

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.8 | L 23.5

CHITTAGONG
H 33.3 | L 25.5

SYLHET
H 34.5 | L 20.5

RAJSHAHI
H 37.5 | L 22.2

KHULNA
H 34.8 | L 22.6

BARISAL
H 35.2 | L 24.4

RANGPUR
H 34.2 | L 22.6

COX'S BAZAR
H 34.0 | L 26.0

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29pm and rises tomorrow at 05:21am. Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

PAHELA BAISHAKH'S MASS MOLESTATION OF FEMALES DU VC, admin, cops protecting molesters

Alleges Prof Anu Muhammad from protest rally on campus organised by Bangladesh Chhatra Union

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's vice chancellor and its administration and police are trying to save the perpetrators of mass molestation of females during Pahela Baishakh celebrations, alleged Prof Anu Muhammad of the economics department of Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Initially the DU VC denied that any such incident even occurred. Then, he denied involvement of any DU students in the incident, he said, adding, "Actually they know the identity of the perpetrators and thereby want to save the culprits."

The culprits have political power and this is the reason behind not bringing them to book, said Anu at a student rally organised by Bangladesh Chhatra

Union near TSC on the campus.

Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman said guardians may impose restrictions on free movement of females after such harassment, which will be a disaster for women. So, exemplary punishment for the sexual offenders is needed to be executed immediately, he added.

Besides, Bangladesh Chhatra Union pressed home their six-point demand including resignation of the university's proctor and proper investigation and punishment for the on-duty policemen for their failure to ensure safety and security of women.

Some 30 to 40 rowdy youths assaulted and sexually harassed around 20 women for about an hour at the Suhrawardy Udyan gate near the TSC on that day.



Protesters join a rally of Bangladesh Chhatra Union near TSC of Dhaka University yesterday with a six-point demand including resignation of the proctor and punishment for the cops who did not take action to stop the youths who were molesting females for an hour during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations near the Suhrawardy Udyan gate.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

NEWS IN brief

BRUR admission test begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The rescheduled admission tests for the first year honours programmes under 2014-15 session at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) will begin today.

The test under A-unit will be held at 9:30am, under B-unit at 12:30pm and under C-unit at 3:30pm.

Tomorrow, the test under D-unit will be held at 9:30am, under E-unit at 12:30pm and under F-unit at 3:30pm.

More details are available on the BRUR website: www.admission2014.brur.ac.bd.

23,300 Yaba seized, 1 held in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 23,300 Yaba tablets and arrested a person with Tk 86,700 from Bhuraghat area of Rangpur city on Sunday night.

Tipped-off, Rab members arrested Aminul Islam, 27, from his house and seized the Yaba tablets, said Rab officials in a press briefing yesterday at Rab-13 Rangpur office.

Aminul is involved with drug peddling in the area for a long time, they added.

Road crashes kill 3, injure 3

CITY DESK

Two people were killed and three others injured when a bus rammed into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw near Ibrahimabad at Bangabandhu Bridge's east end in Bhuapur upazila of Tangail yesterday.

The deceased were Mominul Islam, 27, a lance corporal of 36-Bengal Regiment of Bangabandhu Cantonment, and Obaidul Miah, 35, of Kusha Benu village.

In Mymensingh, Md Alimuddin, 70, of Poyerkandi was killed when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw ran him over on Mymensingh-Tangail road in Natun Bazar area of Muktagachha upazila on Sunday.

Woman's body found in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman, aged around 32, from the forest garden in Kholapara area of Gazipur city yesterday.

The woman was pregnant, said police, adding that she might have been strangled by miscreants elsewhere and dumped here at night.

A towel was wrapped around her neck, said police. The body was sent to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Cabinet okays draft of deal on coastal shipping with India

Also draft bill for setting up Rooppur nuclear power plant

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft agreement, a draft bill, and a proposal involving coastal shipping between Bangladesh and India and installation of Rooppur nuclear power plant in Pabna.

Implementation of the agreement on coastal shipping will save time and cost of transportation of cargo through sea and river routes between the two neighbours, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after the cabinet meeting at the Secretariat.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was in the chair.

The agreement, which was formally initiated by the two sides on April 20, will be signed during the upcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh.

The cabinet secretary said, "Once the agreement is signed, both countries will be benefited, as there'll be increased economic cooperation and connectivity."

Currently, both Bangladesh and India have to transport goods between them via Colombo or Singapore but the agreement will facilitate cargo vessels of both countries to travel directly to the ports of each other.

Bhuiyan said a Bangladeshi cargo ship would need four to five days to

reach India instead of two to three weeks, the current travel time.

However, war ships, and vessels of research, scientific or oceanographic, and of paramilitary forces will remain outside the purview of the agreement.

For its implementation, a standard operating procedure (SOP) is being prepared, he said.

The secretary said initially the tenure of the agreement would be five years with provisions of automatic renewal but both sides could terminate it through a six months' prior notice.

A joint commission will review the agreement from time to time, he added.

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Stop earth filling in Gumti river: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop the earth filling and dam construction across the Gumti river at Muradnagar upazila in Comilla within 24 hours.

Responding to a writ petition filed yesterday, the court also asked the authorities concerned to submit a report before it in seven days after complying with the order.

The HC also asked the local administration to file a case in three days against those responsible for such activities, and submit a report by May 25 on compliance.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain in four weeks why the local administration's inaction in stopping the dam construction and earth filling should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to the ministries of water resources, and environment and forest, directors general of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Department of Environment, WAPDA's executive engineer, deputy commissioner of Comilla and officer-in-charge of Muradnagar Police Station have been made the respondents.

Three locals of Muradnagar filed the writ petition.

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Midwifery can prevent maternal death

Speakers tell event organised on int'l midwife day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring women's access to midwifery and family planning will avert several thousand maternal deaths every year in Bangladesh, said speakers at a press event yesterday.

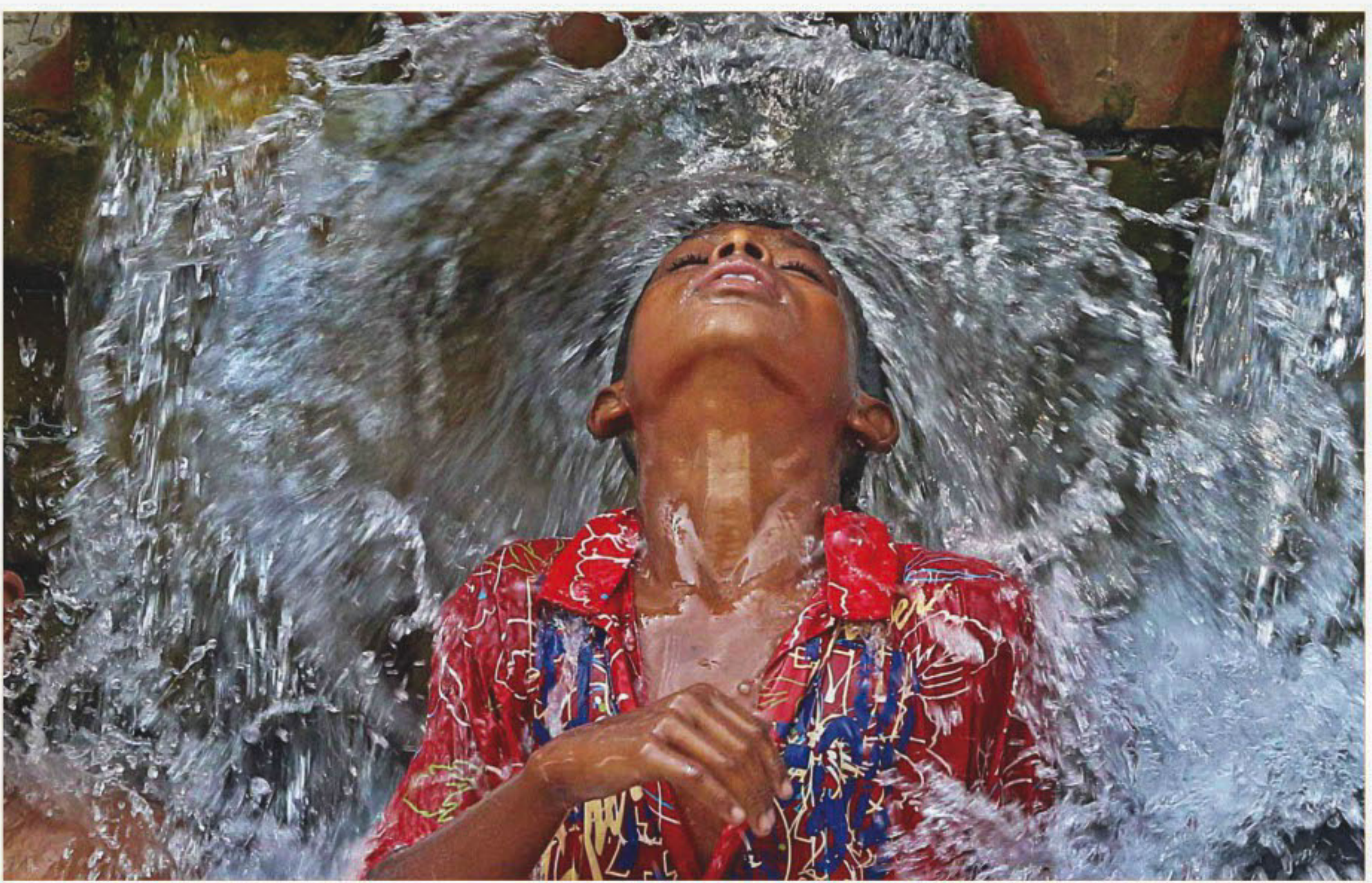
Over 7,300 women die annually because of complications during pregnancy, delivery and after the child is born, they said, adding that 87 percent of these deaths can be reduced with midwifery and family planning services.

The event was organised by the Swedish embassy and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the occasion of International Day of the Midwife, observed today, at a hotel in the capital.

"There is a critical shortage of educated and skilled midwives in Bangladesh," said Swedish Ambassador Johan Frisell.

Investing in midwifery is not only economically sound and life-saving, it transforms societies and promotes women's rights and gender equality, he said.

State Minister for Health Zahid Malik said midwifery is also a key to reducing infant mortality. He declared training and employing 3,000 midwives by the end of this year, as per Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's plan.



A child cools off in the sweltering heat under a pump replenishing Crescent Lake in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



A police officer detains a woman who bought the day-old baby in her arms from his mother for Tk 20,000 in Paltan of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Police recover day-old baby sold by mother

Arrest buyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day-old baby, reportedly sold by the mother, was recovered by police from a bus in the capital's Paltan yesterday.

Guljan alias Gola, 50, was carrying the infant in a local bus when another woman became suspicious of Gola's relationship with the baby.

When Gola could not give satisfactory answers to her questions, other passengers began beating her up and got her off the bus in Paltan when police intervened, said Sub-Inspector of Paltan Police Station Monibur Rahman.

"On primary interrogation, she told us that she got the baby from the mother in Dhalpur slum

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HEFAJAT'S MAY 5 VIOLENCE

Two years on, cops still investigating

None of 42 cases in Dhaka sees completion of probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the last two years, police could not complete investigation of any of the 42 cases over Hefajat-e-Islam's May 5 violence in the capital's Motijheel and nearby areas in 2013, which left 13 people dead.

More than 50,000 leaders and activists of Hefajat, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Islami Chhatra Shibir were accused in those cases filed with different police stations, mostly Paltan and Motijheel, of the city.

In addition, 17,000 more Hefajat, Jamaat-Shibir men were sued in Bagerhat and Chittagong in connection with subsequent violence on May 6. These cases are also facing the same fate.

Police, government officials, relatives of victims, Islamist leaders, businessmen, shop owners, employees of different establishments and political parties filed the cases.

The leaders and activists of Hefajat, a

qawmi madrasa based platform, created the mayhem setting fire to hundreds of shops, police outposts, and business establishments.

They were gathered at Shapla Chattar with a 13-point charter of demands including enactment of a blasphemy law.

Police could not specify how long it may take to complete the investigation and file charges in any of the cases. Seven were murder cases.

Spokesperson of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam told reporters at his office yesterday that the cases were under investigation.

"Identification of the accused in the cases is being delayed, as their number is huge and many gathered in the capital on that day from different parts of the country," he said.

He claimed that although they were able to identify the planners, financiers and

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