

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 34.0 L 25.4	CHITTAGONG H 34.0 L 25.7	SYLHET H 34.2 L 23.9	RAJSHAH H 32.6 L 23.6	KHULNA H 34.0 L 25.0	BARISAL H 33.0 L 24.7	RANGPUR H 31.6 L 22.1	COX'S BAZAR H 33.2 L 25.2
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Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am. Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Bhola and lowest 17.6 in Tentulia.

DIST COUNCIL POLLS Ershad doubts fairness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday expressed concern over holding fair polls in the upcoming district council elections. "People are talking about district council elections... Many don't want to participate. Why will they? What is the benefit? Violence is taking place in elections." He said, "Corruption is everywhere... The youth are in danger today due to frustration."
He urged his party activists to work for the next national elections. "People want change, and want to see Jatiya Party in power. There is a chance. As we are an election friendly party, we will participate in the polls...," he said at a programme in its Kakrail office marking National Youth Day, organised by its Jubo Sanghati.

Kangaroo born for first time in country

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
Meet Moni.
She is barely six-month-old, yet she hops and follows her mother around on her hind legs in the Gazipur's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park.
For the first time a kangaroo has given birth in the country. "Although the baby kangaroo, or joey, was born in May the park authorities kept the news of the birth, first time in the country, a secret for fear of diseases and security," said Md Sahabuddin, assistant conservator of forests.
"The baby is in good health and has coped with the environment," he told The Daily Star yesterday. Sahabuddin said they have named her "Moni".
"Moni's mother gave birth on May 4 and she got out of her pouch towards the end of August," he said, adding, the baby kangaroo was 3 to 4 centimetres in length at the time of birth and weighed around 5kg.
Two females and one male of the red kangaroo species were brought to the park from South Africa in 2014, he said.
According to Live Science, kangaroos are marsupials, meaning they give birth to young who are not fully developed. A newborn joey continues to grow inside the mother's pouch where it gains nourishment from milk and is sheltered and kept warm and protected for 120 to 400 days. Kangaroos are native to Australia, but are adaptable to other climates.



NEWS IN brief

Ruet admission test results out

A CORRESPONDENT, RU
The admission tests' results of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) were published yesterday.
Around 2,498 students passed in the Ka unit test while 128 candidates got selected for Kha unit test, said a press release.
Viva voce of the units will be held on December 1 at 9:00am. For more information candidates are asked to visit Ruet website www.ruet.ac.bd

Mushtaque Chowdhury new AAAH chair

CITY DESK
BRAC Vice-Chair Dr Mushataque Chowdhury has been elected as the new chair of the Asia-Pacific Alliance for Human Resources for Health (AAAH) for 2017-2018.
The announcement was made at the ninth conference of the alliance in Colombo recently, said a BRAC press release yesterday.
A professor at Columbia University in USA, Dr Chowdhury is the first Bangladeshi to hold this position.
AAAH is a response to international recognition of the need for global and regional action to strengthen country planning and action on health workforce system. Established in 2005, it has 17 members including Bangladesh.



Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
Shah Alam; a former police officer, editor of weekly newspaper 'Shorony' and senior member of Bogra Press Club; died due to brain hemorrhage in a clinic in Bogra town early yesterday. He was 94.
He was the father of former Bogra Press Club president and Delhi Correspondent of BSS Mahabubul Alam Tokon; Editor of the Daily Bogra Rezaul Karim Badsha; Joint Secretary of Awami League, Bogra unit Monjurul Alam Mohon; and Secretary General of Bogra Press Club and Staff Correspondent of The Daily Janakantha Mahamudul Alam Nayan.
He left behind three other sons and three daughters.

19pc urban poor suffer from diabetes

Says collaborative study of Nagoya University of Japan, BSMMU, others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
At least 19 percent of the urban poor, including 22.2 percent of women and 15.3 percent of men aged between 18 and 64 years, suffer from diabetes, over double the national rate of nine percent, reveals a new collaborative study.
"Childhood undernutrition could be attributed to such a high rate," said one of the authors, Assistant Prof Khalequzzaman of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).
Conducted between 2014 and 2016, this study changes the perception that only the rich are affected by non-communicable diseases, that is those not caused by infectious agents, he said.
The Nagoya University of Japan, BSMMU, National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute, and Environment and Population Research Centre conducted the "NCD risk factor survey in Urban Poor Population of Bangladesh".
Over 21,000 people of Bauniabadh, an urban low-income community in the capital's Mirpur, came under the epidemiological study, representing the country's underserved urban poor, said Dr Khalequzzaman.
The study, disseminated at a symposium at the BSMMU auditorium yesterday, revealed that 39.3 percent of the women and 19.4 percent of the men were overweight or obese.
Moreover, 20.6 percent of the women and 18.6 percent of the men suffered from hypertension.
The amount of HDL cholesterol, which unclogs arteries and protects the heart, was low, that is less than 40mg/dL, in 73.3 percent of men and 56 percent of women.
LDL cholesterol, which clogs arteries and increases risks of heart diseases, was found to be high, that is over 130 gm/dL, in 11.6 percent of men and 12.8 percent of women.
The researchers said the findings reveal that the community was in quite a high risk of developing non-communicable diseases and that it could be linked to certain behaviours and food habits. For example, 60 percent of the men and 22 percent of the women are tobacco users, said another author, Prof Sohel Reza Chowdhury of the heart foundation.
Besides, 92 percent of the participants consume only one serving of fruits and vegetables a day whereas only 2 percent had over five servings as recommended by World Health Organization, he said.
Around 80 percent of the people added table salt to their meals, a habit raising the risk of hypertension, he said.
"I take some salt when I eat rice...some people do not find rice tasty if they do not take it with any salt," said a female participant in the qualitative part of the study presented by Prof Akiko Matsuyama of Nagasaki University.
She quoted many of the respondents as saying that presence of artificial preservatives prompted them to refrain from eating fruits or to eat less. They, however, said they ate oily street food and in restaurants for often being unable to cook at home.
Even those who are financially insolvent mentioned that they often cannot buy good food and face stress due to financial constraints, said Prof Akiko.
National Heart Foundation President Prof Brig (retd) Abdul Malik said non-communicable diseases have become the top cause of the burden brunt from diseases and deaths in developing countries like Bangladesh.
"We need prevention programmes as well as modern treatment facilities to combat the threat," he said.

JU model UN confce starts tomorrow

JU CORRESPONDENT
A three-day Jahangirnagar University Model United Nations Association conference will start from tomorrow for the second time.
The conference will be held in the university's Zahir Raihan Auditorium, participated by around 250 students of different colleges and universities for discussing the global potentials and challenges, India-Pakistan conflict and international food problems etc.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Shaheed MA Mansur Ali Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion on The Jail Killing Day. Venue: Diploma Engineers Institute, Time: 3:00pm

Seminar
India-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) will hold a seminar on "Enhancing Indo-Bangla Waterways Connectivity." Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 10:00am



People under the banner of Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad form a human chain on Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting repression on women and children and communal attacks.

228-yr-old Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3
While addressing yesterday's inauguration programme as the chief guest, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith recalled his memories of staying in the jail in 1955 when he was a student of Dhaka University.
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, too, addressed the programme as its special guest.
Meanwhile, the jail has been decorated with rare photographs of Bangabandhu, the four national leaders and some other political leaders for visitors.
Right after the entrance, the visitors will see replicas of Bangabandhu's spectacles and smoking pipe. Then they will find the photographs hung onto the walls of four rooms.
They could also see a wallpaper exhibiting letters and documents written by the father of the nation during his jail life.
The authorities are thinking of giving the people an opportunity to have a taste of life behind bars for a day or two with a nominal fee, Iftekhar had told a press conference earlier on October 28.

BRANDISHING FIREARMS Police sue 2 expelled BCL leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police filed a case against two expelled Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders yesterday, four days after they were seen brandishing firearms during a hawker eviction drive in the capital's Gulistan, as per photos published by several Bangla dailies.
Moreover, a hawker, Md Siraj, filed another case with Paltan Police Station saying 150 unnamed staff of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and outsiders attacked the hawkers with hockey sticks and local arms and their shops were vandalised and looted.
The pro-ruling student organisation on Monday expelled the general secretaries of BCL Dhaka south and Wari thana units, Md Sabbir Hossain and Md Ashiqur Rahman, for, what they said, breaching organisational discipline.
Sub-inspector Abdul Mannan of Shahbagh Police Station filed the first case against the two and over 50 to 60 unnamed persons.
He said they "gathered illegally wielding sticks and lethal weapons and opened fire on the procession (of hawkers) with an intent to kill". During the drive on October 27, a clash had broken out between the hawkers and a DSCC eviction team.
Stating that the duo had gone into hiding, Assistant Commissioner of police (Ramna zone) Ihsanul Ferdaus told The Daily Star that the delay occurred as they needed to scrutinise the media photos and information.

LACK OF ALTERNATIVES AFTER BAN ON BATTERY-RUN RICKSHAWS IN BARISAL CITY Commuters' sufferings on

SUSANTO GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barisal
With the authorities banning battery-run auto-rickshaws from plying the Sadar road in Barisal city without deciding on an alternative means, commuters are now undergoing untold sufferings.
"We barred the vehicles from running on road in line with a recent High Court directive. Initially the road was made off-limits to the auto-rickshaws. We will remove them from the entire city with the course of time," said SM Ruhul Amin, Barisal Metropolitan Police commissioner.
Earlier, in 2014, such auto-rickshaws were banned across the country as the authorities concerned cannot provide them licences for running according to the Traffic Control and Public Vehicle Bye-Laws, 1973.
However, though the ban applies to a limited area in Barisal city, roads in the area, residents say, are of immense importance for them, particularly for students, as many educational institutions including Barisal Govt Women's College are located there.
Schools and colleges apart, Barisal launch terminal, Barisal Judge Court, Deputy Commissioner's Office, branches of various commercial banks, markets, doctors' chambers, Barisal Sadar Hospital, Barisal City Corporation and many more important offices are in the immediate vicinity of the road, through which every day thousands of people move.
The students who could directly travel to their institutions by the auto-rickshaws costing little for their easy availability and affordable fares, they now have to pay three times more to reach the institutions.
"Previously I needed Tk 20 for going to college from my Rupatoli residence, but now I have to spend at least Tk 60," said Nishat Jahan Ria, a student of Barisal Govt Women's College.
"I have to spend Tk 100 as rickshaw fare every day to take my son from Vatikhana area to Barisal Zilla School intersection, whereas in the past I could go to the area by the battery-run auto-rickshaws spending only Tk 40 or Tk 50," said Rashida Aktar, mother of a fifth-grader of the school.
Some 5,000 such rickshaws ply the city roads with permission from Barisal City Corporation (BCC), according to Barisal Mahanagar Auto-rickshaw Owners' Association and BCC Mayor Md Ahasan Habib Kamal.
The rickshaws' drivers and owners are counting a huge financial loss thanks to the sudden ban since the lion's share of their incomes came from the vehicles plying the road used by nearly all of the residents, said Abu Saleh Ronny, general secretary of Auto-rickshaw Sramik Union of the district.
Although the ban was meant to relieve traffic congestion in the city, it now seems paradoxical as many roads constantly remain clogged with slow-paced rickshaws, compounding their sufferings, said commuters.
The commuters are facing difficulties due to the ban, the police commissioner conceded, adding that their sufferings will disappear soon, as the number of gas-run auto-rickshaws is increasing.
Asked, the mayor said they would hold a meeting with relevant stakeholders in this regard.



With torches in their hands, mass communication and journalism students of Rajshahi University demonstrate in front of the Shaheed Minar on the campus last evening, demanding proper investigation into the deaths of their fellow Motaleb Hossain Lipu and teacher Akhtar Jahan Joly.