

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 23.9 L 15.6	H 27.2 L 15.9	H 28.6 L 14.9	H 23.6 L 12.0	H 25.1 L 14.5	H 25.0 L 13.0	H 22.7 L 14.0	H 27.2 L 17.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:26pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 28.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 11.2 in Dima.

ROHINGYA ISSUE
Myanmar to send 'special envoy' to Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amid rising pressure over Rohingya issue, Myanmar is sending a "special envoy" next week for emergency talks with high government officials in Dhaka.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka yesterday told The Daily Star that Myanmar State Counsellor and leader of the National League for Democracy Aung San Suu Kyi was sending the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, U Kyaw Tin, as the special envoy likely on January 11.

The envoy will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 11 or 12 and also hold meetings with Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque.

More than 50,000 Rohingya Muslims from northwestern Myanmar have fled to Bangladesh since October last year to escape a military counter-insurgency operation.

Myanmar's army says it is hunting militants behind deadly raids on police posts on October 9, but Rohingya survivors have described rape, murder and arson at the hands of soldiers — accounts that have raised global alarm and galvanised protests.

The envoy's visit is taking place at a time when foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states are going to meet in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur on January 19 to take a tough resolution against Myanmar over Rohingya issue.

The foreign ministers are expected to mount pressure on Myanmar to address basic human rights and humanitarian issues and ensure that the minority community members safely return with dignity.

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A huge number of carelessly modified rickshaw-vans, sans their saddles, pedals, chains, cranksets, handlebars and even brakes, are in use for offloading goods from trucks arriving in the capital's Kawran Bazar. The practice of using bare human strength to push and stop these skeletal vehicles while they are heavily loaded is putting numerous people at risk every day and causing small-scale accidents, even involving those passing by, which often go unreported. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY

Beautiful lakes, ugly behaviour

JU CORRESPONDENT

Unlike most universities, Jahangirnagar draws visitors from places near and far. Blessed with greenery, its quite environment is occasionally punctuated by chirping of birds. But what attracts people most is its lakes with floating lily pads.

Sadly, the people mostly enjoying the blissful nature of the university's campus are the ones responsible for making the lakes ugly. Due to dumping of waste, both by visitors and campus residents, many parts of the lakes have lost beauty.

Every winter, thousands of migratory birds flock to the campus and so do the visitors.

Resident students said the crowd of visitors often dumped waste into the lakes. Garbage is thrown from illegal shops on the campus as well, they complained.

Talking to The Daily Star, a master's student of economics, Md

Obaidullah al Galib, held both visitors and campus inhabitants responsible for polluting the lakes. They dump waste in the lakes indiscriminately, he said, urging the authorities to take proper steps to stop it.

"Illegal shops and settlements are one of the causes of pollution. The estate office should take measures to control it," he added.

According to the estate office, Jahangirnagar University campus is crisscrossed by 28 wetlands including lakes, swamps, and two ponds near Maulana Bhasani Hall and Al Beruni Hall.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw bottles, plastic wraps, packets, and bags floating in at least seven of the lakes. Most of these lakes surround the JUCSU building, transport depot, medical centre, administrative building, and business studies faculty premises.

Terming the pollution of lakes a threat to migratory birds, zoology associate professor Dr Mohammad Kamrul Hasan, said, "The lakes and ponds are connected with each other. If one is polluted, the others would face the same fate."

He underscored the need for immediate implementation of the original design of the campus to save its biodiversity. "If they continued to be polluted like this, the biodiversity will be threatened, which will eventually scare away migratory birds."

Officials at the JU estate office admitted that pollution in and around the lakes had been increasing over the last couple of years. They, however, blamed it only on visitors.

"We were working to reduce the pollution," said Assistant Registrar (estate) Md Abdur Rahman, without specifying what measures the office has taken so far to this effect.



Waste materials float on a lake in front of the Jahangirnagar University Central Student Union building as campus residents and visitors continue to throw them into it, tainting its beauty. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Essential Drugs Company worker council election stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the process for holding election to the executive committee of labour-worker unity council of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) due to its alleged faulty voter list.

The election was scheduled to be held today.

The court also asked the authorities concerned of EDCL, which registered with the department of labour, to include the names of 333 members of the council, who were dropped from the voter list, in the electoral roll in a month and then hold the election.

The HC gave the order on a writ petition filed by two members of council, said Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu.

SNAPS & snippets

PM greets new Swiss president

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has felicitated newly appointed President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard.

In a message, she said the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Switzerland would strengthen further during the tenure of President Leuthard, according to a Foreign Ministry message yesterday. Hasina wished President Leuthard good health, happiness and success and the people of Swiss Confederation peace and prosperity in 2017.



BIWTA removing earth from the bank of the river Buriganga in Dhaka's Islambagh yesterday, which was dumped there to grab the waterbody.

66 DU students get Dean's Award

DU CORRESPONDENT

The biological sciences faculty of Dhaka University yesterday conferred "Dean's Award" on 66 students of different departments for their outstanding academic performance in Bachelor of Science examinations in 2014-15 session.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique distributed certificates and crests at a ceremony at DU.

Justice Bazlur's qulkhwan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwan of Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman will be held at Supreme Court Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today to pray for eternal peace of his departed soul.

Justice Bazlur Rahman, a sitting judge of the Appellate Division, who was popularly known as "Chhanabhai" while he was a student leader at Rajshahi University, died of cancer on January 1.

Correction

In a report titled "Charge sheet pressed against 4 of neo JMB" published on Thursday, we inadvertently mentioned Mohammad Wahid Ullah Sarkar as an inspector of the Detective Branch of police. He is an assistant director of Rapid Action Battalion-2. We regret the error.



A bird exhibition, organised by Agricultural Society of Bangladesh, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

HC wants

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filling, encroachment and construction of structures along the foreshores of the Turag river within 48 hours and submit a report before it after complying with the order.

The court issued a rule upon the government authorities concerned to explain as to why their inaction to stop such activities should not be declared illegal.

HRPB submitted the petition on November 7 after a report headlined "Time to declare Turag dead" was published on The Daily Star on November 6.

Govt bodies' coordination urgent to end port city's waterlogging

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Experts at a seminar in Chittagong yesterday suggested that the concerned government bodies coordinate their activities to address the city's waterlogging problem.

To fight the problem effectively, the speakers have underscored the need for regular cleaning of existing roadside drains, construction of new drains, re-excavation of khals (canals), construction of retaining wall, removal of encroachment, and realignment of service lines.

Young Engineers Forum, Bangladesh, organised the seminar on "Formulation of sewerage and drainage master plan to address the waterlogging of Chittagong" at the Institution of Engineers in the city.

Prof Sudip Kumar Paul of Civil Engineering Department of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), and Engr Md Humayun Kabir, former chief engr of Bangladesh Water Development Board, presented two keynote papers each.

Mentionable, Chittagong Wasa, in cooperation of World Bank, is formulating a "sewerage and drainage master plan" to address the waterlogging in the city. By this time, a draft of the master plan was already formulated. Discussion on the draft of the master plan was held at the seminar.

Speaking as the chief guest, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin termed the waterlogging of the city a tough and

costly problem.

"If we fail to take plan and effective measures right now to address the problem, Chittagong city will go under water in future," he added.

But, before formulation of the master plan by Wasa, the exact number of the population of Chittagong city have to be estimated, the mayor said, adding that the plan would foil otherwise.

Prof Rafiqul Alam, vice-chancellor of Cuet; Prof Md Jahangir Alam, former VC of Cuet; Chittagong Wasa Managing Director Engr AKM Fazlullah, and CCC Chief Engr Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahamed spoke at the seminar chaired by Engr Rajib Barua, president of Young Engineers Forum.

Changes brought in responsibilities of foreign secys

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has brought changes in the responsibilities of its secretaries.

As per the new office order with effect from January 1, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque will now look into China and Japan affairs in addition to his previous assignment to cover multilateral issues, including over UN and EU, and bilateral matters of South Asian countries, US and Canada.

He will directly supervise the newly tasked assignment.

Newly promoted Secretary (Bilateral & Consular)'s Office Kamrul Ahsan will supervise the relations with most European and North American countries in addition to his existing responsibilities of consular affairs. Mahub Uz Zaman, who was also appointed as a secretary, will supervise the countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

While Rear Admiral (ret'd) Md Khurshed Alam will continue to serve as a secretary the Maritime Affairs Unit of the ministry.

Athletics contest begins at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

"Hall Annual Athletics Competition 2016-17" of Dhaka University began on the central playground of DU yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the contest.

The competition among the students of 18 dormitories will end on January 25.

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