

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 35.5 | L 24.9

CHITTAGONG
H 33.0 | L 26.3

SYLHET
H 36.3 | L 23.4

RAJSHAHI
H 35.0 | L 21.5

KHULNA
H 36.8 | L 25.5

BARISAL
H 35.3 | L 25.0

RANGPUR
H 33.8 | L 21.3

COX'S BAZAR
H 34.6 | L 26.6

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 05:36am. Country's highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 20.6 in Syedpur.



Prominent diplomat KM Shehab Uddin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

KM Shehab Uddin, one of the first diplomats who risked the lives of his wife and two children to bravely disengage from the Pakistan government and declare allegiance to the Mujibnagar government in 1971, is no more.

Breathing his last due to old-age complications in the capital's United Hospital yesterday at 5:50pm, the 78-year-old left behind his wife, four daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

A namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque today, says a foreign ministry press release.

Expressing deep shock, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a message, recalled the invaluable contribution of Shehab, also a member of the Awami League sub-committee on foreign affairs, to the Liberation War. She conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

Then second secretary at the Pakistan high commission in New Delhi, Shehab and assistant press attaché Amzadul Haque severed the ties after the Mujibnagar government's formation on April 17.

Hailing from Chittagong, Shehab earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Dhaka University. Before joining the then Pakistan foreign service in the 1960s, he briefly taught at government colleges.

Shehab retired in 2001, having served as ambassador to the US, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, France, Spain, Unesco, World Tourism Organization, Kuwait, Yemen, Poland and Hungary and as deputy high commissioner to the UK.

Becoming a secretary to the government in 1993, he participated in many international conferences and UN General Assembly sessions.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Dr MA Wahed Sarker, father of journalist Sadequr Rahman.

On this occasion, his family has arranged a quarkhani, special prayers and feeding the orphans at Muradnagar in Comilla, Kanchpur in Narayanganj and Banasree in Dhaka.

Sarker was born at Hirapur village of Muradnagar upazila in Comilla on March 18, 1942.



PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Ayesha Khatun received an unexpected gift -- a pair of hilsas -- from local Awami League lawmaker Sanwar Hossain, second from right, yesterday, a day after The Daily Star published a photo of her on Pahela Baishakh. In her conversation with the photojournalist, the century-old woman had reminisced about the bygone days when a big hilsa would cost Tk 1 or Tk 2 but could not remember the last time she tasted the fish. Prompted by the photo, the lawmaker visited her house at Bil Nahali village of Tangail sadar upazila and also gave her Tk 1,000.

CELEBRATING LIFE CONTEST Star, SCB publish book of photos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star, and Standard Chartered Bank yesterday jointly launched a book of photos, containing award winning photographs and a CD with songs containing award winning lyrics of Celebrating Life contest.

"Celebrating Life" is a composite competition, inviting films, photographs and lyrics entries that showcase various aspects of life in Bangladesh since 2008 jointly organised by The Daily Star, and Standard Chartered Bank.

The photo book contains award winning photographs of the last two years while the CD contains a total of 80 songs based on the award winning lyrics of the competitions that had been held since 2008, said Rafi Hossain, festival director, Celebrating Life.

Among others, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Abrar Anwar and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam were present at the launching ceremony in a hotel of the capital.

Rajshahi MP 'threatens to get RU VC sacked'

Chemistry professor accused of assaulting university school's vice-principal for rebuking son caught smoking

RU CORRESPONDENT

Allegedly becoming irate on being asked to meet later, a Rajshahi lawmaker yesterday barged into the Rajshahi University (RU) vice chancellor's (VC) office, forcing postponement of a meeting, thumped a table and shouted expletives, threatening to get the latter sacked.

"I require no permission to enter the Prime Minister's Office and you deny me from entering your office! ...Now Awami League is in power...I will see how you remain in the VC post," the office sources, requesting anonymity, quoted Omar Faruque Chowdhury as saying.

The Rajshahi-1 (Tanore, Godagari) lawmaker, also the district Awami League presi-

dent, had first sought an audience over the phone around 1:00pm while VC Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin was holding the meeting, said the sources.

When the VC asked to meet him later, Omar initiated the abuses. Accompanied by three others, he barged inside 10 minutes later and left after threatening the VC, they added.

Pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan and Rajshahi University Teachers Association General Secretary Prof Rezaul Karim Badal were present, said the sources.

Denying the allegations, Omar told The Daily Star that he had gone there and only talked about lessening a fine the RU authorities imposed on a private medical college.

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Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, right, and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Abrar Anwar at a launch of a book of photos containing award winning photographs and a CD with songs containing award winning lyrics of Celebrating Life contest in Sonargaon Hotel of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

US expresses support for war crime trials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US supports bringing to justice those who committed atrocities in the 1971 Liberation War, recognising that it is an important process for Bangladesh to undertake, said US Department of State Acting Spokesperson Marie Harf.

Supporting the ongoing war crimes trials, Harf said Bangladesh has decisions to make on its own.

In reply to questions during a regular briefing at the State Department in Washington DC on Monday, Harf stressed further improvements to the International Crimes Tribunals' processes to meet domestic and international obligations.

NEWS IN brief

Sylhet DC's car chauffeur arrested with Phensedyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Rapid Action Battalion personnel held Sylhet Deputy Commissioner's chauffeur after recovering 375 bottles of Phensedyl from the government vehicle on Tuesday.

On information that the vehicle was being used to transport drugs, Rab personnel checked it around 8:30pm in Sylhet town's Shibganj, said Rab-9 Acting Commander Maj Humayun Kabir.

The chauffeur, Rumon Mia, confessed that he was involved with drug peddling for the last two years and that day he was going to Upashahar area from circuit house.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nurul Haque said departmental action is being taken against Rumon.

A case was filed against Rumon who later was handed over to Shah Paran police.

Five more Bangladeshis back home from Yemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Evacuated from war-torn Yemen on Tuesday morning, five more Bangladeshis returned home via Djibouti yesterday.

With this, 26 expatriates have been brought back to the country from Djibouti since rebels took over Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, last month.

Goutam Kumar Dey, assistant secretary of the foreign ministry, received the five Bangladeshis after they landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on an Indian Jet Airways flight around 12:15pm.

Lost BGB arms recovered from river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Fishermen yesterday netted a rifle and 100 bullets which a Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) member lost in the Padma river at Rajshahi's Bagha upazila on Tuesday evening.

A patrol boat of BGB with five members capsized in the river while chasing a boat of suspected smugglers. All of the five swam ashore but one lost his rifle and bullets in the river, said BGB officials.

Bring instructed by BGB members, Bablu Malitha, Sohan and Tara Mia made the recovery.

Lecture on sustainable dev, press freedom at DU today

CITY DESK

A lecture on "Sustainable development and press freedom: Context Bangladesh" will be delivered at 11:00am in RC Mojumder auditorium of Dhaka University today.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will preside over the lecture organised by Najmul Karim Study Centre.

AL, BNP still struggling for single

FROM PAGE 4

In a survey in 37 out of the total 41 wards, The Daily Star found that AL has single candidates only in four wards, while BNP has got 15 single candidates.

There are as many as seven candidates from the same party in one ward.

"...we are trying to have single candidates in the rest of the wards," Chittagong city BNP President Ameer Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

AL Chittagong south district President Moslem Uddin Ahmed said they were persuading some candidates to abandon campaigns and work for the mayor candidate.

In Jamal Khan area (Ward 21), three ruling party leaders are in the race. One of them, Bijay Kumar Chowdhury, said the party leaders had asked them to talk to each other. "I was interested to sit down with others but they were reluctant," he said.

His party rival Shaibal Das Suman, however, said he was asked to have discussion only two days ago. "But I was not in the city then... Moreover, I am at the peak of my campaign, and it is not possible to go silent now," he said. "If I do, it will hurt my image; People will think I took benefits from my rivals."

The third AL-affiliated candidate in the ward, MA Naser, said Bijay contacted him for discussion but he turned him down. "Why will I talk to him?... I'm well ahead of them," Naser said.

DNCC mayor aspirants

FROM PAGE 4

children and elderly people.

Promises also include better waste management and public transport services, reclamation of occupied footpaths, playgrounds, improvement of open spaces, safety for women, development of slum dwellers' living conditions, and inclusive welfare of people with disability.

Liberal democrat Zonayed Saki said he would fight environment pollution by introducing recycling of wastes and restrict private cars to make the mass transport system more functional.

He added that the city corporation had been reduced to a bureaucratic organisation due to what he termed a "constitutional dictatorship" making the prime minister all powerful.

Mahi B Chowdhury of Bikalpadhara Bangladesh said he would launch a youth-led campaign for change.

To BNP-blessed candidate Tabith Awal, a modern public transport system friendly to women, people with disability, and the elderly would be a top priority.

Moajjem Hossain Khan Majlish emphasised reclamation of parks, playgrounds and open spaces.

Another candidate, Nader Chowdhury, a TV actor, said he would raise public awareness against drug abuse among the youth and provide cultural and sports facilities for them.

The priorities of Anisuzzaman Khokon, who lived in New York for over past three decades, will include checking capricious hikes of house rents and freeing the city corporation from the central government's interference.

Sheikh Shahiduzzaman said, "I will provide each person with physical and mental disability an apartment, reclaiming government land."

AYM Quamrul Islam, Md Jaman, Kazi Md Shahidullah, Sheikh Md Fazle Bari Masud, and some other contenders made similar pledges. Awami League-backed candidate Annisul Huq was not present at the dialogue.

Decision on contempt charge against Jamaat

FROM PAGE 4

Besides, the tribunal sought by May 17 the investigation report, if any, over war crimes allegations against former BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Mawlana Sakhawat Hossain.

Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman submitted a report on the probe's progress and sought more time, stating that the investigation officer was unwell.

The tribunal also asked the prosecution to press formal charges on May 10 against five Kishoreganj war crimes suspects -- Nasir Uddin Ahmed, his brother Shamsuddin Ahmed, Gazi Abdul Mannan, Hafizuddin and Azharul Islam. Moreover, the prosecution began placing closing arguments in the case against fugitive war crimes accused Syed Hasan Ali, an alleged Kishoreganj Razakar commander.

Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal-2 expressed discontent over the prosecution's lack of preparation while the latter was placing closing arguments in the case against alleged Chapainawabganj Razakars Mahidur Rahman and Afsar Hossain Chutu.

CONTEMPT

The three-member tribunal yesterday heard arguments from the prosecution and defence over replies the six gave complying with a tribunal's order.

Moqbul Ahmed is the Jamaat acting ameer, Shafiqur Rahman acting secretary general and Mujibur Rahman nayebe-ameer while Abdul Jabbar and Atiqur Rahman are the Shibir president and secretary general respectively. Tajul Islam represented Jamaat leaders who faced war crimes charges at two tribunals.

The prosecution brought the con-

tempt charges on January 1 against the five Jamaat-Shibir leaders for calling hartal and statements following the death sentence awarded to Jamaat leader ATM Azharul Islam.

Charged with the same for "his indecent and unprofessional comments", Tajul had later apologised unconditionally.

MAHIDUR, AFSAR

Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman was placing arguments on the first charge but his lack of preparation was exposed when he failed to answer the judges' several queries.

The tribunal adjourned proceedings until Monday, asking the prosecutor to be properly prepared. The duo pleads innocence in the three charges, including mass killings, committed in Chapainawabganj.

Firoz promises day care centre in every DSCC ward

FROM PAGE 4

and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal yesterday announced his election manifesto with the promise to build a day care centre in every ward.

He also made a commitment to build a corruption free administration, save open spaces and water-bodies from illegal occupants, and control house rent.

In the manifesto "Shokoler Jonno

Bashjogyo Dhaka Andolon" (A movement for a livable Dhaka for all), he vowed to introduce affordable housing projects for slum dwellers and working class people.

Firoz, also a central leader of BSD with the symbol of a "Table", announced the manifesto through a press conference at CPB Paltan office. He said he would form a council of urban planners and eminent citizens to work as an adviser to the city

corporation and save the environment from pollution. Promising a "woman-friendly Dhaka", he said he would build public toilets and special transport for women.

Other pledges include easing traffic jam, solving waterlogging, stopping river pollution, and increasing the use of surface water to reduce ground water depletion.

TODAY is Manzur Anam's 1st Death Anniversary

All his friends, colleagues and well wishers are invited to join a remembrance meeting and Dua.

Today, 16 April, 2015
Time: 5:00 pm
Venue: Bengal Arts Precinct
The Daily Star Centre (Level-1)
64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka
Mahfuz Anam & Shaheen Anam