

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'SBAZAR
	H 36.4 L 27.8	H 33.8 L 27.0	H 32.3 L 22.0	H 36.7 L 23.9	H 37.5 L 27.4	H 36.2 L 27.2	H 35.0 L 24.3	H 34.5 L 27.5

Day and night temperatures may rise over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 05:16am. Country's highest temperature 38.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Satkhira and lowest 22.0 in Sylhet.

ROW OVER NEW JU BUILDING HEATS UP

Environ sciences dept seizes floor

CSE, geology depts stage sit-in before VC office in protest

JU CORRESPONDENT

The environmental sciences department of Jahangirnagar University yesterday morning occupied the second floor of a building, a move they have been demanding for the last one and a half months, while two other departments retaliated by observing a sit-in before the vice chancellor's office, denying the VC entrance to it.

Early morning around 4:30am, teachers and students of the environmental sciences department unlocked the classrooms on the second floor and resumed academic activities after 37 days. The department had been demonstrating since the beginning of April demanding the authorities transfer them to the building.

However, they faced obstacles in two other departments - computer science and engineering and geological sciences - already housed in the building. According to them, the building is not big enough for all three departments.

The two departments around 11:00am yesterday blocked the entrance to the office of VC Prof Farzana Islam, denying her entrance to the office in protest.

After Prof Farzana left, the demonstrators staged a sit-in before their building demanding the environmental

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Sammilito Sangskritik, Samajik, Swechhchasebi and Krira Jote brings out a procession at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) yesterday, demanding punishment for the murderers of blogger Ananta Bijoy Das, a former student of social work of the university. He was hacked to death by unidentified assailants near his house in Sylhet city on May 12.

PHOTO: STAR

MOLESTATION AT DU

IGP's remarks detestable, irresponsible

Sultana Kamal tells Chhatra Union protest rally

DU CORRESPONDENT

Former caretaker government adviser Sultana Kamal yesterday criticised Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque's comments on the Pahela Baishakh molestation as "detestable" and "irresponsible" and demanded his resignation for failure to arrest the molesters.

Talking to journalists on Tuesday, the police chief referred to the April 14 sexual assault as "three or four boys making mischief".

She said police failed to ensure security of women during Pahela Baishakh celebrations, so there was no need of the force which was run by taxes of people.

The executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra was addressing a protest

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Bandarban deserves special budgetary allocation

Experts recommend at Unnayan Samunnay workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special budgetary allocation should be made for Bandarban, the most poverty stricken area of the country, which is lagging behind in all development indexes including health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation, and poverty, experts said yesterday.

Though two districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Khagrachhari and Bandarban, show improvement in health and education, many indigenous children are still deprived of education due to the problem of communication, they said.

The experts were addressing a workshop on "National Budget 2014-15: Perspective Chittagong Hill Tracts" in Unnayan Samunnay auditorium of the capital.

The observation and recommendation were made in a concept paper jointly authored by budget analyst Dr Mahfuz Kabir, gender expert Dr Pratima Paal Majumder, former secretary ASM Nasir Uddin, and two others.

Presenting the paper, Dr Mahfuz identified drinking water and sanitation as the two main problems in the CHT region and said an organisation had been working on the problem of

potable water, but none was taking care of the sanitation issue.

The experts also demanded special allocations in the budget for the local government agencies of CHT and recommended opening of branches of private banks in the region.

It seems the private banks think they would not profit from branches in CHT, they said in the paper, adding that banking facilities would create opportunities for the indigenous people.

Unnayan Samunnay organised the workshop with support from Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility project of UNDP.

DSCC starts drive against illegal parking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday started a drive against illegal parking.

On the first day, it cleared the street in front of City Centre at Matijheel and fined four individuals Tk 4,000 in total for parking cars there.

Executive Magistrate Mamunur Rashid said they found the four cars parked on the street although there was a parking facility inside the centre.

Mamun said such drives would be continued.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon was present during the drive.

BERGMAN VERDICT CRITICS' TRIAL FFs, campaigners for war crime trials among accused

Argues a defence lawyer; court fixes June 10 to pass final order; one accused says there are discrepancies between English, Bangla versions of statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lawyer representing two of the 50 eminent citizens who expressed concern in a statement over Dhaka-based British journalist David Bergman's sentence for contempt of court yesterday raised strong objection to a part of a prosecution submission.

The prosecution had argued that the statement of the accused "serves the interest of the unholy organised domestic and international quarters involved in baseless criticism of the tribunal's proceedings and law".

The defence yesterday rebutted saying, the prosecution should have taken into consideration, before bringing the "baseless allegation", the fact that there were freedom fighters and campaigners for war crimes trial among the signatories, who were dignified people in the society.

Hearing submissions from the prosecution and defence counsels and three of the accused, International Crimes Tribunal-2 fixed June 10 to pass the final order on the contempt of court proceedings it initiated against 23 of the 50 on April 1. Meanwhile, one of the accused admitted that there might have been some discrepancies between the Bangla and English versions of the statement due to incorrect translation and that there were some lack of

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MANZUR MURDER CASE

CID again gets time for probing Ershad

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) three more months to complete further probe into the murder of the then Major General Abul Manzur in 1981.

Judge SM Saiful Islam of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court asked the CID to complete the probe by August 13.

The then chief of army staff HM Ershad, also now Jatiya Party chief and a special envoy to the prime minister, has been made main accused in the charge sheet of the case.

The court passed the order after CID Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akond, also the investigation officer, submitted a petition seeking more time for further investigation. Akond sought extension of time in the case for the seventh time.

In his petition, Akond said he visited the USA in

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The footpaths of Chittagong city have been a haven for hawkers, while pedestrians share the street with speeding vehicles risking their lives. The photo was taken Tuesday at GEC intersection, one of the major traffic hubs that have met the same fate.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BTRC may monitor int'l call traffic: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court upheld the decision of Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to monitor international call traffic.

The court summarily rejected a writ petition filed challenging the legality of the BTRC's decision.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam passed the rejection order after hearing arguments on the petition.

BTRC's lawyer Khandaker Reza-E-Raquib told The Daily Star that BTRC could monitor the call traffic.

International gateway operators -- DBL Telecom,

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Hawkers push pedestrians off footpaths in Ctg city

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

Almost all the footpaths along major thoroughfares in Chittagong city have been grabbed by hawkers, causing immense sufferings to pedestrians and creating crippling traffic congestion every day.

Several hundred illegal makeshift shops reduced the width of the footpaths to half at the intersections -- GEC, Agrabad, New Market, No-2 Gate, EPZ, and Bandartila -- which are frequented by people.

Besides, roadside shopping gobbles up the remaining space of the footpaths, forcing pedestrians to walk on the roads risking their lives.

Jobair Hossain, a seventh-grader at Ispahani Public School, said he has to walk on the road while going to school because of the occupied footpath at GEC intersection.

Over 50 makeshift stalls have been built on the footpath from GEC intersection to MES College. Even after being evicted by the authorities concerned several times, the vendors have set up the structures again, said locals.

The same scenario exists in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (EPZ) area. Several pedestrians of the area expressed frustration over the sufferings and blamed the law enforcers for their indifference to the

situation.

"We have to risk our lives every day as the footpaths remain occupied by hawkers. It seems there is no authority to protect the rights of pedestrians," said Jalal Uddin, a garment worker.

When garment factories open and close in the area, the roads get swarmed with pedestrians walking on the road and thus leading to hours of horrendous traffic congestion, alleged several drivers using GEC intersection.

In a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found hundreds of illegal shops erected on the footpaths from Navy area to Bandartila intersection, which are being run in connivance with law enforcers and locally influential people.

Hawkers claimed they have to pay a total of Tk 10,000 to Tk 20,000 to set up a shop occupying a space on the footpath. Then each of them pays a monthly charge of Tk 900 for lighting and Tk 250 for "managing" influential locals and law enforcers.

Abdul Alim Molla, who collects the money from hawkers in EPZ area, said they have a committee backed by influential political leaders who oversee that no eviction drive takes place. However, he declined

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