

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.2 L 27.7	H 35.5 L 28.0	H 34.6 L 26.5	H 37.9 L 26.8	H 37.5 L 27.4	H 36.5 L 27.3	H 36.5 L 27.3	H 34.2 L 27.6

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Comilla, Chandpur, Majdee Court, Srirangal, Sayedpur, Barisal and Kheppuram may continue, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:43pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11am.

One confesses to gang-raping Garo woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of two men, arrested over the recent gang rape of an indigenous woman in the capital, gave a confessional statement before a Dhaka court yesterday in the case filed with Bhatara Police Station.

In the deposition, Ashraf Khan alias Tushar said he and Jahidul Islam Lavlu, now on a 10-day police remand, lured the woman offering jobs.

They forced her into a microbus in Kuril bus stand area and took turns in committing the crime in the moving vehicle, he said, adding that there was no other person. The victim in her statement said there were five perpetrators.

The two were drivers of a garment buying house at Gulshan.



Court orders re-investigation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered further investigation into the death of four-year-old Jihad who died after falling into a deep well last year.

It also asked detective police to submit a complete report after the victim's father Fakir filed a no-confidence petition against the investigation.

Fakir alleged that Shahjahanpur Police Sub-Inspector Abu Zafar left out four Bangladesh Railway officials from the charge-sheet despite having evidence of their culpability in primary investigation.

The officials are the general manager of Bangladesh Railway and its three engineers.

Jihad fell into the abyss, some 40 yards from his house at Bangladesh Railway Colony in the capital, while playing with friends. His body was pulled out by a band of indomitable volunteers the following day, around 15 minutes after the fire service called off a near 23-hour search in the 17-inch diameter abandoned shaft.

Two people -- Jahangir Alam, a senior sub-assistant engineer of the railway, and Abdus Salam, a railway contractor who installed the well -- were charged with negligent homicide of Jahid on May 21. Jahangir is on the run and Salam is in jail.

ICT can remove

FROM PAGE 8

director of economic development, TAF. Some remarkable successes of the project include the creation of the first ever mobile network with a concessionary tariff scheme that connects women entrepreneurs with each other, he said.

Jamaat-Shibir

FROM PAGE 8

bus at Chandina, injuring eight people.

The two bomb throwers are on the run. Law Minister Anisul Huq told parliament on Monday that a proposal regarding amending the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973 to ban Jamaat and its front organisations was at the cabinet division now.



Migrants, who were found at sea on a boat, collect rainwater during heavy rainfall at a temporary refuge camp near a jetty outside Maungdaw township in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, just across the Naf river from Bangladesh's Teknaf, yesterday. The Myanmar authorities on Wednesday landed the boat with 727 migrants on board in Rakhine state, home to the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority, after keeping the vessel at sea for days, a Reuters witness said. The migrants were found drifting in the Andaman Sea on Friday in an overloaded fishing boat that was taking on water.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Human traffickers must get harsh punishment

Victim families, survivors, experts demand at consultation of National Alliance for Migrants' Rights, Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migration experts, development workers, and families of trafficking victims and survivors yesterday demanded that the government identify the human trafficking gangs immediately and ensure harsh punishment for them through trial to stop the heinous crime.

The law enforcement agencies concerned must be sincere in arresting traffickers overcoming all barriers and bringing them to justice; otherwise the criminals will remain unscathed, they said.

"There are many good laws in Bangladesh to protect the victims of trafficking in the country. Unfortunately, there is no coordination among our government and civil society, politicians and law enforcers to deal with the issues," said Mohammad Harun Al Rashid, regional coordinator of CARAM Asia, a regional network working on migration and health issues.

It is urgent to raise a voice concurrently to stop trafficking, he told a national consultation, "Irregular Migration to Malaysia", organised by the National Alliance for Migrants' Rights, Bangladesh (NAMR,B) at the capital's Brac Centre. "There are allegations that brokers have close connections with politicians and law enforcers," he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent remarks on trafficking victims as "unfortunate", Harun said she should clarify her speech; otherwise the victims or their families would feel unsafe in seeking assistance of law enforcement agencies.

At a meeting with labour and employment ministry officials on May 24, the prime minister described those who go abroad illegally to find work "mentally sick" and said these people were tarnishing the country's image, reported state-run BSS news agency.

Harun, a migration expert, said the

government should take practical steps to stop trafficking, which was occurring mainly due to a lack of rule of law, good governance and social justice.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the crime could not be prevented until the traffickers and their agents got punished.

"Unfortunately, we don't see government's sincerity in continuing extensive awareness campaign against human trafficking," she said.

Terming remittance as the lifeline of the country's economy, she urged the government to bring back the rescued jobseekers and take steps to check illegal migration by sea.

Mentioning that at least 88,000 migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh embarked on sea voyages between 2014 and March 2015, Stina Ljungdell, country director of UN refugee agency UNHCR in Dhaka, said the illegal journey across the sea had increased recently.

"It is urgent to make a regional agreement so that people don't cross the sea illegally. To address the root causes of this problem, it is essential to attack criminal gangs in a comprehensive manner," she said, adding that a regional taskforce needed to be created to check the crime.

The UNHCR representative also mentioned that it was crystal clear that people from Malaysia were also involved in the crime as they hired illegal workers for cheap labour.

Two trafficking survivors -- Md Siraj from Cox's Bazar and Rezaul Karim from Sirajganj -- and family members of some other victims shared their stories.

Mokabbir Hossain, director (finance and admin) of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET); Asif Saleh, a senior director of Brac; and Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of WARBE Development Foundation, also spoke.

MORE STORIES ON PAGE 10

Modi's visit to highlight sub-regional issues

FROM PAGE 8

He said the Bangladesh premier put connectivity at the core of her agenda, so the two PMs would likely discuss the transit issue. He also thinks that after the resolution of the long-standing maritime dispute, the two premiers are likely to engage in exploring "blue water economy" in the Bay of Bengal.

Echoing Rizvi, the Indian envoy said, "The time has come to reap the benefits of demarcation [of the maritime boundary]". Talking about domestic issues, Rizvi said the visit was also significant as BNP of late "has fortunately retracted from its earlier anti-Indian stance". India is Bangladesh's most important neighbour and trading partner, he said. Rizvi said, "Relationships become more important when we understand their significance, and when the benefits accrue to people. The settlement in the enclaves and

ending of cross-border infiltration of terrorists will bring enormous benefits to the people of both countries."

"Now we are going to sign agreements on coastal shipping, expand our inland water trade and transit, we will expand our purchase of power from India, we will move into joint basin management, jointly harness hydroelectricity, develop a common power grid that will integrate power markets between Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Nepal...the sky is the limit."

About Teesta, Rizvi said it was "a shared problem" which was "not about India and Bangladesh, it is about people, whose livelihood depends on the river...Of course there are not enough waters to meet everybody's demand, but certainly there is enough for everybody's need."

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of Anwara Sofia Islam, wife of former Information Minister and BNP Standing Committee Member M Shamsul Islam, will be held today at her Baridhara residence, says a press release.

She died at the age of 82 from kidney failure at the capital's United Hospital on Wednesday and was buried in the family graveyard in Munshiganj yesterday.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnessa Ibrahim, wife of late Justice Mohammed Ibrahim, said a press release.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil will be held in the morning at her residence, food will be distributed among the destitute and wreaths will be placed at her grave in Banani.

NU students demand rescheduling

FROM PAGE 8

The 3rd year's honours examinations will start on June 10 while the 4th year's on June 25. So those who are taking 3rd year's improvement examinations will not get sufficient time to take preparation for the 4th year examinations, the students said. In Chittagong city, students formed a human chain after holding a rally demanding deferment for two months. In Barisal, students of Government Brojomohun College blocked the road in front of their college. Students of Carmichael College in Rangpur formed a human chain and besieged the principal's office for one hour, before blocking the road in front of the college and holding a rally.

AL-led govt revitalised Indo-Bangla relations

Say Sector Commanders Forum leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India-Bangladesh relations suffered many conflicts and bitterness for decades but have been revitalised in recent years under the leadership of the ruling Awami League-led government, said Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) leaders yesterday.

Although the two neighbouring countries had an inseparable relationship during Bangladesh's birth, relations deteriorated after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination in 1975, they added.

The SCF leaders were addressing a seminar on the issue in the capital's Liberation War Museum.

"The first major leap in the bilateral relationship of the two countries was Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 2010 visit to India," said SCF acting general secretary Harun Habib.

He added that India's recent ratification to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement had completely restored the relationship. "Those who attempt to argue against the relationship do not have the foresight to understand its meaning," he said.

SCF Vice Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiullah termed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit a milestone.

"The countries have always been friends but after Bangabandhu's death the relationship suffered because of some people's personal interests," he said.

SC lifts HC stay on Rajshahi Mayor Bulbul's suspension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court directive that halted the government's order on the suspension of Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order following a government appeal moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam seeking a stay on the HC order.

The appeal has also been forwarded to the full bench of the apex court for its hearing on June 14.

Earlier on May 28, following a writ petition, the HC had stayed the suspension order issued after police had charged him in some criminal cases.

Deputy Attorney General Khandaker Diliruzzaman told The Daily Star that Bulbul cannot function as the mayor following the SC order.

The Local Government Division on May 7 suspended Bulbul under section 12(1) of the local government (city corporation) act, 2009 saying that the court accepted charges against him in three cases after police pressed the charges.

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