

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 31.1 | L 23.3

CHITTAGONG
H 29.8 | L 25.1

SYLHET
H 32.7 | L 20.5

RAJSHAHI
H 29.8 | L 21.0

KHULNA
H 31.5 | L 22.3

BARISAL
H 31.6 | L 23.7

RANGPUR
H 29.2 | L 19.5

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.0 | L 24.8

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and Jessore and Kushtia till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may rise, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 05:50am.

Rizvi again on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again sent BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed on a three-day remand in connection with an arson case.

The court passed the order after Sub-Inspector Makarias Das, also the investigation officer of the case, produced Rizvi before it with a five-day remand prayer.

The case was filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station against 14 leaders and activists of BNP-led 20-party alliance, including Aman Ullah Aman, on charges of hurling crude bombs at a bus at Khejur Bagan near the Jatiya Sangsad in the capital on January 18 this year that left two students of Eden Mohila College seriously injured.

Rizvi was not made SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A house that partially survived the fall of a heavy tree branch, among the ravages of a storm, which torn through Mirsarai of Chittagong, while Chittagong city, inset, is drenched by a sudden downpour yesterday, signalling the arrival of the violent nor'easter season.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS, BANGLAR CHOKH

Three cops get legal notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The National Crime Observation and Legal Aid Society, a Khulna-based legal assistance provider, has sent a legal notice to three Patuakhali policemen over the torture of Prothom Alo's Baufal correspondent ABM Mizanur Rahman on March 17.

The three were asked to reply within 10 days, explaining under what legal authority they tortured the journalist and why they did this when such an act goes against the constitution, according to the notice. Otherwise, they will face legal step, it said.

Rehana Chowdhury, investigation officer of the organisation, sent the notice by post on March 25, to Saheb Ali Pathan, assistant superintendent of police (sadar circle); Noesh Chandra Karmaker, officer-in-charge of Baufal Police Station; and Abdul Halim Khan, assistant sub-inspector of Kalaiya naval police outpost.

Police arrested Mizan on March 17 on the charge of assaulting ASI Halim and tortured him physically and mentally in custody on that night, alleged the journalist.

After he lost consciousness, the cops took him to Baufal Upazila Health Complex but brought him back without treatment because some local journalists were at the hospital at that time. The next day, Mizanur was sent to jail by a judicial magistrate.

Women freedom fighters' stories usually forgotten

Warrior Halima Khatun tells Ekattur Foundation's reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For four months she had fought in the battlefield alongside the young men of her village, yet unlike the male co-fighters, she did not receive the honour of a hero after independence.

Story of freedom fighter Halima Khatun's valour was lost in the one of her capture by the Pakistani army towards the end of June and inhumane torture at the enemy camp till her rescue on December 7, 1971.

Instead of recognising her contribu-

tion and sacrifice, the society forced her to hide within the four walls of her home after independence.

In 2000, the Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971, and Proshika first recognised and honoured her.

Halima's story came up yesterday at a ceremony organised by social organisation Ekattur Foundation in association with Mukti, a monthly magazine, at Russian Cultural Centre in the capital's Dhanmondi, to honour the contribution of female freedom fighters.

Physician Makhduma Nargis Ratna, Ameena Begum, Shyamali Nasreen Choudhury, Kazi Rokeya Sultana Raka, Farida Khanam Saki, Majeda Shawkat Ali and Shirin Banu Mitil were also honoured at the programme.

Mitil, who had disguised as a boy to participate in the war in Pabna, explained why she had done so. "Women faced a lot of resistance in participating in the war, but they overcame those barriers in their own way," she said.

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Eight female freedom fighters with guests at a reception accorded to them by social organisation Ekattur Foundation in association with Mukti, a monthly magazine, at Russian Cultural Centre in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman, daughter killed 'by drug addicts' in Gazipur

Mugger murders another, say cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A woman and her daughter were stabbed to death allegedly by some drug addicts in the victims' Pabur village residence in Kapasia upazila of Gazipur early yesterday, said police.

Neighbours first noticed the bloodstained bodies of Surji Banu, 74, and her daughter Madia Begum, 50, around 7:00am.

The culprits might have entered the room by

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Murders of bloggers worry UN, US

International Humanist and Ethical Union shocked too; Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 sees Oyasiqur's killing as result of past impunities

STAR REPORT

The United Nations has expressed deep concern over recent attacks on journalists and intellectuals in Bangladesh and called for the respect of basic rights in the country, including the rights of people to freedom of expression.

"...it's a matter of tremendous concern that different journalists and other intellectuals have been attacked," Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said at a regular briefing at the UN

headquarters in New York yesterday.

Replying to a query whether he or any other UN official will visit Bangladesh for discussion, Farhan said, "I don't have any high-level travel to Bangladesh to announce at this stage... But you're aware of our concerns."

Blogger and online activist Oyasiqur Rahman Babu, 27, was hacked to death in broad daylight in Tejgaon Industrial area of Dhaka on Monday morning.

The UN in Bangladesh expressed its abhorrence at the killing, which is part of a

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DHAKA WORLD

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