

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.0 L 25.6	H 34.5 L 23.8	H 36.0 L 28.2	H 35.5 L 26.3	H 35.5 L 24.3	H 33.2 L 22.9	H 35.6 L 24.2	H 35.6 L 25.7	H 35.5 L 27.4

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with hail at isolated places in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. A mild heat wave is sweeping over Faridpur, Chittagong, Sandwip, Sitakunda, Rangamati, Comilla, Noakhali, Feni, Hatya, Sirinaganj, Mongla, Satkhira, Jessore, Patuakhali & Bhola, the Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40pm and rises tomorrow at 05:12am. The country's highest temperature 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati & Hatya and lowest 21.5 degree Celsius in Rajshahi. Highest and lowest temperatures in major cities and towns yesterday were:

## Policeman hit by bullet at Gono Bhaban dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman, who was hit by a bullet while he was on duty in the prime minister's official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital on Friday night, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday. Atiqur Rahman, 28, son of Md Bahar of Hatiya upazila in Noakhali, was a nayek at Special Security and Protection Battalion (SPBn).

Police suspected that it was either a suicide or an unintentional discharge of a firearm. A bullet hit him in the chest near the mosque at the north gate of Gono Bhaban around 11:45pm. Police headquarters formed a three-member committee, while SPBn itself constituted another five-member committee to investigate the incident, said Iqbal Hossain, commanding officer of SPBn-2.

Police always ensure fool-proof security around Gono Bhaban especially at night, and there is no chance that it was a subversive activity, an official of SPBn told The Daily Star. Police will send Atiq's firearms to the forensic laboratory of Criminal Investigation Department. An unnatural death case was filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The body was handed over to his family yesterday after an autopsy. Atiq's elder brother Mahmudul Hasan told The Daily Star that they were not sure how his brother died, but it was unlikely he committed suicide. He, however, was told that Atiq died from an "accidental firing". Atiq lived in Mohammadpur with his wife Sharmin Akter and a daughter.



Clockwise from left, police in action to disperse demonstrators on the Dhaka-Aricha highway near Jahangirnagar University. A journalist shows his injuries received during police action. Students create a fire on the highway to block traffic. The photos were taken yesterday.



## 10 killed in road accidents

CITY DESK

Ten people including a kid were killed and 25 others injured in road accidents in five districts yesterday and on Friday.

In Dinaipur, three people were killed and three others injured as a pickup van collided head-on with a truck on Dinajpur-Bogra highway in Bhaduria area of Nawabganj upazila early yesterday.

The deceased are Aslan Hossain, 38, Md Manik, 28, and Ashiq Mia, 28. All of them hailed from different villages of Naogaon.

The injured were sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said police.

In Gaibandha, three people were killed and two others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between two trucks on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Fasitola in Gobindaganj upazila early yesterday.

Of the deceased two are Mohibul Huq, 44, and Manu Mia, 43. The identity of the other could not be known immediately.

In Mymensingh, two persons including a child were killed and 20 others injured when a bus fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Mymensingh highway as the driver lost his control over the vehicle in Roymoni area of Trishal upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Chinmoy Ghosh, 7, son of Suvash Ghosh of the upazila and Hazera Khatun, 22, of Phulbaria.

In Rajbari, a man was killed and another injured as a truck turned turtle on Rajbari-Kushtia road in Goriana Kalibari area of Kalukhali upazila on Friday.

The deceased is Gotom Kundu, 45, of Giore Bazar area in Manikganj.

In Pirojpur, Ishaq Howlader, 64, of Dhanisafa village was killed and his brother-in-law was injured

## JU asks students to vacate halls after VC house siege

40 arrested; protest follows death of 2 fellows in road accident

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University yesterday night decided that all the residential students of the university will have to vacate their dormitories by 10:00am today.

The decision was taken at an emergency syndicate meeting called by JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam around 11:00pm after students took position inside her residence compound by breaking the lock of the front gate, said JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique.

The students laid siege to the VC's residence, next to the teachers' quarters, demanding punishment for the BCL men who earlier attacked them while they were protesting deaths of two fellows in Friday's road accident blocking the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Meanwhile, around midnight, after the meeting, police arrested some 40 students who took position inside the VC's residence, according to witnesses. The VC called the meeting over the phone as she was locked inside, said the registrar.

Also, a case has been filed by the university authorities with Ashulia Police Station against some 40 students for vandalising the VC's residence, said the JU registrar. A probe body has been formed in this regard, he added.

Earlier, at least 10 persons, including students, a JU official and two journalists, were injured yesterday when police and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of JU tried to disperse them in

three separate incidents after the students blocked the highway.

The injured are Hafizur Rahman and Abu Sayem, JU correspondents of Jagonews24.com and Daily Destiny; Sudipta Shaheen, chief security officer at JU; and students -- Jui, Ayon, Bhaishakhi, Anamika, Sajedur, Riman and Didar.

The injured were admitted to a local hospital. The students continued their demonstration for the second consecutive day blocking the road in front of the main entrance of the university yesterday from 11:30am to 5:30pm halting traffic movement.

They have been demonstrating to realise their three-point demand, including compensation for the family of the deceased, enforcing speed limit of 30km per hour from Bismail area to

## Six get anti-tobacco reporting awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six journalists received "Tobacco Control Journalism Award 2017" yesterday for their anti-tobacco reporting.

Porimol Palma, senior reporter of The Daily Star, received award in "Print/Online Newspaper (English)" category for his report headlined "Contrasting price rise: analysis shows food costlier, tobacco cheaper". The report was published in the daily on May 31 last year.

Law Minister Anisul Huq handed over the awards, jointly given by Progotir Jonno Gyan (Progga) and Anti Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA), at a ceremony in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

Other award recipients are Golam Mortuza Jewel of Daily Kirtonkhola in "Local Newspaper" category, Hamiduzz-Zaman Mamum of Jugantor and Md Shafiqul Islam of Bangla Tribune in "Print/Online Newspaper (Bangla)" category, and Sushanta Sinha of Jamuna Television in "Electronic Media" category.

Each of the recipients received Tk 50,000 in prize money, a crest, and a certificate.

In addition, Sadik Evan of bdnews24.com received a special award in "Children Journalism" category on special recommendation of the jury board headed by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.



Speakers during a rally at Cheragi square in Chittagong city protest the removal of Lady Justice's statue from the Supreme Court premises in the capital. "Sorbostorer Sangskritik Kormi O Sacheton Nagorik Samaj" organised the rally yesterday. Protesting the same incident, a human chain was formed yesterday in Rajshahi by "Progotishil Sangathan Samuha". In Dhaka, a group of people under the banner of "Chhatro Janatar Protibah Samabesh O Michhil" organised a human chain to protest the removal of the statue and attack on people protesting the removal.

## 'Killer' of N'ganj imam arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police yesterday arrested the alleged killer of an imam who was murdered inside a mosque in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj on Friday.

Zahirul Islam, 35, of Gobindapur Majhipara was arrested in Kanchan Bridge area of the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge of Rupganj Police Station Ismail Hossain said Zahirul -- a mentally challenged person -- entered Mathi mosque in Gobindapur Majhipara on Friday and hacked Abdul Majid Munshi, 72, while he was offering his Esha prayers.

Majid died while being taken to a hospital. The incident left another person injured, said the OC.

## It's all about survival

Flood-affected haor people in Sunamganj district struggling to make ends meet

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Tahirpur

For villagers in haor areas under Sunamganj district, boro cultivation is not just about harvesting.

It is about hope. Hope for a better yield and most importantly, a better life.

During harvest, the villages -- with farmers cutting crops in the vast paddy fields and people gathering around -- put on a celebratory mood.

Afterwards, farmers take their crops to the markets for selling. And, with the money, they stock up on essentials, especially ahead of Ramadan.

But this year, it is not the same for the villagers.

Early flash floods, triggered by incessant rain and onrush of water from rivers upstream, have flooded vast areas of farmland in haor areas under Sunamganj district, leaving farmers with no chance to harvest their crops.

In addition, death of fish, ducks and livestock left around 3.25 lakh families struggling to make ends meet.

"All my crops are destroyed. I'm struggling to feed my six-member family," said Monsur Mia, a farmer of Anandanagar village at Tahirpur upazila under Tanguar haor.

Meanwhile, Ali Hossain of Nischintapur village, said, "Out of 210, 150 of my ducks died last month. I can't even buy food for my family."

"For us, it's about survival now," said the 45-year-old.

Enamul Haque, a farmer of Saraswatipur village under Goromar haor in Dharampasha upazila, also said their food crisis is deepening day by day. "I was left

with no other option but to sell some of my cattle at a lower price for feeding my family."

Though the government is giving 30 kilogrammes of rice and Tk 500 per month to 1,68,000 flood-affected families in Sunamganj through its VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) programme, many alleged that they were yet to get any aid.

PC Das, president of Shalla Press Club, claimed that villagers in Satpara, Shreehail and Manua of Shalla union are not getting relief materials since the areas are situated in remote locations.

"It's the same in Rahutola, Mirzapur, Sonakhani, Habibpur, Putka, Kolapara, Ahsanpur and Noagaon under Atgaon union," he added.

Amit Dev, a resident of Jagannathpur upazila under Naluar haor, echoed him.

Also, many residents of Deraul upazila alleged that some NGOs are more interested in media coverage rather than distributing aid.

They are not going to remote villages. Relief materials are not reaching Charanchar, Rafinagar, Tarol and Jagadal unions in the upazila, they alleged.

Bindu Talukdar, member secretary of Haor Bachao Sunamganj Bachao Andolan, alleged that more than half of the flood-affected farmers in Sunamganj were not getting any aid.

"Also, there were allegations of widespread irregularities in the relief distribution. This must be stopped," he said.

Contacted, Mahbur Rahman, relief and rehabilitation officer in Sunamganj, said, "Rice and cash are being provided as aid to the affected farmers through VGF cards in Sunamganj district."

## UN wants ideas on marine resource use

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations wants Bangladesh to come up with positive ideas on how it can "conserve" and "sustainably use" ocean resources staying away from pollution, UN General Assembly President Peter Thomson said ahead of the Ocean Conference.

The high-level UN conference titled "Ocean Conference" to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 -- conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development -- will be held at the UN Headquarters in New York from June 5 to June 9.

The five-day event will be coinciding with World Oceans Day to support the implementation of SDG 14. Fiji and Sweden will co-host the conference.

Peter Thomson said a country like Bangladesh has huge challenges of sea-level rise as well as huge pollution challenges because of river systems entering the Bay of

Bengal. "We're asking you to come up with your idea of sustainability as to how you're going to control that," he told the news agency.

Responding to another question, Peter Thomson said Bangladesh, on regional aspect, would have to get its regional thinking together with regional partners as well.

Before joining the conference, he also suggested Bangladesh to have a good look at the "Clean Seas" global campaign on marine litter by United Nations Environment Programme, from which "Bangladesh can get a lot of good ideas".

"Plastic is one of your concerns," said the UN general assembly president, who has been Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 2010.

The conference aims to be a game changer that will reverse the decline in the health of ocean for people, planet and prosperity, said organisers, adding that it would be solutions-focused with engagement from all.

## BU students violently respond to 'harassment'

Vandalise 50 local shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Several hundred students of Sher-e-Bangla Hall and Bangabandhu Hall of the University of Barisal (BU) vandalised around 50 shops in nearby Karnakathi Bazar early yesterday, protesting "harassment of students" by local youths and shopkeepers.

At least 10 students were injured as the shopkeepers tried to resist them by throwing brick chips. Three of them were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Students and witnesses said a local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist called Joy and some youths, who hang out at the shops, used to misbehave with students and stalk female students when they went there. On Friday night, the BCL activist and his local aides beat up some students when they protested the harassment.

Later, the students returned with their fellows carrying sticks and rods and launched the attack on the shops, they said.

Soon after the attack, Bangabandhu Hall Provost Md Abdul Kaium and police rushed in and brought the situation under control. The provost said an investigation committee would be formed after the vice chancellor returned from the capital today.

Additional police were deployed on the campus. According to the shopkeepers, they incurred a damage of around Tk 10 lakh due to the attack.



An elderly farmer looks at damaged crops in Tanguar haor. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA