

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.1 L 22.3	H 29.3 L 21.5	H 30.7 L 22.4	H 29.1 L 19.0	H 29.0 L 18.7	H 28.0 L 16.3	H 30.0 L 22.5	H 29.8 L 20.8	H 31.4 L 22.5

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins during late night till morning, reports UNB quoting Met Office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:09am.**

Dhaka-Tangail commuter trains open today

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka-Tangail commuter train service will come into operation today, fulfilling a commitment made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2012.

The much-awaited commuter service will formally begin its operation from Kamalapur railway station today, with 10 coaches.

Two trains, named "Tangail Commuter-1" and "Tangail Commuter-2" will run between Kamalapur railway station in Dhaka and Bangabandhu Setu (east) railway station in Tangail, said an official release yesterday.

The trains will depart Kamalapur railway station at 5:20pm and reach Bangabandhu Setu (east) railway station at 8:30pm; return trains will depart Bangabandhu Setu station at 6:00am and reach Kamalapur railway station at 8:50am, the release added.



Vehicles plying a road amid fog in the capital. Dhaka residents woke up to a misty morning accompanied by slight chill in the air yesterday. The photo was taken around 9:00am from Mirpur 10.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DEATH OF DIA-RAJIB Three survivors testify in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College, who were injured during an accident by two buses of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan in July, gave their statements before a Dhaka court yesterday.

On July 29, students of the college Abdur Karim Rajib, 18, and Dia Khanam Mim, 17 were run over and killed by a bus when two buses were driving recklessly on Airport Road.

Dia's father Md Jahangir filed a murder case with Cantonment Police Station over the incident a day later.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court recorded statements of Md Sohel Rana, Mehedi Hassan Sagor and Mehedi Hassan Jibon, while the defense counsel for the six accused in the murder case cross-examined the three students.

In their statements, the students said after their college ended at 12:30pm on that day, they were waiting for buses at the bus stop.

Two buses of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan were approaching the stop recklessly, and at one stage, one of the buses ploughed into them injuring two students seriously who later died at Kurmitola General Hospital. Around 13 others were injured.

They were first taken to Kurmitola General Hospital and were later shifted to Combined Military Hospital for treatment.

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No parade on Victory Day this year Says home minister

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said tight security measures will be in place for smooth celebrations of Victory Day, on December 16.

He made the remarks while presiding over a meeting on Victory Day celebrations at his office. Chiefs and senior officials of all law enforcement agencies attended the meeting.

The home minister said members of law enforcement agencies will remain vigilant to thwart any unwanted situation. "There'll be no parade this year as the national election activities will be underway during that time," he said.

The National Memorial premises at Savar will remain under surveillance of CCTV cameras to ensure full-proof security, Asaduzzaman said.

Besides, stringent security arrangements have been taken to celebrate Victory Day in district towns across the country. "Adequate law enforcers will be deployed to fend off any unwanted incident," he said.

UNCONTROLLED USE OF PLASTIC 12 organisations serve legal notice to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve organisations on Tuesday served a legal notice to the government authorities concerned and producers, seeking proper implementation of law to prevent the production, import, marketing and use of plastic bags, said a press release yesterday.

Advocate Sayed Ahmed Kabir, lawyer of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) sent this notice on behalf of the organisations.

In the notice, the lawyer said the use of plastic bags had declined for a short period after the government imposed embargo on production and use of plastic bags from March 1, 2002.

However, it did not last for long due to

the lack of intensive monitoring, while the permission of using plastic bags over 100 microns in packaging issued on August 11, 2002, has resulted in uncontrolled production, marketing and use of plastic bags again.

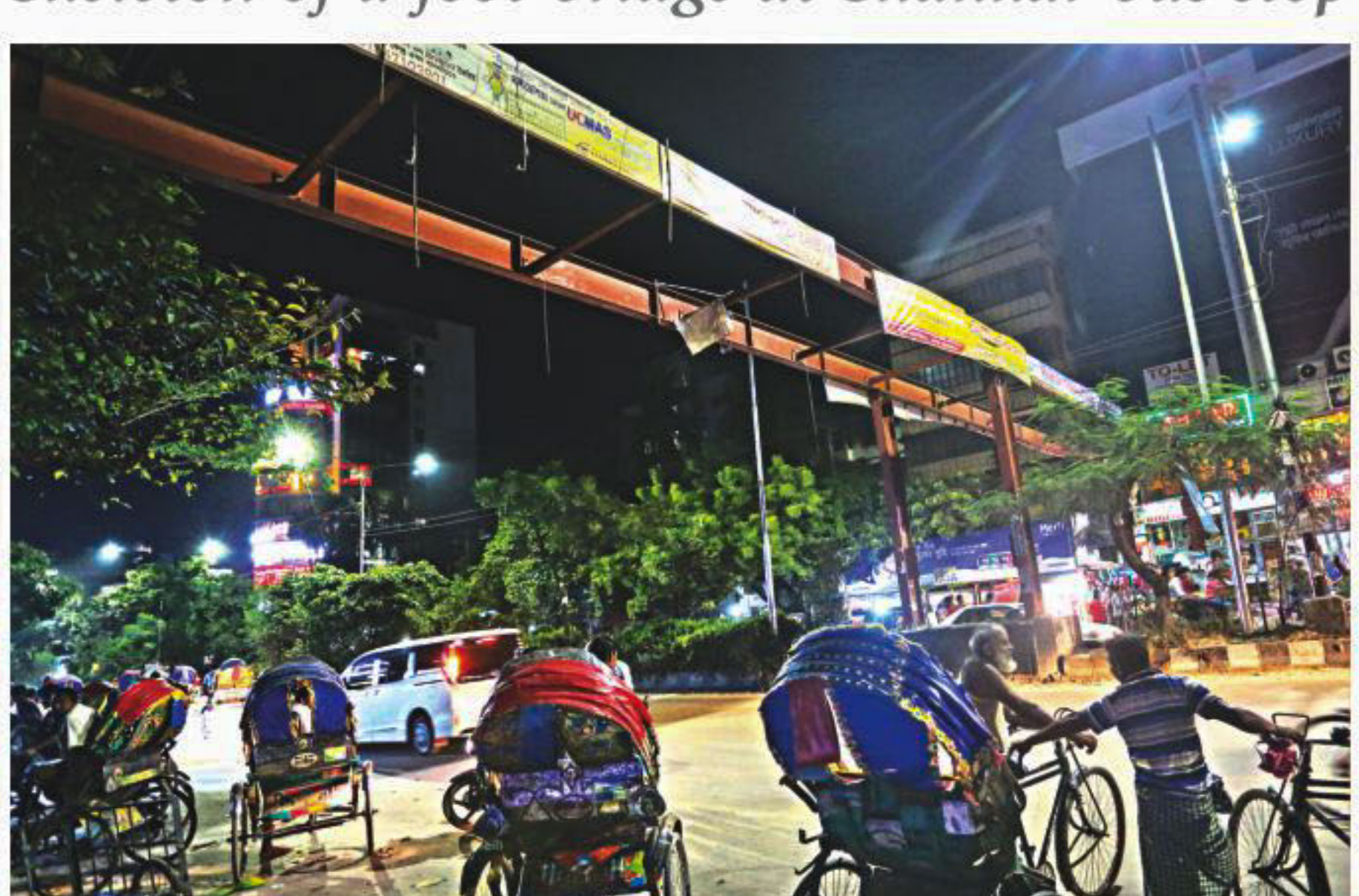
On September 6, 2015, the High Court also directed to implement a 2002 gazette notification in this regard.

Besides, the government enacted Mandatory Jute Packaging Act 2010, which banned the sale, distribution or supply of products packaged with plastic instead of jute.

"However, neither of the directives were obeyed, and the use of polythene bags has been increasing in an uncontrolled way, causing severe threat to public health and

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Left incomplete for 3 years Skeleton of a foot-bridge at Shankar bus stop



Three years have gone by, but the construction work of this footbridge near Shankar bus stop in Dhanmondi remains unfinished.

PHOTO: STAR

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite long-time demand from residents and commuters, a foot over-bridge at Shankar bus stop area in Dhanmondi has remained in a skeletal form for years.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) started the construction work around three years back, and suspended the work halfway.

Additional chief engineer of the DSCC, Asaduzzaman said they stopped the work at that time as Dhaka Power Distribution Company demanded around Tk 38 lakh from them to shift overhead electric cables and a transformer.

"We could not finish it as there was a shortage of fund at that time, and DSCC was running under an administrator," said the official.

Around Tk 20 lakh was spent out of around Tk 99 lakh budget, but after that they were forced to suspend the work due to shortage of fund, he said.

"The financial issue has been solved, and we are hopeful of completing and opening it to public by December," he said when asked about it recently.

However, until yesterday, no new work was visible on the bridge. The structure of the footbridge still stands, but there is no staircase or floorboards. Overhead cables and a transformer were also seen at the

south-eastern part of the bridge.

"The footbridge's construction started around three years back, but DSCC did not finish it at that time," said seventy-four year old Mohammad Nur Hossain, a resident of Shankar.

He said a foot over-bridge is very necessary for the point, as a large number of people use the bus stop, and many others have to cross the street there. Elderly people, children and women are the worst sufferers, he said.

There are campuses of several educational institutions in the vicinity – including the University of Development Alternative, State University of Bangladesh, Oxford International School, Ananda Niketan European School and Maple Leaf International School, for which a good number of students have to cross the bus stop every day, and they have no alternative to jaywalking.

"It is really difficult to cross the point during rush hour as many vehicles pass through. There are times when I have to wait around 10 minutes to cross the road," said Suborna Rajbongshi, an eighth semester student of Institute of Science and Technology, Bangladesh in Dhanmondi.

Authorities should complete the unfinished footbridge immediately, she said. "I was very happy when the construction work started, but years have passed and we are yet to get its benefit," she said.



The father and son duo at work around 2:00am at Purba Razabazar in Dhaka.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

A father's helping hand Son assists disabled man in collecting scraps at night to keep family afloat

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

"Let's stop here," Taijul tells his father. The rickshaw-van comes to a stop. The 10-year-old gets off and starts collecting scraps from street corners.

It's late; almost two in the night.

His father, Sirajul Islam, waits for him patiently while Taijul Islam continues the collection. Once he is finished, they would head out to another destination.

Theirs is a father-son team.

The son collects metal scraps, plastic bottles and papers from the streets of Dhaka and the father pulls the rickshaw-van. These are then sold at scrap shops in Hazaribagh.

For them, the day begins at 9:00pm. And every night, the two roam around the city on their rented rickshaw-van looking for discarded items, to support their six-member family.

This correspondent caught up with the duo at Purba Razabazar around

2:00am last week.

Taijul was gathering scattered scrap items from the corner of a road and makeshift shops and putting those inside a large bag on top of a rickshaw-van. His father was sitting on the van, waiting for his son to finish.

"We continue with the collection throughout the night," said Sirajul Islam. The 55-year-old said he needs his son's help due to his physical disability.

Taijul is the eldest among his four children.

"We mostly cover Rayer Bazar, Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Dhanmondi, Sukrabad, Razabazar, Indira Road, Manik Mia Avenue and Shyamoli areas," he added.

He said he has been doing this for the last five years.

"Before, I used to pull rickshaw to support my family. Even with my meagre income, I hoped to send Taijul to school but my back pain forced me

to think otherwise," he added. "With the pain, I could not pull the rickshaw properly."

"What choice do I have?" he asked. "If I hadn't involved him, all of us would have starved." Sirajul said they earn around Tk 400 to Tk 700 per night.

Meanwhile, Taijul was busy gathering plastic bottles from a bin.

Sirajul stared at him for a while and added, "He [Taijul] was born 21 years after my marriage. I didn't want this life for him."

"I wanted him to go to school... to become educated... but due to my disability, Taijul cannot...," he could not finish the sentence.

He regained his composure and continued, "Even if I could find an evening school near our home on Aziz Khan Road at Rayer Bazar, it would be hard for my son to attend school as he works throughout the night and sleeps almost the entire day."

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SSC REGISTRATION Action against schools charging extra: ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has requested guardians of SSC candidates to call its hotline, 106, if any school demands exorbitant registration fees for the exam.

"If extra fees are taken or unsuccessful students are given opportunity to sit for the exam, the commission will take stern legal action," the ACC said in a press release.

The ACC requested both students and guardians to call the hotline if they encounter any such anomalies.

In a recent incident, the ACC sent a team to a school in the capital after receiving complaints that the school authorities were compelling students to pay undue fees.