

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.4 L 25.4

CHITTAGONG H 33.8 L 25.0

SYLHET H 30.2 L 22.5

RAJSHAHI H 35.0 L 21.6

KHULNA H 35.2 L 25.0

BARISAL H 34.5 L 24.7

RANGPUR H 26.8 L 19.3

COX'S BAZAR H 34.0 L 25.8

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 05:33am. Country's highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Mongla and lowest 19.3 in Rangpur.

Remove DU proctor
Demands Chhatra Union DU CORRESPONDENT

Accusing the Dhaka University (DU) proctor of lying after failing in his duties centring the sexual assault on some 20 women at the Suhrawardy Udyan gate near Teacher-Student Centre during Pahela Baishakh celebrations, Bangladesh Chhatra Union yesterday demanded that he be removed.

Addressing a press conference at DU's Modhur Canteen, the leftist student organisation said AM Amzad lost the moral ground to continue being a DU teacher, a position revered as society's consciousness.

The organisation President Hasan Tareq, reading a written statement, said Amzad claimed in an April 16 talk show that there were neither eyewitnesses, except the organisation's DU unit President Liton Nondi, nor evidence in CCTV footage.

"This is completely false...Ekattor TV's video footage proves it," he said, adding that a DU student who happened to have taken photos stated on his own Facebook page that he had refrained from posting those as per the vice-chancellor's (VC) directives.

Talking to The Daily Star, both Amzad and VC AAMS Arefin Siddique outright rejected the allegations, with the latter finding it "a conspiracy" to destabilise DU.

"A student showed me some pictures...I told him to reveal the photos wherever he liked...The photos that I saw have already been published in the media....After investigation the truth will be revealed," he added.

Pro-VC Nasrin Ahmed, heading a five-member investigation team, said they were yet to start inquiries for it being a weekend. "No one gave us any kind of evidence yet," she added.



The Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal backed Dhaka South City Corporation mayoral candidate Bazlur Rashid Firoz addresses a sit-in at the capital's Bailey Road yesterday after the procession he and another CPB-BSD supported candidate in the north Al Kafee Ratan brought out heading towards the police commissioner's office was obstructed by law enforcers. The procession was in protest of the sexual assault on some 20 women and the beating up of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Dhaka University unit President Liton Nandi who tried resisting the attackers at the Suhrawardy Udyan gate near DU Teacher-Student Centre during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14.

PHOTO: STAR

HARASSMENT OF ADIVASI WOMAN
JU teachers, students demand exemplary punishment

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) teachers and students yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for perpetrators who sexually assaulted a female indigenous student, beat up her male friend and snatched their belongings on the campus during Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

They also sought resignation of Proctor Prof Tapan Kumar Saha for failing to take punitive measures against Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men who assaulted visitors in the past. The protestors also provided a memorandum to the vice chancellor.

The demands came at a human chain and rally under the banner "Shikkhak-Shikkharti Oikya Mancha", convened by Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain of government and politics, in front of the central library.

Some 22 students' social and cultural associations expressed solidarity.

The JU authorities have suspended eight students and JU BCL unit five activists while an investigation has been initiated under an "Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell" of JU.

TEESTA WATER SHARING DISPUTE

Take it up with UN

Water, environ experts demand at South Asia Youth Peace and Prosperity Society roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is unlikely that the dispute over sharing Teesta's water can be solved through bilateral negotiations with India and regional approaches and so should be taken up with the United Nations, demanded water and environment experts yesterday.

"We appeal to the government to go to the UN Sixth Committee (the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly) for solving our water problems with India," said Dr SI Khan.

The maritime boundary disputes with India and Myanmar were solved only after Bangladesh took it up at the international level. River issues will also find solutions in the same manner, added the former water and environment expert at the UN.

India has been withdrawing water upstream from most of the 54 international rivers, including the Teesta, but Bangladesh has been negligent in presenting internationally the massive damages this has caused, said the experts.

An International Farakka Committee (IFC) estimate says that the Farakka barrage on the Ganges and Gazaldoba barrage on the Teesta results in damages in Bangladesh amounting to Tk 30,000 crore a year.

Following the Farakka barrage's construction, salinity in Bangladesh's southwest has increased 100 fold while water scarcity during the dry season is immensely

affecting fishing and agriculture in vast parts of the north, said IFC Bangladesh President Prof Jasimuddin Ahmed.

If this continues, the Sundarbans also cannot be saved, he told a roundtable, "Teesta water issue: will it be ever resolved?" organised by the South Asia Youth Peace and Prosperity Society in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Engineer Enamul Hoque, former director general of Water Resources Planning Organization, said, "We need to make the world know of the consequences of these barrages and claim compensation."

Bangladesh's waterways have been reduced to only 2,000 kilometres from 24,000 kilometres, experts said.

"If the rivers are not protected, Bangladesh cannot be saved," said Dr Jasimuddin, former Jahangirnagar University vice-chancellor.

Following a long wait, Bangladesh and India were scheduled to sign a Teesta water sharing deal during the then Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in September 2011.

However, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's last minute opposition halted the attempt.

Bangladesh Water Partnership President Prof Shahidul Hasan and political scientist Prof Dilara Chowdhury also addressed the roundtable, moderated by journalist Mostafa Kamal Mozumder.

Stop tobacco farming on paddy

FROM PAGE 3

upon the media to refrain from projecting any tobacco-consuming characters in drama as well as movie.

Other participants emphasised proper enforcement of tobacco control laws so that an environment is created where people would refrain from smoking in public and non-smokers also get relief from the health hazards caused by "passive smoking".

Moderated by Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Kaiyum, the roundtable was also addressed, among others, by Amin Ul Islam of National Tobacco Control Cell, law ministry Joint Secretary Mostafizur Rahman, Iqbal Masud of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed, Dr Mekhala Sarkar and ATN Bangla News Editor Shahnaz Munni.

Most CCC

FROM PAGE 3

Expressing fears that violence may occur on polling day its Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said, "The Election Commission should deploy army if it feels that is necessary." After the last upazila polls, the EC said it would not take responsibilities for the violence, but it is the EC's duty to ensure peace so that voters can reach the polling centres safely and cast ballots without fear, he added.

NEWS IN brief

Environmental sciences dept boycotts classes at JU
JU CORRESPONDENT

The environmental sciences department of Jahangirnagar University boycotted classes and staged a sit-in on the campus yesterday demanding that their academic activities be transferred to a new building.

The department was supposed to move to that building a year ago, said speakers at the programme.

They threatened to continue the sit-in till tomorrow and observe a hunger strike from Tuesday if the demand is not met.

28 BNP-Jamaat-Shibir men arrested in Ctg
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police in an overnight drive arrested 28 BNP-Jamaat-Shibir men in Sitakunda and Lohagara upazilas in Chittagong over violence during blockade and hartals.

Of the arrestees, three BNP activists Saiful Islam, Abdulla Noman and Selim Mia were arrested in Sitakunda upazila, said police.

In Lohagara, 15 Jamaat and 10 Shibir men were arrested, said Lohagara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shahjahan.

20 more Bangladeshis to get Russian scholarships to study nuclear energy
CITY DESK

Twenty more Bangladeshi students will get scholarships this year to study nuclear energy at under-graduate and post-graduate levels in different academic facilities in Russia, which are members of Rosatom's consortium of core higher educational institutions.

A total of 163 aspirants took a test in the capital recently for the scholarships. Experts from National Research Nuclear University in Moscow, a partner university of Rosatom, will evaluate the answer scripts.

Govt formed in Mujibnagar

FROM PAGE 3

weekly Bichitra in 1974 titled "Ekta Jati Janmo" (The birth of a nation) wrote "Bangabandhu's speech on March 7 was the green signal for us", he added.

Architect Mobasher Hossain said Bangabandhu voiced two things in his March 7 speech -- the "struggle is for freedom and independence".

He added, "We fought for independence in 1971 against the known enemy but now the new generation is fighting for emancipation against an unknown foe, which is really tough."

Prof Abul Kalam Azad Patwari, president of SCF's Dhaka Divisional Committee, which organised the discussion marking the formation of the Mujibnagar government, Mahbub Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram, and Justice Mamtaz Uddin Ahmad were also present.

Quality of education must

FROM PAGE 4

British High Commissioner Robert W Gibson, agreeing with other speakers that education is not about gaining certificates of public examinations, said, "Education is about learning how to live, learning how to think."

Sheepa Hafiza, director, gender, justice and diversity, Brac migration programme, stressed the need for addressing the early marriage issue.

She called upon everyone to resist the government's proposed plan to lower the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 16 years.

Nazinur Rahim, director, Painted Children, also spoke.

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আন্তঃবাহিনী জনসংযোগ পরিদপ্তরের জন্য ডায়েরী, ষ্ট্রদ কার্ড ও গুডেচ্ছা কার্ড মুদ্রণের জন্য সরবরাহকারী এবং ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের সিডিউল ১৫০/- টাকার বিনিময়ে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ০৭ মে ২০১৫ইং পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পাওয়া যাবে।

উল্লিখিত কাজের নমুনা যে কোন কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পরিদপ্তরে দেখা যাবে। দরপত্র আগামী ১০ মে ২০১৫ বেলা ১২ ঘটিকার মধ্যে পরিদপ্তরের টেন্ডার বাক্সে পরিচালক, আন্তঃবাহিনী জনসংযোগ পরিদপ্তর, পুরাতন সদর দপ্তর লগ এরিয়া ভবন, ২য় তলা, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা বরাবরে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ একই দিন বেলা ১২টা ০১ মিনিটে উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল অনুযায়ী ডায়েরী, ষ্ট্রদ কার্ড ও গুডেচ্ছা কার্ড এর দর আলাদা আলাদাভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ না দেখিয়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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Global Reach: dhaka@globalreachonline.com | +88 02 9885 846

UNSW Regional Manager - South Asia
Ashok Mathews: a.mathews@unsw.edu.au | +91 9902911151

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