

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 34.0 L 23.1	H 33.6 L 18.9	H 31.5 L 23.2	H 34.3 L 21.3	H 35.2 L 21.5	H 32.1 L 19.6	H 35.6 L 21.7	H 33.5 L 21.5	H 32.5 L 24.0

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may rise by (1-2) degree over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am.

Newspaper hawker dies in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newspaper hawker died as a bus hit his bicycle in the capital's Tikatuli area yesterday morning. The deceased is identified as Aynal Haque, 42, a resident of railway colony area in East Nakhpalpara. A bus hit Aynal's bicycle from behind near Ittefaq intersection area around 9:30am, leaving him injured critically, said Motijheel Police Station Sub-inspector Nazmulla. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died around 10:00am, the SI said. Police seized the bus of Best Transport, and arrested its driver Abdus Sattar and helper Hazrat Ali from the spot, the SI added. Aynal's brother Yousuf Sattar said Aynal used to deliver newspapers to offices in Motijheel area. He was also working as a gateman at Karwan Bazar rail crossing.



People quenching thirst with a cold beverage sold by a street vendor near Loharpul in Kamrangirchar area yesterday. Despite the risk, people from the low income demographic resort to such unhygienic beverage to cool themselves off when the temperature becomes unbearable. Met office reported that the highest temperature in Dhaka yesterday was 34 degrees Celsius. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SNAPS & snippets

India eases rules for medical visa

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India yesterday announced to further liberalise medical visa rules for Bangladeshis. As announced during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina to India, Bangladesh nationals visiting India for diagnostics will also be eligible for medical visas, said a press release of Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday. Proof of confirmation of appointment in a recognised Indian hospital and diagnosis of illness from doctors in Bangladesh reflecting the ailment should be attached along with the medical visa application form. Other rules and conditions for grant of medical visa shall remain unchanged, it said. Medical visa applications are being accepted on a walk-in basis at IVAC Gulshan in Dhaka and all IVACs outside Dhaka. For details, the high commission requests applicants to visit www.ivacbd.com.

Spice mill, drinking water factory sealed off in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court of Chittagong district administration yesterday sealed off a spice manufacturing mill and a drinking water factory for production of items in an unhygienic condition and without BSTI approval. The court also fined the two factories Tk 40,000. The court led by Executive Magistrate Ruhul Amin conducted the drive at Barabkunda Union of Sitakunda Upazila from 12:30pm to 2:30pm and found that the spice factory owned by one Nur Ali, was using rotten chilis. The court then sealed off the mill and fined Nur with Tk 20,000. Later, the same court fined 'RO' water factory with Tk 20,000 for using BSTI logo without approval.



Students of Latent Talent School, an English medium institution, performing at an event on its campus in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday welcoming Bangla New Year 1424. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Some Facebookers get accounts unblocked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following that, many Facebook users in the country found their accounts blocked. A university student named Shahrier Ahmed used to maintain two accounts. Yesterday morning, he found one of his accounts active. Mustafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, said he welcomes the Facebook's initiative to block fake accounts. Jabbar said the country would be able to assess the actual market size of Facebook through the process. The government has also appreciated the drive against fake accounts. Nobody could specify how many accounts were blocked. But unauthenticated sources said the number might be around one million from Bangladesh. There are 2.6 crore Facebook accounts operating from Bangladesh, according to a report of "Digital in 2017 Global Overview" run by We Are Social and Hootsuite.

Community clinics ensuring safe delivery in rural areas

BSS, Rangpur

Community clinics have earned public confidence through conducting safe deliveries in rural areas in the district side by side with providing cost free health services and medicines to the common people. According to Civil Surgeon Office sources, a total of 310 community clinics have been providing health services to the common people, and safe deliveries are being conducted currently at 45 clinics in all eight upazilas in the district. "The Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBA) conducted safe deliveries of 234 rural mothers last year as facilities are being made available to increase number of community clinics for the purpose," said Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Md Zakirul Islam. A trained Community Health Care Provider (CHCP), one Health Assistant and one Family Welfare Assistant, all are trained CSBA, are working at every community clinic. "Besides, over 21.17 lakh common people received health services from community clinics here last year against the number of 17.69 lakh people who received the same in the previous year," he added. CHCP Nadira Banu at Uttar Mominpur Community Clinic in Mominpur union under Sadar upazila said she conducted five safe deliveries at her clinics during the past six-months. Talking to the news agency, housewife Munira Begum, 20, of Engineer Para village expressed happiness over giving birth to a son safely at Uttar Mominpur Community Clinic recently after undergoing regular checkups there. Similarly, housewives Aduri Begum, 30, of village Kathihara and Lipi Begum, 20, of village Hatkhola Para of village Uttar Mominpur gave birth to their respective daughter there recently. "Forty pregnant women are now under checkups at my community clinic," said CHCP Nadira adding that she also provided health services to 4,730 common patients there last year. CHCP Nazma Khatun at Gokulpur Community Clinic under Haridebpur union of Sadar upazila here said she conducted safe deliveries of 27 rural mothers last year and 30 more pregnant women are now undergoing regular checkup there. "In addition to conducting safe deliveries, I also provided health services to 9,767 common people, including under-five babies, children, adolescents, men and women at my clinic last year," said CHCP Nazma. Acting Deputy Commissioner Sultana Pervin said community clinics have been effectively ensuring safe deliveries of rural mothers along with reaching cost-free health services with medicines to rural people in the district.



CRAB CHAI?

Clockwise from top, Fishermen pile up bamboo traps (locally known as Chai) made for catching crabs in the Karnaphuli river. On the bank nearby, a Sampan (a boat that can withstand strong current) is being loaded with the traps. For a good catch, the crab catchers usually set around 100 traps in the river in one go. Two to five crabs usually get caught in each trap on a good day. Prior to loading the traps on the boat, a fisherman arms a trap with a particular type of fish as bait. A bamboo hook is being inserted into the bait so it can be placed inside the trap. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

VOTE AGAINST PARTY Writ petition challenges cancellation of MPs' party membership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of Article 70 of the constitution regarding cancellation of membership of a lawmaker for resigning or voting against his or her political party. Article 70 says, "A person elected as a member of parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party; or votes in Parliament against that party; but shall not thereby be disqualified for subsequent election as a member of parliament".

Obituary

CITY DESK

Dr Habibur Rahman, former professor of medicine at Dhaka Medical College and husband of former professor Dr Anowara Begum of the college, died at his Chamelibagh residence in the capital at 6:30pm yesterday. He was 82. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Aminbagh Mosque in Shantinagar today after Johr prayers.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Kazi Nuruzzaman, first vice-president of Student Union of Saadat College in Tangail.

HEALTH, SAFETY AT WORKPLACE Awareness among owners, workers a must

Mujibul Haque tells roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure workers' occupational health and safety at workplace, both factory owners and workers have to be aware of the issue, said State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque. Mere legal provisions are not enough without the much-needed awareness, he said. For instance, following Rana Plaza tragedy, manpower at the department of inspection for factories and establishments has been increased three-folds. Still, it is not possible for the department alone to effectively monitor 83 lakh financial establishments in the country, he added. The minister made the remarks at a roundtable titled "Occupational health and safety at workplace" organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its Karwan Bazar office on Sunday in collaboration with International Labour Organization. The government is building two 300-bed hospitals in Tongi and Narayanganj under public-private partnership to provide healthcare to workers at a cheaper price, he said, adding that an initiative had been taken for building three dormitories for female workers. Mohammad Nasir, vice president of BGMEA -- the apex body of the readymade garment manufacturers and exporters in the country, said a safety committee is being formed at every factory for workers' health and safety. Wajedul Islam, general secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, said occupational health and safety situation would not improve unless the factory owners are committed. Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, spoke among others. Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayyum conducted the discussion attended by ILO representatives.

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