

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.7 L 26.5	MYMENSINGH H 32.6 L 20.6	CHITTAGONG H 32.7 L 26.0	SYLHET H 33.8 L 23.2	RAJSHAHI H 36.6 L 18.2	RANGPUR H 33.8 L 18.4	KHULNA H 36.5 L 26.0	BARISAL H 35.2 L 25.8	COX'S BAZAR H 33.0 L 25.5
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Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Sylhet division till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Mild heat wave sweeping over Khulna division and Faridpur, Tangail, Gopalganj, Rajshahi and Pabna may continue, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

HC okays 469 committees to scrutinise FFs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday withdrew its earlier order that stayed the functions of 469 committees formed for scrutinising freedom fighters across the country.

The HC passed the order following a prayer moved by Deputy Attorney General Amatul Karim for withdrawing the stay order. DAG Amatul said the HC on January 23 following a writ petition announced that it stayed the functions of a freedom fighter scrutiny committee.

But, in the order it was mistakenly written that the functions of 470 such committees have been stayed, she said.

Yesterday, the HC modified the order and withdrew the stay orders from 469 committees except for one upazila committee, Amatul added.



Clockwise from left, A pedestrian, among a group of jaywalkers, signals a bus to stop while crossing the port city's busy Muradpur intersection on Monday. Pedestrians often cross the road amid fast-moving traffic, risking their lives. Seemingly oblivious to an oncoming bus, a jaywalker runs across the road.



PHOTOS: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Save Jewel from blood cancer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nur-e-Alam Siddiqi Jewel, 44, from Jessore is suffering from blood cancer.

After graduating from MM College, he was studying physics at Dhaka University and residing in its Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall.

Currently, he is being treated at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai of India.

He already took two chemotherapies. He will have to have a bone marrow transplant after the fifth chemo for which Tk 60 lakh is needed.

As the family alone cannot afford the treatment, they requested the well-off to extend their helping hands to save his life.

Assistance can be sent to Jewel's father, Md Nurul Amin, Account No: 4091-101-1960, Routing No: 175411616, Pubali Bank Ltd, Navaran Bazar Branch, Jessore; bKash A/C No: 01553388571.

SNAPS & snippets

Sonargaon Hotel Sramik and Karmachari Union gets new leaders

CITY DESK

Aminul Islam and Abdullah Al-Sharif Laskar have been elected president and general secretary of Sonargaon Hotel Sramik and Karmachari Union recently.

They were elected in the 14th election of the union, said a press release.

Other office bearers are Azam Khan, Shafiqul Islam, Saiful Islam, Faruk Hossain, Siddikur Rahman, Liyang William Korayea and Ilora Agnes Mong.

The new committee will take charge on April 10.



Aminul Abdullah

Water supply resumes at CU dorms following student protest

MD ABBAS, CU

Water supply finally resumed at Chittagong University's dormitories yesterday, a day after residential students demonstrated on the campus demanding that the management takes steps to tackle the acute water shortage lingering for at least one week.

The dormitories are getting good flow of water from the afternoon but the water is bearing patches of rubbish, complained students.

With summer hitting hard, the water supply at the dormitories got intermittent. But for the last one week, there was almost no water at most of the hostels.

As a result, some 400 students of Shahjalal Hall who have been struggling in this scorching heat for last

one month with little water in only some blocks of the three-storey building padlocked the hall office for 11:00am to 12:00pm on Monday demanding immediate water supply.

Meanwhile, agitating students of the three female dormitories -- Pritilota, Khaleda Zia and Shamsunnahar halls -- locked the university's main entrance on Monday night, brought out a procession and staged demonstration in Zero Point area on the campus.

Mirazul Islam, a residential student of Alaol Hall, neither could bathe nor could wash his clothes for the last five days due to water scarcity. He had to buy water for his daily needs.

Like him, around 3,500 residen-

tial students of AF Rahman, Abdur Rab, Aloal and Suhrawardy halls also struggled with acute water scarcity. On the other hand, frequent power cuts and summer heat made their daily life even harder, alleged students and teachers.

"For last one month, I had to go outside every morning to freshen up myself", said Imtiaz Ovi, residential student of Shahjalal hall.

"In this hot summer, it is impossible to pass even a day without water. But we had not got water for the last one week even though we submitted a complaint to the authorities concerned", said Syeda Airin Sultana, residential student of Pritilota Hall.

Md Ainan Hossain, residential student of AF Rahman Hall, alleged that the first, second and third floor

did not have a single drop of water in last few days. Only little water was found on the ground floor but for a specific period.

CU Chief Engineer Md Abu Sayeed Hossain said due to power shortage and fluctuating voltage in the national grid, they were unable to even start the water pump on the campus which caused the water crisis.

Yesterday, the university authorities hired two generators following which the water supply resumed at the dormitories. They will run the generators unless they execute their decision, which was taken yesterday, to buy a generator for the campus for Tk 50 lakh.

About rubbish patches in the water, the engineer said those would go away by today.

Why not return

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seized equipment and materials of the newspaper from its office which have not been returned yet, he said.

The lawyer said Mahmudur has earlier filed an application with a magistrate court in Dhaka seeking an order on the government to return the equipment and materials, but the court rejected the application.

Later, Mahmudur submitted the petition to the HC, he added.

Two JMB militant suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained two suspected JMB militants in the capital's Mohammadpur and Uttara areas on Monday night.

They are Fatema Akter Ruma, 20, and Zahidul Huq Jihani, 24, students of Eden College and East West University.

Lt Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, Commanding Officer of Rab-3, said a team of Rab first arrested Ruma from Nurjahan Road in Mohammadpur area and based on her information they later arrested Jihan from Uttara Sector-11.

Habiganj man held hours after ICT issues arrest warrant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a Habiganj man hours after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 issued an arrest warrant against him for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Abul Khayer Golap alias Golap Mia, 65, of Mamadpur village under Nabiganj upazila in the district was arrested around 4:00pm, Joydeb Kumar Bhadra, superintendent of police of Habiganj, told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque passed the order following a petition moved by Prosecutor Zead Al Malum.

Moving the petition, Malum said the investigation against him started on February 16 last year and investigation officer Noor Hossain has already found his involvement in crimes committed in 1971.

The accused is an influential person in his locality and most of his family members are now living in the US, Malum said. He may flee the country unless he is arrested, the prosecutor added.

The accused was the Razakar commander of his Gajnaipur union and his father Motiur Rahman was a member of anti-liberation Peace Committee of their union in 1971, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told The Daily Star.

He was found involved in at least five incidents of killing, rape, torture and abduction in the district, Chaman added.



An ear cleaner at work in a park in the capital's Farmgate area. Without any medical education or training, these quacks continue the act, which may cause serious damage to ears. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



An organsiation named HAB Somonnoy Parishad forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding that the government ensure Hajj performance of all pre-registered Hajj pilgrims in 2017. They also demanded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in this regard.

PHOTO: STAR



A garbage truck belonging to Dhaka North City Corporation gets stuck in sand used for filling up a portion of the capital's Mirpur Road near Suhrawardy hospital. The road was previously dug to repair the area's drainage system. Eventually the vehicle was able to get out with assistance. The authorities concerned apparently did not follow proper procedures to fill up the space, which might lead to more serious accidents. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

First phase of Rab launches book interpreting Islam

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large number of burn patients in Singapore, where on an average 200 patients are annually given treatment in hospitals.

On the contrary, over 200 patients are admitted each month with burn injuries at Burn and Plastic Surgery Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) -- which is beyond the capacity of the department, he observed.

"Resources, however, at the DMCH are very low," Chong said, adding that "No matter how good the doctors are, burn surgeons will not be able to provide quality service if resources are low."

Dr Samanta Lal Sen said he is hopeful that this project with services provided by the SHNIBPS will bring a significant change to burn care in the country.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday launched a book containing actual explanations of some of the verses from the Holy Quran, which the militants usually use to radicalise youths.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal launched the book titled "Misinterpretation of verses from the Quran and Hadith and the correct explanation of those" at a programme in the capital.

In the book launch ceremony, speakers said militancy can be eradicated by rehabilitating and de-motivating the militants, and developing counter-narratives to challenge militant ideology.

The elite force has discovered some documents having false interpretations of the Quran and Hadith from some militant hide-outs they have recently busted. With the help of Islamic scholars, the book has been prepared keeping both false and actual interpretations so the people can see the difference.

In the book, actual explanation of around 60 verses from the Quran and Hadith has been incorporated. For instance, militants say almighty Allah in Ayat (verse)

5 of Surah (chapter) Taubah of the Quran, says: "Kill the atheists wherever you find them, once the forbidden months are over."

The scholars in the book, however, say the Ayat was actually bestowed centering a special incident -- when infidels in Mecca cancelling peace deal carried out an attack on Banu Khuza community that was in peace agreement with the Prophet Muhammad (SM). The community sought help from the prophet who gave four months time to the attackers to restore peace.

This verse refers to those who would continue to fight after the period of peace. It clearly commands the Muslims to protect those who seek peace and are non-combatants. It is a specific verse with a specific ruling and can in no way be applied to general situations.

Benazir Ahmed, director general of Rab, said the book will soon be translated into English, and it will be available on Rab and police websites so people can be aware of the false interpretations.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and IGP AKM Shahidul Hoque spoke among others.