

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27am. Country's highest temperature 29.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in

Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.0 in Sreemangal. 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 27.6	16.7	82	67	Khulna 28.5	15.0	90	81
Chittagong 28.8	16.5	65	72	Barisal 28.3	15.0	93	90
Rajshahi 27.6	14.2	98	89	Sylhet 29.2	17.2	80	80
Rangpur 27.5	15.0	79	80	Cox's Bazar 29.7	16.8	67	81



Former Malaysian premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Grand Hyatt hotel suite in Kuala Lumpur last evening. Hasina is now on a three-day visit to Malaysia.

PHOTO: PID

Democracy restricted in country

Claims Fakhru; court asks for probe reports in two murder cases against him by Jan 13

Describing the country's current regime as restricted democracy, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said their ongoing movement against the "repressive" Sheikh Hasina administration would surely succeed though it might take time.

"Awami League leaders are saying real democracy is not necessary in the country and that restricted democracy like the one prevailing in Malaysia and Singapore goes with Bangladesh for the purpose of its development," he told a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. Titled "An acceptable election is the pre-condition for development", it was organised by Bangladesh Democracy Forum.

Fakhru said, "The country's existence will be in danger if the movement fails."

Turning to road safety, the BNP leader said he did not see any traffic police at Sonargaon and Topkhana intersections in the morning.

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ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD DURING HILSA CATCHING BAN

Lease jalmahals to fishermen

IUCN organised Bangladesh-India joint consultation urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the eight-month ban on hilsa catching, the government should lease the khas jalmahals to the fishermen for fish cultivation as an alternative livelihood option for them, speakers said at an Bangladesh-India joint consultation meeting on hilsa conservation yesterday.

Currently, the government gives 40kg of rice to each of the five lakh hilsa fishermen monthly from November to June each year when fishing of young hilsa remains banned,

said Zahid Habib, project director of Jatka conservation project of Bangladesh.

The project has contributed to a huge boost in hilsa production from 199.65 lakh tonnes in 2002-2003 to 385 lakh tonnes in 2013-2014, he said.

However, economist Mahub Ullah said distribution of rice could not be an alternative livelihood option for fishermen because they had other needs.

Fani Bhushan Malo, secretary general of National Fishermen Association, said leasing out the khas

jalmahals or government-owned water bodies like beel, haor to the fishermen could generate income for them during the ban period.

Liakat Ali, former director general of the Department of Fisheries, seconded the proposal and called it a good alternative.

The joint consultation meeting on the hilsa titled "Ecosystems, People and Shared Learning: Experiences from Bangladesh-India Civil Society Dialogue" was held in The Daily Star

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HARASSMENT OF FEMALE STUDENTS

Lack of deterrent campaign, impunity responsible

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad-DU meeting told

DU CORRESPONDENT

Lack of campaigns for implementing existing laws to prevent violence against women, and the "culture of impunity" enjoyed by perpetrators of such crimes are responsible for incidents of harassment of females at education institutions, said speakers at a views-exchange meeting yesterday.

They mentioned gender-based courses at primary school level to put an end to different forms of violence against women.

The programme, titled "We Demand Violence and Harassment Free Campus for Women", was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and the Department of

Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University in RC Majumder auditorium on the campus.

The meeting was a part of a two-week programme arranged by the organisers marking the international fortnightly campaign for elimination of violence against women and Human Rights Day.

At the programme, most of the students and teachers of the university said they did not even know about the independent sexual harassment complaint committee (SHCC) formed almost a year ago in the university due to a lack of campaigns for the initiative.

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RU TEACHER KILLING
Five pro-BNP men remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Five pro-BNP men, who earlier denied confessing in court to killing Rajshahi University professor AKM Shafiqul Islam, were remanded for two days yesterday.

Of the five, Abdus Samad alias Pintu, 34, a former RU Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader, "masterminded" the killing following a row between his wife, an employee of the university, and the slain teacher, claimed the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

After being arrested by Rab, the five confessed

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17 YEARS OF CHT PEACE ACCORD

Cross-section doubts govt's sincerity

Emphasises time-bound action; Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury however regurgitates old govt claim of success with usual call for patience

STAR REPORT

The government's lack of political will caused the failure to fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in the last 17 years, a rights body said yesterday, calling upon the administration to urgently adopt a roadmap with clear milestones to achieve the goals of the pact.

Although the Awami League government has repeatedly pledged to implement the accord in its election manifestos, peace and stability in the CHT deteriorated throughout the two terms the party held office, said the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC).

"There have been no efforts to strengthen local institutions and end land conflict which has led to the deterioration of the human rights situation in the area," says a statement signed by CHTC co-chairs Sultana Kamal, Eric Avebury, and Elsa Stamatopoulou.

Parbatya Chhattragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the AL government signed the treaty on December 2, 1997.

Marking its 17 years, indigenous leaders and civil society members came up with similar observations and blamed the government for its lack of sincerity.

Policymakers, however, refuted the accusations.

"Implementation of the accord is a political pledge of the incumbent government, and it has taken many initiatives to this end," said Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, chairman of the CHT peace accord implementation committee, speaking at a policy dialogue at Cirdap in the capital.

However, PCJSS President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma) said, "The real scenario is dismal. If the process of implementation is examined meticulously, anyone could easily say that it hasn't made much progress."

"We are raising several demands to implement the accord year after year. But we see a kind of laxity on the government's part," said Sultana Kamal.

The policy dialogue on "CHT Accord: Achievements, Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward" was jointly organised by the parliamentary standing committee on the CHT affairs ministry and the parliamentary caucus on indigenous people with support from Research and Development Collective, Manusher Jonno Foundation, European Union, and UNDP.

Terming land disputes the major problem in CHT, Sajeda said the process of amending

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The Daily Star

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