

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.0 L 18.8	H 29.0 L 20.1	H 30.7 L 17.8	H 29.6 L 14.5	H 29.4 L 16.5	H 29.7 L 16.0	H 29.5 L 17.0	H 30.0 L 22.2

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:11pm and rises tomorrow at 06:17am.

War criminal Yousuf dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War criminal SM Yousuf Ali, serving a jail term for crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Thursday.

Yousuf, 83, son of Torab Ali of Fulbaria in Jamalpur Sadar Upazila, died at 7:30pm due to "Irreversible Cardio Respiratory Failure", Jahangir Kabir, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, told The Daily Star last night.

He was taken to Dhaka Central Jail from the Kashimpur jail on November 12 and then to DMCH yesterday morning, said Kabir.

On July 18, International Crimes Tribunal-1 found Yousuf, president of Jamalpur Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, and seven others guilty of war-time offences and jailed him until death.

Yousuf had close association with the Pakistani occupation army, Al-Badr camp and criminal activities carried out there, says the prosecution. His plea challenging the verdict was pending at the Supreme Court.



VANDALISM SCARS BEAUTIFICATION

These barriers along footpaths next to the Ramna Park in the capital near the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh have been targeted for the iron rods which form the centre of the concrete structures and can be sold as scrap metal. The city corporation fixed the barriers a couple of months ago and some sections are still standing, *bottom right*, but other parts have been destroyed apparently at the dead of the night by vandals, allegedly drug abusers. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

Pabna journal attacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A journalist was beaten up by a group of people allegedly backed by the Bera upazila municipality mayor in the Pabna upazila headquarters on Thursday night.

Sarkar Arifur Rahman alias Arab Ali, 60, editor of local daily "Ae Juger Dwip" was admitted to Pabna General Hospital.

He said several bones of his hands and legs were fractured as he was hit with sticks and iron rods.

Arifur said he was attacked by around 10 people known to him near the "Kali" temple around 9:00pm while he was gossiping with his colleagues at Bera Bazar.

He said many reports published in the newspaper against corruption in the municipality might have led to the attack.

Mayor Abdul Baten denied the allegations.

Filing of a case was underway last evening.

Local journalists demanded arrest and punishment for the attackers.

Road crashes kill 3, injure 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died as a microbus hit her from behind in Demra of Dhaka yesterday.

Doli Begum, 27, a resident of Konapara in Modhubagh was crossing a road, said Kawsar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Demra Police Station.

She was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In Manikganj, Sheuly Akter, 30, was killed and her husband Khorsheed Alam injured a truck hit a motorcycle they were riding from behind on Dhaka-Aricha highway before Muktijoddha market at Manikganj bus stand yesterday.

In Thakurgaon, Selina Begum, 56, of Lalapur village died instantly when a human hauler hit her while she was crossing the Baliadangi-Kalmegh road in Barodhali village of Baliadangi upazila on Thursday.

Vegetable fair connects farmers to consumers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kawsar Ali, a farmer from Meherpur, used to sell vegetables through a "bepari", a middleman, at the local bazar. But he often got low prices while the "bepari" would make much more profits by simply selling those to traders in Dhaka.

Kawsar was happy yesterday selling his vegetables directly to Dhaka's buyers. A fair called Fresh Mart Weekend Farmers' Market gave him the opportunity.

The Incubation Centre for Enterprise (IICE) organised the fair at the capital's Motijheel T&T Colony.

"I sell pointed gourds to the bepari in Meherpur at Tk 25 a kg. Now here I am selling for Tk 30," he said, adding that the surplus from his whole stock would be a large amount.

There were 19 stalls where vegetables from the country's south were on sale. Farmers from Meherpur, Jhenidah, Bagerhat, Chuadanga, Jessore, Narail, and Bhola took part.

The participants said they were selling fresh vegetables as no harmful pesticide was used.

Monirul Islam, a farmer from Narail,

said, "I use the lamp technique wherein insects get attracted...and die in a bowl of water placed under the bulb in the vegetable field."

People from around the colony visited the market. They had both positive and negative responses to the prices.

Amirul Islam, a job holder, said the prices were relatively high, not any less than that in regular markets.

Farmer Monirul explained, "Since these vegetables are fresh, and we have added costs to make them free from poisonous pesticides...the price is relatively high but these are good for health."

With USAID funding and under its project, ACV, IICE organised the fair to help the south's farmers who were provided transportation costs.

Reazuddin Mosharaf, an organiser, said the platform was the first of its kind where farmers sold fresh vegetable and got fair prices. It is a small step and with government help, it might help on a wide scale, he opined.

He said the fair would be held every Friday and Saturday till December 10 at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, Banani, and Uttara Friends Club.

Attacks on Hindus DU students' long march called off

Following police bar DU CORRESPONDENT

A long march announced earlier by Dhaka University (DU) students protesting recent attacks on Hindus in Nasirnagar of Brahmanbaria was called off yesterday at 11:40am after police barred it near the capital's Central Shaheed Minar.

Boarding four buses, protesters under the banner "Minority Rights Movement" started off towards Nasirnagar from Teacher-Student Centre at 10:00am to protest the attacks and provide relief items.

Manik Rakshit, the movement's spokesperson, told journalists that they wanted to use the four buses but police barred them for security reasons.

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RAJSHAHI BNP LEADER'S DEATH Accident claimed for family honour

Say police after interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The family of deceased Rajshahi BNP leader Khondokar Mainul Islam attempted hiding facts and erasing evidence of his "committing suicide" in order to protect family honour, according to police.

Mainul, the district BNP vice president and a wealthy businessman, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head at his house Wednesday noon, police quoted family members as saying during interrogation. Initially, the family tried to pass it off as an accident.

The investigators found "sufficient reason and logic" to believe it, said one investigator, also an officer of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP). Mainul was worried about his unpaid loans, which was 10 times higher than his present wealth worth Tk 8 crore, and over family and health issues, the officer said.

The officer said one bullet hit the victim although three shots were fired from his licensed pistol. "His was an automatic pistol. It was found cocked. Sometimes multiple shots occur from a single pull at the amateur's hand."

Police recorded an unnatural death case with Boalia Police Station, filed by the victim's son Hedayetul Islam Limon Thursday night, said Officer-in-Charge Shahadat Hossain.

Police interrogated Mainul's wife Rehana Begum, his

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Mymensingh ex-cadets take healthcare to poor villagers

Provide it for free on Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Girls High School premises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Free medical services were provided yesterday to hundreds of financially insolvent people on the premises of Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Girls High School at Pajlarchar village in Dhanikhola of Trishal upazila.

The "Free Friday Clinic" was organised by the Association of Mymensingh Ex-Cadets (Amec), a charity run by former students of Mymensingh Girls Cadet College.

The service, first of its kind in Mymensingh by Amec, included health

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These containers on the central reservation near the High Court in the capital are supposed to be adorned with flowering plants which, instead of being present all year round, strangely appear overnight through hurried efforts of the city corporation only when there is any visiting foreign dignitary or during national holidays. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Valuables of houses, RMG factory gutted in Ctg, Savar fires

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted valuables of 10 shops at Katakhal Bazar in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

Fire service officials said the fire originated from an electric short circuit around 2:45am.

Fire-fighters estimated the damage to be around Tk 5 lakh.

In another incident in Savar, fire gutted valuables of a garment factory in Norshinghopurpur area of Ashulia yesterday.

The fire started at the store room on the first floor of seven-storey Metlar Apparels Ltd around 3:00am. Being informed, fire-fighters rushed there and extinguished the blaze after two hours of efforts.

The reason behind the fire and the extent of damage could not be ascertained immediately.

VIOLENCE IN RAKHINE VILLAGES Dhaka-Naypyidaw secy meeting postponed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Naypyidaw have postponed a foreign secretary-level meeting scheduled for November 23-24, with concerns over violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state soaring after a series of army raids leaving many dead and seeing hundreds arrested.

Dhaka proposed holding the meeting in the first week of January next year. The Myanmar side has not yet responded, say diplomatic sources.

The upcoming visit of Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali to Myanmar has also become uncertain.

Sources at the Myanmar embassy

in Dhaka yesterday told The Daily Star that the postponement came on Dhaka's request for preparations.

Foreign ministry officials were not available for comment.

The meeting was considered vital as two deals on security and land border cooperation were scheduled to be signed.

Northern Rakhine, bordering Bangladesh and home to the Muslim Rohingya minority, has been under military lockdown ever since surprise raids on border posts left nine police dead last month, reports AFP.

The death toll stood at over 130, according to Reuters.



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