

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.8 L 26.0	H 32.5 L 26.4	H 35.0 L 25.0	H 32.2 L 25.4	H 32.7 L 25.6	H 32.0 L 25.5	H 33.2 L 26.5	H 31.5 L 26.2	H 29.0 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am, Met office said.



Travelling on Dhaka-Chittagong road stretching from Jatrabari to Shanir Akhra has become a nightmare for the commuters and drivers alike. Inadequate drainage system coupled with incessant rain for the last few days left the road in Kutubkhali area, near Mayor Hanif flyover, in a terrible condition. Clockwise from top left, a portion of the dilapidated road. Unable to sense the depth of a large pothole, a rickshaw van flips over and the driver falls straight into the murky water. Another water-filled portion of the road beside the toll plaza of the flyover. Traffic police personnel help a rickshaw van pass a large puddle. Another muddy section of the road under the flyover near Jatrabari. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Impassable due to potholes

HELEMUL ALAM

Riding on an auto-rickshaw, a passenger started his journey from Jatrabari intersection to his residence in Shanarpar of Narayanganj on Sunday. At one point of the journey, when the CNG-run three-wheeler reached Kajla area on Chittagong road, one of its wheels hit a water-filled pothole. But little did the driver sense that it was a deep puddle. What happened next was the vehicle tilted precariously and the passenger immediately discovered himself in a pool of murky water. He fell straight into the dirty water, as the three-wheeler had no iron cage -- what is usually seen among such vehicles plying the city streets.

The driver of the auto-rickshaw said, "My passenger was lucky as he did not get hurt. I was lucky too as the vehicle did not flip over."

This is one of many such examples commuters and drivers experience on the road, stretching from Jatrabari to Shanir Akhra, every now and then. And travelling on this dilapidated road full of potholes has become a nightmare for residents in the last few years. The condition has worsened since the beginning of this rainy season.

Though contractors of Dhaka South

City Corporation (DSCC) have been working there to repair the road, footpaths and drains since October last, things did not improve much.

Rather, the drainage renovation work has created obstruction on the road at different points, hampering the smooth flow of vehicular movement. Moreover, the concrete slabs of drains and dug-up earth are left beside the drainage renovation site on the road, much to the woes of commuters and pedestrians. As a result, traffic congestion has become a regular phenomenon there.

The situation takes a turn for the worse when any vehicle gets stuck or flips over in the middle of the road, literally giving no room for other vehicles to pass through, said locals.

Sharing his experience, Khalil, driver of another auto-rickshaw, said, "I saw a truck flipped over at Kajla on Sunday morning." Due to the mishap, he had to wait on the road for around four hours until a police wrecker cleared the road, said the driver.

Mosharraf Hossain, driver of a bus, said he had to use the Hanif flyover by paying Tk 173 as toll after the incident, which blocked the road completely.

AKM Manzurul Alam, traffic inspector of Demra Zone (Kutubkhali-Kajla), said the contractor repairing the road is

taking too much time, adding to the sufferings of the people.

Due to long tailbacks caused by battered road condition, he said, "Sometimes, we force vehicles to use the flyover to improve the situation."

In addition, drains at different points are blocked, causing waterlogging in the area even after the slightest bit of rain, he said. Because of the poor road condition, it also takes time to reach any spot in case of emergency, added Officer-in-Charge of Jatrabari Police Station Anisur Rahman.

Contacted, DSCC Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon said a project worth Tk 137 crore is going on where three contractors are working on three roads centring the Jatrabari intersection.

He said they would check the quality of work before paying the bill.

Mahabub Yasin Panu, a contractor who is supervising the renovation work on both sides of Jatrabari-Chittagong road, said they are supposed to finish the work by November.

"I'm hopeful that we'll be able to complete the work within 15 days after Eid-ul-fitr," he said.

Responding to a query, the contractor acknowledged that they had failed to clear the mud and slabs due to rains for the last few days.

Showing the light

FROM PAGE 3

A fifth-grader at VERC School's Bhagalpur campus, she said, "I did not imagine I could study my work as my family is too poor to support my education."

"I want to graduate from university," he said.

A teacher of Bhagalpur campus, Nasima Akter Tonne, said, "We have been working with child workers for the last five years."

"We visit places like factory, market, or tea stall. Wherever children work, we have discussions with their employers about their education. Then the employers send the children to our school."

"Besides institutional education, children are taught manners, workplace, and health issues," said Nasima. "Our students are more aware than those of other schools."



Working children being taught at VERC School in Bhagalpur of Savar. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

She said, "We also give them all educational equipment free of cost."

VERC launched the initiative in 2012, said Babul Moral, project manager of VERC. "There are 6,500 working children in our working area. We have been able to arrange education for 1,400 of them."

Babul, however, said the size of donations for the project was declining day by day. On behalf of VERC, he requested the rich people to extend their support for the initiative.

VERC started its journey in 1977 with the vision of building a society where every individual would have the opportunity to maximise her/his potentials.

It got registered as a development organisation in 1981.

Registration for JU admission starts Aug 20

JU CORRESPONDENT

Online registration process for first-year honours admission tests of Jahangirnagar University for 2017-18 academic session will begin on Sunday and continue till September 21.

Admission seekers have to pay their registration fees through DBBL mobile banking channel.

Using one mobile number, a candidate can apply for all units and one mobile number cannot be used by more than one candidate.

Admission tests will be held from October 8 to 18, said JU Deputy Registrar Abu Hasan (education-1).

Details are available at ju-admission.org.

A new institute, "Bangabandhu Comparative Literature and Culture Institute", has been opened at JU, said a JU press release.

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