

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.5 L 24.4	H 33.8 L 26.4	H 33.5 L 24.3	H 29.2 L 22.3	H 34.0 L 22.7	H 34.8 L 23.2	H 29.4 L 21.5	H 35.0 L 26.0

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. Day and night temperature may rise. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 05:38am.

HC stays two N'ganj lower courts' shifting

The High Court yesterday stayed the orders for shifting the assistant judge's court and judicial magistrate's court of Narayanganj to Arahazur upazila for next six months.

The HC came up with the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by two lawyers Shakhawat Hossain Khan and Hasan Ferdaus of the district challenging legality of the shifting orders of the law ministry on September 12, 2013.

Petitioners' lawyer Manzill Murshed told The Daily Star that the two lower courts now have to be functioning in Narayanganj following the stay order.



A market teeming with buyers and sellers of cantaloupe in Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur yesterday on the eve of Pahela Baishakh. It is a popular fruit widely consumed throughout summer, particularly on this occasion. Only a few days ago, a violent transport blockade was threatening the prospect of a good sale following a good harvest because the farmers could not bring the fruit to markets. Recently, the political violence has eased centring about the upcoming city elections in Dhaka and Chittagong and given the choking economy a breathing space.

BCL 'ASSAULT' ON BUET TEACHER Colleagues start six-day strike

Seek criminal prosecution of attackers; alleged leader demand sacking of Prof Jahangir Alam

Buet Teachers Association started their six-day work abstention yesterday protesting an assault on a colleague by ruling Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men, who, on the other hand, demanded that he be sacked for posting "provocative" comments on Facebook on the execution of war criminal Kamaruzzaman.

Prof Jahangir Alam of civil engineering department told The Daily Star that Shuvro and Konok, president, and general secretary of BCL's Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) unit, led the attack on Sunday. Leading some 18 BCL activists, they also vandalised his office and forcibly took him to the vice-chancellor's office, he said.

Shuvro denied the assault allegation. At a human chain formed in Buet, he demanded legal steps against Prof Jahangir, and also urged teachers to resume classes.

In a statement, Buet Teachers Association also demanded that criminal charges be brought against the BCL men and that they would decide in an emergency meeting on April 19 whether to go for continuous work abstention.

Protect migrant workers' rights, prevent abuse

NAMR, B, BMET roundtable urges government

Hailing the recent government agreement with Saudi Arabia to send 10,000 female domestic helps a month, rights activists and migration experts yesterday urged adequate government measures to protect migrants' rights and prevent abuse by employers and agents.

Addressing a roundtable, they alleged that female migrants were usually deceived by various unscrupulous recruiting agencies before and after recruitment.

"Women Migration: Opportunities and Challenges" was organised in the capital's Brac Centre Inn jointly by the National Alliance for Migrants' Rights, Bangladesh (NAMR, B) and the Bureau

of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

"We are happy that the government has taken various measures for the protection of migrant workers," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, as the special guest.

"But the embassies and the BMET must have negotiated with the employers so that the workers' rights are not violated in any way," she said, stressing that the government should regularly monitor their welfare.

On the agreement, BMET Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar said a number of provisions have been kept including allowing migrants to keep possession of passports and payment of salaries through banks.

Addressing as chief guest, Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Khandker Md Iftakhar Haidar said the migrants did not know where they were going and what their jobs would be.

"The agencies must clarify everything before sending migrant workers abroad," he added.

Sabina of Manikganj who returned from Jordan said she was not paid any salary during her 14-month stay.

"When I used to ask for my wages, my employer used to beat me," she said, alleging that the Bangladesh mission had not responded to her pleas for assistance.

BMET statistics say female migration is increasing gradually with the figure increasing from 11,259 to 76,007 in 10 years till 2014.

Students of urban, rural areas must get equal opportunities

Says Rokia Afzal Rahman at final round of debate competition among students of non-govt schools

Students in both urban and rural areas should be given equal opportunities to develop themselves, said Rokia Afzal Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government on Saturday.

She made the comment during the final round of a debate competition organised by Brac, Debate for Democracy, and ATN Bangla at the capital's Bangladesh Film Development Corporation.

Many renowned people of our society who received education in villages became successful, she said citing the example of former Indian president APJ Abdul Kalam who used to sell newspapers in his rural life. She was the chief guest at the event. Around 72,000 students from 2,000 non-government secondary schools across the country participated in the contest Jatiya Bitorko Bikash. Debate for Democracy Chairman Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury chaired the programme where Brac Education Programme Director Safiqul Islam was present.

Thai culture minister in town for Pahela Baishakh celebration

An eight-member Thai delegation led by Thailand's Culture Minister Vira Rojpojanarat arrived yesterday for a one-day visit to Bangladesh to witness the Bangla New Year festivities.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will receive the Thia Minister and his entourage at Ramna Botomul at 6:30am today.

Kerry greets Bangladeshis

US Secretary of State John Kerry, on behalf of President Obama and Americans, has greeted Bangla-speaking people marking Bangla New Year 1422.

"Your rich cultural heritage in song, film, poetry, art, and literature has enriched humanity," says a press release.

Two bodies found in capital

Police recovered the bodies of two people in the capital yesterday.

In Pallabi area, the body of Rabiul Islam, 4, son of Babul Mia, a security guard, was recovered around 12:30am from a reserve water tank of a residential building after he went missing on Sunday evening.

Meanwhile, the body of Mohor Ali, 42, a day-labourer of Kurigram, was recovered from a field at Mandura Balurmath in Turag area around 5:00am. Police suspected that criminals might have strangled him elsewhere and dumped the body there at night.



Death anniversary

Tomorrow is the 44th death anniversary of the parent and three brothers of Saidur Rahman, senior news presenter of Television Channel I, who were killed during the Liberation War.

Fazlur Rahman, his wife Hosne Akhter (an NGO trainer), and their sons Mostafizur Rahman Moznu (college student), Hasinur Rahman Hiron (high school student) and Azizur Rahman Babu (high school student) were brutally killed at their Railway Government residence in Saidpur of Nilphamari jointly by the Pakistani occupation army and its collaborators on this day for their involvement with the liberation movement.

Qurankhwani and food distribution among the destitute will be held on the occasion. All are requested to participate in the programme and to pray for the departed soul.

Preventing Childhood Stunting Cleanliness, healthy food must: Experts

Only healthy food is not enough to ensure a child's physical development. Cleanliness and good hygiene practice are also important to prevent stunting, said experts at a workshop yesterday.

About 40 percent of the country's children below five years are stunted due to malnutrition, they added.

The event titled "Approaches to Stunting Free Villages: A Brainstorming Workshop" was organised by Max Foundation with the support of Space, Unnayan Sohojogy Team, and Commitment Consultants at Bhorer Kagoj office in the capital.

Additional Secretary to the health and family welfare ministry Subhash Chandra Sarker said policy makers used to regard proper sanitation as a way of preventing water-borne diseases like cholera and diarrhoea. But ensuring sanitation for preventing stunting is a new understanding about malnutrition, he added.

In the key presentation, Adviser to Max Foundation Mark Ellery said about 35 percent of the stunted children are victims of malnutrition and diarrhoea. However, reason behind the stunting of the remaining 65 percent is still uncertain.

Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta moderated the event where Max Foundation Country Director Riad Imam Mahmud, and Head of Policy and Advocacy at WaterAid Shamim Ahmed also spoke.



Guests and participating students at the final round of a debate competition "Jatiya Bitorko Bikash" organised by Brac, Debate for Democracy, and ATN Bangla at the capital's Bangladesh Film Development Corporation on Saturday.

Sust students

"the distribution of classrooms and laboratories was not proportional" and therefore class tests that were scheduled for yesterday could not take place.

Environment and geography department head Sarif Mahmud Soraf Uddin said he resigned as the requirement of his department was not fulfilled.

The students also demanded that the VC do not accept the resignation letters.

VC Prof Md Aminul Haque Bhuiyan was released after assuring the students that the classrooms will be redistributed and the cancelled exams will be held soon.

3 madrasa students on fresh remand

Oyasiqur, 27, son of Tipu Sultan of Ramganj in Laxmipur and a staff of a travel agency in Motijheel, was hacked to death by three cleaver-wielding youths in the capital's Tejgaon on March 30. Zikurullah and Ariful were caught by locals while they were fleeing the spot. They later confessed to the killing.

Saiful was arrested on March 24 in an

arms case and later he was shown arrested in the Oyasiqur murder case.

The motive behind the murder appears to be "ideological differences," police said earlier.

A staunch critic of religious fundamentalism, Oyasiqur was active mostly on Facebook though he used to write in Bangla blogosphere.

Adivasi govt staff get 2 more days

reduce use of air conditioners and save electricity.

PM greeted her cabinet colleagues marking Pahela Baishakh.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan and State Minister for Science and Technology Yafes Osman recited poems while State Minister for Social Welfare Promod Mankin distributed sweets of his locality, creating a joyous mood, a minister told The Daily Star.

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Prosecution gets 5 more days

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ASK

FROM PAGE 4 on a Hindu village at Amtali upazila of Barguna on April 10.

"The incidents of attacks and looting during religious festivals of different communities are increasing again keeping the minority communities in panic," it read.

Such incidents, it added, point out the lack of effective government steps to uphold the rights of people to practice different religions.

It urged the government to take immediate steps to ensure safety of different religious communities.

Give symbol

FROM PAGE 3 withdrawn his candidature after the returning officer accepted his nomination but an electoral symbol was not allotted to him, which is illegal.

Be very prompt in maintaining

Year, by giving gifts to the voters.

He said that as per the directives of the Election Commission, police had set up check posts at seven main entry points of the city and started watching important places by CCTV cameras.

Meanwhile, the RO yesterday sent show cause notices to two councillor candidates to explain in 48 hours why they have violated the electoral code of conduct.

Abdul Kader of Ward 28 erected bamboo arches, while Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury of Ward 41 used adhesive posters, both prohibited in the electoral rules.

Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper

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Manju of Ctg takes break from campaign

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