

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 34.1 L 28.0	MYMENSINGH H 33.7 L 27.3	CHITTAGONG H 33.0 L 25.2	SYLHET H 34.4 L 25.5	RAJSHAHI H 35.3 L 27.5	RANGPUR H 29.8 L 28.0	KHULNA H 34.0 L 27.6	BARISAL H 33.5 L 26.6	COX'S BAZAR H 31.7 L 25.0
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Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind and lightning flashes may occur at many places over Rangpur & Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Barisal, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka & Rajshahi divisions with moderate to heavy falls at places over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am.



A quota reform protester comes under attack from several aggressors in front of Bangladesh National Museum in Shahbagh. Four students -- who were part of the campaign for a reform in recruitment quota for government jobs -- were handed over to Shahbagh police by BCL yesterday.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

Govt rejects Jatri Kalyan Samity's report on road accidents

Says organisation 'not registered'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday rejected a report from a passengers' platform that said both the numbers of road accidents and deaths during the Eid rush saw a sharp rise this year. On Friday, Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity at a press conference said at least 339 people were killed and 1,265 were injured in 277 road accidents in 13 days (June 11 to 23) during the Eid journeys this year. A total of 274 people were killed and 848 were injured in road crashes last year, up from 186 killed and 786 injured in 2016, the organisation said. However, a press statement from the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry yesterday said the information provided by Jatri Kalyan Samity is "not correct". Actually, 152 people were killed and 355 were injured in 103 road accidents between June 12 and 24, reads the statement. It said the information was collected from district-level offices of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), police records, and different public and private hospitals.

The statement said Jatri Kalyan Samity is not a registered organisation and had presented "confusing information" on several occasions. With "ill motive", it has been trying to create confusion among people by exaggerating number of road accidents, the statement read. The ministry urged people to not be confused with accident-related reports of Jatri Kalyan Samity. Jatri Kalyan Samity, meanwhile, said it has prepared the statistics on the basis of reports published in national and regional newspapers and online news portals. "We have collected information from prominent and credible media outlets and checked and re-checked it. Our report is correct," Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of the organisation, told The Daily Star yesterday when he was asked about the ministry's press statement. Asked whether their organisation is registered, he said Jatri Kalyan Samity obtained registration from Department of SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MUKTIJODDHA KALYAN TRUST SC fixes July 12 for contempt hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned till July 12 a hearing on a contempt rule against Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust for not paying Tk 99.21 crore to the owners of Moon Cinema Hall in Waizghat area, Old Dhaka. A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain set the date for the hearing. All properties of the then Moon Cinema were handed over to Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust as abandoned property between 1975 and 1979, when the legality of government's decision to declare any property as abandoned could not be challenged before a court. Delivering a verdict on the case filed against the constitution's Fifth Amendment, the SC on May 2011 directed Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust to return the properties of Moon Cinema to SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

GENDER BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION Monitoring, accountability needed: Speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper monitoring and accountability have to be ensured to maximise the benefits of the gender budget, speakers said at a symposium yesterday. The programme was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at its office in Dhaka. The government has allocated Tk 1,36,938 crore this fiscal year for empowerment of women under different ministries and divisions. This is 29.48 percent of the total budget of Tk 4,64,573 crore for 2018-19. BMP President Ayesha Khanam said the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has to play a key

role to empower women and end discrimination against them. She also said, "We want to give our suggestions to the finance ministry for effective implementation of the budget next year." Associate Professor Dr Saima Haq Bidisha of Department of Economics at Dhaka University said day-care centres play a vital role in women empowerment. The government should introduce loan schemes and encourage women to be entrepreneurs to establish day-care centres, she said. Bidisha also underscored the need for training female workers to build them as skilled human resources. While giving a presentation, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

DU Day celebrated

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 97th founding anniversary of the oldest university in the country, Dhaka University, was celebrated yesterday amidst much fanfare and festivities. Marking the day, different buildings of the university and dormitories were decorated with colourful lights, graffiti, festoons and balloons. DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman inaugurated the daylong programme at 10:00am by hoisting the national flag and university flags at the university's administrative building premises, releasing balloons and cutting cake. A procession -- attended by present and former students, teachers and staff of the university -- also paraded the streets of the DU campus before ending at Aparjeyo Bangla. Later, a discussion was held at Teacher-Student Center (TSC) auditorium at 11:00 am with DU Vice-Chancellor in the chair. "DU has to exercise its power to oversee its affiliated colleges and institutions in a proper way," said Prof Akhtaruzzaman. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad wrote the keynote paper on this year's theme, "Higher Education for Inclusive Development". DU Pro-VC (Academic) Professor Nasreen Ahmad, Pro-VC (Administration) Professor Dr Muhammad Samad, Treasurer Professor Dr Kamal Uddin, DU teachers' association president Prof ASM Maksud Kamal and general secretary Prof Shibli SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Rubaiyat Ul Islam, DU Alumni Association President AK Azad, among others, addressed the programme as guests. An exhibition of rare manuscripts was held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at DU Central Library while Department of Biomedical Physics and Technology organised an exhibition of their innovations of medical technologies at Curzon Hall from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. A joint display of arts and crafts by Hunan University, China and Dhaka University and a drawing competition for children was held at Faculty of Fine Arts. Dhaka University, which is considered the country's highest echelon for academic excellence, started its academic activities on July 1, 1921 with SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Enforce law, phase out single-use plastic

ESDO urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) yesterday urged the government to save the environment by phasing out the use of single-use plastic bags through the enforcement of relevant law that prohibits its use. The call was made at a press conference organised yesterday by ESDO at its Lalmatia office ahead of the "International Plastic Bag-free Day" to be observed tomorrow in over 150 countries across the world, said a press release. ESDO Chairperson and former secretary Syed Marghub Murshed said this year International Plastic Bag Free Day is very significant because all UN member states, over 193 countries, are celebrating the day with fresh commit-



ment after the UN had announced the theme of World Environment Day as "Beat the Plastic Pollution". Siddika Sultana, executive director of ESDO, was also present during the press conference. In 1989, under the leadership of Dr Shahriar Hossain, the anti-polythene

campaign was initiated in Bangladesh. The campaign led to the founding of ESDO in 1990, the release said. ESDO's campaign -- highlighting the adverse effect of plastic bags on the environment and public health -- helped Bangladesh become the first country that banned production and marketing of plastic bags as well as pass a law in the parliament in 2002. In July 1, 1997, ESDO initiated "Plastic Bag-free Day" and in 2002, it succeeded to convince the government declare a nationwide ban on production and use of polythene. Later, different international organisations supported the initiative and Zero Waste Europe marked and celebrated International "Bag-Free Day" on July 3, in 2009, added the release.



Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman leads a celebratory procession on the 97th founding anniversary of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO:
STAR



A sculpture commemorating the courageous role of two policemen during the Holy Artisan Bakery attack was unveiled at the former site of Gulshan Police Station in Dhaka yesterday. Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch Rabiul Karim, 34, and Officer-in-Charge of Banani Police Station Salauddin Khan, 49, were killed while trying to free the hostages during the 2016 terrorist siege.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Road accident stops him at only 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fellow of Teach for Bangladesh and former student of Jahangirnagar University was killed in a road accident on Kalshi flyover in Dhaka yesterday. The deceased, Shahriar Sourov Sejan, 28, studied geography and environment at JU, and had been stationed at Uttara office of the non-profit organisation. In the morning, Sourav was headed to work on his motorcycle from Mirpur DOHS. When he was on the flyover, a Bashumati Paribahan bus hit the motorbike knocking him off. Another speeding bus ran him over right away, around 9:30am, said Sub-inspector Md Asaduzzaman of Cantonment Police Station. Locals with the help of police took him to Kurmitola General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Police seized the Bashumati bus, but the driver and the helper fled. Munia Islam Mozumdar, wife of Sejan, quoted the passengers of the bus and witnesses as saying that the Bashumati bus had a brake failure and hit another bus before knocking down



the motorcycle. She was home during the accident. She filed a case with Cantonment Police Station. An official of Brac, Munia was a former student of pharmacy at JU. The couple were married for less than one year and a half. Meanwhile, Sejan's body was handed over to the family without autopsy, and it was flown to his home town of Thakurgaon for burial.

Brutality against students unexpected: B Chy

UNB, Dhaka

Condemning attacks on leaders of anti-quota movement, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury-led Jukta Front yesterday said brutality against students is unexpected. In a statement, B Chy Chowdhury, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president ASM Abdur Rob and Nagorik Oikya convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said, "We can't but get scared about the country's future after Saturday's incident." "All the students are our children. So, we don't expect any brutality against them," the statement said. On Saturday, quota reform protesters were injured in an attack allegedly by some BCL activists on Dhaka University campus.