



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.3 L 22.4

MYMENSINGH H 30.0 L 21.0

CHITTAGONG H 31.9 L 21.4

SYLHET H 31.0 L 17.3

RAJSHAHI H 29.4 L 21.1

RANGPUR H 29.5 L 20.4

KHULNA H 31.5 L 21.8

BARISAL H 30.9 L 20.5

COX'S BAZAR H 30.2 L 23.5

Rain is likely to occur at one two places over Chittagong division and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am, Met Officesaid.

Unrest at Pabna university

Students, staff clash leaves 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 persons were injured in a clash between the students and staff of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) yesterday over the alleged assault on a teacher of the university by a staff.

According to witnesses, some of the students were staging a demonstration protesting the Friday's assault on Prof Dr Abdul Alim, dean of social science faculty, in front of the university's administration building around 9:00am.

At one stage, the staff suddenly started hurling brickbats and attacked them with sticks, leaving five of the students injured.

Following the incident, other students came out of the classrooms and dormitories and ransacked the

building and vandalised around 12 motorbikes belonging to the university staff. The agitating students also vandalised the vice chancellor's office.

Soon, another clash ensued between the students and staff that left at least 15 injured.

Of them, condition of Jamshed Kumar, president of employees' union, and Md Rafiq, section officer, is critical. They were undergoing treatment at Pabna General Hospital, said police.

Around noon, police and the university authorities brought the situation under control, said Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

Many of the agitating students said they would continue their demonstration until those who assaulted Prof Alim and attacked

5 Buet students hurt in 'clash' with DU fellows

DU CORRESPONDENT

Five students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) were injured allegedly during a clash with the students of Dhaka University (DU) at Palashi intersection on Friday night.

On Friday afternoon, a Buet student was beaten allegedly by some DU students of Zahurul Haque Hall. In retaliation, some Buet students confined a student of the hall to a room of Titumir Hall on Buet campus.

Upon hearing that, some resident students of DU Zahurul Hall along with a group of BCL activists went to Titumir Hall and rescued him. They also ransacked the hall, alleged Buet BCL President Shubhra Joti.

Later, around 8:30pm, near Palashi intersection, an altercation broke out between the students of the two universities over the issue. The five Buet students were injured during the fight, he added.

However, Sohanur Rahman, BCL unit president of DU Zahurul Haque Hall, said BCL activists were not involved in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Architects, green activists, and artists gather on the compound of a century-old building at Khamarbari of the capital yesterday, protesting demolition of the structure. They held the programme under the banners of Urban Study Group and Poribesh Bachao Andolon. The Public Works Department started knocking down the two-storey building last week after declaring it risky three years ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Century-old Dhaka building demolition sparks protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demolition of a century-old laboratory building in Dhaka has to be stopped immediately, demanded eminent architects, green activists and artists yesterday.

They also sought repair of the building and turn it into a museum as it is an important part of the country's heritage with a great historical and cultural value.

They raised the demands at a human chain in front of the building in Khamarbari area.

Urban Study Group (USG), which works to protect architectural heritage, and Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) jointly formed the human chain.

Last week, a construction firm began knocking down the two-storey building, built in 1909, upon instructions from the Public Works Department (PWD).

Around three years ago, the PWD declared risky the colonial-era structure that used to house the offices of the Cotton Development Board, the custodian of the building, and the Department of

Agricultural Extension (DAE).

The board shifted its office from there around one and a half years ago and the DAE about four years back.

Addressing the programme, architect Mobasher Hossain said such buildings are the landmark of development, and preserve history of Bangladesh. So, those should be protected so that the new generation can know about the history, he said.

Architect Mustapha Khalid Palash said, "If the building is demolished, history and heritage of the country will be destroyed."

He also urged the conscious people in the society to come forward to protect the building.

Taimur Islam, chief executive of USG, alleged that many archaeological assets, including this building, were destroyed due to a lack of coordination among Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), Department of Archaeology and the city corporations.

"A court gave direction to stop demolition of the building, but it is being demolished avoiding the direction," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Special lecture by Professor Anisuzzaman today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman will deliver a public lecture on "Muslims in Bengal (up to the 18th century): Plurality of Identity" at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh at 4:30pm today.

As part of its lecture series, Gantapas Abdur Razzak Foundation is organising the programme, which will be chaired by Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, said a press release.



PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

Rajshahi used to be known as a beautiful city because of its clean and tidy streets. Once this wide road -- the 3km stretch from Seroil to Talaimari -- also had the features. But not anymore. Like blots, large potholes were created on this road. But the road conditions failed to draw the attention of its custodian, Rajshahi City Corporation, for a long time. So transport workers, *inset*, themselves took an initiative to dump waste materials from construction sites on the damaged parts as a temporary fix. The photos were taken recently.

The fading beauty of Rajshahi city

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. But when it comes to appreciating the beauty of a city, the condition of its roads mostly comes even to the mind of the most loyal resident of a city.

The residents of Rajshahi city now only reminisce how beautiful and well-maintained the city roads were even a few years ago.

Back then its residents used to boast their city to be the cleanest in the country too.

Those golden days are gone as crumbling roads in and around the city now only provide bumpy rides and body aches, if not disastrous accidents.

The situation started spiralling downwards four years back when the newly-renovated roads were dug up to lay pipes for distributing natural

gas to households.

The prospect of receiving gas at doorsteps pleased the city residents initially when Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL) started installing its network throughout the city in 2013.

But after the gas pipeline work was done, they watched in dismay that the custodian of the city, Rajshahi City Corporation, left the roads unrepaired for years, even though it had received compensation from the PGCL for the road digging.

The neglected roads continued to wear out ever since and the wear and tear took a turn for the worst this monsoon season that produced day after day of torrential rain and heavy flooding.

Left to decay for four years, most roads in the city of 30 wards are now synonymous with nightmare and anguish.

The worst of them all is the gateway to Rajshahi -- the four-lane highway from Dhaka. A three-kilometre stretch of this highway from Talaimari to Seroil bus stand has lost its upper carpeting and developed large potholes.

As the authorities did not undertake any repair work over the last few months, transport workers and locals have been trying to keep the road passable by filling some of the potholes with rubble.

The Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj road -- 20 kilometres in length, is now riddled with cracks and potholes. Although the road has been causing nightmares to the commuters for over a year, the authorities remain unmoved.

Another busy road left in a deplorable state is the one connecting Nawdapara with Bhadra. Almost five

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

RU controversial questions being investigated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

The Rajshahi University authorities yesterday formed a four-member committee to investigate the widely criticised multiple choice questions (MCQs) in the admission test for the fine arts faculty.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Anand Kumar Saha heads the committee with Prof M Shahidullah of English, Abu Bakar M Ismail of applied physics and electronic engineering, and Prof M Nazrul Islam of chemistry as its members.

Talking to The Daily Star, the committee head said Vice Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan formed the committee, and it already started the investigation. The committee was asked to submit the report in 15 days, he added.

This year, 4,032 students vied for 120 seats of the faculty. Two of the 80 MCQs in the admission test, held on October 25, have been widely criticised.

One of the questions asked, "What is the name of the greatest book in the world?"

It had four choices: A) The Holy Quran, B) The Holy Bible, C) The Holy Injil and D) Gita.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

A 'murder' passed off as suicide

PBI investigation 'alters' Boalia police's findings on Rajshahi double-murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The crime scene offered several clues for investigators of the sensational death of a couple of university students at Hotel Nice International in Rajshahi city last year.

Police found the hands of Mizanur Rahman, a second-year student of Rajshahi University, "tightly tied" on his back and his body bore numerous marks of torture when he was found hanging from the ceiling at a room of the hotel on April 22.

Police also recovered the body of Mizan's fiancée Sumaiya Nasrin, a first-year student of Pabna Science and Technology University, from bed with some blood stains on her body.

The reports of autopsies, carried out at Rajshahi Medical College, ruled Mizan hanged himself, while Sumaiya was raped and murdered.

Police also found that DNA tests

supported the autopsies. The tests suggested Mizan smoked cigarettes of three brands at the hotel room.

Based on the reports, Selim Badha, the investigation officer of Boalia Police Station, submitted the final report into the case on February 18 this year, describing that Mizan hanged himself after killing Sumaiya.

But the court of women and child repression prevention in Rajshahi refused to accept the final report after finding many inconsistencies including how Mizan could commit suicide when his hands were tied and why a person should smoke cigarettes of three brands instead of one.

Judge Mansur Alam of the court on April 17 this year asked the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to reinvestigate the deaths. And what is coming up in the PBI probe now gives a different story.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Hamidur's death anniversary not officially observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The 46th death anniversary of Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman was not observed officially either by the district or local administration yesterday at the memorial complex built in honour of the great hero at

Hamidnagar under Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah.

When asked, Moheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kamrul Islam said they did not receive any direction from the higher authorities in this regard.

However, teachers of Hamidur Rahman Degree College, staff of Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman Smriti Jadughar and Pathagar at Hamidnagar, and family members observed the day on their own.

Expressing frustration, Fazlur Rahman,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Police alone can't ensure stability sans people's help

DMP commissioner tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not possible for police personnel alone to ensure stability without the people's help, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia yesterday.

If the community policing plays an active role, there will be no stalking, drug abuse and child marriage in the society, he said.

He said this at a discussion at the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) in the capital, marking "Community Policing Day" observed yesterday.

With an aim to make police activities more people-friendly, police observed the day for the first time across the country with colourful

programmes. From now onwards, the day will be observed every year on the last Saturday of October.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque inaugurated the day releasing pigeons and balloons. Then a procession was brought out from Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) headquarters in the capital that ended at the IDEB where the discussion took place.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan was present at the discussion as the chief guest with DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia in the chair.

Asaduzzaman said the number of filing cases has decreased as community policing members

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



With the demand for banning lead paint, Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO) in association with IPEN holds a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The programme was organised in observance of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 22-28). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Children are most likely to be exposed to lead from ingestion of flakes and dust from decaying lead-based paint which affects children's brain development and their measurable level of intelligence (IQ). Children lead exposure is estimated to contribute to 600,000 new cases of children with intellectual disabilities every year."

PHOTO: STAR