

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 30.0 L 15.4	H 30.0 L 14.0	H 33.2 L 16.6	H 31.4 L 15.3	H 29.8 L 14.3	H 29.0 L 13.5	H 31.5 L 14.3	H 31.2 L 13.7	H 32.7 L 17.5	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Light to moderate fog may occur at places during midnight till morning, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am. Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chittagong and lowest 9.7 degree in Sreemangal.



Clockwise from left, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina place floral wreaths on the coffin of Suranjit Sengupta in honour of their longtime comrade, on the south plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. People gather around the coffin of the veteran politician to pay their last tributes as his body lies in state on the premises of the national Dhakeshwari temple in the capital.



Condolences pour in for Suranjit

Ministers, diplomats, politicians, dignitaries, socio-cultural organisations and people from different walks of life have expressed deep shock at the death of veteran Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta. He died at the capital's Labaid hospital early yesterday after a prolonged illness at the age of 72. The nation will remember him for his contribution to the country's parliamentary democracy, they said. Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in a condolence message said Suranjit's demise is an irreparable loss for the country's political arena, and creates a vacuum. BNP Chairperson and former premier Khaleda Zia in a condolence message said, "The nation will not forget his role as an organiser of the Liberation War and as a politician." Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla said, "He (Suranjit) was clearly a leader of immense stature, standing, sagacity and dignity. His passing away represents an immeasurable loss for the country and leaves a void." Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad leaders in a statement said the nation has lost a great leader through Sengupta's demise, and the loss is irreparable. Besides, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bikalpa Dharma Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War '71,

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Lawyer denied bail over beating Dhaka court staff

DBA president aspirant sued for beating another counsel

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of a lawyer of Dhaka Bar Association and sent him to jail after he was produced before it in a case filed for beating a court staff. Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Syed passed the order after Kotwali police arrested Advocate Abu Zafar Sheikh alias Manik from his residence in Razarbagh Police Lines area at about 7:00pm on Saturday and produced him before the court yesterday afternoon. Earlier on January 31, Md Rezaul Karim, a process server of the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Waez Kuruni Khan Chowdhury, filed the case against the lawyer for beating him (Rezaul). The court then issued an arrest warrant against the lawyer. In the case, Rezaul mentioned that the lawyer assaulted him when he asked the counsel to wait for a while when he wanted to see a case file about 10:45am on January 31. ANOTHER SUE

SHER-E-BANGLA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Poor sanitation plagues hospital

SUSHANTO GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barisal

Though hospital is a place where hygiene is given utmost priority, upon visiting Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal, the notion will change completely. Nazma Akthar, 40, from Kirtipasha in Barisal, got admitted to the female medicine ward of the hospital a few days ago. After staying at the hospital, her only concern was the appalling sanitation facilities there. Like Nazma, most of the patients in the hospital are worried about the poor sanitation facilities as it is the lone specialised hospital in Barisal division. Around 1,500 to 1,800 patients stay regularly for treatment in the 1,000-bed hospital which was established in 1964. The



Patients wait for their turn to use toilets, which lack hygiene, water and often doors, at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal.

five-storey hospital building has 300 toilets and 150 bathrooms under 32 wards, said SM Serajul Islam, director of the hospital. All the toilets and bathrooms of the hospital are unclean and unusable. They are left in utter negligence but patients and their attendants are bound to use them as they do not have any alternative, said many patients in different wards. Most of the doors of the toilets are broken and some have no doors at all. A person has to stand guard outside the toilets when someone goes inside, said Sharmin Aktar, a patient attendant of the obstetrics ward. Many of them said they even try to eat and drink less so that they do not have to use the filthy toilets frequently.

"I am trying my best to control myself from going to those dirty and damp washrooms but tolerating the pressure of urination for a long time is quite tough," said Shova Rani who is undergoing treatment at female medicine ward of the hospital. "Besides, there is a shortage of water," she added. "We have to carry water from a tube-well on the ground floor as the hospital authorities supply water once a day," said Nitai of Barisal Sadar who came to the obstetrics ward for his wife's treatment. There are no soaps in the toilets let alone toilet papers. All of them have squat toilets with no flush, which made it almost impossible for pregnant women and patients with fractured legs to use them, he added. "We do not have enough money to go to private hospitals having comparatively better sanitation facilities," said Salma Aktar who came to the hospital from Jhalakathi for her treatment. Admitting the facts, the hospital director said, "Water crisis is acute in the hospital as the only water pump is very old and not able enough to pump out water more than once." "To supply water more than once we need to replace the old pump with a high-powered one," he said. There are 90 cleaners in the hospital but 30 of them are working as fourth-class staff as 250 fourth-class posts of the hospital are vacant now, said the director. Usually the cleaners work in three shifts every day. As the number of cleaners against a large number of toilets is not enough, a cleaner has to work double shifts once in a week, he added. "Unhygienic washrooms in hospitals are largely responsible for infectious diseases, like typhoid and diarrhoea. We are trying our best to provide better sanitation facilities but often times it becomes difficult due to our limited resources," said the director. "I have informed the health ministry about the problems regarding sanitation facilities in our hospital. A budget will soon be allocated to solve these problems," he further said.

Ctg houses, warehouses, shop, factory burnt to ashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted eight tin-roofed houses, a shop and a warehouse of dry fish and another warehouse of soap, and a salt manufacturing factory at Asadganj Shutki (dry fish) Potti in Chittagong city yesterday morning. Md Jamal Hossain, joint secretary of Asadganj Dry Fish Traders Association, said the fire inflicted a damage worth about Tk 50 lakh. Meanwhile, at Khalifa Potti in Chittagong city, a fire gutted three tin-shed houses, comprising 22 rooms, and caused damage about Tk 5 lakh, said the officials. The fire originated from an oven at one of the houses around 11:20am.

Road crashes kill 3

CITY DESK

Three people were killed and 20 others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday and on Saturday. In Dinajpur, an elderly woman was killed as a policeman hit her with his motorcycle in Baniapara village under Ghoraghat upazila on Saturday evening. The deceased was Foyzan Bewa, 65, of Shyampur village under the upazila. Police said the constable of Ghoraghat Police Station hit Foyzan with his motorcycle on Dinajpur-Bogra highway leaving her critically injured. She later died at Ghoraghat Upazila Health Complex. Protesting the incident, locals blocked the highway for half-an-hour. In Naogaon, Idris Ali, 45, a cattle trader of Hatuir village was killed as a truck hit him in Niamatpur village under Manda upazila yesterday. He died on the spot. In Jhenidah Sadar, a female college teacher was killed as a bus hit a tree beside Jessore-Kushtia road as the driver lost his control over the vehicle in Dokhangar bus stand area yesterday. The deceased was Afroja Khatun, 45, wife of Saifuddin Manik of Horiha village in the district. She was an assistant professor of Shaikupa Women's College in the district. Twenty other passengers of the vehicle were injured in the accident. They were rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.



Firefighters spraying water to douse a fire in the Shutki Palli, an area dedicated for processing of dried fish, in Asadganj of Chittagong city yesterday.



Without taking any protective measures and completely shutting one side of the road to the public, inset, under the under-construction Moghbazar flyover, the construction firm uses bamboos to cover the installed cables in the high-profile infrastructure project.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Three men charged with

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Aziz is currently involved with BNP and Matin with Jamaat, they said. Mannan was involved with Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhata Sangha in 1971 and first joined anti-liberation Peace Committee and later Razakar Bahini during the Liberation War, they added. The five charges include the killing of three Hindu men, including National Awami Party leader Harendra Lal Das, after three days of torture at a Razakar camp in Barolekha and torture of another Hindu man in May. Others include confinement and rape of a woman for over a month at two Razakar camps and abduction and torture of four family members of a local commander of freedom fighters, Moyeen, and looting of his house. The remaining ones are over the abduction and torture of the brother of another local freedom fighter commander, Mostakin, and torching of their houses and torture of a freedom fighter and rape of his wife.

Hindus protest filling of a temple pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hindu people yesterday demanded actions against filling of a pond of a temple in Chawkbazar of Chittagong city. Under the banner of "Bangladesh Sanatani Moth Mandir Asramer Sebyaet Purohit Kallayan Sangstha", the demonstrators claimed that nearly one-acre pond of Chawkbazar Baradeshwar Shib temple in Lalchand road area is being filled for the last two months. Biswajit Chakraborty, priest of the temple, was attacked and threatened by the influential land grabbers for protesting, said Jaharal Chakraborty, convener of the organisation. They demanded that immediate steps be taken to preserve the pond.

Now teachers go on

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an indefinite strike in support of their demand. On the fourth day of the strike, the Ruet authorities indefinitely suspended all academic activities of the students of 2014-15 and 2015-16 sessions. According to Ruet sources, the authority introduced the "33 Credit System" in 2013, where a student has to get 33 out of 40 credits in examination. Upon failing to do so, he or she will not be allowed to move up to the next session and have to retake the whole year again.

