

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.6 | L 22.3

MYMENSINGH H 31.6 | L 21.1

CHITTAGONG H 32.2 | L 24.0

SYLHET H 33.2 | L 21.4

RAJSHAHI H 33.8 | L 22.4

RANGPUR H 31.5 | L 20.0

KHULNA H 34.0 | L 23.0

BARISAL H 33.0 | L 23.0

COX'S BAZAR H 33.2 | L 24.5

Rain/thunder showers with gusty wind may occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Chittagong division at one or two places over Barisal & Chittagong divisions with hails at isolated places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.

QUOTA REFORM
Protests across the country

STAR REPORT

Students staged demonstrations across the country for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding reform of the quota system in public services, according to reports from our correspondents.

At Jahangirnagar University, 20 people were injured in a clash with police during demonstration. They were admitted to Enam Medical College Hospital.

JU Vice Chancellor Farzana Islam condemned the police attack on the campus.

Meanwhile, JU Teachers' Association (Juta), in a statement, condemned such an action. It demanded punishment for the police personnel responsible for the attack.

"The movement is logical. The government should consider it with the highest priority," the statement added.

Protesting the attack, JU unit of "Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakshan Parishad" declared to boycott classes and examinations for the next three days.

Demonstrations were also staged on and outside the Jagannath University campus. A procession blocked vehicular movement for five hours. At that time, a bus was vandalized.

In Chittagong, a rally was held on the Chittagong University campus protesting police action on the demonstrators.

Under the banner of "Bangladesh General Students Rights Protection

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Jobseekers and students of various universities across the country yesterday staged demonstrations, demanding reformation of the existing quota system for public services. Clockwise from top left, Jagannath University students take position on Ray Saheb Bazar intersection in Old Dhaka for around five hours since the morning. One of the twenty injured students is being carried to safety during a clash between students and law enforcers on Jahangirnagar University campus. A Chittagong University student holding the national flag chants slogan while his fellows block the shuttle train of the university at Sholoshahor railway station around 10:00am. Students of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh block the train tracks running through the campus, impeding movement of several intercity trains. Rajshahi-Dhaka highway beside Rajshahi University is taken over by hundreds of students.

PHOTO: STAR



16 UPAZILAS IN COMILLA

881 primary schools, but no headteacher

UNB, Comilla

A total of 881 government primary schools in Comilla's 16 upazilas are running without any headteacher, hampering the academic and administrative activities of the schools.

The posts of the headteachers have been lying vacant since retirement of some teachers and complexities in the recruitment process.

According to the sources at the District Primary Education Office, there are some 2,102 primary schools and not just the headteachers, posts of assistant teachers in 837 schools also remained vacant.

There are 24 vacant posts of headteachers and 67 assistant teachers in Adarsha Sadar upazila, 26 headteachers and 30 assistant teachers in Laksam upazila, 80 headteacher and 15 assistant teacher in Debidwar upazila, 74 headteachers and 68 assistant teachers in Muradnagar upazila, 72 headteacher and 133 assistant teacher in Daudkandi upazila, 73 headteachers and 18 assistant teachers in Barura upazila, 21 headteachers and six assistant teachers in Burichong upazila, 39 headteachers and 18 assistant teachers in Chandina upazila, 32 headteacher and 43 assistant teacher in

Homna upazila, 74 headteachers and 140 assistant teachers in Nangolkot upazila, 33 headteachers and 43 assistant teachers in Meghna upazila, 53 headteachers and 92 assistant teachers in Manoharganj upazila, 92 headteachers and 27 assistant teachers in Titish upazila.

The school authorities concerned are running their academic activities with the senior assistant teachers, making them overburdened. Due to the extra pressure, they are unable to take their regular classes properly.

Thirty-five percent posts of headteacher in the government primary schools are filled through recruitment while the rest 65 percent are filled through promotion.

The posts of headteacher have been lying vacant for a long period of time due to complexities in the recruitment process, said sources at the District Primary Education Office. In some cases, the posts are lying vacant for seven to eight years.

Contacted, Kazi Mafiz Uddin, district assistant education officer, said work is underway to fill up the vacant posts of headteachers at the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE). Necessary steps will be taken after getting the list from the DPE, he said.

DSCC to streamline public transportation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is going to take an initiative to introduce bus franchising system shortly with a view to bringing discipline in the city's bus service.

The decision came yesterday at a coordination meeting between DSCC and 26 service providing organisations at Nagar Bhaban, with Mayor Sayeed Khokon in the chair.

"It is a huge task; we are going to take the initiative shortly and will implement it to bring a discipline in transport sector," said the mayor.

Under the system, public transports, which are owned by a good number of companies, will be brought under an umbrella where a few companies will run the services, he said.

Referring to the recent accident of reckless driving resulting in the loss of a hand of a college student, DSCC mayor said accidents are happening in the city often due to the indiscipline of transport sector.

Rajib Hossain, a third-year student of Government Titumir College, lost his right hand after it got stuck between two speeding buses trying to overtake each other in the capital's Bangla Motor area on April 4.

Under bus franchising, the deregulated bus market is suspended and bus operators are only able to provide services under the local transport authority. This approach is used extensively across Europe, in London and elsewhere as it offers a range of significant advantages, such as, integrated ticketing, network planning, cross subsidy across bus services and other modes and unified marketing.

Earlier, late DNCC mayor Annisul Huq took an initiative

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Crimes on the wane in Sundarbans

Due to 'smart patrolling', claim forest officials

UNB, Bagerhat

The incidents of crimes are declining in the Sundarbans as "smart patrolling" has proved to be an effective mechanism to contain crimes inside the forest, claim forest officials.

Members of a special smart (special monitoring and reporting tools) patrolling team are conducting drives in different parts of the Sundarbans using a "cyber-tracking system", aiming to preserve wild animals, including tiger and deer, as well as prevent other forest crimes.

Mahmudul Hasan, divisional forest officer (DFO) of the Sundarbans East Division, said the patrolling teams conducted drives from January 23 to February 28, this year.

During the drive, they arrested 39 people and seized 69 boats after patrolling a 10,339-km area of the mangrove forest. The drives would continue till December 31 this year, he said.

Using the cyber-tracking method, the team can monitor the habitats of wild animals, poaching of tigers and observe the intruders in the forest.

During the drives, the special team arrested fishermen and intruders involved in catching fish illegally in the Sundarbans.

They also seized some boats and current nets from their possessions.

The team members are taking legal actions against those involved in violating the rules of the forest after tracking the crime spots through the GPS service.

Sources said the government introduced the "smart patrolling" drives in October, 2017 while the team started their drives on January 23 under four ranges (east and west) of the Sundarbans.

However, the forest department sources said the authorities concerned have been thinking of extending the tenure of the special team.

Mahmudul Hasan, DFO of the Sundarbans (east division), said skilled members of the forest department have been incorporated in the team for helping them during the drives.

Amir Hossain Chowdhury, the forest conservator of Khulna region, said the project has been introduced for preserving the resources of the Sundarbans. "Forest crimes have already come down through the drive," he claimed.

He also stressed the need for increasing equipment for the team and introducing a ration system for its members.

BANGLADESH GENOCIDE

Looking through Pakistani eyes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A documentary film, "Merciless Mayhem: The Bangladesh Genocide through Pakistani Eye", was screened at a programme at the Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

The 61-minute film, directed by Fuad Chowdhury, features interviews of a group of expatriate Pakistanis, who shared their firsthand experiences of the Bangladesh genocide committed by Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

The expatriate Pakistanis, currently based in Canada and USA, spoke about the mistreatment of Bangalees, and rapes and killings by the Pakistani military (then West Pakistan) in the documentary.

Fuad Chowdhury, a Toronto based filmmaker, interviewed Tarek Fatah, an author; Tariq Khan, a journalist; Roedad Khan, former federal secretary of the then Pakistan government; Roshan Zamir, former federal secretary of the then Pakistan government, who also worked in Khulna during the Liberation War; among others.

They revealed the conspiracy of West Pakistan in the 1970 general election and the subsequent genocide by the military in 1971.

Roshan Zamir said it was to protect the landed interest in West Pakistan by all big zamindars (landowners) to ensure that the East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) does not challenge the West Pakistani power structure.

Along with the interviews, video footage of the speeches by Yahya Khan and Zulfiquar Ali Bhutto, aired on different television channels during the 1971 Liberation War, was incorporated in the documentary.

Filmmaker Fuad said the documentary has gathered the accounts of Pakistanis regarding the Liberation War.

He hopes to screen the documentary in other festivals.

Producer of the documentary Amanullah Chowdhury was present during the screening.

Shut Jessore brick kiln: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered to shut down a Jessore brick kiln over allegations of operation without proper licence and environmental certificates.

The kiln, Super Brickfield in Jessore, is owned by Farukul Islam.

The bench of Justice Md. Moeenul Islam and Justice Md. Ashrafur Kamal issued the order after hearing a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), challenging the legality of the brick kiln's operation.

In response to the writ petition, the court asked Jessore police to submit a compliance report to the same court in this regard.

Meanwhile, the HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned and the kiln's owner to show cause as to why the factory, established in a residential area, should not be declared illegal.

Bela submitted the petition on April 4, alleging that the brick kiln was illegally built on an agricultural land in a residential area.



Fuad Chowdhury, a Toronto based filmmaker, sharing the experience of his making documentary "Merciless Mayhem: The Bangladesh Genocide through Pakistani Eye" at a programme at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR