

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 24.6 L 16.2

MYMENSINGH H 25.2 L 15.3

CHITTAGONG H 28.0 L 16.0

SYLHET H 28.3 L 14.5

RAJSHAHI H 26.8 L 12.3

RANGPUR H 26.4 L 13.2

KHULNA H 26.0 L 14.5

BARISAL H 26.0 L 14.2

COX'S BAZAR H 30.0 L 17.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 06:40am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

The capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue is one of the few roads where traffic rules are enforced strictly. But as seen on any other road, the driver of this bus is picking up a passenger on the moving vehicle in the middle of this road near Saarc Fountain ignoring her safety as well as traffic rules. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Overhaul education system

Speakers urge at roundtable on 'Ethics and Values in Education'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guardians and teachers must follow moral and ethical values in life and instil those into children in order to help protect the society from moral degradation, said speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

They also stressed the need for overhauling the entire education system, saying the educational institutions will have to be kept out of politics. Also, teachers' appointments must be done strictly and carefully.

Parents should change the mentality of pressuring children only for higher grades. They compromise with ethics while doing so, speakers said. The teachers, on the other hand, have to quit the unethical practice of

spending more time coaching and tutoring students privately.

The speakers also expressed concerns over the menace of question leak and "coaching business".

The Daily Star and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) in association with the European Union and Civil Society Education Fund organised the roundtable on "Ethics and Values in Education" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said it is the duty of teachers and guardians to teach children ethics and values.

"But we have to question ourselves, to what extent we follow ethical practice? Students have to be

taught ethics so that they become a good person. But how our curriculum deals with it?" he said.

He said students of different religions should not be taught religious studies in separate classrooms. All students should be taught synopses of all religions in one classroom so that they can learn ethics and sensitivity, and learn to respect other religions.

Talking about the question paper leak, he said the way question papers were leaked, it has become difficult to find out the motive of the people involved in the menace.

Question papers used to be leaked in the past also, and those behind it had done it for financial benefits. But in recent times, they

leak question papers merely not for money as those are being spread on social media instantly, he said.

"They are actually anti-liberation forces and want to destroy the education system...", he said.

Prof Arefin said the authorities' denial of the question paper leak, without any investigation, is more dangerous. "I think those who leak the question papers and the authorities who deny it [without any investigation] are the members of the same vested quarter," he claimed.

The authorities concerned should investigate with utmost importance whenever any allegation of question paper leak surfaces, he added. Commenting over the

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A fatal birth defect

Baby born without front skull dies in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A mother gave birth to a baby boy without the front portion of his skull in Banshkhali Upazila Health Complex of Chittagong on the morning of December 23.

The newborn with this rare birth defect died the next morning.

"The boy had face, mouth and all the other parts except for his front portion of the skull, meaning a portion of the brain was absent," said Dr Zinat Sharmin, medical officer of the health complex.

The birth defect is clinically termed "anencephaly", which means congenital absence of all or a major part of the brain.

"We call it congenital anomaly due to neural tube defect," she added.

"Such babies usually do not survive. In our country there is no evidence of survival of babies with anencephaly while in developed countries, the survival rate is below one percent even when artificial mechanism is applied," she said.

An expecting mother suffering from folic acid deficiency is likely to give birth to a baby with anomaly, said Dr Zinat, adding, "Such defect can be detected earlier in prenatal check-up, especially through ultrasound."

"In such cases, we counsel the parents for abortion as the survival rate of the babies is meagre," she said, adding, "This mother did not do any prenatal check-up and so the case was not detected earlier."

Jannatul Nayem, 23, wife of Abdur Rahman, a farmer of Napora village in Banshkhali upazila, gave birth to the baby through vaginal delivery. They lost their child on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The couple has a five-year-old boy.

About reasons that cause such anomaly, Dr Jagadish Chandra Das, head of the neonatal department of CMCH, said radiation and folic acid deficiency are the vital causes.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Shanara Chowdhury, head of gynaecology

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Ensure efficient use of lighter vessels

Demand Ctg Port users

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The lighter vessel management at Chittagong Port needs to be modernised to facilitate quick loading and unloading of goods at the outer anchorage, stakeholders emphasised yesterday.

At a meeting at the Training Institute of Chittagong Port, they also recommended increasing the number of new lighter vessels, enhancing the navigability of the water ways, and renovation of the jetties.

Chairman of Chittagong Port Rear Admiral M Khaled Iqbal said they had received complaints that the importers sometimes use the lighter vessels to store their goods, which triggers the crisis of lighter vessels.

He proposed that fines should be imposed for those who would delay unloading their goods, and they should be placed below in the list of businesses applying for allocation of the vessels.

At the meeting, the stakeholders unanimously agreed to

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RAPE OF 4 WOMEN Instigator remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The instigator behind raping four women and robbery at a house in Chittagong's Karnaphuli upazila was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Abdul Hannan alias Hannan Member, was remanded a day after he was arrested from Kotwali intersection area in Chittagong city by Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI).

The court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Al Imran approved three days' remand for Hannan after the PBI produced him before it with a seven-day

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Khademul Islam Basunia passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Khademul Islam Basunia, also music composer of the patriotic song, "Amar-e desh shab manusher", passed away at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Wednesday night, said his family. He was 79.

He was taken to the hospital on December 21 due to respiratory problems. Basunia was a renowned music producer, composer, lyricist and director.

Following his death, a pall of gloom descended on Rangpur. People from all walks of life rushed to the hospital and his residence in the city's

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Two 'criminals found injured' by police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police claimed to have detained two injured members of two criminal gangs who were hurt during a clash between the groups in Jessore yesterday.

They are Shishir Ghosh, 35, and Rabbi Islam Shuvo, 27. Police found them "in critical condition" around five in the morning and admitted them to Jessore General Hospital, said OC Ajmal Huda of Jessore Kotwali Police Station. The clash took place at Sutipur-Erenda Road of Jessore Sadar upazila, he said. According to hospital sources, at the time of their admission, both of their legs and an arm each were broken. They were also bleeding profusely.

However, Nitya Ghosh, father of Shishir, alleged that Shishir and Shuvo were arrested by police on Wednesday from Chitalmari area of Bagerhat. He alleged that police beat them and broke their legs and arms. Police refuted the allegation.

OC Ajmal Huda said around 3:00am they received the information that a clash has ensued between the two gangs. When they reached the spot, the miscreants fled the scene leaving the injured two. Later, they rescued them and took them to the hospital. A locally-made pistol, a shooter gun and 19 bombs were recovered from the spot, he claimed.

He said the injured were involved in the Tipu Sultan murder case. On December 23, Tipu, a shopkeeper, was killed by a stray bullet fired by a gang in the TB Clinic area of the city.

Besides, Shishir and Shuvo are accused in at least 15 cases including murder, he alleged. The two are now in police custody.

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" with the Detective Branch (DB) of police in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj early yesterday.

The deceased, Riad Sharif, 30, of Rupganj, was accused in several robbery cases, said police.

On information that a gang was planning to commit robbery in Kanchan Bridge area, detectives conducted a raid there. But, sensing the presence of police, the gang opened fire on the law enforcers, forcing them to return fire, said Narayanganj district DB.

The detectives arrested Al Amin and Alif, while the others fled. They also recovered a foreign pistol, four bullets, a machete and a large knife from the spot.

The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for an autopsy.



Prof Mujib Khan, founder and president of the University of Development Alternative (UODA), and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, hold documents of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) they signed at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Under the agreement, a print circulation campaign will be launched. Emajuddin, professor emeritus of UODA, and other officials of the university and the newspaper were present on the occasion.

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