

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.0 L 23.7	MYMENSINGH H 32.0 L 21.0	CHITTAGONG H 34.0 L 25.0	SYLHET H 32.0 L 22.5	RAJSHAHI H 33.4 L 21.4	RANGPUR H 29.9 L 21.7	KHULNA H 35.8 L 23.0	BARISAL H 34.5 L 22.8	COX'S BAZAR H 34.2 L 25.0
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 24 hours, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17am, says Met Office.

IUBAT VC passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

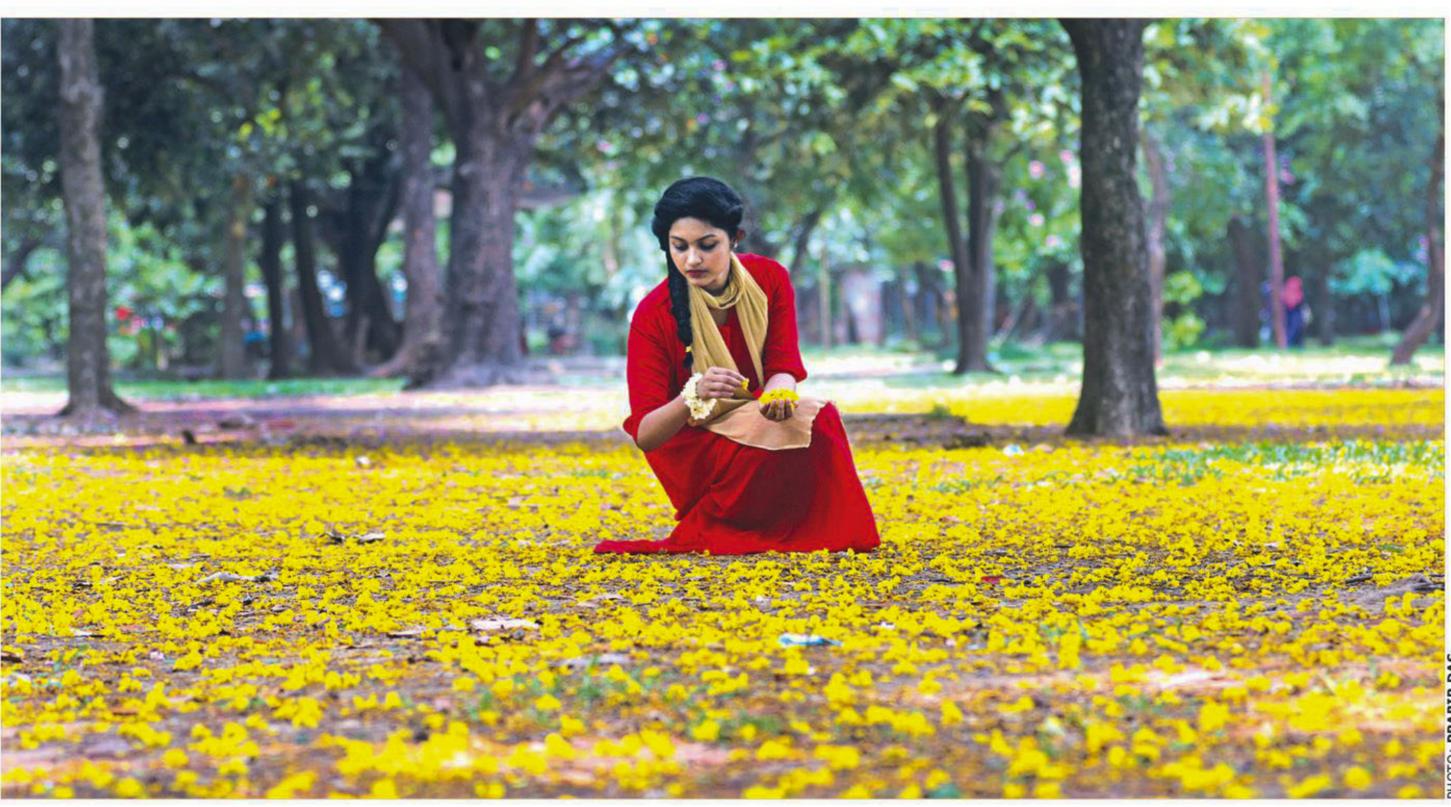
Prof Dr M Alimullah Miyan, vice-chancellor of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), died of a stroke at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka yesterday morning. He was 73.

He left behind his wife and a son, said his personal secretary Abu Hanif.

A former director of Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University and founder of IUBAT, Prof Alimullah had also consulted for many international agencies including EU, UNDP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Unicef, said a press release.

His body will be kept on IUBAT premises at 10:00am today for paying homage. A namaz-e-janaza will be held after the Zohr prayers on the university premises in the capital's Uttara.

Qulkhwan
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



So what it's sweltering hot and the mercury seems to keep on rising, a young woman still pauses to appreciate the wonders of nature and collects flowers in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. The bright yellow Kanakchura flowers brightening the ground below in the backdrop of dazzling green leaves are indeed a feast for the eyes.

Uphold harmony
President urges all

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the people of all faiths to play their due role in upholding the country's communal harmony.

He came up with the call while exchanging greetings with members of the Buddhist community at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the community.

The president said Lord Buddha throughout his life had disseminated the message of equality to establish a peaceful world.

The message of Buddha -- non-violence is the ultimate religion -- is still applicable, he said.

Hamid said Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony while people of all religions have been performing rituals of their respective religions freely.

The president and his wife Rashida Khanom welcomed the guests.

'Humiliated', girl 'commits suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 19-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide in the capital on Tuesday after she was "forced to marry a 16-year-old boy".

Sheuly Akter used to live with her parents at a tin-shed house in Kamalbagh area of Chawk Bazar.

Neighbours said Sheuly and the boy were found talking Tuesday early hours. Following that, Babul, the caretaker of their rented house, took the duo to his room, called the neighbours, and got them married.

After the marriage, it was decided that the duo would pass the night at Sheuly's house, the neighbours added.

The next morning [Tuesday], Sheuly was found to be groaning in pain, and asked her mother to take her to a hospital, said the locals. She was declared brought dead after she was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) the same day.

Victim's father was not home at the time of incident as he was outside of Dhaka, and

Difficulty in autism detection puts parents in trouble

FAITH roundtable told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents face difficulties identifying autism in their children due to limitations of the diagnostic process in the country, and therefore, cannot take the right decision about how to raise them, a roundtable was told yesterday.

Father of a boy with autism, M Aftab Uddin, said, "We faced a lot of hassles while admitting our son to school because doctors couldn't identify whether he is autistic or not, even after several diagnosis processes." Talking about society's negative attitude, the parents said people should not address children with autism as "disabled".

Referring to his son, Aftab said, "People cannot accept him normally, that's why we feel discomfort bringing him to any programme." Media can change people's mindsets through informing them about the disorder, he added.

The Foundation for Advancement of Innovations in Technology and Health (FAITH), Bangladesh organised the roundtable in the capital.

Prof Dr Faruk Alam, director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), said identifying early-stage autism was difficult because it could not be said for sure if a child had autism or not even if he manifested most of the symptoms.

Media personality Dr Abdun Noor Tushar said society had to change its attitude towards autism, and parents had to accept their children's condition.

1km road plight of thousands



The one-kilometre road from Amtola Mor to Rupatoli bus stand in Barisal city is in a dilapidated condition for a long time, causing immense sufferings to commuters. The photo was taken recently.

SUSHANTA GHOSH and JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barisal

The one-kilometre Rupatoli road, from Amtola Mor to Rupatoli bus stand in Barisal city, has been in a bad shape for a long time, causing untold sufferings to commuters of all six districts in Barisal division.

The 16-foot-wide road, which is a part of Barisal-Khulna highway, links the country's north to Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Bhola, and Barguna.

Not only that, the dilapidated road is the only route to all major hospitals in Barisal, including Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in the city.

But the road remains choked with traffic almost all the time due to hundreds of potholes, which leave commuters, especially patients, in trouble.

Shah Alam, a mobile phone shop owner of the area, said accidents, major or minor, are now a common phenomenon on the road.

The potholes have become traps for commuters and vehicles, said Mizan, a truck driver. "Vehicles have to move slowly due to the potholes, which cause unending traffic jams on the road from morning to evening," he said, adding, Sagordi Bazar is the worst affected place in the area.

"Five passengers were injured after a jeep



A group of activists belonging to Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday vandalise sound equipment on the premises of Chashara Central Shaheed Minar in Narayanganj. Cultural organisation Unmesh was scheduled to stage a programme there on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. According to the organisers, local cultural personality Rafiur Rabbi was supposed to be present in the programme.

BIWTC contractor shot in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was shot by unknown miscreants at Motijheel in the capital on Tuesday night.

Jakir Hossain, 28, a contractor of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), is undergoing treatment at DMCH with bullet injuries in his head and leg.

Miscreants opened fire on Jakir when he was going to Jashim Uddin road in Kamalapur for repairing his motorcycle around 10:30pm, said OC Omar Faruk of Motijheel Police Station.

The victim said he was selected as BIWTC contractor, which might be the reason behind the attack.

NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROADS
Three lives lost

CITY DESK

Three people, including a local Awami League leader, were killed and 26 others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday and on Tuesday.

In Panchagarh Sadar, a local AL leader was killed as a bus hit his motorcycle on Panchagarh-Tentulia highway in Helipad area Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased was Rabi Mahmud, 65, vice-president of district unit AL.

The accident occurred when the bus driver lost control over the vehicle and hit Rabi's motorbike when he was going to a party meeting with another AL leader who was also injured in the accident.

The bus also hit a roadside electric poll leaving five of its passengers injured.

Following the incident, locals blocked the highway for three hours.

In Rajshahi, a truck driver was killed and 20 people were injured as the vehicle collided head-on with a bus on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Puthia yesterday.

The deceased was Rabbi Hossain, 29. He died on the spot.

In Chittagong, a pedestrian was killed as a truck ran him over while he was crossing the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitalpur area yesterday morning.

The identity of the person, aged around 30, could not be ascertained. He died on the spot, said police.

Govt urged to take steps for establishing rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A conference of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a rights organisation, was held in New York in the US on April 30 urging the government to take effective steps to establish the rights of Bangladeshi expatriates.

HRPB's New York unit organised it at a hotel where HRPB President advocate Manzill Murshid was the chief guest, said a press release. Advocate Mohammad Ali Babul presided over the occasion where Abul Kashem Raju, advocate Abdul Hye, advocate Mujibur Rahman spoke. A 22-member executive committee was formed making Md Ali Babul and Abul Kashem Raju president and general secretary.



A man lifts sand illegally from the Jhinai river, a tributary of the Jamuna, using a dredger in Kalihati municipal area of Tangail yesterday. According to locals, some influential people have long been using dredgers to lift sand from the river, which might lead to erosion of agricultural land and homesteads.