

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.4 L 24.0	H 35.0 L 28.0	H 33.0 L 24.0	H 34.3 L 23.4	H 34.7 L 23.5	H 34.0 L 24.0	H 30.8 L 25.8	H 34.8 L 27.5

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:35pm and rises tomorrow at 05:15am. Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Patakhali and Sandwip and lowest 22.4 in Madaripur and Sreemangal.

Police informer hacked to death

He was also a Jubo League leader's aide; cops suspect rival group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A police informer and bodyguard of a Jubo League leader was hacked to death in the capital's Madhya Badda yesterday, said police.

Dulal Hossain, 32, also a vegetable trader, was attacked by some unknown persons while he was parking his motorcycle near his house.

Kakoli Akhter found her bloodstained husband there and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Badda police said Dulal was one of their informers, also a bodyguard of Badda Jubo League unit president Kaosar.

A rival faction, led by Dhaka south unit's leader Chanchal, might have killed him, they said. Chanchal, an accused in the Milky murder case, might be outside the country, they added.

Month-long watercolour exhibit begins in capital

UNB, Dhaka

A month-long group art exhibition titled "Soft Reflections" of 30 contemporary artists began on the new Gallery Cosmos premises in the capital's Gulshan on Friday.

Sophie Aubert, French ambassador to Bangladesh, inaugurated the show as the chief guest where artists Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Biren Shome were present as special guests.

Cosmos Group Managing Director Enayetullah Khan and Gallery Cosmos Managing Director Tehmina Enayet were present among others.



A visually impaired student, Jharna Akhter, of Eden Mohila College receives scholarship of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited from Gerben de Jong, ambassador of the Netherlands, at the award giving ceremony in Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

DBBL awards scholarships to poor meritorious students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafiqul Islam is one of six children of a poor labourer in the northern district of Kurigram. His family had lost everything for his mother's treatment who was suffering from a terminal disease.

But, a determined Rafiqul continued his studies and worked as a salesman in a local dispensary at the same time. His hard work paid off and he passed Dakhil examination securing GPA-5 in 2012.

However, it became very difficult for him to continue studying and working at the dispensary.

"During the toughest time of my life, I applied for the Dutch-Bangla Bank scholarship and they [bank

authorities] did not deny me," said Rafiqul. He passed HSC examinations with golden GPA-5 in 2014.

When his higher education was uncertain, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited once again extended its helpful hand towards the meritorious but poor student. Rafiqul was able to become a law student at Jagannath University.

"Had I not received the scholarship, today's law student Rafiqul would have been a salesman of the local dispensary," he said in his speech to hundreds of students like him.

Rafiqul was thanking the private bank at the scholarship awards ceremony of DBBL at Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in the

capital's Mirpur yesterday.

At its 10th phase yesterday, DBBL gave scholarships to 4,100 students who passed HSC exams in 2014 and are studying at graduate level in universities and colleges across the country.

A total of 20,495 students are currently receiving DBBL scholarships. At the graduate level, a student gets Tk 2,500 monthly. In addition, they get Tk 6,000 per year for buying books and clothes.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the scholarship will make it easier for the 4,100 students to fulfill their dreams.

Law Minister Anisul Huq said though a visible change has been made in country's education sec-

tion through many initiatives taken by the government, still many meritorious students in rural areas are deprived of higher education.

DBBL, seeing the matter, tried to help them, he said.

Sayem Ahmed, chairman of board of directors of DBBL, said the bank has been working as an associate of the government for the development of the country.

He said 90 percent of the scholarship awardees are students coming from rural areas and at least 50 percent are female.

Gerben de Jong, ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, and KS Tabrez, managing director at DBBL, among others, spoke.

AL not for 'excessive democracy'

Nasim tells discussion marking Sheikh Hasina's homecoming day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim yesterday categorically said they believed in democracy, but not "excessive democracy".

"The path followed in Malaysia by Mahathir Mohamad and marched forward, we will follow such democracy under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina," he told a discussion in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

AL Dhaka city unit organised this marking AL President Hasina's homecoming day, being observed today. On this day in 1981, Hasina had returned home after six years in exile following the brutal murder of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of her family members on August 15, 1975.

Nasim, also the health minister, said the AL does not believe in the democracy which legitimises killing of people through arson attacks and sheltering of Bangabandhu's killers.

"Awami League is a political party, not any Ramkrishna Mission and we will not sit idle when Khaleda Zia kills people with petrol bombs. We will contain bomb throwers with an iron hand," he added.

"Khaleda Zia has tried to destroy the country and to do so observed a blockade for 92 days. But she faced debacles and returned home," said AL senior leader and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed.

"But those children and bus drivers and helpers who were injured in attacks failed to return home. They are undergoing treatment at burn units," he added.

Another presidium member, Matia Chowdhury, also the agriculture minister, said Bangalee nationalism would not exist if the AL became weaker.

3,000 midwives to be deployed in unions, upazilas

Government officials reveal at UNFPA-Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will start appointing 3,000 trained midwives from December, four at each upazila and one at each union, to reduce maternal deaths, officials told a roundtable the daily Prothom Alo and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organised at the newspaper's office yesterday.

UNFPA maternal health expert Shamina Sharmin said the maternal death rate, now 170 per lakh births, must be brought down to 70 by 2030. Only 42 percent of mothers get deliveries done by trained persons, one of the main reasons behind the high death rate, she said.

Noor Hossain Talukder, director general of the Department of Family Planning, said many mothers were reluctant to go to public hospitals for the low quality of healthcare. "The midwives...will have to remain in their workplaces...Otherwise, the programme would not be successful," he said.

Brac University Midwife Programme Director Ismat Bhuiyan suggested equipping midwives with both theoretical and practical skills.



Students and pedestrians alike have to put up with the sickening stench of garbage because the city corporation has seemingly not found any suitable place other than the main entrance of Dhaka Medical College to create a dumpsite. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Chhatra Union launches Pritilata Brigade against sexual harassment

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Union yesterday announced to create "Pritilata Brigade", an all-female platform to protest sexual harassment, at all high schools, colleges, and universities of the country.

A 21-member central committee will be led by Chhatra Union general secretary Lucky Akter as convener.

President Hasan Tarec made the announcement at a press conference, organised at Madhur Canteen of Dhaka University in protest of the Pahela Baishakh molestation of females on the campus and all forms of sexual assault.

He said Pritilata Brigade would protect female students and protest incidents of harassment.

The student body will also launch a 15-day mass signature collection campaign at Aparajeyo Bangla of DU tomorrow in support of its protest against the April 14 molestation and the May 10 police assault on its activists. After the campaign, it will submit a memorandum to the prime minister.

The organisation also demanded that the police chief recant his remarks, in which he referred to the April 14 assault as "three or four boys making mischief", and apologise to the nation.

Operators reluctant

FROM PAGE 4
He said, "We pay tax to the government after the client first buy a SIM card from us. But if the client lost the SIM and replaces it, why shall we pay tax again for the replaced SIM. We will decide to take part in the auction after the government resolves the pending issues."

The BRTC fixed US\$ 3 crore as the price of per megahertz spectrum of 1800 MHz band Web, and US\$ 2.20 crore per megahertz spectrum of 2100 MHz band for the auction bid.

BRTC Secretary Sarwar Alam said they sent a letter to the post and telecommunications ministry to make some changes in the spectrum auction to ensure participation of all mobile operators.

Low cost apartments

FROM PAGE 4
tender for it," the consultant said.

Official sources said the Cabinet Economic Affairs committee rejected a Housing and Public Works Ministry's proposal to invite tender in a short-cut process and asked the ministry to follow the full existing process of the Public Procurement Act 2006. Now it is expected that the Housing and Public Works Ministry will invite the tender soon.

Journalism dept teachers

FROM PAGE 4
police beat up their fellow teacher Rakib Ahmed.

They demanded that Dr Amina be removed within the next three days. Dr Amina could not be contacted over the cell phone despite several attempts.

Rally of beggars?

FROM PAGE 3

Milon, at the event held at the BMA auditorium in the capital.

Some of the women covered their faces in indignation when asked if they did beg for a living.

"I earn a living by working. I never liked people's pity," said domestic help Tahera, adding, "I heard they would feed everyone and give some money."

The organiser is a non-government organisation, Unnoyon Torannito Sangstha (UTS).

The presence of schoolchildren wearing cardboard crowns reading "I

will not beg and learn to work" was also notable in the crowd.

"My father is a rickshaw puller and my mother is a domestic help," said a student of class IV.

Asked why he was wearing that crown, the boy said, "My grandmother who brought me here told me to put this on."

This correspondent estimated that over 100 people along with the chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali, and other invited officials of the ministry were present.

Talking to 20 participants about

their occupations, The Daily Star came to know that 15 were not beggars. Most said they came at the invitation of acquaintances.

Asked, UTS Executive Director Jannatul Ferdous said about 400 beggars attended.

In his address, the minister said his office would provide all necessary assistance to Jannatul. "I met her within three days of taking office," he said.

He also assured Jannatul that she would be given the responsibility to run government shelters for beggars.

Encroaching slum ruins

FROM PAGE 3

seeking contract renewal after 2007. After hearing several writ petitions, the High Court on January 8, 2015 finally permitted Hasnara, wife of Hai who died in 2009, to participate in the bidding process for taking lease of the pond.

Hasnara did not bid herself but his son did and came out as the highest bidder, said an official seeking anonymity. The official added that the

authorities, however, sent a paper to the railway ministry informing it of the proven allegations against the family and asking for a decision whether to lease the pond to Hai's son.

Locals and the shanty residents said Hai's brother Gani look after the shanties and collected rents from the dwellers, an allegation he denied. Gani said "local people" built the illegal structures.

Seeking anonymity, a private organisation employee living in Pahartali said a mosque was built on the west bank to deter the authorities from carrying out eviction drives.

The divisional estate officer, Jashim, said he made a list of 8,000 individuals, who have grabbed railway's land in Chittagong city including that of the horseshoe pond, and would soon demolish the illegal structures on its banks.



US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat and French envoy Sophie Aubert look at photographs at Alliance Francaise in Dhaka where two eight-day-long exhibitions titled "60 solutions against climate change" and "Local impact of global change" started yesterday, hosted by the Agence Francaise de Development, Alliance Francaise, and the French embassy. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN