

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 30.8 | L 20.1

CHITTAGONG
H 33.0 | L 21.5

SYLHET
H 25.1 | L 18.5

RAJSHAHI
H 32.0 | L 21.3

KHULNA
H 36.0 | L 26.8

BARISAL
H 32.5 | L 24.5

RANGPUR
H 25.2 | L 19.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.5 | L 27.8

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 05:32am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 18.1 in Sreemangal.

Khaleda's adviser Dudu seeks bail again
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamsuzzaman Dudu, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, yesterday filed four petitions with the High Court, seeking bail in separate vandalism and arson cases.

The four cases were filed on November 5 last year and January 5, 8 and 10 this year for vandalising passenger vehicles and hurling petrol bombs at those during agitation programmes enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Shamsuzzaman's lawyer said the cases were filed to politically harass his client.

Police picked up Shamsuzzaman, also secretary of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, from Mirpur-2 on January 10.

KHALEDA'S GRAFT CASES HC starts hearing four petitions
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting an adjournment prayer, the High Court yesterday started hearing four separate seven-year-old petitions of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of three corruption cases against her.

Khaleda filed the petitions on different dates in 2008 challenging the legality of the proceedings of Barapukuria coalmine, Gatco and Niko corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Nuruzzaman and Justice Zafar Ahmed adjourned the hearing of the petitions till 2:00pm on Wednesday, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, the bench rejected a prayer moved by Nazmul Huda, a lawyer for Khaleda, for adjourning the hearing of the petitions till May 20.

But, the bench rejected the adjournment prayer and asked the petitioner's counsels to place arguments on the petitions.

On April 7, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha assigned the bench led by Justice Nuruzzaman to deal with the petitions.

Earlier on April 5, another bench of Justice Md Moinul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan sent all her four petitions to the CJ due to "unprofessional and unethical conduct of the lawyers for the petitioner (Khaleda)".

Road crashes kill 2, hurt 2
CITY DESK

Two people died and two others were injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday and Saturday.

In Noakhali, Md Faruk, 25, of Kamdepur village died when a covered-van hit his bicycle on Majidee-Chaumuhani road at Eklashpur Bazar of Begamganj upazila yesterday.

In Pabna, Khokon Hossain, 40, of Pabna Sadar died and his two co-riders were injured when a truck rammied into his motorcycle in Gaspara area of the upazila on Saturday.

Bangladesh-US talks on April 29
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The two-day fourth Bangladesh-US Partnership Dialogue will begin in Dhaka on April 29, focusing on the expansion of security, trade and development ties between the two countries.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the US Wendy R Sherman will lead the US delegation at the meet, diplomatic sources said.

She is expected to arrive in Dhaka on April 28 and hold discussion with her Bangladesh counterpart Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque.



Students and teachers of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University gather in front of its building yesterday on the fifth day of protest against mass molestation of females at Suhrawardy Udyan on Pahela Baishakh.

PHOTO: STAR

MASS MOLESTATION OF FEMALES ON PAHELA BAISHAKH
Protests resound in capital five days into incident without any arrest

Fine arts students kept at bay as they try to enter Shahbagh Police Station to condemn cop nonchalance; Gowher Rizvi claims govt will spare none

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital saw a plethora of protests for the fifth day yesterday against Pahela Baishakh's mass molestation of women at Suhrawardy Udyan but a group of Dhaka University's fine arts students was denied entrance to Shahbagh Police Station when they tried to protest on the premises against "the cops' gross negligence in duty on the day of the incident".

Addressing the on-duty policemen from outside the locked gate, the students threatened to wage tough movement if the sexual offenders are not brought to book within 24 hours.

"How could the criminals assault women for over an hour in front of you? Have you been wearing blinders?" Jayatu Jahan, an MA student, asked the policemen standing inside the gate.

"How long does it take you to understand that women were being assaulted?" asked another student Zarin Tasnim.

Asking the students to be patient, Officer-in-Charge Sirajul Islam replied that a high powered probe committee is working on the case.

The students and teachers of the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) also formed a human chain on its premises demanding immediate arrest of the assaulters.

Noted cartoonist Prof Shishir Bhattacharya and FFA Dean Prof Nissar Hossain drew large caricatures of sex offenders on the road which the students later completed.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi said the government will bring the perpetrators to book. It may take some time to complete the legal proceeding including the investigation but the government will not spare anyone involved in the incident, he said at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap in the capital yesterday.

Inam Ahmed Choudhury, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said such incidents recur as the perpetrators go untried. He also blamed moral degradation for such incidents.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said the comments of law enforcing agencies put

her in doubt whether the perpetrators would really be brought to book.

Meanwhile, quoting media reports, DU teachers, in a press statement, said it was an organised group that tried to sexually assault women in the presence of police. It is shameful for the whole nation that any of the criminal is yet to be arrested, added the release signed by over 50 teachers.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation also brought out separate processions and staged rallies on the DU campus.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation also demanded resignation of DU Proctor AM Amzad, blaming him for his inaction in taking any step to nab the perpetrators.

During the joyous celebration of Pahela Baishakh, some 30 to 40 rowdy youths assaulted and sexually harassed around 20 women for about one hour at the Suhrawardy Udyan gate near the TSC area around 6:00pm on Tuesday, said witnesses.

The CCTV footage of that day also clearly showed multiple incidents of sexual assault on women.



People from all walks of life form a human chain at Savar Bus Stand yesterday as a show of protest against the incident of sexual harassment of more than 20 females on Pahela Baishakh.

PHOTO: STAR

Marriage registration eradicates social

FROM PAGE 4

successfully by different NGOs in the riverine char islands of ten northwestern riverine districts to achieve the goals.

He said more than 5.17 lakh people were being benefited now under the CLP phase-I during 2004-2010 and phase-II during 2010-2016 periods to improve livelihoods as well as life standards.

The things are changing fast following socioeconomic development in recent years helping the char people to overcome curses like child marriage, dowry and polygamy and arranging marriage of their children now with proper registration, he said.

Head of Programme Coordination Monjusree Saha of RDRS Bangladesh said the char people lived in utter poverty for decades, but they were now achieving socioeconomic uplift and eradicating social curses to lead meaningful life.

Couples -- Ramjan Ali, 77, and Ayesha, 65; Abul Hossain, 67, and Feroza, 56; and Majibar Rahman, 66, and Khatun, 57 -- of Khamar Banspatari char village in Chilmari upazila of Kurigram registered marriage at a ceremony after many years of wedding.

Like them four other couples said they felt themselves as worthy citizens by registering their marriage even after 10 to 22 years of wedding.

"Now, we understand about a better future, but earlier not," they said and vowed to stop marriage with dowry, child marriage or marriage without registration in building a happy and prosperous society through ensuring planned families.

Similarly, 15 couples registered their marriages at another recent ceremony in remote Arazi Kanua char village in Kawnia upazila of Rangpur after 20 to 35 years of beginning conjugal life.

Chairman of local Tepamadhupur union under Kawnia upazila Alim Uddin in the ceremony said the example had created positive impact among the char people.

Manjur's camp files complaints with RO against Nasir

FROM PAGE 3

including a road tunnel under the Karnaphuli river and turning the Dhaka-Chittagong highway into a four-lane one.

The minister at an April 17 programme also opposed army deployment, stated the complaint signed by Advocate SUM Nurul Islam, member secretary of the pro-BNP

professionals' platform backing mayor candidate M Manjur Alam.

It also stated that doctors, teachers, students and staff of government-run Chittagong Medical College Hospital attended a views-exchange meeting on April 16 in support of Nasir.

The son was fined Tk 3,000 for pasting posters on his car supporting Nasir while Rabeya Basri Bakul's (Re-

served 13) megaphone was seized.

Md Ershad Mamun (Ward 9), Roful Haider Chowdhury (Ward 7), Mohammad Toyab (Ward 18), Md Jahurul Alam Jashim (Ward 9), SM Iqbal Hossain (Ward 7), Jesmin Sultana Jesi (Reserved 3) were each fined Tk 5,000 and Mohammad Mohsin (Ward 8) and Md Mobarak Ali (Ward 7) each Tk 3,000.

NEWS IN brief

Cuta condemns Pahela Baishakh's mass molestation on DU campus
CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University Teachers Association (Cuta) yesterday protested the mass molestation of women during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on Dhaka University campus last week.

Cuta leaders also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the perpetrators, said a press release.

Earlier on Tuesday, some 30 to 40 youths sexually assaulted more than 20 females at Suhrawardy Udyan gate near TSC area in the evening.

Gazipur robbers stab 3 of a family, loot 2 houses
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Robbers stabbed three members of a family and looted two houses in Tepirbari area of Sreepur upazila in Gazipur yesterday.

The injured are Monjurul Haque, 60, a businessman, his wife Fajila Begum, 50 and son Monir Hossain, 30.

Monjurul said a gang of 12 robbers stormed into his house around 1:00am and looted valuables. They stabbed the house members as they tried to resist them.

Later, the criminals looted another businessman Shamsul Haque's house.

'Robber' killed in mob beating
OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An alleged robber was killed in a mob beating in Brahmandee union of Araihaazar upazila of Narayanganj on Saturday night.

Locals caught Rubel, 25, of the area, while a gang of robbers was trying to rob the passersby on Madanpur-Narsingdi road around 11:00pm, police said.

However, Rubel's father said he was going to join a mahfil in Noanda village.

Meanwhile, in Savar, an alleged cow lifter, injured in a mob beating in Char Shyamnagar village of Manikganj on Saturday, died at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar yesterday.

The deceased was Abul Kalam Azad, 25.

AIUB VC gives speech at Philippines embassy on women's empowerment
CITY DESK

The Philippines Embassy in Bangladesh celebrated the International Women Month 2015 in its function room on Friday in Dhaka to pay tribute to all women of the world.

Dr Carmen Z Lamagna, vice chancellor of American International University Bangladesh (AIUB), was the guest of honour at the programme. She is the first female VC of the university.

Philippines Ambassador Vicente Vivencio Bandillo was present among others.



Kazi Farms Group accuses workers

FROM PAGE 4

demanding recruitment of more employees, Tk 200 "extortion" for each truck carrying feed and termination of workers from outside Thakurgaon.

Joynuddin, convener of the committee, told The Daily Star over the phone that "We never asked for or took any extortion from the company. We only placed a three-point

demand, which are reinstatement of sacked workers, stopping transfer of our drivers to other districts and recruitment of more workers from Thakurgaon."

The company boss also alleged that local police refused to record any case or even lodge a general diary in this regard rather advised them to settle the matter after negotiating with the agitators.

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