

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb. Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day temperature may fall slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21am.	Country's highest temperature 33.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees in Feni and Kutubdia. Highest and lowest temperature 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:	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
	Dhaka	30.8	27.0	90	83	Khulna	31.5	27.0	92	92
	Chittagong	--	27.5	80	--	Barisal	30.6	26.3	98	96
	Rajshahi	33.3	26.8	91	95	Sylhet	31.8	27.0	80	93
	Rangpur	30.8	26.5	95	76	Cox's Bazar	29.0	25.5	95	92

ATTACK ON AL LEADER

Stamford University trustee board chairman held

Sent on 6-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former vice-chancellor of Stamford University was sent on a six-day remand hours after his arrest yesterday in a case filed over an attack on Awami League central leader AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem, also a trustee of the university.

Detectives arrested MA Hannan Feroz, now the chairman of the university's board of trustees, at his Dhanmondi residence in the capital early yesterday, Abu Yusuf, assistant commissioner (media wing) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

A Dhaka court sent him on the remand after he was produced before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

On June 19, three criminals on a motorbike shot Shameem twice in the left hand near Ibn Sina Diagnostic and Imaging

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Project on cards to save agricultural lands

STAR REPORT

The government has decided to pass a project named Palli Jonopod in order to give housing facilities to rural people and protect agricultural lands from unplanned housing and urbanisation, said the planning minister yesterday.

Under the project, the government would build four-storied building in rural areas for people who are living there in a scattered manner, said the minister, AHM Mustafa Kamal, adding that all civic facilities such as electricity and gas will also be provided.

The minister spoke at the workshop styled "The Concept of Land Use Planning for Upazilas in Bangladesh" jointly organised by the Physical Infrastructure Division and

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A large number of trawlers sit idle in Jetty 6 area in the Bakkhali river at Cox's Bazar town yesterday, as hostile weather conditions, especially gusty winds, and depleting fish stocks discourage fishermen from travelling into the sea. The situation has put the lives and livelihoods of thousands of people of the entire fishing community of the district at stake. The Cox's Bazar trawler owners association said about 5,000 of these engine-run fishing vessels had been left this way at different points from Kutubdia to Saint Martin's Island for the last couple of days.

NEWSIN
brief

Israel's attack on Gaza protested

DUI CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) students yesterday at the TSC on the campus protested Israel's military attacks on Gaza in the last seven days which reportedly killed at least 200 people.

The protestors also urged all human rights organisations to come forward and put pressure on Israel to call off the attack. DU vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique also attended the programme organised by Slogan 71, a cultural organisation.

3 held with smuggled gold in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railway police arrested three passengers of Turna Nishita Express and seized 50 gold bars, weighing 6kg, worth around Tk 1.53 crore, from them in the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

On a tip-off, police recovered 34 bars from the socks of Suman and Bilu.

Another police team seized 16 gold bars from Md Selim. The gold bars were smuggled into Bangladesh through Chittagong airport several days ago, said police.

PROTECTION FOR DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES

Passing of proposed law urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should formulate the proposed Antidiscrimination Act- 2014 soon to ensure rights of the deprived communities especially the dalit, said discussants at a roundtable yesterday.

The proposed law should include all underprivileged communities -- harijans, adivasis, hermaphrodites (hijras) and sex workers -- so that the state can take necessary and effective steps for their welfare, they added.

The remarks came at a programme organised by the daily Prothom Alo in its office in the capital with assistance of Bangladesh Dalit Parishad and Paritran, an NGO.

The Law Commission has recently submitted the proposed law to the law ministry. It suggests that any victim of discrimination or anyone else on their behalf can lodge a written complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) or with the court.

The discussants observed that only formulation of the law is not enough to protect the dalits unless effective measures are taken to remove discriminations against them.

Meghna Guhathakurta, executive director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, said every institution should have an anti-discrimination cell.

Mizanur Rahman, NHRC chairman, said the proposed law must include provisions of punitive actions against negligence towards the communities.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

RIVER INTERLINKING IN INDIA

Expedited move worries Bangladesh JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

Expressing concern over Narendra Modi government's serious efforts to expedite the river interlinking project, a parliamentary body yesterday said they would ask the water resources ministry to collect every detail about it from India.

The parliamentary standing committee on the water resources ministry also said it would suggest that the government take proper measures at all levels to settle the much talked-about issue so that it did not harm Bangladesh's environment.

"We have come to know from media that India's new government has allocated Rs100 crore in its budget to expedite the river interlinking project, which will harm us. We will therefore ask the ministry to get a clear picture of it," Romesh Chandra Sen, chief of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

India plans to link 30 rivers, including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra which flow into Bangladesh, through numerous canals mainly to divert water to its arid south-western states. Envisaged in 1980, the \$100 billion project is feared to cause water shortage in Bangladesh, especially in dry period, as the two rivers provide majority of the water.

Romesh, a former water resources minister, said the committee would request the foreign ministry to communicate with India to get information about its fresh move regarding the river interlinking project, which is a grave concern for Bangladesh.

In his budget speech on July 10, Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called for serious efforts for the project, noting that the interlinking can pay "rich dividends".

Turning to the JS body meeting, Romesh said the committee had expressed dissatisfaction at the dredging in the Gorai River, as in a recent visit to the dredging area, its members noticed that dredging was not carried out properly.

Special private launch

FROM PAGE 3

during the rainy season. "We are taking safety measures like previous years," said the association chief, Mahbub.

In the meeting, BIWTA Chairman Shamsuddoha Khandaker proposed for Rab patrol through helicopters over the waterways.

The launch owners agreed not to carry passengers on rooftop of the vessels.

The BIWTA will deploy 10 patrol speedboats to oversee the services on the river routes and install another pontoon in Sadarghat launch terminal in the capital.

DHAKA
TODAY

Human Chain

Bangladesh Peace Council will form a human chain protesting Israel's aggression that killed over 200 innocent citizens of Gaza. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Freedom Festival

Muktijuddho Academy will organise

Freedom Festival 2014 where movies on the Liberation War will also be screened. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 12:00noon.

Workshop

A workshop on higher education has been organised. Venue: UGC Auditorium. Time: 9:30am.



A team of the Armed Police Battalion on patrol in front of Rajlakkhi Market in the capital's Uttara yesterday. Alongside other security forces, the APBn has intensified their watch, especially in crowded areas and marketplaces, to prevent criminal activities, which tend to surge ahead of Eids.

GIRL'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT

DMCH forms probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities formed a four-member committee to probe the allegation of sexual harassment of a 13-year-old daughter of a female patient inside the hospital early yesterday.

Brother of the patient, seeking anonymity, said his sister was brought from Dinaipur and admitted to the medicine ward at DMCH 22 days ago.

The girl, who stayed with her mother, went to the basin by the toilet around 12:30am when a youth, Kamal Hossain, forcibly took her in his arms, he said.

The girl shouted for help and Kamal ran away.

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HC wants documents on Nizam

FROM PAGE 3

January 5 polls.

Yesterday, Deputy Attorney General Al Amin Sarkar submitted a report from Chittagong jail authorities, which said the HC on May 17, 2006 granted bail to Nizam after he made an appeal while serving a jail sentence.

However, writ petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that the HC on May 2, 2001 had rejected an appeal filed by Nizam challenging his jail sentence.

Even the Appellate Division on April 27, 2002 dismissed Nizam's appeal against the HC's rejection order and on June 26, 2004, the apex court dismissed his review petition as well, Manzill added.

Manzill argued that there is no scope for moving two appeals in a same criminal case before the HC, and Nizam cannot get bail on an appeal from as his earlier appeal was rejected by the same court.

The writ petition, filed by Jubo League leader Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan in June, says a Chittagong court had sentenced Nizam to 10 years' imprisonment in the arms case on August 16, 2000.

He surrendered to the trial court on September 14, 2000, and was sent to Chittagong jail to serve his term.

But he had been in jail for only five years and was released on December 1, 2005, through fraudulence, it added.

Nizam was supposed to be in jail until September 13, 2010, and he, according to the law, was not supposed to be eligible to contest in the polls before September 2015, the petition added.

Nizam's lawyer Nurul Islam told the court that the original records of the two appeals filed by his client can be called for examination.

Nizam, who was elected unopposed from Feni-2 constituency in January 5 elections, is now at the centre of speculations and allegations after the murder of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haq in Feni in May.

Following the petition, the HC bench on June 8 issued a rule asking the EC and government and Nizam to explain how Nizam was holding the office of MP.

It also ordered the prison authorities to give an explanation by August 31 on a report published in the daily Prothom Alo on May 10, which said Nizam had got out of jail two years and 10 months early.

Further hearing on the petition will be held a week after August 31.

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