

WEATHER FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 28.5 L 25.6

CHITTAGONG H 27.6 L 25.4

SYLHET H 29.0 L 25.7

RAJSHAHI H 29.6 L 26.0

KHULNA H 26.5 L 25.0

BARISAL H 29.0 L 25.3

RANGPUR H 31.6 L 27.4

COX'S BAZAR H 29.0 L 25.5

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 05:18am. Country's highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangpur and lowest 22.5 in Rangamati.



(Clockwise from left) People queue for rail tickets at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital around 9:00am yesterday when sales in advance began marking Eid-ul-Fitr. This group of ticket seekers, hoping to be the first in line, arrived as early as 1:30am and resorted to a game of cards to pass their time. Like this woman at Chittagong Railway Station, people were elated on being able to get tickets after the long wait in queues. (Story on page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

Four BNP leaders get bail in 56 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to BNP leaders MK Anwar, Tariqul Islam, Abdul Awal Mintoo and Amanullah Aman in 56 arson and vandalism cases.

BNP's standing committee members Anwar and Tariqul got bail in nine and four cases respectively while party chief Khaleda Zia's adviser Mintoo obtained bail in one case and BNP's Joint Secretary General Aman in 42 cases, their lawyer AKM Ehsanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The HC granted the bail for four weeks after the BNP leaders appeared before it with separate bail petitions.

The HC granted them bail on the ground that there was no specific allegation against them of vandalism and arson attacks, Ehsan said.

All the cases were filed in and around Dhaka during the blockade and hartals enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance this year.

Meanwhile, the Appellate Division yesterday upheld the HC orders that granted ad-interim bail to BNP leaders Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed and Gayeshwar Chandra Roy in similar five cases following petitions filed by the government against the HC orders.

The apex court passed "no order" on the government petitions, meaning that their bails will remain in force.

NEWS IN brief

SC defers Bangladesh Bar Council election to August 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday deferred the Bangladesh Bar Council election to August 26 following a petition filed by the authorities seeking more time to update the voter list.

It also asked the authorities to publish the voter list by July 30.

Earlier on May 28, the SC fixed August 13 for holding the election and asked to publish voter list by July 12.

But the authorities said they would not be able to do so by that time since they could not collect the names of all voters.

Ctg man to die for killing wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife over dowry in 2008.

The convict, Md Anwar Hossain Sujan, 30, of Battery Goli in Chittagong, is in jail.

According to the prosecution, Anwar often tortured his wife Khaleda Akhter for a Tk 1 lakh dowry.

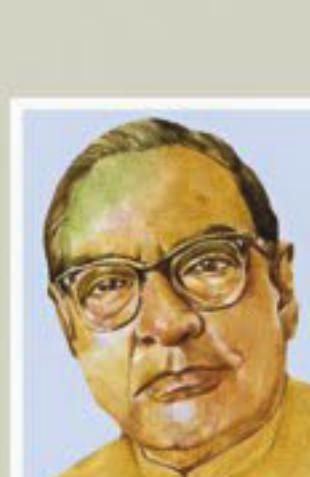
On April 20, 2008 Anwar strangled Khaleda and then hung her body from the ceiling of a room in their house after an argument over the money.

On May 5 of the same year, Khaleda's sister Jahanara Begum filed a case against him.

Under the Chairmanship of Emeritus Professor Anisuzzaman, a "Memorial Committee" has been formed to commemorate the life and work of Abul Mansur Ahmad, eminent litterateur, politician, journalist and lawyer. The memorial committee is collecting rare photographs, hand written letters, unpublished writings, interviews or any other items that bear the memory of Abul Mansur Ahmad.

If anyone has such items, he/she is requested to kindly contact:

On behalf of
"Abul Mansur Ahmad
Memorial Committee"
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Hearing cases at special, family courts urged

Prothom Alo, Plan International Bangladesh hold talks on enforcement, effectiveness and implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cases filed under the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2000 should be tried either at special courts or under family courts, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

"The environment of criminal courts is not conducive for such cases," said Towhidha Khondoker, director, Legal Services, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA).

She was giving a presentation on the act's enforcement, effectiveness and implementation, which was the discussion's topic.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised it at its office in the capital in association with Plan International Bangladesh.

The law's main objective is not just to punish, rather prevent domestic violence by keep-

ing the family relationship intact, explained BNWLA Executive Director Salma Ali.

Sabbir Mahmud Chowdhury, a senior assistant judge of Dhaka, agreed, saying that when these cases were tried in magistrate courts, a "war-like" sense prevailed among the parties.

"Rather we should think how the problems could be solved through arbitration," he said.

"Women often do not want to avail legal service in fear of social stigma and threat of divorce," said Humaira Aziz, director of Women and Girls' Empowerment Programme of Care Bangladesh, emphasising counselling of men to change their attitude.

Making counselling available for couples was also suggested by Prof Shahnaz Huda, former chairman of Dhaka University's law department, and Abul Hossain, project director, multi-sectoral programme on

violence against women, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

The law does not clearly state anything about arbitration though 60 percent of the victims want a solution through it, said Towhidha, adding that even many lawyers, ignoring the sensitive nature of these cases, conducted those like general criminal cases.

She also noted the scarcity of shelter homes and lack of female officials at the government's upazila women affairs offices.

Gourang Chandro Mondol, one such officer from Balaganj, Sylhet, spoke of the lack of personnel and funds to recover assets when dealing with such cases.

"The rules of the law also do not specify where the goods will be kept after recovery," he said, sharing his experience of facing resistance from defendants during such

drives.

Syeda Shirin Akter, panel lawyer of Protecting Human Rights (PHR) programme, urged for training and sensitising all stakeholders involved including police, the ministry's officials, lawyers, court magistrates and NGO officials on the law.

PHR is a five-year domestic violence prevention and protection project launched in 2011 in 102 unions of eight upazilas of 6 districts by Plan International Bangladesh in partnership with BNWLA and 12 other NGOs.

Malik Abdullah Al-Amin, senior district judge and director of National Legal Aid Services Organisation, talked about how the organisation's budgetary allocation increased to Tk 6 crore last year and about its services for the poor.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



Both the kidneys of Md Ali Hossain, 17, who passed the SSC examinations this year, have been damaged.

He was diagnosed with the problem last month at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

Ali needs some Tk 3,000 per week for kidney dialysis, said his father Md Rafiqul Islam, a constable of Railway Nirapatta Bahini.

Doctors advised the family to transplant the kidneys, which will cost Tk 5 lakh to Tk 6 lakh.

As Rafiq alone cannot afford the treatment, he seeks financial help from the affluent of the society.

Aid can be sent to savings A/C No-9903, Janata Bank, Gouripur Branch, Mymensingh; bKash A/C No-01752196449.

German envoy advises long term urban planning

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

German Ambassador in Dhaka Dr Thomas Prinz yesterday called for a sophisticated and long-term urban planning based on reliable data for it is essential to manage the inflow of people into Bangladesh's metropolis.

"Urbanisation is one of the megatrends of this century. More and more people are moving to cities searching for job opportunities or adjusting to the impacts of climate change in rural Bangladesh," he said.

"Dhaka is one of the fastest growing cities in the world," he added while visiting the capital's Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) which conducts systematic geological mapping and geoscientific activities.

GSB is supported by German development cooperation funds provided by Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) or the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources based in Hanover, says a German embassy press release.

Initiated in 2013, the joint German-Bangladeshi project, "Geo-Information for Urban Planning", is scheduled to be finalised in 2016. So far, the geoscientific sub-ground conditions in Bangladesh have been analysed and currently work is centred around an "Infrastructure Suitability Map" of Dhaka that will help transform the capital into a more sustainable, accessible and liveable city.

BNP leaders talk gibberish

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way political," he said.

However, he hoped that Khaleda would visit Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah in a convenient time this Ramadan or after Eid-ul-Fitr.

On Wednesday night, several senior BNP leaders confirmed to the media that Khaleda postponed the visit as her elder son Tarique Rahman did not get him visa for Saudi from London, but some others said the BNP chief cancelled it as she heard that the government might hatch out a conspiracy over party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's bail.

But both sides confirmed to the newspaper that Khaleda cancelled the tour after talking with Tarique.

Earlier, BNP insiders said she was supposed to hold a series of meetings with Tarique in Saudi Arabia during the trip.

At yesterday's press conference, Ripon also said, "Like previous years, Khaleda Zia was invited by the Saudi government this year for performing Umrah as she used to do it every Ramadan."

"But our party chief was not feeling well physically from the beginning of Ramadan. For that reason she might have cancelled the visit," said Ripon, also the party's foreign affairs secretary.

Ripon, however, told reporters that the BNP chief was not interested in performing Umrah as most party leaders were now in jail.

He also criticised the media for reporting that Tarique did not get a Saudi Arabian visa in London.

Ripon said some media also reported that the validity of the invitation by the Saudi government expired. It is not true; she can visit Saudi Arabia anytime to perform Umrah, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

People in Kazipara of the capital facing a water crisis get water from a pipe connected to one of several Wasa trucks, not in photo, that have been supplying water to them on a temporary basis. The photo was taken recently.

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