

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.2 L 16.7	H 28.8 L 16.5	H 32.0 L 17.4	H 31.8 L 17.1	H 29.0 L 13.6	H 29.0 L 15.8	H 30.5 L 15.7	H 30.5 L 14.5	H 30.3 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 rise slightly, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am. Country's highest temperature 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamat and lowest 11.7 in Sreemangal.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



On the way to school, Laxmi Bazar. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Morning in Old Dhaka

During a photographer friend's visit from London last week, we decided to take a walk through old Dhaka. It has been many months since I photographed Dhaka streets and I had forgotten how full of life this city is. Taking my friend around to some of its highlights reminded me of its vibrance.

We got dropped at the corner of Bahadur Shah Park at 7 a.m. and started walking. The park was humming with hundreds of people. They came here for their morning walk, making rounds around an elliptical path enclosing a memorial to soldiers executed by the British during the 1857 rebellion. The park also holds what appears to be the only obelisk in Dhaka, given to a Dhaka Nawab in sympathy by his European friends when the Nawab's son died. We chatted with some of the fitness buffs working out under the obelisk before heading out.

Presently we came to Sadarghat, Dhaka's river terminal on the Buri Ganga. The ghat was just waking up at this hour and sleepy vendors set out their wares for passengers going on a launch trip: fruits, bread, bottled water, sunglasses, toys... Walking to the back of a tall launch we climbed to the roof for a panoramic view of the river. I was pleasantly surprised by the flocks of seagulls in the sky.

Back from Sadarghat, we headed towards Shakhari Bazar, a neighbourhood once well-known for its conch (*shakha*) craftsmen. For a photographer, the road, its people and stores, bathed in subdued light, all make photogenic subjects. But we got distracted: just before entering the Bazar, we turned left into Pogose School, established in 1848 by an Armenian, Nicholas Pogose. I have been there before to admire the fine

facade of the school building but this time we fortuitously ran into Mr. Aftabuddin, mathematics teacher, who very kindly showed us around. Inside the building we admired the antique furniture in the teacher's meeting room and saw portraits of the school's illustrious alumni such as poet Shamsur Rahman and stand-up comic Bhanu Bandyopadhyay.

From the school we walked through Shakhari Bazar road. I wanted to show my friend the original triple-arched buildings but they were mostly gone. We did find one towards the end of the lane. Another feature of the houses here is that they are very narrow and correspondingly deep; we could easily ascertain this by looking through the entrance hallway of many houses.

We still had a little time so we looped over to Laxmi Bazar and walked along the splendid wide avenue. There are a number of schools here including St. Gregory's School. During my school days, I was captain of the St. Joseph's basketball team, and coming here brought back memories of epic clashes with our rivals. This morning, however, the streets were filled with daily school-related rituals. On a bench outside a school sat several anxious mothers while their children sat for examinations inside. A father straightened out the tie of his son's school uniform. A boy, waiting with his mother for a rickshaw to take him to school, turned suddenly shy at the sight of two photographers across the street and clung to her.

On our way back we stopped at Al Razzaque restaurant for a well-earned breakfast of vegetables, brain masala and oven-baked fluffy nan bread washed down with rich milky tea. This ended a lively morning in old Dhaka.

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4 arrested after 'gunfight' with cops in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested four people, including one with bullet wounds, after a "gunfight" with them in Dhaka's Khilgaon early yesterday, said police.

Khorshed Alam alias Pagla Sohel, 30, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with leg injuries, said Khandoker Nurunnabi, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (east) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The other arrested are Rakib, Harun and Shwapan.

On information that a gang was trying to commit a robbery or grab a piece of land in Nandipara, a DB team conducted a drive there, said Nurunnabi.

The miscreants opened fire on police, prompting them to fire back leading to the gunfight, he said.

Three pistols and 12 bullets were also recovered from the spot, he added.



1,082 book readers awarded in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Some 1,082 students from 34 Rajshahi city schools yesterday received prizes for winning a book reading contest of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) last year.

Sixty-eight students received the best reader's award. Other categories of awards were -- Ovinondon (111 students), Suvechchha (276) and Swagata (627).

Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque attended the award giving ceremony while BSK Director Sharif M Masud inaugurated it. Supported by Grameenphone Ltd, BSK organised the programme on Rajshahi Education Board Model School and College premises at the city's Shalbagan.

Azizul said, "Books teach humanity. If we all read books, we will be humane and our country will be changed."

Five workers hurt in 'cop beating'

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Five workers of a transmitter manufacturing factory at Ashulia were injured as police allegedly charged baton on them on the Ashulia Police Station premises yesterday.

Police charged baton on around three hundred workers of Techno Venture Ltd in Sreepur as they marched to the police station to file a complaint against their factory owner as they had not been paid for the last four months, said Belal Hossen, a worker.

The injured five took first-aid.

But denying the allegation Mohshinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said they only drove the workers away, assuming that they might create chaos. Police are trying to contact the factory authorities.

Contacted, ASM Firoz Prince, AGM of Techno Venture Ltd, said he neither knew about the arrears nor about the baton charging.

Rickshaw-puller Mosammat Jasmine on her battery-run rickshaw in Chittagong city, last month. The 45-year-old said she chose the profession to make sure that her three children do not go hungry and get a decent education. After her husband ran off, she initially tried working as a maid then at a garment factory but found neither job suited her. On an average she earns Tk 600 a day for eight hours and works seven days a week. Since switching to a battery-run rickshaw last year, she said the work has become a little less arduous. She also wears a helmet for safety.



PHOTO: AFP

Police sue 1,500 people over Barisal clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police yesterday sued 1,500 people on the charge of obstructing police duties and injuring the law enforcers during an eviction drive the day before.

Sub-inspector Ashraf of Kawnia Police Station accused 25 people by names while the rest unnamed, said Officer-in-Charge Selim Raza.

On Thursday, traders clashed with police during the drive against them by Barisal City Corporation on the city's BSCIC Road, injuring at least 15 persons, including eight policemen.

RU sees more int'l students

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU

Though born and raised in Jordan, Addel Kader Shihadeh always felt a connection to Bangladesh.

"My father was a student at Dhaka Medical College and spoke highly of the country. That's why when I wanted to study abroad, I chose Bangladesh," said the undergraduate student of electrical and electronic engineering at Rajshahi University (RU).

He said he decided to study at RU because of its serene atmosphere.

Addel is one of the 15 international students admitted under the 2016-17 academic session, which is the highest in a single year in RU's 63 years of history, according to academic sources.

Simple online admission process, quality of education, improved accommodation facilities and friendly atmosphere are the key reasons behind the increasing number of international students, they added.

In the previous session, the number of international students admitted was 5. Including the 15, there are now 20 international students at the university.

"I looked up several universities in Bangladesh, and liked RU because it doesn't have the hustle and bustle of other universities like Dhaka. Also, Rajshahi is a clean city," said Yousuf Matan Abdi, a Somali student of crop science and technology.

Most of the students also said they chose Bangladesh as an education destination considering the affordability.

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PHOTO: STAR
A group of international students in front of their dorm.

40 kidnapped fishermen rescued, 15 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Bangladesh Coast Guard on Thursday night rescued 40 fishermen from a den of sea robbers in Char Gangni of Hatia upazila in Noakhali.

They also arrested 15 members of the robbery gang, including its leader Saiful, 38, who kidnapped the fishermen during the last couple of days, said coastguard officials.

During the drive in Char Gangni, an island, from morning to 11:00pm, three trawlers, 14 bullets and six machetes were also seized from the robbers, said Lt Mohammad Borhan Uddin, commander of Hatia coast guard station.

The gang confined the fishermen to the den for ransom, he said.



From left, British High Commissioner Alison Blake, CRP founder Valerie Ann Taylor, and artiste Arham-ul-Huq Chowdhury discuss a work at a solo sculpture exhibition titled "Hard Emotions" on Thursday evening, organised at the garden of the diplomat's official residence in Dhaka. The 18 metal artworks, on display and for sale, were created in a workshop of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP). Artiste Arham said the proceeds from the exhibition would be spent for the physically challenged people at CRP. Valerie praised the works as "innovative and capturing contemporary society", while Blake hoped this exhibition would encourage people to support CRP's work. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Mohammadpur fire aid 'inadequate'

Allege victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the fire victims of Banshbari slum in Mohammadpur received aid yesterday, they alleged "the aid was inadequate".

Local ward councillor Tarequzzaman Rajib handed over the aid to the victims following a list made on Thursday.

Dhaka District Administration provided 30kg of rice and Tk 3,000 to each family, Brac gave blankets and Prime Minister's Office saris, lungis and kids' clothes, said Rajib.

One of the victims, however, said, "We have been living here for 35 years. The fire made us destitute and forced to sleep on the street. Is this aid enough as compensation?"

Visiting the spot, the fire victims were seen sheltering in nearby Banshbari High School while some others sleeping under the open sky last night. Asked about rebuilding of their houses, they said they did not know yet as there is no promise of rehabilitation from the authorities.

The ward councillor, however, said they will sit with the DNCC mayor within one or two days and find out what more steps can be taken.

Meanwhile, some victims alleged that they did not get any aid as their names were not on the list. Rahim, a physically challenged man, was waiting in front of the councillor's office for aid, but returned empty-handed as he did not get the aid card.

Denying the allegation, Rajib said, "During such a period, many sent their additional family members to claim aid. But we cannot provide everyone."

On Thursday, the devastating fire gutted over 220 shanties, leaving more than 200 families homeless in Banshbari slum.

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e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that e-Tenders are invited and published in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SI	Tender ID	Name of work & tender reference No.	Tender publishing date & time in e-GP	Last date & time of submission
1	87834	Periodic maintenance providing overlay works at 13th km to 20th km of Chiringa Fashiakhali-Lama-Alikadam Road Z-1105 under Road Division Bandarban during the year 2016-2017. egp/PMP (Re)/Bban/Ctg	16-Feb-2017 12:30:00	06-Mar-2017 11:00:00

Bidhan Chandra Dhar
Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Chittagong Zone, Chittagong

GD-371