

HUNGER STRIKE IN CTG

Unite to protect liberation war mass graves

Speakers urge pro-liberation forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Speakers at a protest programme yesterday called on the pro-liberation forces to unite in order to protect Liberation War mass graves across the country from illegal encroachment.

If the pro-liberation forces become united, no evil forces would be able to wipe out the memories of the liberation war by encroaching on the mass graves, they said during a hunger strike on Chittagong Press Club premises.

Ekattorer Badhyabumi Smriti Sangrakkhon O Bastobayan Parishad, a forum dedicated to preserving the Liberation War killing fields, staged the mass hunger strike to protest the construction of a building of a private university on the Pahartali Badhyabumi, one of the largest mass killing fields in the port city.

Parishad coordinator Prof Dr Gazi Salehuddin presided over the programme that started at 11:00am.

Eminent historian Prof Dr Muntasir Mamun called on the local people to join the movement alongside politicians and freedom fighters to protect the killing fields.

The people who fell victim to the barbaric attacks by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators during the liberation war cannot forget the memories of the war, he said, adding that their active

involvement would help make the movement a success.

The speakers also demanded immediate steps to preserve all the mass graves, including Pahartali Badhyabumi.

Awami League leaders Moslem Uddin Ahmad and MA Salam, Workers Party leader Amrita Barua, CPB leader Mrinal Chowdhury, Prof Helal Nizami, Chittagong Press Club Secretary Ejaz Eusoofi, Engineer Delwar Mazumder, Prof Hossain Kabir and woman leader

Chemon Ara also spoke.

Activists from different political parties and cultural organisations such as Projonma 71, Gono Sanghati, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Gonotantri Party, Udichi and Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad joined the hunger strike.

Activists of Bigyan Pathagar (science library) also formed a human chain at the venue while members of Samageet, a cultural organisation, rendered songs.



Eminent historian Prof Dr Muntasir Mamun speaks at a mass hunger strike on the Chittagong Press Club premises in the port city yesterday. Ekattorer Badhyabumi Smriti Sangrakkhon O Bastobayan Parishad organised the programme.

Dialogue with JP on June 30, AL July 3

UNB, Dhaka

Schedules for caretaker government's dialogue with Awami League, Jatiya Party, PDP and Bangladesh Kalyan Party have been fixed to carry on the current consultation on transition from the interim regime.

The talks with Bangladesh Kalyan Party will be held at the Chief Adviser's Office at 3:30pm tomorrow, with Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) at 10:00am on Tuesday and with Jatiya Party at 10:00am on June 30.

The much-talked-about dialogue with Awami League will be held on July 3 at 11:00am, according to an official concerned at the CA's office.

Buet secures top positions in Math Olympiad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) yesterday secured first, second and third positions in the Math Olympiad organised by East West University (EWU) for the first time on its campus, says a press release.

A total of 61 participants from 13 public and private universities participated in the three-hour competition which was inaugurated by EWU Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Md Kamrul Hasan.

EWU Board of Directors President Jalauddin Ahmed spoke at the prize giving ceremony as the chief guest.

Emphasising the importance of such competition, he said, "Mathematics is an interdisciplinary language and tool... It is considered to be one of the basic needs in our formal education system," he said.

SUST Prof Jafar Iqbal was present as the head of the panel of the judges in the function, while Prof Elias Uddin Biswas, Munir Hasan, Dr Shafiqul Islam, Prof Mohammad Kaykobad, Prof Khodadad Khan, Prof Subrata Majumder, Dr Mahbub Alam Mazumder and Dr Abu Saleh Abdun Noor were included in the panel.

Husband stabs wife in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with the throat slit after her husband stabbed in the throat in an attempt to murder her in Kotwali area in the city yesterday.

Doctors said Nishi Begum, 23, is now out of danger as the throat injury was not serious.

The victim's neighbours said her husband Mohammad Ripon, a worker at an ice-cream factory in Narayanganj, came to his in-laws' house at Nazirbazar under Kotwali Police Station yesterday afternoon and tried to persuade his wife to go with him.

But Nishi continued to refuse to go with her husband that led to an altercation between them. At one stage, Ripon attempted to slaughter his wife with a boti (curved kitchen machete) at around 3:00pm.

As Nishi cried for help, the neighbours came in and rescued her.

Nishi told reporters at the DMCH that she did not want to go with her husband, as he is a drug addict.

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Abdul Hannan said such an incident has taken place in the area and the police will take legal action against the offender.

Appeal for help



AM Shamsuzzoha, a master's final year student of Mirpur Bangla College, is suffering from tuberculosis, diabetes and other complex diseases, says a press release.

After treatments at home and in India, doctors have suggested emergency operation for his recovery.

His parents Mohiuddin Ahmed and Shamsunnahar Ahmed have said a total of Tk 12 lakh is required for two operations.

"We have already spent Tk 5 lakh and are now helpless. We therefore appeal to chief adviser and others capable of helping us to save the life of our son," they said.

Those willing to come to the aid of Shamsuzzoha can send their contributions to Savings Account No 20189278, Sonali Bank, Mirpur-1, Dhaka-1216, or contact cell phones 01716683507 and 0171974598.



(From right) Farhad Mazhar, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Dr Noazesh Ahmed visit a photo exhibition titled 'Madhupur and Lawachhara: Stolen Forest, Threatened Heritage' at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday. Society for Environment and Human Development organised the exhibition. (Story on Page 16)

Movement if elections schedule not cancelled Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said they would forge a movement if the schedule for local government polls is not withdrawn.

He also alleged that the caretaker government is too enthusiastic about sending detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia abroad holding her sons hostage.

He said this while speaking at a views-exchange meeting with the leaders of BNP Jyopurhat unit at this Namflat in the capital.

Delwar urged the government to send Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman, detained sons of the party chief, abroad for treatment without delay.

"The government wants to hold the elections by force. The government and the Election Commission (EC) will be responsible for any untoward incidents in the country," he said adding that people will not take part in the election since all major political parties have rejected the schedule.

He said the government and the EC are implementing their blueprint of ignoring people's opinion. "All parties want national elections first but they [the EC] have announced the schedule for holding local body polls which will make the political situation more critical," he said.

Accusing the EC of violating the constitution, he said the commission has no mandate to hold the local body polls before holding national elections.

Former lawmakers Sohrab Uddin and Begum Jahan Panna, Jyopurhat district BNP leaders Aminur Rahman Bakul, Hena Kabir and Dewan Abdul Hamid spoke at the meeting among others.

President of Jyopurhat district BNP Mojaher Ali Prodhon chaired the meeting.

A joint meeting of party and its front organisations was held there later to discuss the latest political situation.

Bangladesh stands at a crossroads Says Canadian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Barbara Richardson has said Bangladesh stands at a crossroads and the choice of the road forward is certainly in the hands of politicians and most importantly in the hands of the people of this country.

"They are allies in one of the great ongoing struggles of the Bangladesh experience - the struggle for the soul of democracy, for a government that represents not itself, not the interest of the members of the government, but the interest of the people," she said at a reception on Canada Day at the Canadian Embassy on Friday.

Reflecting on multiculturalism embedded in Canadian constitution, she said they have learned the lesson of accommodation and compromise.

"Not pursuit of personal interests, not pursuit of one province or one group or one political belief, but the interest of our great country and its future."

Richardson, who is leaving Bangladesh completing her almost three-year tenure as the High Commissioner, said although Canada and Bangladesh are different in many respects, but "we are a people who share the same dreams for our children and our futures who share common values and who believe in the ability to build our countries to support these dreams and values."

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Prof Tamim was guest of honour at the ceremony attended, among others, by politicians, diplomats, editors and high civil and military officials.

A joint meeting of party and its front organisations was held there later to discuss the latest political situation.

'92 ATTACK ON JOURNOS Publication of probe report demanded

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded the government to publish the probe report on the attack on journalists in National Press Club on June 21, 1992.

"Neither the probe report on that attack was published nor the victim journalists got justice due to ill-motive of the then BNP government," the journalist leaders said.

They said the present government is trying the accused persons involved in killing, corruption and other irregularities. But no initiative has so far been taken to bring the killers of journalists to book, they regretted.

Chaired by former DUJ president Altaf Mahmud, the discussion, marking the 'Journalist Repression Day', was addressed by BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, its former president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DUJ President Shah Alamgir, General Secretary Omar Faruque, former DUJ president M Shahjahan Miah, former general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Alhaj Zahurul Huq, Abul Kalam, Md Enamul Huq Babul, Saiful Islam Talukder, Shaban Mahmud, Noor-e-Jannat Akhter Sima, Rafique Ahmed, Tarun Tapan Chakraborty, Enamul Huq Chowdhury, Salim Ullah Selim, Kamal Chowdhury, Rajendra Chandra Dev Mantu, Soheli Sani and Anis Ahmed.

Referring to the irregularities in different government media organisations during the rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance, the leaders demanded immediate publication of a "white paper on corruption and anomalies in Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) of that period as the present government is committed to ensure transparency in every sphere of the society."

They also urged the owners of newspapers and news agencies to implement seventh wage board immediately.

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Mujahid demands release of Khaleda, Nizami

UNB, Rangpur

Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid yesterday blamed the government for unlawfully detaining Khaleda Zia and Matiur Rahman Nizami and demanded their immediate release.

He was speaking at a party meeting at the Town Hall here. He said the government should take lessons from them how to curb corruption.

Mujahid said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Jamaat chief Maulana Nizami were falsely implicated in corruption cases. He said chief adviser should release them immediately with an apology for falsely implicating them in corruption cases.

On election schedule of four city corporations and nine municipalities he said the interim government has no mandate for holding any election other than parliamentary polls. He demanded cancellation of the schedule, parliamentary polls at the earliest and handover power to an elected government.

Mujahid expressed doubt of a deep-rooted conspiracy of certain alien forces against the nation. He called upon the party workers and leaders to face the evil designs against Jamaat and the country as well.

Road crash kills sexagenarian in city

UNB, Dhaka

A sexagenarian man was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Malibagh crossing in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Joyнал Abedin, 60, an accountant of Mabs Coaching Centre of Mouchak area and a resident of Azimpur New Paltan area.

Sources said a bus of SA Paribahan ran over Joyнал when he was standing on the road, killing him on the spot at about 7:00am.

Police seized the bus and arrested the driver.

New bride, her mother murdered in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A conflict over a marriage at Bolorampur village in Sadar upazila ended up in the killing of the new bride and her mother early yesterday.

The victims were identified as bride Muki Rabeda, 18, and her mother Sufia Khatun, 40.

Police said Muki Rabeda secretly married his cousin Rajib, son of Abdul Khaleq of Rajapur village, 25 days ago

after a long affair. But Rajib's family did not accept the marriage.

On the fateful night, some assailants slaughtered Sufia and strangled Muki to death. Sufia's one-year-old son Abir was also injured in their attack.

Police said Sufia and her daughter were killed following the dispute over the marriage.

Meanwhile, police arrested three people, including Rajib, in this connection.

'Save Buriganga from land grabbers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) and local people of Sultanganj union parishad (UP) at Kamrangirchar yesterday demanded steps to save the Buriganga from land grabbers and remove tanneries from the bank of the river.

They said this at a meeting on 'Environment of Sultanganj area and saving the Buriganga' at the UP office jointly organised by Bapa and the UP.

They also called on to set up waste treatment plant in every industry, modernise Dhaka city's waste management system and dredge the river to increase its navigability.

The meeting was presided over by Sultanganj UP Chairman Monir Hossain which was moderated by Bapa Executive Member Badiul Alam Majumder. Bapa General Dr Md Abdul Matin, Joint Secretary Zakir Hossain spoke at the programme.

Speakers said the Buriganga is the heart of the greater Keraniganj including Dhaka and Kamrangirchar, adding that the people of these areas will live safely if the river is saved.

Bangladeshi honoured in US

Dr Mizan Miah, director of School of Social Work at Southern Illinois University, USA, has earned rare honour to become a member of the Social Work Accreditation and Educational Excellence Commission of the United States, says a press release.

The Commission recently appointed Dr Miah for a three-year term effective from July 2008. The Commission accredits social work programmes in more than 600 universities in the United States.

Dr Miah is a former professor of sociology at Chittagong University.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls may occur at one or two places, Met Office said predicting slight rise in day temperature over the country.

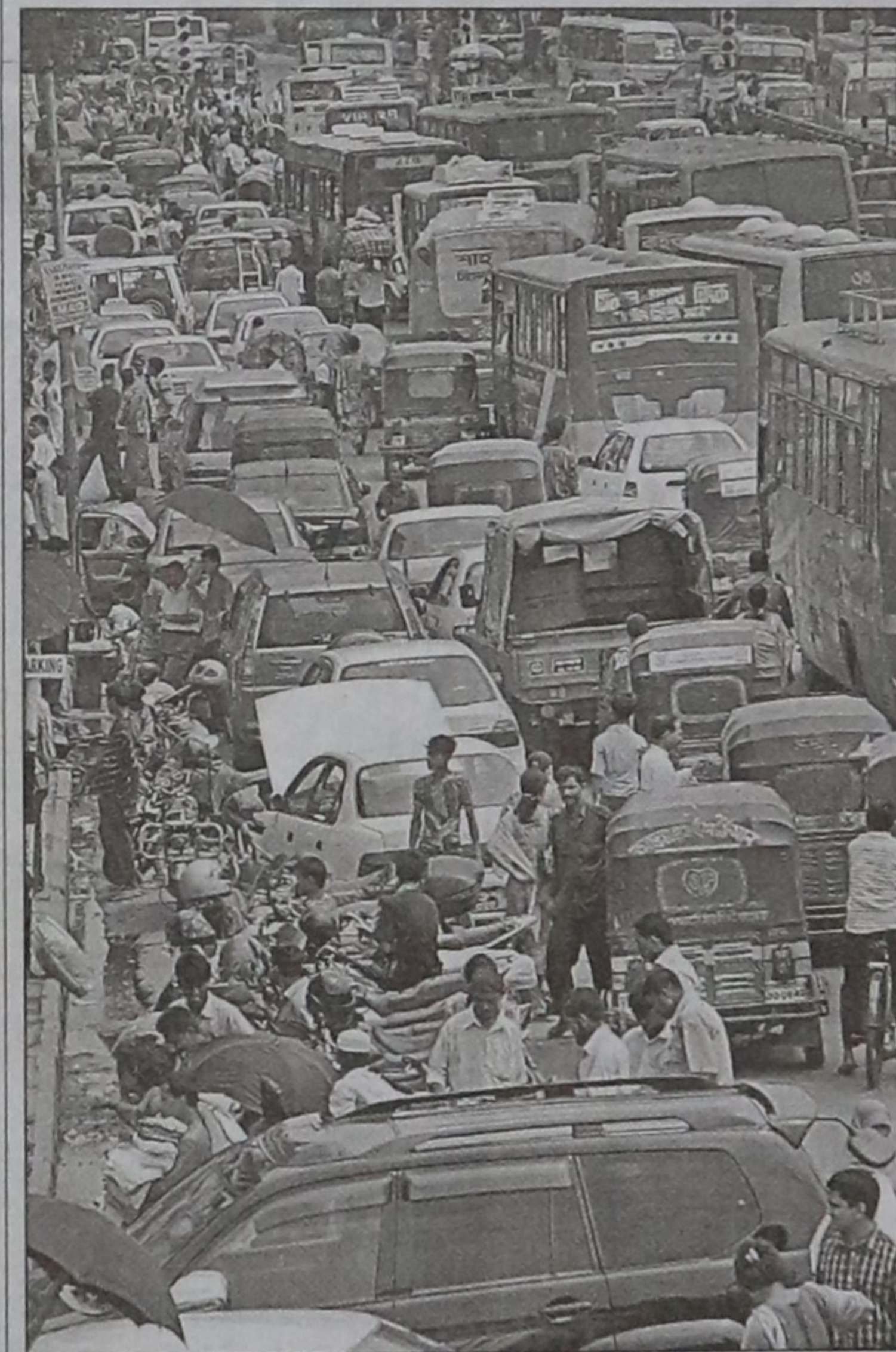
Highest temperature 33.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.2 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

DHAKA TODAY Discussion, View exchange meeting, Exhibition details.



Vehicles get stuck in a tailback on a busy thoroughfare in front of the Gausia Market in the city yesterday.

IN-PATIENT HOSPITAL CARE OF CHILDREN Regional workshop begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day regional workshop to improve in-patient hospital care of children in South East Asia Region (SEAR) member countries began in the city yesterday.

More than 40 participants are attending the workshop jointly organised by the government, WHO and ICDDR,B.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Health Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan said, "As integrated management of childhood illness is institutionalised in the public health system, an increasing number of under-five children are being referred from first level facilities to upazila and district hospitals."

"Sick children, travelling from a long way to reach the health facilities, have the rights to receive appropriate care from skilled service providers that can be filled only by our immediate actions to strengthen the health system," he added.

WHO Representative Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol said, "Poor referral compliance is largely attributed to lack of clear guidelines on case management, and unavailability of providers, medicines and logistics in the hospitals. It is important that government facilities are fully utilised to avail benefits of the investment."

In the workshop, participants will review experiences with quality improvement and familiarise with the methodology and tools for improving quality of in-patient care of children.

The SEAR members countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Youth strangled in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified youth was strangled in the city on Friday night.

Police recovered the body from a field at Nandipara under Khilgaon Police Station yesterday morning and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The youth, aged around 30, was clad in a black shirt and pink pant.

Police said a gamcha (scarf) was tied to his neck and the body bore several marks of scratch.

Khilgaon police filed a case in this connection.

4 city firms fined Tk 1.65 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) fined two restaurants, one bakery and a water treatment plant Tk 1.65 lakh in the city yesterday.

Rab officials said the mobile court during its drive at Sector 3 and 5 in Uttara, fined the water treatment plant for producing water in unhygienic condition, the restaurants for selling rotten foods and the bakery for not having approval from the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI).

The business firms fined are Sabera Drinking Water Tk 50000, Café Suruchi Restaurant and Café New Radhuni Restaurant Tk 50000 each, and Tania Bakery and Food Products Tk 15000.

Death anniversary

Today is the fifth death anniversary of T o l a m o t i Halder, mother of Chaitanya Chandra Halder, court correspondent of The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at her village home at Nayakandi Bajitpur in Rajoir under Madaripur district.

Bazlur Rahman Foundation formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bazlur Rahman Foundation has been formed to preserve the memory of late Bazlur Rahman, former editor of the Sangbad.

This was announced at a discussion meeting held at the Kachikanchar Mela Bhaban at Sector Bagicha in the city on Friday.

Eminent banker Ibrahim Khaled has been made the convener of the preparatory committee of the foundation.

The foundation will carry out research on journalism and activities for the welfare of the children.

It will publish memorial book on Bazlur Rahman and observe his birth and death anniversaries to keep his memory alive.

The meeting decided to observe his birthday on August 03.

A committee was formed comprising litterateur Jyoti Prakash Dutta as chief and Kashem Humayun, managing editor, and Muniruzzaman, assistant editor of the Sangbad, Mozammel Hossain Monju, deputy editor of Samakal, and Sohrab Hasan, associate editor of the Jugantar, as members to formulate the constitution of the foundation.

Wife of Bazlur Rahman and Presidium Member of Awami League Motia Chowdhury, banker RM Debnath, Director General of Bangla Academy Dr Syed Mohammad Shahed, Business Editor of the Prothom Alo Shawkat Hossain Masum, Editor of Kali O Kalam Abul Hasnat, actor Pijush Banerjee, Prof Haradhan Ganguli, artist Bulbul Moholanabish, and Feature Editor of the Sangbad Abida Nasrin Kali were present at the meeting.

Raihan PDP mayoral candidate for Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Convener of Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) Dr Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi yesterday declared mayoral candidacy for Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) election.

Qureshi announced PDP Rajshahi Convener advocate Raihanul Rahman Raihan as a mayoral candidate at a teleconference at PDP Rajshahi office.

The PDP convener further said his party is looking for honest and qualified candidates for participation in the local body elections.

PDP Rajshahi Committee Joint Convener Shahab Uddin, Member Secretary Ittekkar Morshad Shyamol, District Committee member Shaik Biswas and Print and electronic media journalists were during the teleconference.