

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 36.0L 28.3

CHITTAGONG
H 34.0L 26.8

SYLHET
H 32.6L 26.4

RAJSHAHI
H 38.2L 27.8

KHULNA
H 37.8L 28.0

BARISAL
H 36.4L 27.3

RANGPUR
H 34.5L 28.2

COX'S BAZAR
H 29.5L 26.0

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Madaripur, Dhaka, Chandpur, Sayedpur, Barisal and Patuakhali may continue, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:45pm and rises tomorrow at 05:10am.

HATIRJHEEL BYPASS
Repair without signs make commuters suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to save time during peak office hours, Kazi Ishtiaq Hasan yesterday morning took the congestion-free Hatirjheel bypass expressway from his Gulshan residence to reach the capital's Sonargaon intersection. Just as he entered passing National Shooting Federation Bangladesh, he was met with an unexpected traffic jam for a triangular bridge of the Hatirjheel development scheme near Bangladesh Television (BTV) was closed. "There was no announcement or any sign for the motorists at the entrance of the one-way bypass...it wasted an hour of mine detouring through heavy traffic on the Rampura Road and then taking a U-turn to re-enter Hatirjheel from the BTV point," said Hasan. Had there been a diversion sign, he could have straightaway taken the Gulshan-Mohakhali link road, easily avoiding the unnecessary harassment, he added. The scheme's project officer, Major Ameer, said the temporary closure lasting for around three hours was to fix expansion joints. On the diversion sign's absence, he said, "We will do it later on." The scheme's architectural consultant, Iqbal Habib, said the sign was a must during repairs and maintenance. Locals alleged that in absence of policing and traffic control, rowdy people often drove dangerously in the opposite direction of the one-way expressway, risking fatal accidents. Major Ameer said such people were taking advantage of the inadequate management. The 302-acre Begunbari-Hatirjheel integrated development site stretches between Airport Road and Rampura, with a nine-kilometre east-west connecting express road. Apart from providing drainage services, it is also supposed to be a public place and a waterfront for safe recreation and leisure.



Parents use a portable electric fan to keep their child in comfort inside a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at the capital's Gulistan yesterday, as the sun continues bearing down hard, multiplying people's sufferings on the gridlocked roads where they have to remain stuck for hours.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS IN BANGLADESH
UNHRC urged to intervene

Asian Legal Resource Centre, Odhikar make the request

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two rights organisations yesterday urged the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to play a leading role in initiating reform in criminal justice institutions of Bangladesh to address the problems of extra-judicial executions and help the judiciary uphold UN human rights standards. The Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC), a Hong Kong-based sister organisation of Asian Human Rights Commission, and Bangladeshi rights body Odhikar made the request through a written submission yesterday. Noting that no judicial or administrative remedies are accessible for families of victims of extrajudicial killing, the statement said, "Hundreds of victims do not get access to the public justice system in Bangladesh, due to ongoing intimidation, threat, and further persecution." It said extrajudicial executions had been gradually institutionalised in the last decade since the creation of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in 2004. "First, the so-called 'wanted criminals' began to be executed under the pretext of 'crossfire'." "Later, political and other parties started hiring law-enforcement agencies for their 'skills' to assassinate their

KALPANA CHAKMA ABDUCTION
Investigators' claim absurd

CHT Commission tells press marking 19th anniversary of incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) yesterday called "absurd" the claim of investigators that indigenous women's leader Kalpana Chakma herself was the key witness to her abduction and hence the probe cannot be completed until she is found. "This type of logic is institutionalising the culture of impunity," said Iftekharuzzaman, a member of the commission. At one point, investigators of all abduction or forced disappearance cases would come up with similar arguments, he feared, while addressing the press marking the 19th anniversary of Kalpana's abduction, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. Since she was abducted from her Baghaichhari house in Rangmati on June 11, 1996, the case was re-investigated several times. The deadline for submission of the latest investigation report was reset 22 times since January 16, 2013, says a statement of CHTC. A progress report on the investigation, submitted to a Rangmati court last year, reads, "Since the key witness of the case

is the victim herself...the investigation of the case cannot be completed until she is found." The report further underscored the necessity of a final decision on Kalpana's status for concluding the investigation. Another member of CHTC, Sultana Kamal, said three investigation reports had been submitted to the court so far. "After analysing the reports, it becomes evident that the reports were essentially the same."



Kalpana Chakma

justice, many cases like the Kalpana Chakma abduction case have been under process for years. But this impunity and the culture devoid of justice encourage criminals to commit crimes repeatedly," she added. The commission demanded creation of a monitoring cell by the home ministry to speed up the investigation into Kalpana's abduction case and extensive interrogation of the people who were accused by her family.

US welcomes Indo-Bangla deals
Says visiting Deputy Assistant Secy of State Eileen O'Connor

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the agreements signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day state visit, a US diplomat yesterday said they share the enthusiasm with Bangladesh for greater cooperation in trade and commerce and exchange of people and ideas.



Talking to a select group of diplomatic correspondents at a roundtable at American Club in the capital's Gulshan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Eileen O'Connor said the US must be a keen observer since it has deep engagements with both countries. This is being considered the first comment from the US following Modi's visit. Arriving on Sunday on a three-day

visit, O'Connor termed Bangladesh-India relations "positive" and the land boundary agreement a "landmark" and highly appreciated the connectivity efforts saying it was a development process towards stability, prosperity, education and jobs. "...because we see Asian countries like Bangladesh, which has six per cent growth, as a model for economic growth that the entire region can subscribe to," she said, appreciating Bangladesh's zero tolerance to violent extremism. She will speak at a roundtable, "sexual harassment, gender-based violence and the role of media" today. O'Connor also serves as the senior director of Communications and Public Diplomacy in the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and is a journalist. She manages strategic communications and supports critical foreign policy goals through public diplomacy programmes that address good governance, preventing violent extremism, expanding information access, and improving education.

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CHITTAGONG
9 - 10 June
(Tue & Wed) 10am to 7pm
Hotel Agrabad

DHAKA
12 - 13 June
(Fri & Sat) 10am to 7pm
Goldwater Convention Centre, Level 18 Basundhara City

ACADEMIC PARTNER: AMITY UNIVERSITY
ORGANISED BY: Asia's Leading Education Fair Organiser
IN ASSOCIATION WITH: o2z study
PRE-REGISTER at: StudyInIndia.bd

CONTEMPT OF COURT
Int'l crimes tribunal unhappy over govt's failure to execute penalty for Jamaat men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday expressed discontent over the failure of the government, especially police, in executing its sentence punishing two top Jamaat-Islami leaders two years ago for contempt of court. Right before the start of a trial's hearing, Prosecutor Tureen Afroz submitted a New Age report of Sunday headlined "Jamaat leaders Azad, Rafiq issuing statements while on the run". The report quoted a police officer as saying that they were trying to arrest them. Tureen sought action, saying that the duo's conduct was tantamount to "continuous contempt of court". Justice Obaidul Hassan, the three-member tribunal's chairman, said, "We have passed our order. Now it is the responsibility of police to arrest them. What are they doing?" "But we have nothing to do as the matter is not pending before us. You can go to the right forum for the inaction," he said. "Right forum" might have meant filing a writ petition with the High Court, opined a legal expert. In 2013, the tribunal initiated the contempt proceedings against three

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