

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 25.8 | L 16.4

CHITTAGONG H 27.3 | L 17.5

SYLHET H 28.1 | L 14.6

RAJSHAHI H 23.8 | L 15.0

KHULNA H 24.4 | L 16.5

BARISAL H 25.0 | L 15.5

RANGPUR H 24.8 | L 15.5

COX'S BAZAR H 30.0 | L 17.0

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country, reports UNB. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am. Country's highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 12.5 in Sreemangal.

Man acquitted by SC in Bushra murder case dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, who was given death penalty by a Dhaka court for Bushra murder and later was acquitted by the Supreme Court, died on Tuesday night.

M Abdul Kader, 64, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Dhaka Central Jail Superintendent Jahangir Kabir.

Kader, a former leader of Awami League, was hospitalised following liver and kidney related complications on that day, he said.

In 2003, the Dhaka court sentenced Kader, and two others to death and Kader's wife Runu Akter to life imprisonment for raping and killing college student Rushdania Islam Bushra in Dhaka in 2000. Later, the High Court upheld Kader's death sentence, Runu's life term imprisonment and acquitted the two

CASE FILED BY JOURNOS
Two factory owners get bail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to two polythene factory owners after they surrendered before it seeking bail in a case filed for making an attempt to kill two journalists of Jamuna Television by dousing them with kerosene.

The accused are Abdul Jabbar and Abdur Rahim. Metropolitan Magistrate Ahsan Habib granted them bail.

Staff Reporter Shakil Hasan and cameraperson Shahin Alam of Jamuna TV came under the attack while taking footages of an illegal polythene factory at Debidash Ghat in Chawk Bazar on November 6.

Later, Shakil filed the case with Chawk Bazar Police Station against Jabbar, Rahim and 10 to 12 unknown persons.



A road inside Karwan Bazar occupied by vegetable vendors, completely blocking the access of vehicles and partially for pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday around 4:00pm.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A cold welcome for newborns

SUSANTO GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barisal

The baby was crying uncontrollably. Not because his mother was away or he was hungry. It was the environment he was welcomed into after birth – the cold, open hospital floor.

Omar Khayam was one of the dozens of new-borns suffering from the same condition.

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal where they were born does not have enough space to give them a warm welcome, into the comfort and softness of clean beds.

"I am afraid of my child's safety at the place because people are always walking past my bed and kicking up dust," said Neela, a new mother, from Madaripur sadar upazila. "I wrap my son with cloth and have to change it every half an hour to protect him from dust."

Her attendant, Rashida, said, "We can't clean the clothes of the baby and mother for the shortage of bathrooms. We are also suffering because there is no toilet close by."

Another new mother from

SHER-E-BANGLA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL



Mothers and their newborns take shelter on the open floor outside the overflowing gynaecological ward of SBMCH, Barisal on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

Madaripur, Reba, said, "We have been staying on the floor outside the ward for seven days, beset with various problems." "How can I breastfeed my child in the open place, which remains crowded all the time?" she asked.

There are 26 beds in the gynaecology ward where 20 to 30 critical patients take admission on average every day, said Aroti Mandal, the senior staff nurse of the ward.

However, 130 patients were admitted on Monday afternoon alone, she added.

While visiting the hospital on that day, the correspondents saw more than 100 mothers and their babies

who took shelter on the floor. Recognising the problems, head of the gynaecological department Shikha Saha said, "We conduct 20 to 25 operations in the ward a day but the air conditioner of the operation theatre is not functioning properly."

"All the problems arise from the bed crisis at the unit," said Dr SM Sirajul Islam, the hospital's director. "I can manage beds but there is not enough room inside the ward to set them up." "Can we think how inhumane it is to treat patients on the floor? But I can't do anything," he said. "I feel bad that a child has to be kept on the floor outside the room as soon as it is born; the new-borns have to face an unclean environment from birth."

He said, "New-borns should be kept in a clean place, free from dust and germs; otherwise they might get various diseases... If they stay in the open place for a long time, they might catch a cold."

"I contacted the higher authorities repeatedly for increasing the facilities, but to no avail."

SNAPS & snippets

17 'human traffickers' arrested

DU CORRESPONDENT

A criminal investigation department (CID) team has arrested an alleged ring leader of a human trafficking gang in the capital's Gulistan area on Tuesday night, CID sources said.

Meanwhile, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested another 16 suspected members of a human trafficking and kidnap gang in Dhaka and Narayanganj, says a press release.

During the raid, Rab also seized forged passports and visas and machineries used for making fake documents.

EU gives €3 lakh for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Commission is allocating € 3,00,000, which they say is equivalent to Tk 24,941,382, in emergency humanitarian aid to Rohingyas who recently fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

It will directly benefit 7,500 newly arrived refugees in Cox's Bazar, according to an EU embassy press release yesterday.

"Most of the Rohingya families who have recently crossed the Naaf River have arrived with nothing, and are therefore in critical need of humanitarian assistance," said Roman Majcher, head of the European Commission's humanitarian aid department office in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

A seminar on "UNCRC general comment on public budgeting for the realisation of children's rights and Bangladesh's progress" organised by Save the Children at the capital's Cirdap on Monday. MA Mannan, state minister for finance, was present as chief guest.

Ctg Samiti-Dhaka mejban tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual mejban (special feast) of Chattogram Samiti-Dhaka will be held tomorrow at Government Physical Education College in the capital's Mohammadpur from 11:30am to 2:30pm, said a press release.

All life members of the Samiti are invited.

To maintain discipline Samiti members have been requested to show their membership ID cards at the entrance of the venue. A maximum of four people will be allowed into the venue against each membership card.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



Bangabandhu Parishad accords a reception to 27 freedom fighters living in Segun Bagicha and Topkhana, at Segun Bagicha High School in Dhaka yesterday. Farid Uddin Ahmed Ratan, councillor of ward-20 of Dhaka South City Corporation, was also present.

Road crash victim yet to regain consciousness

STAR REPORT

Hasina Akhter, who met a tragic road accident in Chittagong city on December 22, is yet to regain consciousness.

Her husband, Md Hasan Imam, 44, a member of Bangladesh Navy, died in the accident while her 10-year-old daughter Umme Habiba, whose right leg was fractured in an accident on December 16, sustained serious injuries.

The 35-year-old woman and her daughter, now in class IV, are now undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital in Chittagong in an ambulance of Bangladesh Navy, said Hasan's nephew Dr Aminul Islam.

When the ambulance reached Fakir Shah Bari area of Toll Road, a lorry hit it from behind, leaving Hasan dead on the spot and Hasina and Habiba injured, he said.



Vehicles such as this one, despite being visibly unfit for plying the streets, transport goods and people right under the nose of law enforcers in the capital's Gulistan.

PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi BNP enthusiastic with new leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi BNP leaders and activists have become enthusiastic as they got new faces in leadership in the city and district unit committees in decades.

Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, who was elected as Rajshahi city mayor and later dismissed, was made the city unit president, said a letter signed by Taiful Islam, assistant office secretary of central BNP, on Tuesday.

Bulbul replaced BNP chairperson's adviser Mizanur Rahman Minu who was at the city BNP's helm for around three decades.

Tofazzal Hossain Topu was made the district unit president replacing former lawmaker Nadim Mostafa who had led the committee for over one decade, said party leaders.

Position of Shafikul Islam Milon remain unchanged as he was once again made the city unit general secretary while Motiur Rahman Montu, a contractor, was made the district unit general secretary.

Taiful Islam told reporters that the new presidents and secretaries were asked to select the 37-member committees as soon as possible.

According to some party men, the new leadership will end the prolonged supremacy of Minu and Nadim. The last committees were formed in 2009.

DU teacher sacked for sexual

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said Maksud, also president of DUTeacher's Association.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (VC) (Education) Prof Nasreen Ahmad, head of DU anti-sexual harassment cell, said, "It took five years as we had to conduct a proper investigation through fact finding, inquiry and hold a trial apart from our regular academic activities."

Two Turkish professors informed the Islamic department, accusing Muhammad Omor Faruk, an assistant professor, of passing off their research as his own in his PhD thesis.

A five-member committee led by the pro-VC (education) has been formed to investigate the allegation and understand the gravity of the misconduct.

"...he will be barred from all academic activities and getting full salary," said Maksud, also a member of the committee.

No e-token for ticketholders

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Centre (IVAC) Mirpur, Alamin Apon Heights 27/1/B (1st Floor) Shyamoli, (Opposite of Shyamoli Cinema Hall) Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The submission should be within seven to one month of the journey date.

Females and their immediate family members, under the same conditions, will continue to get walk-in/appointment-free tourist visas at IVAC Mirpur instead of IVAC Uttara. This scheme, introduced as a pilot measure in October, has been "very successful" as per the Indian high commission.

Those who already obtained appointment dates/e-tokens may continue to deposit their applications at the IVACs in Gulshan, Uttara, Motijheel, Mymensingh, Barisal, Khulna, Jessor, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet.

Ex-BNP MP Salahuddin sent

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a long time. On the other hand, Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu opposed the bail petitions saying that the former BNP lawmaker went into hiding to avoid arrest even though charge sheets of all the cases were submitted and arrest warrants were issued earlier. So he could not obtain bail in the cases.

The former lawmaker from Demra was accused in 15 arson cases filed with different police stations -- including nine filed with Jatrabari Police Station -- in January, February and March last year during the nonstop movement enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.