

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR	MYMENSINGH
H 27.2 L 16.0	H 27.7 L 14.6	H 28.8 L 13.1	H 25.9 L 9.0	H 26.5 L 11.3	H 26.6 L 10.0	H 26.0 L 10.6	H 28.6 L 17.0	H 27.0 L 11.7	

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country, reports UNB. Mild cold wave sweeping over Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Sreemangal, Rajshahi, Pabna, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Chuadanga, Satkhira, Barisal and Bhola may continue, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Road crash kills teenager in capital

RMG worker dies in Ctg
CITY DESK

A teenage madrasa student was killed as a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit him while he was crossing a road in the capital's Uttara yesterday.

Rasel, of Shimultali in Gazipur, was on the way to his aunt's house in Kamarpara along with his grandfather when the accident occurred, said police at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the 12-year-old was declared dead.

The body was sent to DMC morgue for autopsy. In another accident in Chittagong city, an RMG worker was killed as a three-wheeler hit him while he was crossing a road at Hazi Camp in Pahartali area yesterday.

The deceased Abdur Razaque, 30, was a resident of Berek Building area in the city. He used to work at a nearby garment factory, said police.



Models wearing bridal dresses walk the ramp yesterday night at the capital's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre on the last day of the two-day wedding festival jointly organised by Sunilk and Bangla daily Prothom Alo's weekly supplement Naksha. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS IN brief

1.5kg of gold recovered from passenger's stomach at airport

BSS, Dhaka

Customs officials recovered 15 gold bars, weighing 1.5kg and worth around Tk 75 lakh, from the stomach of passenger at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

Zobair Akhter, who returned from Malaysia by a flight (BG-087) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, was arrested in the Green Channel area of the airport, customs official said. Later, he was handed over to police after interrogation.

Sarker chairman, Mahmud vice-chairman of IUB Founding Trust

CITY DESK

Trustee Abdul Hai Sarker and Trustee Khondkar Zakaria Mahmud have been elected chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) for 2017-18, says a press release.

Abdul Hai Sarker, managing director and CEO of Purbani Group, was the founder chairman of Dhaka Bank. He has been awarded as Commercially Important Person (CIP) for several times by the government.

Khondkar Zakaria, managing director of Home Creations Ltd, started his career in 1968 as district sales manager of Lever Brothers Ltd. He started his own company Subarna Trading Co Ltd in 1972.

ESTCDT is the founder of Independent University, Bangladesh and Chittagong Independent University.



Abdul Hai Kh. Zakaria

Rehabilitation before eviction

Demand hawker leaders at roundtable; also call for preparing a new list including more names

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hawker leaders at a roundtable yesterday demanded that the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) rehabilitate them before eviction, conducted since last week.

They also demanded preparation of a new list of hawkers for rehabilitation as the previous one, prepared by DSCC, contains only 2,506 of them.

The roundtable was organised by Bangladesh Hawkers Union at the capital's Mukti Bhaban.

On January 11, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon announced that the hawkers will not be allowed to sit with their goods in Gulistan and adjacent areas during regular working hours from January 15.

But they will be allowed to sit at some selected places in the area from 6:30pm onwards during the working days, and on the holidays they will be allowed to do business all day, he said at a meeting with hawker leaders.

The city corporation magistrates have been conducting eviction drives in the area since Sunday, amid protest from the hawkers.

At the roundtable, rights activist barrister Sara Hossain said the government should take some steps that will not harm the hawkers' rights and pedestrians do not have to suffer.

She said the law enforcers cannot torture the hawkers violating their human rights.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, a central

leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the city corporation should ensure the hawkers' rehabilitation, and until then they should be given the access to use a certain space of the footpaths with a minimum charge.

Abdul Hasim Kabir, president of the hawkers union, demanded amendment to the list of hawkers.

Meanwhile, the union leaders held a protest rally and went to the office of Councillor Farid Uddin Ahammed Ratan (ward-20) in Segunbagicha to press home their demand.

They claimed the councillor complied with their rehabilitation demand but did not agree on the list's amendment.

MANGOL SHOVAJATRA Noor for making it more ceremonious

BSS, Dhaka

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor yesterday said the government would expand the traditional Mongol Shovajatra, a procession brought out on the first day of Bangla New Year, at town and village levels to make the tradition more ceremonious and gorgeous.

"We are very proud as 'Mangol Shovajatra' gets Unesco recognition as world heritage. We will make the next year's Pahela Baishakh celebration with more mirth and merriment, marking the recognition," he said.

The minister was addressing a programme organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University under the initiative of the cultural affairs ministry on the faculty premises.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, Fine Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sheikh Afjal Hossain and one of the organisers of Mangal Shovajatra Shaheed Ahmed Mifu addressed the event with Cultural Affairs Secretary Aktari Mamtaz in the chair.



Hawkers sit on a footpath with their goods opposite General Post Office (GPO) in the capital yesterday afternoon as per a decision taken by the Dhaka South City Corporation of only allowing them to conduct business on Friday and Saturday all day in the Motijheel and Gulistan areas from January 15. Inset, a file photo taken Friday shows the area free of hawkers though they were permitted to sit that day police did not allow them to do so, said the hawkers.

BCL factions exchange fire at Dhaka College

Three students injured, seven motorbikes torched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 shots were fired when two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Dhaka College unit locked in a clash over establishing supremacy on campus yesterday evening.

Three students were injured and there were chases and counter-chases between the feuding groups, witnesses said, adding that seven motorbikes were torched.

Armed with sticks, iron rods, and other weapons, the faction of Chhatra League unit convener Noor Alam Bhuiyan Raju clashed with the faction of unit joint convener Hiron Bhuiyan around 7:00pm, they said.

Unit joint convener Sheikh Rasel, 28, activists Sujon, 24, and Kajal, 22, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Rasel and Sujon took first aid, said Sub-Inspector Bacchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost. Kajal's injuries were more serious, he added.

An activist of the Hiron-led faction told The Daily Star, "We were outside when Raju

group, armed with firearms and sharp weapons, made a sudden attack on the North Hall and caused injuries to some of our activists."

Sources said Raju group had been driven out of campus and yesterday's attack was made to drive Hiron group out of campus.

They vandalised some rooms in North Hall and burnt the motorbikes at the entrance to the dormitory, they said.

One of the motorbikes burnt belonged to Motiur Rahman Jony, a camera person of ATN Bangla.

Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police on information went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police cordoned off and raided eight dormitories.

"No arrest was made, but we took several students in for interrogation. Besides, we also recovered some sharp weapons," said Maruf.

3RD KARNAPHULI BRIDGE Expansion of approach roads to start finally

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

After three long years, the expansion of approach roads at the two ends of the 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge, opened for vehicular movement in 2010, will begin by March.

The project will establish direct road communications of South Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban with North Chittagong and other parts of the country.

According to the project taken by the Roads and Highways Department Chittagong, the existing two lane 5km road, from the north side of the bridge to the Chittagong city's Bahaddarhat, is supposed to be upgraded into a six-lane one. RHD officials said the project, costing Tk 270.11 crore, had been stalled for various reasons including complications in land acquisition.

Stop radicalising school books

Nirmul Committee warns govt, announces to plant 30 lakh trees in three yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ektattor Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday announced its 13-point action plan including plantation of 30 lakh trees across the country in the next three years to keep the memory of the three million Liberation War martyrs and prevent environment pollution.

It also warned the government of taking to the streets if it does not stop radicalisation in the textbooks as "prescribed by the communal forces".

Shahriar Kabir, president of the Nirmul Committee, announced this at a press conference at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity following its two-day silver jubilee celebration and the seventh national council.

He said they will also take all-out

activities so that the government declares March 25 as National Genocide Day. "We will start the plantation on March 25 this year."

On the recent change on the textbooks, he said these changes will bring social disaster as it will radicalise children.

"We will have no alternative to taking to the streets if the government does not correct those changes," he added.

He also announced to form a "cultural and information technology cell" at each district and upazila unit of the Nirmul Committee to wage a socio-cultural movement against the radicalisation.

"All of the achievements will be marred if radicalisation in the textbooks is not stopped," said Prof Muntassir Mamoon, the committee's vice-president.

Pace of investigation

FROM PAGE 4

Hossain Mithu, one of the students, said, "The whole family (of Lipu) is disappointed that the killers are yet to be identified."

The students threatened to go for a tougher movement if their demand is not met.

On October 20 last year, Motaleb Hossain Lipu, 22, a second-year student of mass communication and journalism, was found dead in a gutter beside the three-storey Nawab Abdul Latif Hall on the campus where he lived. On the same day, Bashir Mollah, an uncle of Lipu, filed the murder case with Motihar Police Station against unknown people. In the case, police picked up Lipu's roommate Monirul Islam, a second-year botany student, and, later, showed him arrested after interrogation. But on November 8, he got bail from a court.

EC wants to keep AL

FROM PAGE 3

The CEC is now saying he wants digital voting...the present election commission wants to keep Awami League in power forever by any means," Fakhrul said.

"The present EC also successfully brought results of the local body elections in favour of the government-backed candidates," he added. "We hope the president will form a neutral and competent search committee to form the next election commission through which an acceptable EC will be formed."



Various species of birds are being sold unabated, even though as per the Wildlife (Conservation) Act-2012, it is a punishable offence. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Gulshan area. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN