

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 26.9	MYMENSINGH H 33.0 L 26.5	CHITTAGONG H 34.5 L 26.5	SYLHET H 35.3 L 24.4	RAJSHAHI H 33.5 L 26.2	RANGPUR H 32.6 L 25.2	KHULNA H 33.0 L 26.0	BARISAL H 32.0 L 25.7	COX'S BAZAR H 33.0 L 25.7
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Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.



14 members of fraud, mugging gangs held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective officials arrested 14 alleged members of fraud and mugging gangs in different areas of the capital on Sunday.

In Banasree area, a team of detectives arrested five members of a fraud gang that used to steal money from bKash agents by hacking their servers, said Abdul Baten joint commissioner of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday.

The five are Khorshed, Abul Basher, Arifur Rahman, Iqbal Hossain Apu and Hamidur Rahman Tusher. Tusher used to sell devices and software that facilitated bKash agents to transact huge amount of money easily.

When any bKash agent connected to a server using the software, Khorshed hacked into it and transferred the agent's money to their accounts. The other arrestees, including three bKash agents, used to help the gang withdraw the money, detective officials said.

The gang stole around Tk 13 lakh from a bKash shop named Emon bKash at Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria nearly a month ago, Baten said.

Detectives seized two devices, several modems, 90 SIM cards, which were registered with fake documents, and some other materials that the gang used to use to transfer agents' money.

Another team of detectives arrested nine alleged members of a mugging gang in Chawk Bazar area on Sunday. They used to rob people in different areas of the capital, Baten said.

They are Azizur Rahman, Ripon Ahmed, Labu, Monir, Jakir Hossain, Pappu Khan, Lutfar Rahman, Billal and Azim Bapary.

Navy chief on 3-day visit to India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a three-day official visit to India.

During his stay, he will hold talks with Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley, Defence Secretary and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, said a statement issued by the Indian defence ministry.

Nizamuddin will also hold discussions with Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba and other senior navy officials as well as with the Indian Air Force chief.

Besides, the Bangladesh Navy chief is scheduled to travel to Visakhapatnam in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh where he will be visiting several naval establishments, including warships INS Kalinga, INS Karna and INS Satavahana.



The machine units lining the bank are locally known as "boma machines" (they got the name because of producing loud noise), used to extract stones from the riverbed at Bholaganj of Companiganj upazila of Sylhet. But such extraction of stones is illegal. Occasionally, the local administration evict the stone traders from this place, but they return in no time. Workers operating the extraction equipment said police are aware of the illegal act. When asked, Officer-in-Charge of Companiganj Police Station Altab Hossain denied any existence of such machines at Bholaganj, except for 2 to 4 floating ones. However, during a visit, this photographer spotted more than a hundred units like these at five locations. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Four killed, 7 injured in road accidents

CITY DESK

Four people were killed and seven others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday and on Sunday.

In Chuadanga Sadar, a schoolboy was killed and five people were injured as a bus hit a human-haulier carrying them in Akundabaria village yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased is identified as Sumon, 15, son of Arzen Ali. He was a class-X student of Utholi High School, said Golam Rahman, inspector of Sadar Police Station.

In Naogaon Sadar, a woman was killed as she fell off a running motorcycle near Chandipur Bridge on Sunday.

The deceased is identified as Sheli Akter, 40, wife of Azizul Islam of Gangzoar village. Police said the woman was going to a local market sitting on a motorcycle that her husband was riding. She succumbed to her injuries

on the way to Noagaon General Hospital.

In Panchagarh, a motorcyclist was killed and his two co-riders were injured as his vehicle collided head-on with a truck on Panchagarh-Dhaka highway in Sathkhamar village under Atwary upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Robiul Islam Robi, 30, of Shingpara village in Panchagarh Sadar.

The incident occurred as Robiul was overtaking a bus. He died on the spot while his friends Litu, 30, and Sanjit, 30, were injured critically, said police.

The injured were admitted to Boda Upazila Health Complex.

In Narayanganj, a female RMG worker was killed as a microbus ran her over while she was crossing the Asian Highway in front of Chan Textile Mill in Ruppaganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Anwara Bagum, 40, of Ranipur area in the upazila.

Jahan Ara's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Kazi Jahan Ara Begum, mother of Dr K Jesmin Chowdhury and Kazi Sazzad Zahir, assistant general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.



On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Buet teachers' quarters, 22/KA, Bakshi Bazar, Dhaka after the Maghrib prayers, says a press release. Her friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Savar roads: A sad story

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

A suburb, Savar, is roughly 22km north-west of Dhaka city. Because it is close to the capital, the area is highly industrialised and sees heavy traffic every day. Lorries, trucks, and other small vehicles loaded with goods to and from factories, especially those of readymade garments, frequent its roads. So, it is usual that these roads would suffer heavy damage and require routine repairs.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for Savar.

A municipality, Savar's majority of roads are now in bad shape. Not only are they hampering regular traffic movement, but they are causing immense sufferings to the locals. There are potholes everywhere -- some so deep that they go down several feet into the ground. These slow vehicles down, hence creating traffic jams. Due to heavy rains this season, the situation got worse.

The road from Genda bus stand to Shadapur is one of the mostly used.

"Thousands of people including students and garment workers use this road every day. But it is not easy for the people to take the road," said Abdur Rouf, a resident of Genda, referring to its deplorable conditions.

The same situation exists on the roads from Ulail Boubazar to Karnapara, Radio Colony to Jamshing, Thana bus stand to Citylane, Savar Bazar bus stand to Chapain (Savar Model College road), Savar Bazar bus stand to Subahanbag, and Teabari to Badda Vatpara.

Most of these arterial roads branch off from the Dhaka-Aricha highway and connect localities in Savar municipality and surrounding areas.

Talking about the Genda-Shadapur road, driver of a battery-run auto rickshaw Kamal Uddin said, "We face immense trouble while driving on the road."

"Sometimes, the three-wheeler gets stuck in a pothole while carrying passengers," he said, adding, "We are forced to use this road because three-wheelers are not allowed to move on the highway."

In some cases, the condition is so bad that people not familiar with the area may have the impression that the roads were never paved. They would not see any brick soling (layer of bricks), let alone a bituminous surface.

On one hand, the bad shape of roads



Top, Radio Colony to Jamshing Road. Below, Ulail Bus Stand to Kornopara Road.

is making people suffer and killing their time. On the other hand, the drivers of the vehicles, most of whom belong to the lower income rung, have to face an economic burden.

"We have to spend a large amount of money every month to repair our vehicles," said Manan Mia, another three-wheeler driver.

It is not easy for local commuters as well.

Saiful Islam, a resident of Sobahanbag area, said moving from one place to another had become wearisome.

"Rickshaw-pullers demand extra fare from us," he said. "Some time, they would not even take passengers because the roads are in a very bad shape."

"We can't move comfortably," said Momina Akter, a garment factory worker. "The roads are dotted with potholes."

Momina said, "We have to spend extra time and extra money every day on the way to and from the factory."

The roads are not even suitable for pedestrians.

"We have to wait for a long time to avail a vehicle because we can't go to school on foot as the roads are muddy," said Rasel Ahmed, a fifth-grader.

It has been a long time since the roads were repaired, said Abdul Awal, a resident of Vatpara.

Asked about the situation, Savar municipality Mayor Abdul Goni said a Tk 16.35 crore project was under way. "Twelve new drains and several roads will be constructed across Savar under this project."

"Some of the works are going on, while the rest are being delayed due to the rain," he said.

"The municipality also announced a Tk 50-crore budget for constructing roads, Tk 45 crore for developing the drainage system, and Tk 1.7 crore for repairing roads in the 2016-17 fiscal year," the mayor said.

"All of the roads will be developed one by one."



A newborn calf roams with its mother Muktamoni in Gazipur's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park. The baby elephant, born on Sunday night, is the seventh member in the herd of elephants currently living in the park. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Seminar on good governance held

CITY DESK

A Seminar on "Good Governance in Higher Education Institutions" was held at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in the capital's Bashundhara on Sunday.

Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) and IUB jointly organised the programme, said a press release.

Eminent educationist Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam was present at the seminar as the chief guest and delivered the keynote speech while IUB Vice-Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman chaired the session.

Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, additional secretary of the Ministry of Education and project director of HEQEP, was present at the seminar as the special guest.



Syed Manzoorul Islam speaks at the seminar.

Govt to import LNG by next April: Nasrul

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday said the government is set to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) by April, 2018 to mitigate the growing energy demand in the country.

"It is necessary to generate 2,000-MW more per year to fulfill the government's target, as the power demand is increasing day by day," he said while addressing a signing ceremony as the chief guest at Bidyut Bhaban in the city.

The state minister said Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) signed a contract with Nutan Bidyut Bangladesh Limited, a newly formed power company by Shapoorji-Pallongji Group of India, for procuring 220 megawatts (MW) electricity in the country.

Nasrul said the power generation capacity reached to 15,775 MW and

over 80 percent people were brought under electricity coverage.

Secretary of BPDB Mina Masud-uz-Zaman and J Sinha Mahapatra, director of Nutan Bidyut Bangladesh Limited, signed the power purchase agreement (PPA) and implementation agreement (IA) on behalf of their respective sides, while Power Secretary Dr Ahmed Kaikaus and Chairman of BPDB Khaled Mahmud were present.

According to the deal, the power company would supply electricity to the national grid within December 2019 from the date of signing the agreement. The dual fuel power plant having 220 MW capacity of power generation will be set up at Bhola.

The government would purchase power from the company at the rate of 3.98 cent per unit for natural gas generation and 16.96 cent for diesel production for 22 years.



A three-wheeler carefully avoids a flooded portion of Badda Vatpara road in Savar municipality. Once it was paved, but the road bears no sign of this now. Although the road suffered severe damage over the years, it did not undergo proper repair work. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH