

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.4 L 22.4	MYMENSINGH H 26.0 L 17.5	CHITTAGONG H 31.2 L 20.6	SYLHET H 26.0 L 17.5	RAJSHAHI H 31.5 L 19.7	RANGPUR H 30.7 L 18.8	KHULNA H 30.5 L 21.3	BARISAL H 30.8 L 20.5	COX'S BAZAR H 30.1 L 20.0
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Mymensingh, Sylhet, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, reports UNB. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04pm and rises tomorrow at 6:16am.



To reduce traffic congestion and road accidents, Dhaka South City Corporation along with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority launched a drive against over 20-year-old buses, unfit vehicles and drivers without legal documents yesterday. Clockwise from top left, A mobile court checks papers of drivers in Motijheel. DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon instructs a bus driver to stop for inspection in Gulistan. Law enforcers do the same in Motijheel. Due to the drive, an unusually empty Shahbagh intersection around 11:30am. A police official checks a driver's documents in Motijheel.

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS, PALASH KHAN



SNAPS & snippets

Girl burnt in cylinder explosion dies
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One-year-old Oishee, who suffered burns when a gas cylinder exploded in her Bandartila house in Chittagong city on Saturday evening, died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) several hours later. The incident occurred when Oishee's father Razu, 24, was cooking. Razu suffered 35 percent burns and is in a critical condition.

BSMMU pro-VC (admin) awarded
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharfuddin Ahmed, pro vice-chancellor (administration) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), received "Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Award" for his contribution to reducing and preventing eye diseases and blindness in Asia-Pacific region. The award was given at the 32nd congress of ASIA-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology in Singapore on Friday, said a press release.

Death anniversary of Farida today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Farida Sarkar, a former newscaster of Voice of America, Fulbright scholar and a former teacher of North South University, says a press release. Farida, wife of former power and energy minister and Jatiya Party lawmaker Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, died of cancer at the age of 48. Foods will be distributed and special prayers will be organised at orphanages for the salvation of her departed soul.



The North South University authorities hand over a replica of a key to Dhaka Metropolitan Police at a ceremony on the campus on Thursday. The university donated vehicles as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR). Home Secretary Dr Kamal Uddin, NSU Chairman Azim Uddin Ahmed and DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia were present, among others.

Anwarul new Bangladesh Univ VC
CITY DESK

Prof Dr Anwarul Haq Sharif has been appointed as the vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University for four years. Prof Sharif did his honours and masters from Dhaka University and PhD in pure mathematics from Free University, Brussels, Belgium, said a press release.

Gas price hike anti-people
Says Manna
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna yesterday at a human chain criticised the government for its decision to increase the price of gas terming the move "anti-people." He also demanded that the government reconsider the decision. Bangladesh Civil Rights Society organised the human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club.

TAX DODGING SCAM ACC quizzes ex-NBR member
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed former member of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Md Nasiruddin over a Tk 34 crore tax dodging scam. An Assistant Director (AD) of ACC Salah Uddin interrogated Nasiruddin at ACC's headquarters last afternoon. Sources said four luxurious vehicles were impounded on a flight of Fly Dubai between 2014 and 2015 dodging about Tk 34 crore.

Yesterday, ACC interrogated Nasiruddin on the grounds that he was a member of customs department at that time. Meanwhile, ACC yesterday submitted charge sheets to courts against seven persons, including two former civil surgeons Dr Md Khairul Alam and Dr Aftab Uddin Ahmed, in two separate cases filed with Barisal Model Police Station in 2016 and Mirpur Police Station in 1994.

Make healthcare affordable for all
Speakers urge govt at roundtable
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prevalence of non-communicable diseases, pollution caused by urbanisation, and the impacts of climate change are the major barriers to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), said speakers at a roundtable yesterday. They urged the government to give more focus on health sector and sought donor organisations' help to address the issues so that UHC, one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to ensure quality healthcare for all without financial hardships, can be achieved by 2030.

They also urged the doctors, private clinics and diagnostic centres' authorities and other medical service providers not to charge extra fees, and to maintain more honesty and transparency in their professions. The remarks were made at the roundtable organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with USAID, James P Grant School of Public Health of Brac University, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, at the newspaper's office in the capital.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre, said people were being affected by different types of diseases due to negative impacts of climate change and pollution. Non-communicable diseases were other major threats to public health, said Hossain, also an adviser to a former caretaker government. "We need to address the issues and increase the use of technology to enhance healthcare services for all people," he said.

M Iqbal Arslan, president of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, alleged many doctors in the county prescribe excessive medication and tests to their patients thinking about profit, and many medicine manufacturers, private clinics, and diagnostic centres charge high fees. These extra costs make the people suffer; so it should be avoided to achieve UHC, he added. Speaking as the chief guest, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said, "UHC is important for healthcare sector of the country, but it is difficult to achieve due to a shortage of resources. "We need more budgetary allocation in this sector for infrastructural development and recruiting more doctors, nurses and technicians," he added. Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman and Associate Editor Abdul Quayum; Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services; Miranda Beckman, a deputy director of USAID Bangladesh; Mohammad Shah Alamgir, director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh; Ruhul Amin, director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration; Hossain Ishrat Adib, head of education of School of Public Health at Brac University; and Mahmud Hasan, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association, spoke.

5 Bangladeshi women honoured in India
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Bangladeshi women leaders have been honoured with World Women Leadership Congress Award by Femina at the fourth World Women Leadership Congress (WWLC) held in Mumbai, India on February 17.

They are: Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury; Romina Dewan, founder and executive director of Livelihood Education And Development Services; Farhana A Rahman, chief executive officer and chairperson of UY Systems Ltd Dhaka; Nazika Imam, head of human resources and employment of HSBC Bangladesh, and Luna Shamsuddoha, chairman of Dohatec New Media. The WWLC honours the strategic and influential role of women leaders who are contributing to the development of economy and technology, and promoting the advancement of the government and business organisations.

Death anniversary
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 14th death anniversary of freedom fighter Motiar Rahman Biswas. A qurankhani and a doa mahfil will be held. All are requested to attend the programme. Motiar of Kodalia village at Mollar Haat upazila of Bagerhat died in 2003.

Country's human rights situation better than US: AL
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday rejected the US State Department human rights report for 2016, saying that the country's human rights situation "is better than the US". Hasan Mahmud, publicity affairs secretary of the party, came up with the reaction at a press briefing at party chief Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office. In its report for 2016, the US State Department cited the most significant human rights problems in Bangladesh were extrajudicial killings, arbitrary or unlawful detentions, and forced disappearances by the government security forces. Calling upon the US to take a notice on its own human rights situation, Hasan Mahmud cited that around 1,100 people are killed in police firing every year there. He claimed Bangladesh is doing better compared to the US in curbing militancy.



A sudden shower drenched the capital yesterday, giving a relief to city dwellers from dust. The photo was taken in front of Jatiya Press Club. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



The women and children affairs ministry forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club yesterday ahead of International Women's Day on March 8. PHOTO: STAR

DEATH OF FELLOW AFTER CLASH WITH POLICE
Transport workers deny cop allegation of firing
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport workers have denied the allegation of killing fellow bus driver, who died from pellet injuries during the Wednesday's clash between cops and transport workers. It is known to all who opened fire that day during the protest, the transport workers alleged. "We are simple drivers and workers. How can we carry guns that kill our own man?" said a leader of Dhaka District Transport Workers Union. Visiting the Gabtoli Bus Terminal and Amin Bazar Truck Terminal yesterday, this correspondent talked to transport workers who expressed anxiety fearing the arrest of their fellow workers.

Some leaders of the union said they will take to the street again if any of their colleagues is arrested in the murder case. Claiming that the vandalism was done by the outsiders, the transport workers said there are 19 CCIV cameras in the area; besides, many photo journalists were present during the incident. The footage and pictures will prove everything in court, they said. Earlier, a violent clash ensued between police and transport workers at Gabtoli inter-district bus terminal amid a countrywide transport strike. Shah Alam Shahin, 32, a bus driver of SI Travels, sustained pellet injuries during the clash there on Wednesday. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital later in the day. "The victim was killed in gunshots fired by transport workers, not by police," Farukul Alam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Darussalam Police Station, told The Daily Star, on Saturday quoting the case statement. He said they are in search of the accused. Police filed the murder case.

GRAFT CASE HC verdict on Khaleda's revision plea
March 8
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed Wednesday for passing order on a revision petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia seeking its order on the trial court concerned to transfer the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case against her to another court. On February 8, the BNP chief filed the petition challenging the order of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka which rejected her no confidence petition.