

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 35.51L 27.2

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 34.21L 28.5

**SYLHET**  
H 32.51L 23.5

**RAJSHAH**  
H 37.01L 23.4

**KHULNA**  
H 37.01L 28.5

**BARISAL**  
H 35.41L 28.0

**RANGPUR**  
H 30.51L 24.5

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 35.01L 28.0

Rain is likely to occur at a few places/ at one or two places over Rangpur, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. Mild heat wave sweeping over Khulna division and Maijdee Court, Rajshahi and Pabna may continue. The sunsets in the capital today at 6:42pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11am.

## Stop plans to let foreigners explore gas onshore

University professors urge govt from a meeting of Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of university teachers yesterday protested, what they said, government plans to allow foreign companies more scope to explore and drill out onshore gas.

They were addressing a meeting Dhaka University's (DU) Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences organised on its campus, participated by some faculties of DU, Jahangirnagar University and Daffodil University.

Prof Badrul Imam of DU's geology department said onshore oil and gas blocks should be opened only to local companies like Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) and Petrobangla.

Bapex has shown its capability by discovering gas

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A reception organised by Sammilito Nagorik Forum by blocking half of this road from Kadamtali to Agrabad in Chittagong city's Pathantuli area yesterday for the new mayor, AJM Nasir Uddin, while innumerable posters and banners, not in picture, felicitating him cover the city in stark contrast to his pre-election pledges to ease people's sufferings and enhance the port city's beauty.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

## Try two witnesses along with Hafiz, wife

Orders Supreme Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has directed a Dhaka court to try two witnesses of a money laundering case—Julfikar Ali and his wife Rahima Ali—as its accused along with BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim and his wife.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on August 16, 2011 against the lawmaker and his wife Mafruza Sultana for laundering US \$1.75 lakh to Singapore.

According to the case statement, the money was paid allegedly by Siemens Bangladesh Ltd to the duo's bank account in Singapore between 2005 and 2006 to help the company win a deal of supplying core telecommunications equipment to Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL).

The money was allegedly transferred from the joint account of Julfikar and Rahima to the account of Hafiz and Mafruza in Singapore, Mafruza's lawyer AM Mahub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star.

Julfikar, who is an agent of Siemens Bangladesh, was also a witness of the money laundering cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko and Tarique's business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun, he added.

The SC passed the order in a full verdict, which was released on May 25 and was received by the lawyers yesterday.

The apex court issued a short judgment on April 12 after disposing of an appeal filed by Mafruza against a High Court verdict that on February 20 last year cleared the way for holding trial against Mafruza and her husband.

# Food should be right, not welfare

Regional conference at DU told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the vision of making South Asia free from hunger, academics, development activists, and politicians from the region yesterday said the governments must assume a right-based approach in ensuring food security instead of taking a welfare-oriented viewpoint.

They also stressed the need for building solidarity among social workers, development activists, and civil society bodies of the region to step up the movement of right to food.

"Any person dying in South Asia from hunger should be a cognisable offence, and the person responsible for that should be punished," said Prof Amitabh Kundu, senior fellow of Delhi Policy Group, India, presenting a paper on concerns and perspectives of food security.

The three-day "South Asia Right to Food Conference 2015", taking place at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday.

Rashed Khan Menon, civil aviation and tourism minister, who was chief guest at the session on right to food and nutritional security, said Bangladesh would take measures for enactment of a law on right to food.

Mentioning India's recent passage of the Act on Right to Food and Nutritional Security, he said, "Bangladesh has not yet enacted any law on right to food because then the responsibility of the government will almost become an obligation. But along with other South Asian nations we need to prepare ourselves

for the legislation." The South Asian paradox of high economic growth and a large malnourished population also came up in the discussion.

At a special session on social safety nets in Bangladesh, Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali said there were administrative weaknesses in the welfare programmes. "However, it is not possible for me alone to address these administrative problems," he said.

Alongside Bangladesh's achievements in some social development indicators, the challenges in reaching out to the most vulnerable groups including the elderly, people with disability, and the gender issues involved were also discussed.

Speaking on climate vulnerability, Dr M Asaduzzaman, former

research director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, called for heavy investment in agriculture research, noting that climate challenges could be dealt with through scientific innovations.

More than 1,000 local and foreign individuals from South Asian countries as well as Brazil, Honduras, the Netherlands, Kenya, Myanmar, Italy, Belgium and Nicaragua took part in the conference, hosted by over 40 national and international NGOs and DU.

At around 18 sessions, the participants also discussed other issues involving food security, including equity and rural employment, alternatives to corporate agriculture, governance of land, forest and other natural resources, and trade.

## Rangpur farmers demand closure of brick kiln

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Affected farmers of Uttam, Baro Gharia, Horiram and Piroj areas in Rangpur city yesterday formed a human chain demanding the closure of a brick kiln near the areas.

Speakers at the programme held in front of the brick kiln -- Sajib Mostafizur Bricks -- alleged that it is polluting the environment in the surrounding areas and causing health problems to people.

Crop production has reduced to one third as crops are being damaged by the smoke and ashes of the brick kiln, they added.

Demanding compensation from the owner for their loss, they urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to protect their livelihoods and arable lands.

However, the owner, Mostafizur Rahman Liton, claimed that his brick kiln is environment-friendly and he obtained a licence from the Department of Environment.

He pledged to give due compensations if the brick kiln is found to have damaged their crops.

Contacted, Farid Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Rangpur, told The Daily Star that he did not receive any complaint regarding this and will take action if one is filed.



Activists of a students' platform against sexual harassment scuffle with police after their procession heading towards the Prime Minister's Office was stopped at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday. The platform, Jouno Nipiron Birodhi Nirdolio Chhatra Jote, later submitted a memorandum containing four demands, including holding sexual assault trials in speedy trial tribunals.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Students, police scuffle as march to PMO obstructed

Memorandum submitted for hearing sex assault cases at speedy trial tribunals

DU CORRESPONDENT

Scuffles broke out in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday noon after police stopped a procession aiming to reach the prime minister's office to submit a memorandum with four demands including holding sexual assault trials at speedy trial tribunals.

Some time later, five activists of Jouno Nipiron Birodhi Nirdolio Chhatra Jote, a students' alliance against sexual harassment, led by the convener, Shibli, were allowed to go ahead.

The other demands include keeping capital punishment as the only penalty for rape, forming a cell under the home ministry to take up responsibility of victims and providing it logistical support.

## STOPPING SEXUAL HARASSMENT 10 experts' names given to HC for law review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five rights organisations yesterday submitted a list of 10 persons to the High Court to help form an expert committee to review the existing laws for prevention of sexual harassment and violence against women following its order over the gang rape of a Garo woman in a microbus in the capital.

The 10 persons are-- former HC judge Awlad Al, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) Sultana Kamal, member of National Human Rights Commission Nirupa Dewan, former chairperson of Bangladesh Cedaw committee to the UN Salma Khan, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam, former IGP Dr M Enamul Haque, Bangladesh National

Women Lawyers Association President Fawzia Karim Feroze, founding member of Nari Pakkha Shirin Haque, director of Human Rights and Legal Aid Services of BRAC Faustina Pereira, and former chairman of Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council ZI Khan Panna.

The five organisations--Nari Pakkha, Mahila Parishad, Jatiya Adibasi Parishad, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and ASK--placed the list as per its May 25 order. The organisations filed a writ petition with the HC seeking orders over the gang-rape incident of May 21.

After receiving the list from their lawyer Sara Hossain, the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahub and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo fixed

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WAR CRIMES TRIALS

# Four charges accepted against 3 Habiganj 'Razakars'

Prosecution's closing arguments continue against Forkan; Taher, Nani implicated in Netrakona abduction, murders by 4th person

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday accepted against three Habiganj "Razakars" four charges of crimes including murder, rape and abduction committed in the district during the 1971 Liberation War.

The prosecution on May 17 first pressed the charges against Muhibur Rahman Boromim, former chairman of Baniachang upazila's Khagaura union parishad, and his younger brother Mujibur Rahman Angur Mian, the incumbent chairman.



Mujibur arrested their cousin Abdur Razzak on May 19 following a prosecution petition saying his involvement in war crimes had been found during investigations against the brothers. The prosecution says the accused were involved in the killing of freedom fighter Rajab Ali, rape of two women, arson and looting of the house of Maj Gen MA Rob, the Liberation War's deputy commander-in-chief, and the abduction, confinement and torture of Anfar Ali.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members

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Several hundred hawkers block the road in front of Jatiya Press Club while protesting against any eviction drive against them without their rehabilitation first. Organised by Bangladesh Hawkers Union, the rally continued for about two hours causing severe traffic jams across the capital. Dhaka South City Corporation is set to start evicting hawkers from the footpaths of Gulistan today.

PHOTO: STAR