

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 32.6 L 27.2	MYMENSINGH H 32.5 L 24.4	CHATTOGRAM H 33.5 L 26.0	SYLHET H 33.2 L 24.9	RAJSHAHI H 35.6 L 24.8	RANGPUR H 32.0 L 24.4	KHULNA H 36.0 L 26.0	BARISHAL H 35.0 L 26.5	COX'S BAZAR H 33.5 L 25.5
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Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chattogram 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 05:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am.

HIV cases on the rise in southern districts

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS infections among people of southern districts are increasing sharply, raising health concerns in the region.

On average, three to four new people infected with HIV are being detected every month, said officials at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

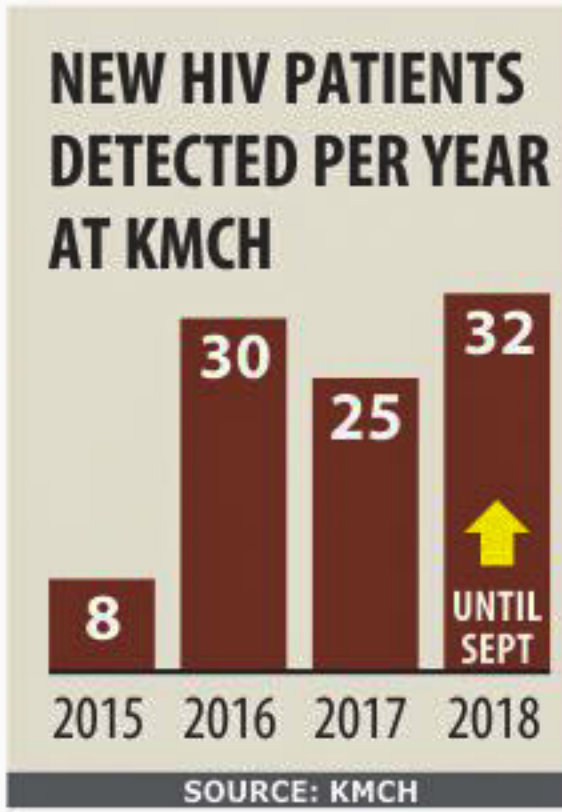
In 2015, only 8 HIV patients were detected at the hospital. But the numbers rose to 30 new patients in 2016 and 25 in 2017. "We have detected at least 32 patients infected with HIV this year so far," said Molla Nurul Aslam, programme manager of SHS (Strengthening HIV Service) of KMCH.

Almost all of the patients come from southern districts including Khulna, Jashore, Narail, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Gopalganj, Jhenaidah, Magura, Chuadanga and Faridpur.

Frequent movement of labourers between Bangladesh and India, floating sex workers, unsafe blood transmission, breastfeeding by infected mothers, and lack of awareness among people are major reasons behind the spread of the disease, according to hospital officials and health rights activists.

There are around 1,600 registered sex workers at different brothels in Khulna, Jashore and Bagerhat. Moreover, there are around 6,000 floating sex workers in Khulna and its surrounding districts, according to Durjoy Nari Shangha, an NGO working for welfare of sex workers.

Day labourers and workers of different goods-laden vehicles who frequently travel between Bangladesh and India are mostly



the clients of these sex workers, said Rehena Begum, coordinator of Mukto Kashi Bangladesh, an organisation that works on HIV.

Visiting the KMCH, the correspondent spoke to a number of people who were infected with HIV.

"I have been a truck driver for around 17 years, and often travelled to India with goods. I have been suffering from different illnesses in the last few years. Around three months ago, I got my blood tested and found that I have been infected with HIV," said Rahman Miah (not real name), a resident of Sharsha Upazila of Jashore.

He admitted to The Daily Star that he used to go to brothels in both Bangladesh and India.

Motaleb Miah (not real name), 55, a construction worker of Jashore, worked for around 15 years in India since 2015, and returned home a few years ago. He started suffering from various types of diseases since then.

In July this year, he came to the KMCH for a blood test, and was diagnosed with HIV.

Subsequently, His wife and one of his daughters were also detected HIV positive.

They are now undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Apart from physical sickness and mental distress, HIV-infected people are often subject to social stigma.

"Local people beat me up mercilessly after they came to know that my wife, daughter and I are infected with HIV. They forbade me from leaving my house and fetching water from local tube-well. We could not use the village pond," said Motaleb.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

Police disperse BCL activists of Chattogram Government College unit during a clash between two groups of the pro-Awami League student body yesterday. Inset, an injured law enforcer.

CHATTOGRAM COLLEGE BCL men clash over posts again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders and activists of Chattogram Government College unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League once again locked into a clash yesterday over formation of the 25-member college committee.

A chase and counter-chase took place around noon between the supporters of post-deprived and newly-selected BCL activists on College Road in front of the institution.

"Around 350 supporters of both groups chased each other with sticks and rods and threw brickbats," said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station.

Police arrested seven persons from the spot, he said, adding that a constable, Mohammed Rezaul, was injured during the melee.

Additional police were deployed in the area, the OC said. Police brought the situation under control around 4:30pm.

On September 17, Chattogram city unit BCL approved the new college committee. Protesting its formation, a section of BCL men have been demonstrating since then.

They alleged that outsiders and non-students got posts in the committee, which triggered anger among students. However, party activists, who got selected, claimed that most of the BCL men protesting against the committee were outsiders.

'Proyas' launched to train first responders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A project titled "Proyas" was inaugurated in Chattogram city yesterday, with an aim to train volunteers who will respond swiftly and assist residents during natural calamities.

Chattogram city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin announced the formal inauguration of the project, funded by Save the Children USA, at the Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) office in Andorkilla.

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a non-profit organisation, will implement "Proyas" through raising awareness on natural disasters among the residents, especially women and children.

Reefat Bin Sattar, director program of development and quality at Save the Children USA, during the programme said, "Women and children are among the worst of the affected during every [natural] calamity. Our project will help the vulnerable groups gain capacity on how to deal with such natural disasters."

Arifur Rahman, chief executive of YPSA, said the project will run for five years and they would work in two wards of the city each year.

"Cleanliness in the city and safety of people, exposed to natural calamities, are on top of our agenda," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

CHAOS AT AWAMI LEAGUE RALLY Mosharraf forced to leave halfway through

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League presidium member and Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain had to leave a rally halfway through in Chattogram as some party members created chaos.

The rally was held at Azadibazar in Fatikchhari upazila yesterday morning.

The minister visited the upazila to attend five such gatherings to inform people about development works done by the government, organised by the upazila unit of AL.

Mosharraf joined the meeting at Azadibazar around 10:30am.

According to witnesses, some AL activists started chanting slogans in the name of Abu Tayab, former general secretary of Chattogram north district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The minister urged them to stop, but in vain, they added. He left without addressing the rally around 11:00am.

Supporters of Tayab allegedly vandalised the stage of another meeting at Nazirhat-Jahnkar Intersection before Mosharraf reached there. The stage was rebuilt before

he joined the gathering.

Witnesses said some unruly activists also hurled brickbats at Mosharraf's vehicle while leaving the spot around noon.

Contacted, ATM Payarul Islam, executive member of Chattogram north district unit of AL, said followers of Tayab, also a member of the upazila AL, created the chaotic situation. Tayab was suspended around a year ago over disciplinary grounds, he said. He alleged that Tayab's followers vandalised the stage.

Payarul, however, denied that brickbats were hurled at the minister's vehicle. "Nothing of that sort happened. I was sitting in the back with him," he said.

Contacted, Tayab denied the allegations. "None of my followers participated in any of the rallies," he said. "Why would they create chaos or vandalise the stage when I'm not a nomination aspirant?"

"We have been demanding that the central leaders reform the upazila committee as many BNP, Jamaat men were included," he alleged. Tayab alleged that Payarul's followers chanted slogans in his name to tarnish his image. The minister could not be reached for comments.

CLASHES AT JU BCL suspends 10 activists

JU CORRESPONDENT


Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit yesterday suspended ten leaders and activists for one month, over clashes on the campus between two groups on Tuesday night that left 30 activists of the ruling party's student wing injured.

They have been issued show-cause letter asking why they should not be suspended permanently, and directed to respond to it within seven days.

The decision will be finalised after the approval of the central committee, said JU unit president Mohammed Jewel Rana.

The clash ensued between BCL activists of Mir Mosharraf Hossain and Al Beruni halls on Tuesday, after some BCL activists of Mir Mosharraf Hossain and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



নাগরিক শোকসভা

গোলাম সারওয়ার

জন্ম : ১ এপ্রিল, ১৯৪৩
মৃত্যু : ১৩ আগস্ট, ২০১৮

সময় ও স্থান

৬ অক্টোবর, শনিবার, বিকেল ৪টা ৩০ মিনিট
প্রধান মিলনায়তন, জাতীয় জাদুঘর, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা

গোলাম সারওয়ার স্মরণ পরিষদ

৩৮৭, দক্ষিণ তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮ | ফোন : ০১৯২৭২২৭৮২৭ | ০১৭২৬৬৯৮৭০ | ০১৭১৭৯৪১৫৪



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The candidate should be B.Sc in Chemistry or Applied Chemistry with minimum 6 – 8 years of experience in testing of petroleum products and treated water, out of which at least 3 – 4 years as a laboratory in charge or shift supervisor.

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HSC in Science with minimum 3 – 4 years of experience in operation of Steam Boilers, Air Compressors and Water Treatment Systems.

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