

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 28.7 L 26.1

**MYMENSINGH**  
H 30.7 L 25.7

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 28.5 L 25.5

**SYLHET**  
H 33.5 L 25.4

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 32.8 L 26.5

**RANGPUR**  
H 33.6 L 26.5

**KHULNA**  
H 28.4 L 25.0

**BARISAL**  
H 27.9 L 25.8

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 28.1 L 24.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderate to very heavy falls at places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:26am.



Covering entire face with red cloth, a man strews petals on a portion of a footpath, painted red, at Dhaka University. The performance art piece, organised by students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, DU was held protesting the killings of writers, bloggers and intellectuals in the country. This photo was taken at Teacher-Student Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# A silent menace

85 lakh people carrying hepatitis B virus in Bangladesh, according to study

MATHEWS CHIRAN

When she was a child, Priyanka Ahmed Oninda needed blood transfusion due to severe shortage of blood. Her family arranged donors and she was given bags of blood; all seemed well.

All was not well, however. A couple of years later, Priyanka -- a primary school student then -- one day started vomiting blood. Following several check-ups, doctors confirmed that she was carrying hepatitis B virus, one of the viruses responsible for liver cirrhosis.

"I have been carrying this virus for 12 years. Each day I have to take Tk 80 worth of medicine. My family has spent over Tk 25 Lakh so far for my treatment," said Priyanka, who passed SSC this year.

Bearing the expenses for her treatment has become very difficult for the eight-member family of Priyanka, whose father is no more.

There are nearly 85 lakh people in the country carrying the hepatitis B virus, knowingly or unknowingly, according to a study conducted by Hepatology Society, an organisation of doctors of Dhaka.

The study, launched yesterday at a seminar in Dhaka's Cirdap, said the

disease can be controlled if detected early.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Viruses cause most cases of hepatitis. The type of hepatitis is named after the virus that causes it: hepatitis A, B or C, for example.

The study, done by Dr Shahinul Alam, general secretary of the organisation, was conducted on 2,713 people from Dhaka city, four district towns (Feni, Mymensingh, Bogra and Patuakhali) and four sub-district towns (Pabna Sadar, Chatkhil, Bheramara and Keraniganj) from December 2015 to January 2017.

According to the study, the prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is 5.1 percent and C virus infection is 0.2 percent. The report says five in every 100 adults are carrying HBV, indicating that about 85 lakh adults are suffering from HBV infections in the country.

The result also shows that prevalence of HBV is twice as dominant among men (57 lakh) than women (28 lakh).

The data also shows that younger

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# Advance Eid train ticket sales to begin Aug 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railways will start selling advance train tickets from August 8, so that holidaymakers can collect their tickets ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

The sale will continue till August 12 from Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka and Chittagong Railway Station, Railways Minister Mazibul Hoque told reporters at Railway Bhaban yesterday.

Eid-ul-Azha is expected to be celebrated on August 22.

Every year, tens of thousands of people leave the capital to celebrate Eid with their near and dear ones at their family homes.

Trains are a popular choice for these homebound people, as traffic jam on the highways and overpricing of bus tickets make journey by road a hassle. Many spend sleepless nights at the railway station to get their hands on advance train tickets.

Train tickets for August 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 will be sold on August 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 respectively, the minister said.

Similarly, return tickets for August 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 will be open for sale on August 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 correspondingly at Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Lalmonirhat stations, he said.

The sales will start at 8:00am on the respective dates and continue until the

tickets are sold out. A person will be able to buy maximum four tickets.

Mazibul Hoque said seven special trains will provide service four days before the Eid on several routes. Besides, the railway authorities will also operate "Solakia Special" trains on Bhairab-Kishoreganj-Bhairab and Mymensingh-Kishoreganj-Mymensingh routes on the Eid day, he added.

The minister said 150 more coaches will be added with the existing 1250 coaches, and 20 more locomotives will be added with existing 109 during the Eid rush.

Adequate security measures will be taken to avoid black marketing of tickets and any subversive activities.

Operation of Maitree Express, which runs on Dhaka-Kolkata route, will remain suspended on August 21 and 22 and Bandhan Express, which runs on Khulna-Kolkata will not run on August 23 due to Eid.

Every day, 2.6 lakh people use trains for transport, he said, adding that they have taken steps so that 3 lakh people can use rail during Eid rush.

"More and more people are now using rail and we are trying our best to provide them service with our limited resource," the minister said.

Railways Secretary Mofazzel Hossain and its director general Amzad Hossain were also present at the briefing.

# Murdered for protesting rape cover-up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A man was killed and his friend injured as they protested a move to cover up a rape incident in Savar on Wednesday night, said police.

A group of local extortionists hacked Selim Mia, 35, and Rafiqul Islam in the chest, abdomen and other parts of their bodies while they were returning home from a local market.

Locals rushed them to Savar Enam Medical College Hospital where Selim was declared dead. Rafiqul was kept on life support till yesterday.

On Sunday, an 11-year-old girl was allegedly raped by one of her relatives, Kabir Hossain, in the area, said police.

On Wednesday morning, the girl's father sued Kabir who was later arrested on information from Selim and Rafiqul, said Savar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Sazzad Hossen.

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# Eid journey to be challenging on district roads if rain continues

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said journeys of homebound people for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha would be "most challenging on the district roads" if rain continues.

"I believe, there will be no problem on national and regional highways due to heavy and excessive rainfall, but we will face difficulties on district roads if the rain continues," he said.

The minister made the remarks at a meeting with leaders of transport owners and workers associations, police and officials of Roads and Highways Department at BRTA headquarters in the capital.

He directed R&H department officials to repair roads before the damages go out of control.

"I don't want to hear that roads will be repaired after rainfall," he said. "We need instant remedy."

Observing that cattle-carrying trucks move slowly on roads, Quader requested truck owners to bring out fit vehicles to keep

highways free from traffic congestion.

The minister also gave directives to stop running battery-run and slow moving vehicles on highways.

He praised the administration and police for monitoring roads during the last Eid-ul-Fitr, the keep them safe.

Three vigilance teams for three major bus terminals of Dhaka to ensure safe and hassle-free journey for holidaymakers ahead of Eid-ul-Azha were formed yesterday at the meeting.

The vigilance teams will operate at Gabtoli, Saidabad, and Mohakhali bus terminals to ensure safety measures for passengers, monitor vehicles so that they don't charge excess fares from passengers, carry extra passengers or overload goods.

The three teams will be led by three additional deputy police commissioners (traffic).

Another five-member team will monitor and supervise the three vigilance teams.

At the meeting, it was instructed not to set up any cattle market beside highways and to keep the intersection of roads free.

# Ensure safety of minorities during polls

Says speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take adequate security measures during the upcoming parliamentary elections so that people of the minority community feel safe to cast their votes, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Violent and criminal activities were committed centring national elections in the past. When polls day approach, minorities feel insecure and live in panic because of their past experience, they added.

Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the discussion on "Ekadosh Jatiya Sangsad Nirbachon: Jatiya O Ancholik Nirapotta" at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka.

Shangeetandaji Maharaj, principal of Pranab Moth in Dhaka, said Hindus are still being evicted from the country.

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# Digital Security Bill may pass in next JS session

Says Mustafa Jabbar

STAR REPORT

The Digital Security Bill has almost been finalised and is likely to be passed in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad due within two months, Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar said yesterday.

Under this law, permission will be required from the director general of "Digital Security Agency" to file a case against anyone, he said while talking to reporters after attending the second session on the 3rd day of DCs' Conference at the Secretariat, reports UNB.

However, the trial of the cases filed under Section 57 of

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