "Tracking Progress of Second International Conference on Nutrition," organised by health portal Healthprior21.com in the capital's The Daily Star

Participants at the discussion at The Daily Star Centre. Addressing the programme, Farzana Bilkis, technical advisor of the health ministry's nutrition programme, said health system can work with food system efficiently at community level by linking health services with social safety nets and agricultural programmes. Among others, FAO's Senior Nutritionist in Dhaka Lalita Bhattacharjee and WHO representative Faria Shabnam attended the programme moderated by Healthprior21.com Chief Advisor Dr Sultana Khanam.



PHOTO: STAR

CJ asks bench officers to stress transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chief Justice SK Sinha yesterday urged the bench officers of the Supreme Court to work with honesty, transparency and sincerity. He was addressing a programme with the bench staff and court associates in the SC auditorium. Sinha asked them not to change the serial number of cases without court order, to type the orders and judgements of cases immediately after the courts deliver them, send them to the relevant offices after the judges sign them. He asked the officials to refrain from sending the cases of a designated bench to another bench.



PHOTO: STAR



People sidestep stagnant water, scattered trash and vendors, occupying a foot-over bridge near the Nilkhet area in the capital yesterday. The city corporations have taken initiatives to revamp the foot-over bridges, but this one often remains unclean and packed with hawkers and beggars, which hampers the pedestrians' movement, and forces them to ignore it and cross the busy street amid traffic. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Artiste Laisa Ahmed Lisa performs during Bengal Foundation's musical soiree featuring songs composed by Atul Prasad Sen, at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct in The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Singer Sifatullah also performed at the programme titled "Momo Moner Bijone". PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Ex-IGP Ismail passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Md Ismail Hussain, former inspector general of police (IGP), breathed his last in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka yesterday, aged 75. He left behind his two daughters. Born in 1941 in Jamalpur, Ismail served as the IGP during 1997-98. His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the afternoon, which was joined, among others, by incumbent IGP AKM Shahidul Hoque. Later, police gave a guard of honour to him. Afterwards, wreaths were placed on his coffin. He was buried at Banani graveyard after the second janaza at Baridhara DOHS mosque.



PHOTO: STAR

Raise customs duty on rubber import

Urges JS body to save local industry
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forests Ministry yesterday urged the government to increase customs duty on importing rubber to save the industry. At a meeting, it also recommended that all kinds of VAT and taxes for selling the locally produced rubber be withdrawn. "One has to pay 15 percent to 24 percent of VAT and other taxes for selling local rubber while only five percent of tax is for its import," the committee chief Hasan Mahmud, also an Awami League lawmaker, told reporters after the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. He said 5,000 tonnes of rubber remained unsold due to high taxes in the local market. "Instead of buying from the local markets, people are importing rubber due to very low customs duty, which is destroying the industry." Hasan Mahmud also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in June instructed to withdraw VAT in selling rubber. "But due to pressure from a vested quarter, the prime minister's instruction was not included while passage of the national budget in the parliament," he said, calling upon the premier to save the rubber industry from the hands of a "vested quarter". The committee chief, however, did not elaborate about the vested quarter.

Sushanta Paul

FROM PAGE 4
Bishshobiddaloy Poribar, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station yesterday. OC Abu Bakar Siddique said they will take legal action after an investigation. Sushanta did his master's in business administration from Institute of Business Administration, DU. Securing first place in the 30th BCS examination, Sushanta writes in newspapers and speaks at seminars on BCS preparations. DU students on Sunday held a rally on the campus and gave a memorandum to the university authorities demanding his suspension from the government job and cancellation of his degree. Earlier Sushanta posted a status on his Facebook profile about Dhaka University, its residential halls and student leaders. In face of huge criticism, Sushanta on October 22 expressed apology on his Facebook wall for his comments.