

TEMPERATURE MAY FALL

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Rangpur divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:28pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.

Country's highest temperature 37.0

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 19.0 degree Celsius in Sreemahal.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka 34.7	26.8	71	49	Khulna 34.5	24.0	56	76
Chittagong 32.6	24.0	76	59	Barisal 35.5	24.7	48	91
Rajshahi 34.8	23.2	67	58	Sylhet 32.1	19.9	61	63
Rangpur 31.0	23.2	69	70	Cox's Bazar 34.0	24.5	76	89

'Abducted man' was actually hiding from creditors in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet man, whose abduction was reported to police by his family last month, was actually hiding from his creditors.

Police revealed this at a press briefing at the office of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) yesterday.

On April 20, Shamsher Ali of Raikail village in Dakshin Surma Police Station phoned his elder brother Rezwan Ahmed saying that some people had picked him up by a microbus in the city's Mirer Maidan area.

His cell phone was found switched off afterwards.

Shamsher's brother filed a general diary with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station the same day.

Police conducted several drives since then, but could not make any headway, SM Rokon Uddin, additional commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP), told the briefing.

As part of investigation, police rang up Shamsher's mobile number

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DU postpones political science evening course

DU CORRESPONDENT

The political science department of Dhaka University yesterday postponed the start of a newly launched evening programme after several left leaning student bodies protested the move terming it "commercialisation of education".

The department Chairperson Prof Nurul Amin said they would take further decision after meeting with the vice chancellor.

A total of 60 students can enrol in the two-year master's programme for Tk 90,000.

Under the banner of "Students against evening course and commercialisation, DU unit", the left

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Bashiruddin Park, one of the few children's parks in the capital, located in Islambagh, has been turned into a garage for rickshaws and rickshaw-vans with the authorities turning a blind eye. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Khaleda to join 'mass hunger strike' today

Rizvi claims it is to protest 'false cases' against her, Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will join today's "mass hunger strike" on the Jatiya Press Club premises protesting what the party said "false cases" against the BNP chief and her son Tarique Rahman, and the incidents of abduction, killing and forced disappearance across the country.

The eight-hour hunger strike will begin at 9:00am and Khaleda is scheduled to reach the venue around 4:00pm, BNP's Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed told a press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office yesterday.

Earlier, on April 25, BNP announced that it would hold protest rallies on April 28 and mass hunger strikes on May 4 at all upazila, district and divisional headquarters protesting the cases filed by Anti-Corruption Commission.

Party sources said Khaleda might address the programme.

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Don't compromise with Jamaat

Civil society urges AL on Jahanara Imam's birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some civil society members yesterday urged the ruling Awami League not to compromise with Jamaat-Shibir and fundamentalist quarters.

Because of the activities and comments of some AL high-ups, it appears that they intend to compromise with Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, they said.

It is alarming for the nation and suicidal for AL which is deemed a pro-liberation political party, they told a discussion, "Movement of Jahanara Imam and Multidimensional Conspiracy of Jamaat" at the capital's Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA).

If a pro-liberation government receives financial assistance from Jamaat-backed institutions and ruling party leaders join hands with Jamaat men, it creates the scope for

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

245 cases in last seven years saw no justice

Claims Kapaeeng Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 245 indigenous women have been either raped or sexually harassed in different parts of the country in the last seven years since early 2007 but none of the perpetrators were punished, reveals a report of rights organisation Kapaeeng Foundation.

As the culprits are enjoying absolute impunity, violence against indigenous women is continuing, speakers said at a discussion in the capital's The Daily Star Centre where the findings were shared. The report was based on newspaper reports till April 2014.

In her keynote speech, Kapaeeng's research coordinator Bipasha Chakma said that out of the reported 245 cases of violence, 211 occurred in the Chittagong Hill Tracts alone.

As many as 96 percent of the accused perpetrators were Bangalee settlers, while law enforcers allegedly constituted the remaining four percent, the findings suggest.

Initially, women repression in the hills was used as a "weapon of war" against the indigenous people but it has now turned into a tool for land grabbing, said Bipasha.

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Be cautious against anti-govt 'propaganda'

Hasina tells party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that propaganda was going on against her government in different forms to put it in trouble and urged her party and cabinet colleagues to remain alert about this.

She also asked them not to be misled by any sort of criticism and said they would have to counter it through good works, party insiders told The Daily Star.

Hasina, the ruling Awami League president, said these at a meeting of the party parliamentary board at her official residence Gono Bhavan. The meeting was convened to select the party candidate for the Barisal-5 by-election scheduled for June 12.

The party will sell the nomination form, costing Tk 25,000, among the aspirants on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday from the AL chief's Dhanmondi office, and will announce the nominee's name on May 8.

Barisal-5 constituency felt vacant after its lawmaker Shawkat Hossain Hiron died on April 9.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Ismail Hossain Talukder, a former law-maker of Mymensingh-2 constituency and an income tax lawyer, died of a cardiac arrest at Square Hospital in the capital yesterday, aged 98.

Ismail, a resident of Tatrakanda in Mymensingh, served the district income tax bar as its president for 10 years, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons, nine daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and admirers.

He will be buried at his village after a namaz-e-janaza at 2:30pm today.



Vehicles struggle to move ahead on the Babubazar-Gabtol Beridbadh (embankment) road in the capital yesterday. With asphalt surfacing absent, red bricks getting corroded, and large muddy puddles dotting it, the road has turned into a nightmare for travellers. Despite repeated assurances by the authorities, no renovation work has been undertaken there yet.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

HIV/AIDS DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT

Govt to set up 20 centres for free services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government for the first time ever will set up 20 health care facilities that will diagnose people for HIV/AIDS and provide treatment for the HIV positive patients for free, said a health ministry official at a discussion yesterday.

"Of the 20 facilities, five will provide both treatment and diagnosis services, while the rest will only diagnose people," said Dr Hossain Sarwar Khan, line director of National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP) of the health ministry, at the discussion held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

The five facilities, named Care Support Treatment Centres, will be located at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Infectious Diseases Hospital in Dhaka, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Sylhet Medical College Hospital and Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The fifteen other centres will be set up across the rest of the country, said Dr Khan.

The NASP will set up the centres within

a month or two with financial assistance from the World Bank, he said, adding that the centres would be set up at a time when 40 out of the 83 HIV testing centres run by NGOs with foreign funds would stop operating.

CARE Bangladesh and The Daily Star jointly organised the discussion on "Cross border Mobility and HIV Vulnerability".

Medical and public health experts said although HIV is not prevalent among Bangladeshis, with less than 0.1 percent of people being infected with the virus, there is no place for complacency.

Abu Taher, team leader of a CARE project, Enhancing Mobile Population's Access to HIV/AIDS Services, Information and Support, said at least 1.8 percent of the 2,184 people in Satkhira and Jessore having a track record of trans-border movement in India were found to be HIV positive.

Citing 2012 data of International Organisation for Migration (IOM), he said

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Another abettor arrested

FROM PAGE 3

grocery store and as a land broker on the side, Mustaque said.

The law enforcers, however, are yet to ascertain whether or not he is a member of the JMB, he said.

A large group of miscreants in two microbuses and a truck blocked the path of the prison van carrying the three convicts -- two of them on death row -- in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh on February 23. They then opened fire on the policemen, who were guarding the convicts, killing

ing a constable, and snatched away the JMB activists.

One of the three, Rakib Hasan alias Hafiz Mahmud, was recaptured six hours after the ambush. He was killed the following day in what was given out as "crossfire". The others are still at large.

On Wednesday, Rab produced before the media eight people allegedly with connections to the incident.

At least four of them had previously been reported missing by their families before they were brought before the media at a Rab press briefing in Uttara.

Three of them were picked up from their homes in the middle of the night, while another was detained on his way back home, their family members said. None of the families were informed about the arrests.

One of the arrestees, Kamal Hossain alias Sabuj, claimed that Ataur Rahman Kamal, a Jubo League leader of Bhaluka upazila, had arranged safe passage for death row JMB leader Rakib Hasan Russell after he had been taken away along with other key leaders of the banned militant outfit.

Journos' professional

FROM PAGE 3

press freedom.

A report published Thursday by Freedom House ranks Bangladesh 115th out of 197 nations, lower ranking indicating worse performance. The country ranked 112th last year.

Prime Minister's media advisor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury regretted that no one could be convicted following the killing of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

"Journalists live in insecurity. While they are often attacked while on duty, the owners of the houses they work for often do not pay them in due time and deny them their arrears," he said.

He urged the government to provide security to journalists and compensate them if they are attacked while on duty.

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, secretary general of BFUI, moderated the discussion.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, however, criticised the Freedom House report on press freedom for "undermining" Bangladesh.

"They have no right to do so," he said. "I challenge the report. We have made a lot of progress in upholding press freedom in recent years."

Other BFUI leaders including Treasurer Khairuzzaman Kamal, Vice President Utpal Kumar Sarkar, and Joint Secretary Saiful Islam Talukder urged the government to take action against media house owners who deprive their journalists of salaries and arrears.

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Asset DEVELOPMENTS

AL men threaten to kill journo

FROM PAGE 3

In its report on May 1, Bhorer Kagoj said Md Motiur Rahman Babu, labour affairs secretary of Kusumba union AL, allegedly misappropriated the Tk

50,000 cheque issued for one Md Motiur Rahman, a victim of violence in Shalapur village.

After a war crimes tribunal sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar

Hossain Sayedee to death, Jamaat-Shibir men attacked and damaged Motiur's house on March 3 last year.

AL men, however, called Motiur a Jamaat supporter.