

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 23.6 L 13.0

MYMENSINGH
H 21.8 L 11.8

CHITTAGONG
H 24.5 L 14.4

SYLHET
H 24.3 L 15.1

RAJSHAHI
H 21.7 L 05.8

RANGPUR
H 16.8 L 10.0

KHULNA
H 23.2 L 09.8

BARISAL
H 24.5 L 11.2

COX'S BAZAR
H 26.0 L 16.2

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Khulna, Rangpur & Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Gopalganj & Srimanghal and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:26pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

ELIMINATING DRUGS, MILITANCY Not possible for police alone, says IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not possible for the law enforcers alone to eliminate drugs and militancy from the country, said Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday.

To deal with the menaces, support from family and society and awareness are mandatory, he added.

The IGP made the comments at a press briefing organised on the occasion of inaugurating a new media centre and Police Week 2018 at Police Headquarters in the capital.

He said it is tough to stop the inflow of Yaba, the biggest drug-related threat, as it comes from Myanmar with whom Bangladesh shares 90-100km of its border.

But the rate of cases filed over Yaba seizure from 2013 to 2017, which is 287,254, shows that police is succeeding, the IGP added. Even police officials, who were found to be involved in any drug business, were not spared, he said.

He said he also introduced a drug test



policy for the new recruits last year. "If the results are positive, we do not recruit that person."

About curbing militancy, he said law enforcers conducted around 35 anti-militancy drives in 2017 where 57 members of the suicide squads were killed and over a hundred more arrested.

"Our process in curbing militancy was also praised by other countries and in the recent Interpol meeting, its secretary wanted two of our officials who will provide training to law enforcement agencies of other countries," he said.

Bangladesh Police have already approved two names in this regard.

Earlier, experts from Bangladesh Police went to the Interpol on a part-time basis. For the first time, the two experts are going to be appointed by the Interpol permanently, said the police chief.

Additional IGP (SB chief) Javed Patwari, Additional IGP (admin) Mukhleshur Rahman, Additional IGP (anti-terrorism) Shafiqul Islam and DIG Abdul Alim were also present.



This is a three-storey building, locally known as "Jahaj Bari", built right at the confluence of two canals -- Ratna Khal and Jaintar Khal -- in Barkhala area under Sylhet City Corporation. The mindless occupation of the waterbody contributes to waterlogging in the area during the monsoon. Locals said they have remained tight-lipped about the illegal act as the building owner is an influential figure. Sylhet Mayor Ariful Huq Chowdhury visited the spot on January 2 and instructed the authorities concerned to demolish the structure, but no initiative is yet to be taken in this regard. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

PREPAID GAS METER PROJECT Progress too slow Unlikely to be complete by Dec 2018; Titas officials blame service line leakage, faulty connections

UNB, Dhaka

Titas Gas Company's target to install some 200,000 prepaid meters in Dhaka city is unlikely to be achieved within the timeframe of December 2018 due to leakages in service lines and faulty connections.

A top official of the Titas Gas Prepaid Meter project said these meters are very sensitive. "These won't work if there's any leak either in service line or in household connection. So, we've to suspend installation of the prepaid meters at those faulty connections."

State-owned Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd undertook the project, "Installation of Prepaid Gas Meter", in 2013 for initially installing 200,000 meters at household connections in different areas, including Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Bashundhara, Badda, Tejgaon, Cantonment, Kafrul, Khilkhet, Uttara, Mirpur and adjacent areas in the city.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the project involving Tk 712 crore fixing the

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Govt gives 27 lakh blankets to cold-hit poor

UNB, Chandpur

The government has allotted 27 lakh blankets, including 18 lakh from the prime minister's relief fund, and sent those for cold-hit poor people in the northern region of the country.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya revealed the statistics at Motlab upazila of the district yesterday.

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A life of hope, dignity Roundtable emphasises awareness on palliative care, its inclusion in nat'l health policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Palliative care should be introduced in major hospitals and healthcare institutions in the country to give patients, who suffer from life-threatening illness, dignity and hope, said health experts at a roundtable yesterday.

If a patient receives the care, despite knowing that her or his illness is not curable, she or he would be able to live a normal life.

Palliative care focuses on a patient, not the disease she or he is suffering from, said cancer specialist

Bimalangshu R Dey.

According to the World Health Organization, palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.

Ayat Skill Development Centre (ASDC) arranged the roundtable on "Palliative Care: A Call for Public

Awareness and Policy Inclusion" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. Health experts from both home and abroad spoke at the roundtable.

They suggested that the government include palliative care in the curriculum of medical students and nurses, incorporate the healthcare system in the national policy, and take an initiative to build its awareness.

Moderating the roundtable, Bimalangshu, an associate professor at the Cancer Center of Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, said palliative

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Guests hold the copies of Braille books at a programme organised by Sporsho Braille Prokashona yesterday to celebrate its decade-long journey. The event was held at Bangla Academy in the capital. State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid was the chief guest. Fourteen Braille books, published by Sporsho, were launched on the occasion.

Sporsho launches 14 Braille books

Marking its 10 years of journey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sporsho Braille Prokashona yesterday celebrated its decade-long journey through various activities at the capital's Bangla Academy.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid was the chief guest while Rabiul Hussain, a poet and architect, presided over the programme participated by over 200 guests.

Mahboob Zaman, managing director of DataSoft and former president of BASIS; Md Atiqul Islam, MD of Islam Group and ex-president of BGMEA; Modiful Haque, a trustee of Liberation War Museum; Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, UN representative for people with disabilities; Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, eminent writer and academician were the special guests.

The celebration started with the national anthem by inclusive participation from students of all walks of life including children with special needs.

"We should enlighten every life through books. No one should be left out from the joy of reading books. All the new techniques including braille should be welcomed," said Sporsho founder Nazia Jabeen.

Congratulating Sporsho on serving the underprivileged, Nasrul Hamid said, "I am honoured to be present in this enlightened celebration. Sporsho has showed us that visually impaired people are not visually impaired."

The celebration ended with "Amar Katha", a cultural performance by visually impaired students; and an award giving ceremony of the competitions on debate, chess and music.

A CD of music and 14 Braille books, published by Sporsho, were launched at the programme. Sporsho, founded in 2008, is the first organisation in Bangladesh to have published Braille books for the visually challenged, focusing on entertainment and culture since 2009.

JS goes into New Year session today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into the 19th session, also the first in the New Year, this afternoon.

The session is scheduled to start at 4:00pm.

The president is scheduled to deliver his speech, dwelling on the government's development activities and other national and international issues, said sources at the parliament secretariat.

This might be the last speech of President Abdul Hamid in the 10th Jatiya Sangsad as the next parliamentary election is likely to be held late this year or early next year.

The New Year's session usually becomes long as lawmakers are supposed to participate in a thanksgiving motion on the president's speech, approved by the cabinet.

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BGB man fatally run over by bus Cop, six others killed in five districts

STAR REPORT

A member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) died as speeding bus hit him at Bijoy Sarani intersection in the capital yesterday.

The deceased, Rupam Dio, 45, was a lance nayek at BGB headquarters, relatives told The Daily Star.

The BGB man was on his way to Mohakhali, they said.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

A case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Mohammad Shahjahan.

Meanwhile, a motorcyclist was killed and his wife seriously injured as he lost his control over the bike and it hit a pillar beside Patuakhali-Kuakata road on Friday, police sources said quoting locals.

The deceased, identified as Shahinoor Islam, 35, was a policeman at Barguna jail, said AG Mahmud, superintendent of the jail.

The couple received primary treatment at a Kuakata hospital. Later, Shahinoor was transferred to Barisal Sher-e-Banga Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, a man was killed on the spot when a truck ran him over on Biral-Bhandara road in Biral upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased is Hasen Ali.

In Rangpur, a man was killed as a tractor he was in overturned in Badarganj

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Abducted businessman rescued after five days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police rescued a businessman from a house in East Madarbari area of Chittagong city early yesterday -- five days after he was abducted by a relative.

Businessman Mohaimen Samrat, 27, buys goods from Chittagong port and sells those in local markets, said SM Nurul Huda, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station.

On December 31, Samrat came out of his house in Kapasgola area of the port city after receiving a phone call, said the OC.

Then his relative Babu abducted him in connivance with two cohorts, the OC added.

As Samrat did not return that day, his family informed police the following day -- January 1.

On information, police conducted drives at different places and finally rescued Samrat from Babu's house in Madarbari area around 12:30am, the OC said, adding that police had arrested Babu in this connection.

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Who will
be the next
Super Chef?

Super
Chef
2018
Are you confident?
Participate & win
10,00,000
Tk

Top 20 participants will be selected through regional competition around Bangladesh. Regional rounds will take place in Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Sylhet & Barisal. Anyone affiliated with BEOL, The Daily Star, NTV & MAPL and top 5 contestants from 'Rupchanda- The Daily Star Super Chef 2016 & 2017' will not be eligible to enter this competition.

To Register, Call: 09612777888
Registration Date: From 30.12.2017 to 08.01.2018
Registration Time: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Electronics partner:
Grocery partner:

Watch the show on