

WEATHER  
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.4 L 19.6	H 30.0 L 19.5	H 30.5 L 17.5	H 26.9 L 18.2	H 29.3 L 17.4	H 30.4 L 16.7	H 28.5 L 16.6	H 30.5 L 21.0

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during early morning, reports UNB. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am. Country's highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and Sitakunda and lowest 13.2 in Sreemangal.

## Honoured for saving life

BSS, Dhaka

A railway staff was presented Tk 1 lakh and some clothes by the railways ministry yesterday for risking his life to prevent a man from committing suicide under the wheels of a train at a level crossing adjacent to Narayanganj's Chashara Railway Station on November 21.

Billal Hossain Mazumder dragged pedestrian Mohammad Mamun out of harm's way as a train approached, said a ministry press release.

Calling him a "hero" at the awarding function in the capital, Minister Md Mujibul Haque said, "Billal has set an example for mankind and made the Bangladesh Railway as well as the county proud."

He assured giving Billal's son a job in railways.



Piles of bamboos are often kept at Shanir Akhra of Jatrabari near Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover by the local influential for selling, narrowing down the road and impeding pedestrian and vehicular movements. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Govt concerned over capital's gridlock

### Quader tells JS; 37pc work of Padma bridge completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday told parliament that the government is concerned due to the capital's traffic congestion.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, Quader said the government has taken various measures including upgrading different roads into four lanes to reduce tailback.

In a written statement, the minister said construction work is going on to create a new route of entry and exit to and from the capital.

The 20km road will be stretched from Hatirjheel to Demra connecting Rampura, Bonsree, Sekher Jaiga and Amulia. Gabtoli-Nabinagar highway will be upgraded into access controlled highway under a public-private partnership project.

On the progress of construction of Padma bridge, Quader said 37 percent works of the mega project have been completed as of October. Of the 37 percent works, Quader said 31 percent construction work of the main bridge has been completed.

Besides, 26 percent work of river training, 82 percent work of Jajira connecting road, work of Magura connecting road and service area-2 have been completed.

The minister also informed the House a total of Tk 11,616 crore has been spent as of October till start of the project.

While replying to another query, he said, there are 6.02 lakh unfit vehicles plying on roads across the country.

Earlier at the beginning of yesterday's business, the House unanimously adopted obituary reference on a former minister, state minister, three lawmakers and other distinguished personalities who died since prorogation of the 12th session.

The House also expressed deep shock at the demise of former Cuban president and revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, king of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej and Brazilian footballers. The House adopted the references separately.

## 2 NSU students 'missing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two North South University students and a private service holder have gone missing from the capital's Banani area on December 1, said police.

The students are Zain Hossain Khan Pavel, an honours student of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Shafayat Hossain; while Md Sujon is a staff of Asiatic Advertisement Firm in Banani.

They have been missing shortly after they came out of a café in Banani at 8:00pm. A person was seen with them, said police after watching video footage.

A general diary was lodged, said OC Wahiduzzaman of Banani Police Station. There are many Islamic posts in Shafayat's Facebook page.

"We are probing into the incident," said DMP's Assistant Commissioner Rafiqul Islam.

## DAIRY FARMING IN RURAL AREAS Fair price can cut poverty

Speakers tell Prothom Alo-CARE Bangladesh roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday at a roundtable opined that dairy farmers should be given fair prices for the production of milk so that they become more interested in dairy farming that could play a vital role in reducing poverty in rural areas.

The government should provide financial support to the farmers and expand veterinary services for the sector's growth, they added.

The Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with CARE Bangladesh organised the roundtable at the former's office in the capital.

Every day around 18 million litres of milk are produced all over the country, but only 7 percent of it is sold to milk processing companies and the rest at local markets, said Mohammad Anisur Rahman, director general of Brac Dairy and Food Project.

If the milk could be sold directly to the companies, the producers would be able to get fair prices, and more investments would be made to the sector that might contribute to reducing poverty, he hoped.

"Because of being women, we face difficulty in getting loans from banks. We should be given priority in loan schemes as we play a major role in this sector," said Ambia Khatun, a dairy farmer from Bogra.

She urged the authorities concerned to provide better treatment facilities to their cattle and reduce prices of feed.

Dr FH Ansarey, executive director of ACI Agribusiness Ltd, said the government needed to take strong initiative to prevent livestock illness, such as foot and mouth diseases and worm, as the milk production significantly decreases when cattle are attacked by such diseases.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Narayan Chandra Chanda said the dairy industry was a very potential sector. So the ministries concerned needed to work together for its growth.

He also said the recommendations that came from the discussion would be discussed at inter-ministerial meetings soon.

Md Ainul Haque, director general at the Department of Livestock Services, Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo, Jamie Terzi, country director of CARE Bangladesh, Golam Mostafa Nantu, director of Milk Vita, Anowarul Haq, director of CARE Bangladesh's Extreme Rural Poverty Programme, and Rakibur Rahman, chief of dairy at Pran Dairy, also spoke.

## SP offers apology, exempted from HC rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday exempted TM Mujahidul Islam, superintendent of Chapainawabganj police, from a suo moto rule issued for his comments on punishing robbers after he offered an unconditional apology to the court for his remarks.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the order after accepting Mujahidul's apology.

Mujahidul offered the unconditional apology to the HC, realising that his statement was incorrect, his lawyer Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He said the SP mentioned in the apology petition that he would never make such statements in future.

After accepting the apology, the HC pardoned him and exonerated him of the rule, the counsel added. Mujahidul had appeared before the bench as per its order.

While speaking at an eye treatment camp on the Chapainawabganj Eye Hospital premises on November 25, the police official said people should "crush robbers alive if they were caught red-handed".

The bench on November 27 summoned the SP before it to explain his comments.

## DHAKA AIRPORT Runway closed 2hrs for VVIP security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lone runway of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) was closed for around two and a half hours in two phases yesterday due to a programme attended by the prime minister to award National Standard to the Bangladesh Air Force Base Gangabandhu at Dhaka Cantonment.

HSIA Director Kazi Iqbal Karim said the airport was closed for an hour and 15 minutes from 10:00am and another one hour from 11:45am to ensure security of a VVIP.

He said the security plan was made following procedures and as per a security-plan made at a meeting with Special Security Force (SSF). Due to the closure around 10 arriving and five to six departing flights had to reschedule, he added.

Iqbal said as per regulations the airport is kept closed if any VVIP stayed within one kilometer of any airport to ensure security of the VVIP.

"Usually security personnel inform us one or two days ahead and we inform the airports and airlines..." Iqbal added.

Airport sources said due to the sudden change in schedule a Biman flight from Sylhet could not land at HSIA and was diverted to the Chittagong airport.

## 1971 WAR CRIME CHARGES Verdict on Edris Ali of Shariatpur today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-1 led by Justice Anwarul Haque is set to deliver verdict today in a case filed against a fugitive Shariatpur man for allegedly committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the 1971 Liberation War.

Prosecutors sought capital punishment for Edris Ali Sarder alias Gazi Edris, 67, while state-appointed defence counsel acquitted. The tribunal framed four charges on May 2 against Edris and one Sulaiman Mollah, 84, of Kashipur Muslimpara, who died of old age complications at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on October 25. Producing 13 witnesses, prosecutors say Edris was the then Jamaat-e-Islami student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha leader and joined Razakar Bahini.

**CHARGES**

Sulaiman and Edris, with 100 to 150 Pakistani troops, attacked Angaria, Kashabhog, and Modhyapara in Palang upazila (now Shariatpur sadar) on May 22, killed 200 Hindus and one Abdus Samad Sikder, and looted and burnt every house.

The next day the duo, along with 100 Pakistani army men, attacked Malopara and Rudrakar villages, shot dead a priest before, and looted and burnt the houses. They abducted around 20 women and 10 to 15 men from the villages and took them to a Pakistani army camp in Madaripur where the women were raped for three days and released and the men shot dead. The duo, along with eight to 10 Pakistani army men, attacked and looted one Shailendra Krishna Paul's home in June and killed two

## Form 9th wage board by Dec 31 Journalists demand at countrywide demos

Journalists from print and electronic media held countrywide demonstrations yesterday demanding formation of the 9th wage board by December 31 to increase salaries and allowances.

BSS reports, at a rally, staged by factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists, before Dhaka's Jatiya Press Club, they also threatened to go for a greater movement.

Chaired by BFUJ President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, the meeting was also addressed by BFUJ Secretary General Omar Faruk, DUJ President Shaban Mahmud, BFUJ former secretary general Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, and Dhaka Reporters Unity President Shakhawat Hossain Badsha. Journalist leaders also staged a sit-in before Chittagong and



Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation, and Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding the 9th wage board for them. Inset, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) demand the same at the venue.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Change mindset

DU seminar urges men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Men should change mindset towards women and be more responsible to stop violence against women, participants told a seminar yesterday, emphasising sex education for children to create awareness on harassment.

The Center for Men and Masculinities Studies, and Department of Women and Gender Studies organised it in Dhaka University's senate building to introduce "the Campus Hero Café" project to make youths aware of such violence at 30 Pabna, Rangpur and Cox's Bazar schools.

DU pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Prof Nasreen Ahmed said as men are holding leading position in the society, they have to be more conscious of stopping the violence.

Citing newspaper reports, she said 370 females and children fell victim to violence from January to March. The department's Associate Prof Sayed Saikh Imtiaz said men sometimes get involved in such violence to show their manly attitude. Prof HKS Arefeen stressed dissemination of proper knowledge against such attitude. Under the project, mobile apps -- "Challenger Mamu" to get information about health and sex, and "Priyo Baba" for guidelines to stop sexual assault -- were also launched by Health Minister Mohammed Nasim.

## Teenage boy stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy was killed as he was stabbed in the chest allegedly by a neighbour following an altercation in Lalbagh of Dhaka early yesterday.

The neighbour, aged around 24, attacked Rahadul Rabbi, 18, who was going to Kamrangirchar where worked at a tailoring shop, said Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station.

Drives were being conducted to arrest the alleged attacker, said the OC, adding that no case was filed till 8:00pm yesterday.

He said a youth has been detained for interrogation.

## Tenants attacked over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 people attacked around five persons, vandalised residences of 20 tenants and looted valuables from a two-storey building in Dhaka's Tejpuribazar yesterday allegedly over land dispute with the landlord, alleged the victims.

Witnesses said men with sticks carried out the attack while most of the residents were away.

They cut the locks of the rooms with hacksaws and started ransacking the rooms, they said.

The person leading the attack has a longstanding dispute with the landlord over the ownership of a part of the land, they added.

One Nishan was among the five injured who took treatment at different hospitals. His wife Shirin Akter told The Daily Star, that the attackers beat them up and broke all the drawers and made away with Tk 3 lakh in cash and over eight tolas of gold ornaments.

"They tried to throw away my four-year-old son from my lap," she said, adding, "They did not even spare my younger sister who underwent a cesarean section several days ago."

Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, said the person behind the attack was arrested.

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