

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.6 L 25.6

MYMENSINGH H 29.0 L 26.0

CHITTAGONG H 32.0 L 24.4

SYLHET H 31.5 L 24.4

RAJSHAHI H 33.5 L 26.4

RANGPUR H 32.0 L 25.5

KHULNA H 33.0 L 26.2

BARISAL H 31.0 L 25.4

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 24.5

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40pm and rises tomorrow at 5:29am.

Mobile court finds yaba in driver's bag

Police claim credit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A mobile court found 4,000 yaba pills in a bus driver's bag while it was checking his driving licence in Dinajpur on Thursday.

However, police, a day after, claimed the credit for seizing the contraband drug.

On Thursday evening, Executive Magistrate Aftabuzzaman-Al Imran, also assistant commissioner at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, conducted the mobile court in Bhabainagar village in front of a refueling station.

Officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), and Rab and Ansar members were assisting him, said the executive magistrate. Traffic sergeant Sadakatul Bari was present on the occasion, he added.

The court first found one yaba in the wallet of the driver, Amzad Hossain, 38. Later, it searched his bag and found 4,000 more pieces, he said.

The court handed Amzad and his helper, Hasanur Rahman, 28, over to police, said Imran.

However, the driver had a valid driving licence, he further said.

Talking to The Daily Star, the people, including the bus passengers, who said to have witnessed the incident, echoed the executive magistrate.

DC Abdu Nayeem Mohammad Abdus Sabur acknowledged the incident.

Yesterday, Dinajpur Sadar police issued a press release claiming that Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) Susanta Sarkar, Officer-in-Charge Redwanur Rahim and Sub-inspector Rezaul Karim conducted a drive at the same place on Thursday evening and made the seizure.

Executive Magistrate Imran said, "We just did our duties. It's not our concern if anyone claims the credit."



A batch of Indian cattle which just arrived in Sylhet are supposed to be sold as sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Adha due late this month. But the health of the cattle, which were bought at low prices, is a cause for concern. They are not only skinny, but their bodies bear sores. People fear that traders would fatten the animals using harmful medicines within a short time and make them ready for sale at high prices. The photo was taken in Dakkhin Surma area of Sylhet city yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Quader urges students not to fall into 'instigation trap'

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday urged students not to fall into any "instigation trap".

"After failing to ride the quota reform demos, BNP and the fundamentalist forces are depending on the students and they want to instigate them," he told newsmen after a joint meeting of Awami League Presidium, presidents and secretaries of Dhaka north and south units of AL and other associated bodies at the AL office.

Quader said the government has accepted all the demands of the agitating students.

"We are seeking cooperation from the heads of all educational institutions, member of the governing bodies and the guardians to bring back discipline on the roads," he added.

At the same time, the AL general secretary urged the teachers and guardians to take the students back to homes and educational institutes.

The AL leader also urged party leaders and activists to have patience and face the present situation with caution.

"The government has accepted all the demands of the students to avoid any untoward situation and mitigate people's sufferings," added the minister.

He said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is looking into the demands put forward by the students.

A draft act will be finalised in the cabinet meeting on Monday and it will be placed in the next parliament session for enactment to ensure safety and discipline on the roads.

"The slogans being chanted by children against the government are not decent," said the minister, adding that some quarters with vested interest are now at play.

AL joint general secretaries Mahabub-Ul Alam Hanif, Dr Dipu Moni and Jahangir Kabir Nanak; Awami League leaders AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Habibur Rahman Siraj, Akhtaruzzaman; Dhaka city north-south leaders including Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon, among others, attended the meeting.

Punishment for rapists, killers demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Demanding exemplary punishment for the rapists and killers, Samajtantrik Mahila Forum said though incidents of killing and rape are taking place across the country, there is no visible effort to bring an end to that.

It is an example of the state's reluctance to ensure justice to the victims, said speakers at a rally held in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most widespread human rights violations, they added.

Citing media reports, they said at least 15 incidents of rape and killing after rape happened in the

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Speaking truth to power

Voices from the student protest



PHOTO: STAR

MATHEWS CHIRAN

A nagging drizzle on a Thursday morning caused little deterrence for students from different schools and colleges, who streamed onto the streets of Shantinagar and adjacent areas.

Wearing uniforms of their respective institutions and steely resolve on their faces, they stood their ground on the streets -- like in the rest of the capital and many places across the country -- demanding safe roads and justice for two of their peers who were crushed under a bus on Sunday.

Marjan Mahbub, a student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, was joined by her classmates and peers in forming a tight-wound circle at Shantinagar intersection.

"We are not just demanding road safety. We are trying to ensure a safe future for ourselves and generations to come," said Marjan.

"I brought my daughter here as I believe we all should join the protest; it is for a right cause," said Marjan's mother Khadiza Begum, who accompanied her daughter to the protest.

However, not every student had familial support to join the demonstrations, as some parents were not approving of their children joining the protest out of concerns for their safety.

"Our parents were anxious that we

might get in trouble if we joined the protest. But we just cannot stay at home and watch while our peers are protesting for a just cause," said a student of Notre Dame College, preferring to remain anonymous.

At the Kakrai intersection, students of Willes Little Flower School and College also took to the streets around noon. They joined the congregation in groups, bringing their friends along to add more voices to the protest.

Shakil Ahmed, a student of Kamalapur School and College, said, "No one can bear the grizzly scene of the two young dead bodies on the roadside caused by reckless driving. I had to come here to join my brothers."

While the students' activities caused inconveniences for commuters on the streets, many of them remained supportive.

"Such protest is the outburst of years of irregularities in transport sector. It needs to be stopped. I support the protest," said Md Shahriar, who was stopped by students. His driving licence was checked.

Not only college students, but university students also came out to the streets to stand by their juniors.

"If united, students can change the society. With these recent protests, they have shown how to question the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Weak poles behind electrocution of eight in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An investigation has found that the incident of electrocution, which took eight lives in Sirajganj on Tuesday, occurred because the electric cables were drawn using weak wooden and bamboo poles instead of concrete or steel ones.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md Moniruzzaman led the inquiry after the district administration formed a five-member team.

The electricity line to Kadai village of the sadar upazila where the accident happened is maintained by the Power Development Board (PDB).

"There is no permanent supply line of PDB in the village. The cables were hung on bamboo and wooden poles, which made the entire supply line vulnerable," said ADC Moniruzzaman.

Electric cables are drawn on permanent poles (made of concrete or steel) and suspended at 15 feet.

"In the probe report, we recommended a departmental inquiry to find the people who took the supply line to the village," the official said.

Eight people were killed and one was injured seriously after they were electrocuted at Kadai village on Tuesday. The vic-

tims were moving a makeshift tin-made shop from a waterlogged area when the overhead cable touched the shop's roof and electrified it. The cable was also snapped and came in contact with the water.

Meanwhile, Md Jakir Hossain, chairman of Kalia Haripur union, talked to The Daily Star about the incident yesterday.

He said, "Although this is a REB zone, PDB employees set up the temporary supply line five to six years ago. The line was drawn 700 metres from the transformer for an influential resident of the village despite strict rules that a supply line must be within a 100-metre radius of the transformer."

The ADC said, "We recommended transferring the supply line to REB (Rural Electrification Board) as they have a permanent supply line in the village."

Md Mohiuddin, executive engineer of PDB, Sirajganj, said the supply line in the village was declared risky in 2015 following an inquiry but it could not be repaired due to a lack of fund.

Meanwhile, PDB formed a departmental committee to find who drew the line. The team is headed by Rezaul Karim, Rajshahi divisional engineer of Northern Electricity Supply Company (NESCO), a PDB company, and they were given three working days to file the report, he added.

11 boys rescued from Ctg restaurant

Rab arrests owner on abuse charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) in a drive last night rescued 11 minor boys, who were allegedly held captive and abused by a man, from a restaurant at Shantir Hat area under Rangunia upazila of Chittagong.

The alleged abuser Kamal Uddin, 25, was arrested, Rab sources said. He is the owner of the restaurant.

Assistant Director (AD) of Rab -7 media wing Mimitanur Rahman told The Daily Star, "The boys were rescued from a room of one 'Mayer Doa' restaurant, while 395 yaba pills were also recovered from Kamal's possession."

"The pervert used to rape the boys at night," said Mimitanur.

Mimitanur said few days ago, a madrasa student went missing from Tongi. His father later lodged complaint with Rab in this connection.

While investigating the case, Rab came to know that the boy is in Rangunia, in captivity of Kamal, said Mimitanur. Rab later conducted a drive at the restaurant and found 10 other boys of different ages inside the room, he said.

Kamal abducted the boys from different places and used them as workers of his restaurant, confining and physically torturing them, said Mimitanur.

He was handed over to Rangunia Police Station while a case was lodged under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.



Sandwip Association Chittagong brings out a procession on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday, demanding punishment of the killers of Saidur Rahman Payel. Inset, a counter of Hanif Paribahan, the bus service whose employees threw Payel into a canal, was vandalised the same day.

PAYEL KILLING

Family demands to meet PM

Say they will fast till death otherwise; protesters block Dhaka-Ctg highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The family of Saidur Rahman Payel, who was thrown into a canal to die by employees of a Hanif Paribahan bus after being injured during his ride on July 23, yesterday demanded to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to ensure justice.

Otherwise, the family members will observe a hunger strike till death to realise their demands, taking position on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The demands came from a human chain formed by the family members, and inhabitants of Sandwip upazila, in Chittagong's City Gate area yesterday morning. The human chain was organised by Sandwip Association Chittagong at around 10:00am from where they blocked one side of Dhaka-Chittagong highway for two hours demanding capital punishment for culprits responsible for the incident.

At the rally, Payel's father Golam Mowla said, "We want to share our grief before the

prime minister to ensure justice for my son, as she has also lost her loved ones."

"If we fail to meet with PM within 48 hours, then we, the family of Payel, will start a hunger strike till death beside Dhaka-Chittagong Highway where my son was killed in a barbaric way," said the father.

HANIF BUS COUNTER VANDALISED
After the programme, a ticket counter of Hanif Paribahan located near AK Khan area was vandalised from a procession, said police.

Assistant Commissioner of Double Mooring zone Ashikur Rahman said a counter of Hanif Paribahan was vandalised while the protesters were crossing the area after attending the programme.

However, no one was injured in this connection, said the AC.

Contacted, organisers denied the vandalism allegation, saying workers of Hanif Paribahan themselves vandalised their own counter to tarnish the movement.

Jessore man beaten to death over land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A man died early yesterday 13 days after he had been beaten by his rival over a land dispute in Mominagar village of Manirampur upazila of Jessore, said police.

Khaybar Gazi, 40, son of Atiar Gazi, was planting papaya plants on the disputed land on July 21, said Manirampur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mokarram Hossain.

At that time, one of his rivals hit him in the chest with an iron rod, he said.

Then he was taken to Jessore General Hospital where he underwent treatment for two days.

However, Khaybar succumbed to his injuries at home around 2:00am yesterday.