

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 28.7 L 19.2	H 27.2 L 17.8	H 29.5 L 19.8	H 24.2 L 19.0	H 28.5 L 16.4	H 28.0 L 15.0	H 29.3 L 18.5	H 29.0 L 17.5	H 29.0 L 20.5

Weather may remain dry with temporary cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 06:34am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Nation to recall martyrdom of Birshrestha Jahangir today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj



The nation will pay homage to Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir today to mark his 46th death anniversary, one of the seven greatest heroes of the Bangladesh War of Independence.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad's Chapainawabganj district unit, local administration and different socio-cultural and political organisations will pay tribute to the martyr.

On December 10, 1971, Captain Jahangir along with 50 freedom fighters crossed the Mohananda River for an operation against Pakistan Army.

On December 13, 1971 Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir, along with his men took position near Rehaichar Moholla in Chapainawabganj. The next day, he went ahead of the defence line and charged grenades into a trench of the Pakistan occupation army. He was hit by a bullet from the Pakistan army and died on the spot.

Jahangir was laid to rest near the grave of another valiant freedom fighter, Major Najmul Haque, on the premises of Sonas Masjid.

Jahangir fled his post in Karakoram on June 11, 1971 to join the Liberation War in Bangladesh. He sneaked into India through Sialkot border and joined the war at Mehdiপুর in West Bengal. On July 3, he became a captain of sector 7. He was given the responsibility to fight at the Chapainawabganj border.

Born on March 6, 1945 in Barisal, Jahangir passed his SSC exams in 1964. In 1967 he enrolled at Dhaka University and later that year joined the armed forces as a cadet at the Pakistan Military Academy.



Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon comforts a freedom fighter during yesterday's reunion of freedom fighters organised by Dhaka city corporations at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Laurels for war heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two city corporations of Dhaka yesterday honoured 1,000 freedom fighters for their great contribution during the 1971 Liberation War.

They handed over crests to freedom fighters living in Dhaka at a reunion programme in the capital's Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"We do not want anything, just honour," said a freedom fighter, Amir Hossain Mollah, at the programme.

Freedom fighters will be immortalised if the authorities take steps to rename roads and establishments after them, he said.

Thanking the organisers for arranging the gathering, KM Shafiqullah Bir Uttam, chairman of Sector Commanders' Forum, said he was ecstatic to talk in front of his fellow freedom fighters after a long time.

"December 13 is the day, when I along with my troops reached near Demra defeating Pakistani forces in Akhaura. We fought with Pakistani forces for three consecutive days and 24 Front Force Regiment of Pakistan surrendered to me on December 16, 1971," he said.

Addressing the programme as the chief guest, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon said, "We feel proud when we honour the freedom fighters as we would not have got an independent country without their contribution during the Liberation War."

He said they have already made 1,500-square-foot flats tax-free for the freedom fighters while many more facilities

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Knowledge above all else

Nahid tells students at 12th convocation of Brac University

STAR REPORT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged the students to acquire knowledge about modern education aiming to keep up with the changing world.

"You are the future of the country. You have to be good citizens through acquiring knowledge... for building a prosperous Bangladesh."

The minister was addressing as the chief guest the 12th convocation of Brac University in Khagan area of Savar, reports BSS.

"It is urgent to prepare curriculum incorporating ICT to make the students efficient...," he said.

He urged the authorities concerned to ensure a congenial and good academic atmosphere in all educational institutions.

"...Without ensuring a good academic atmosphere, it is not possible to improve quality of tertiary education."

The government would take legal action against the private universities that have failed to fulfill their conditions to run the university under the rules of the Private University Act-2010, he said.

He also urged the students to use their talents and skills for the country's development, reports our correspondent in Savar.

Congratulating the graduates, Chairperson of the university's Board of Trustees Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said the day was a result of their hard work and dedication.

Vice Chancellor Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb during his speech presented the graduates with an acronym, "Special" -- self, partnerships, excellence, commitment, integrity, ambition and learning.

Dr Shahidul Alam, managing director of Drik Picture Library Ltd, was the convocation speaker. He urged the graduates to stand up against injustice.

Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Abdul Mannan, members of the university trustee board and teachers also addressed the convocation.

Around 1,600 students were awarded with certificates and crests, while two with the chancellor's gold medal and 30 others with the vice-chancellor's gold medal, according to a press release.

Remembered, rarely

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna



When the nation is observing Martyred Intellectuals Day today

with due respect and solemnity, there is hardly any programme commemorating martyred intellectual Dr Fazole Rabbi at his home district of Pabna.

Even the new generation knows little about his glorious contribution. Only the family members are keeping his memory alive through various social activities and charitable programmes.

Over the years, no government initiatives have been taken in this regard, said Dr Rabbi's nephew Fazle Shaharan Bipu, member secretary of Dr Fazole Rabbi Foundation.

Moreover, locals continue to demand naming Pabna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) after the famous son of soil.

Fazole Shahid, Dr Rabbi's brother, said, "My brother sacrificed his life for the country's independence but there is hardly any programme commemorating him."

Born on September 21 in 1932 at Chhatiani village in Pabna Sadar upazila, Dr Rabbi passed the SSC in 1948 from Pabna Zila School and the HSC from Dhaka College in 1950 with brilliant results.

He completed MBBS in 1955 from Dhaka Medical College under Dhaka University and received a gold medal for his outstanding results. Later, he joined Dhaka Medical College as registrar.

In 1960, Dr Rabbi went to England for higher studies and achieved an MRCP in cardiology and another MRCP in medicine from there in 1962. He served

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Adopt new earthquake contingency plan

Experts urge govt at discussion on managing disaster in Dhaka city



Participants at the discussion titled "Review of Dhaka City Corporation Earthquake Contingency Plan" at Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) in the capital yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheer lack of coordination and inadequate trained manpower are the primary hurdles in implementing disaster management plans in the event of a devastating earthquake in the capital, said experts and officials concerned at a discussion yesterday.

M Abu Sadeque, director of House Building Research Institute, said, "The national strategic plan on disaster management for the period of 2010 to 2015 was not even corroborated with a disaster-specific action plan and it expired on paper."

The Daily Star, Save the Children and C&A Foundation jointly organised the discussion titled "Review of Dhaka City Corporation Earthquake Contingency Plan" at Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP).

In 2009, the government prepared the contingency plans under its Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) for more than 20 government organisations, but without due participation of the organisations, Sadeque, who has been working on earthquake disaster management for over three decades now, also said.

Besides, the contingency plans were not consistent with the national plan, he said. "As a result, the contingency plans have remained out of exercise and implementation."

Another five-year national plan on disaster management for the period of 2016 to 2020 is going to be formulated soon, Sadeque said.

Hasiba Jahan, town planner of Dhaka South City Corporation, complained that although they made official requests to the CDMP two times with the intention to be involved in the preparation of the contingency plan for areas under the city corpora-

tion, the CDMP did not ensure their greater involvement.

Dr Tariq Bin Yousuf, superintending engineer for environment, climate and disaster management of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), said the DNCC has been working on disaster management since 2011 and as part of implementing the earthquake contingency plan, they are going to set up warehouses to store search and rescue tools in all five zones in Dhaka North city area within the next month.

Prof Akter Mahmud, general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said at least a dozen government organisations said that they did not have the manpower required for disaster management.

Citing CDMP, he said in the event a 7.5 magnitude earthquake strikes Dhaka city, 30,599 million tonnes of concrete debris could be generated from 72,000 collapsed buildings and it would take 122 crore truckloads to remove the debris.

Lt Col Raju Ahmed of Operations and Plan Directorate at the Armed Forces Division said they hold regular drills on earthquake disaster management as per their contingency plan with government organisations, but the organisations lack awareness on the issue.

Ashraf Islam, project director of Dhaka detailed area plan (DAP), said risk reduction measures taken before a disaster are much more important than post-disaster management responses.

Dhaka city does not have sufficient open space for dumping the enormous

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Dr Shahidul Alam, managing director of Drik Picture Library Ltd, speaks as the convocation speaker at Brac University's 12th convocation in Khagan area of Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Hygiene practices reduce infant deaths

Workshop on health facilities told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The risk of disease and death of infants and mothers can be reduced up to 25 percent if healthcare facilities effectively maintain hygiene practices, experts said at a workshop yesterday.

They also emphasised the need for a policy to upgrade the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) system in clinics and hospitals, which will help Bangladesh achieve the sustainable development goal (SDG) targets for reducing maternal and newborn deaths.

The workshop on "WASH in Healthcare Facilities: Call for Joint Action" was organised by Directorate General of

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VC empowered to hold Ducsu election

Prof Anwar Hossain tells open dialogue of former DU, CU, RU student union leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Former elected student representatives of Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi universities yesterday demanded that the respective authorities take initiatives to hold the long-due student union elections immediately.

Speaking at an open dialogue, the former leaders of the central students' unions said the democratic atmosphere of the educational institutions has been destroyed due to an absence of the elected unions.

Had the elections been held regularly, the educational atmosphere of the public universities would have been healthier, they added.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union of DU unit organised the programme at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus with a view

to raising awareness among the students about the importance of holding the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election.

The last Ducsu election was held on June 6, 1990.

Terming the Ducsu polls an important component of the university, Anwar Hossain, a professor of microbiology at DU, said the vice-chancellor can hold the election through exercising his power given in the Dhaka University Order-1973.

"There is no bar to hold the polls as everyone including the vice-chancellor, authorities concerned and students want it." He also stressed the need for creating awareness among the students regarding the issue.

Communist Party of Bangladesh

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Speakers including former student union leaders of various public universities at an open discussion on the Dhaka University campus in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR