



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 27.0

CHITTAGONG H 32.6 L 26.0

SYLHET H 29.6 L 25.0

RAJSHAHI H 34.7 L 26.0

KHULNA H 34.0 L 27.0

BARISAL H 32.6 L 26.5

RANGPUR H 33.5 L 26.4

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at some places over all the divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30am.

BNP wants UN-supervised probe into forced disappearances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday demanded that the government investigate the cases of abduction, repression, and forced disappearances under UN Human Rights Commission's supervision.

"We were forced to seek UN assistance as the government is not investigating the frequent incidents of abduction, killing, and forced disappearance," BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a briefing at the party's central office in the capital.

He also lambasted the government for repeated incidents of brutality against children and females in different parts of the country including the killing of a boy in Khulna on Monday.

Concerned over Bangladesh ranking seventh among the top 10 countries with high records of abductions, Ripon said the BNP earlier demanded probes into the abductions but the government did not pay heed.

Ripon, also an international affairs secretary of the BNP, said the country's law and order situation might "deteriorate further" in the absence of democracy for long.

"The incidents of brutality including killings and rapes are taking place due to a lack of accountability," he said. "We believe a fresh election is the only way out of the present situation."

Asked whether Khaleda Zia was going to London next week for treatment, Ripon said the BNP chief knew it better because it was a personal matter.



A pile of coconut husks dumped right beside the beautifully-paved walkway becomes a blot on the landscape of Suhrwardy Udyan, a usual scene in the capital's second largest park. One might ask, what the custodians are paid for? The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

College girl gang raped at Jatrabari in capital

Right in front of beaten, tied up boyfriend; three held; 12-year-old Adivasi girl raped by acquaintance at Bhatara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college girl was gang raped by some local miscreants in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday when she went there with her boyfriend to visit an acquaintance's house.

Police arrested three alleged rapists - Babu, Foysal, and Sahadat.

The girl was admitted to the one-stop crisis centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for a medi-

cal check-up, said Oboni Sankar, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station.

He said five to six youths raped the girl in front of her boyfriend on the first-floor of the five-storey house at Kazla of Jatrabari the two were visiting.

They also beat up her boyfriend after tying him up, he added.

The couple came from Sonargaon of Narayanganj where she studies in a polytechnic institute.

The OC said the miscreants extorted Tk 10,000 from the relatives of the duo through bKash and snatched some gold ornaments from her before the assault.

Oboni said on-duty patrols of Jatrabari station detained three alleged rapists at the spot on information from locals, but two others fled with the money and ornaments.

Police are looking for them, he added. Meanwhile, a youth allegedly raped a 12-year-old indigenous girl after

Rape, murder top chart of violence against women

Says Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rape and murder again topped the list of violence against women (VAW) and children during the month of July, according to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) data aggregated from 14 national dailies.

Eighty-three incidents of rape took place in the country out of which 15 were gang rapes and nine people were killed after rape, read the BMP VAW chart.

In June, 95 rape incidents occurred in which five victims were murdered after rape.

Sixty-two women and children were killed, and 41 women were tortured for dowry while 19 of them were murdered in July. Thirty incidents of physical tortures were reported while 26 people were compelled to commit suicide following various

Judiciary bound to collapse if shortage of judges persists

Says JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's judicial system is bound to collapse due to an inadequate number of judges, a parliamentary body observed yesterday.

The parliamentary standing committee on law also said the law and order situation also became fragile due to the shortage of judges.

"There are only 1,198 judges in the country at present, meaning there is one judge for 1.52 lakh people. It is impossible to clear the backlog of thousands of cases with this small number of judges," Suranjit Sengupta, chief of the committee, told reporters after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The senior Awami League leader said recruitments only into the police and Rapid Action Battalion would not help maintain law and order if judges were not appointed accordingly.

"The law enforcers detain criminals and produce them before courts for trial but the proceedings are delayed due to the shortage of judges," he noted.

The parliamentary watchdog recommended that the government should take short-, mid-, and long-term measures to appoint enough judges.

Pointing to the 30 lakh cases pending at different courts across the country, Suranjit said if they were not disposed of, it would cause the judiciary's collapse.

He also said the law, justice, and parliamentary standing committee would discuss the issue with the bar associations' leaders on August 13.

Law Minister Anisul Haque, also a member of the committee, gave assurance of taking measures to recruit judges.

The committee also asked the ministry to take steps for faster adjudication

Create land commission for plain land Adivasis

Demand student, rights bodies

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several student and rights organisations yesterday demanded that the government create a separate land commission for plain land indigenous people and make fully effective the one already there for the Adivasi communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The organisations, mostly of indigenous communities, also demanded constitutional recognition of the minority people as "Adivasi".

The demands came from a human chain and a rally at the capital's Shahbagh.

Garos Student Union, Bangladesh

Adivasi Forum, Tripura Student Forum, Bangladesh Orao Chhatra Sangathan, Marma Student Council, Santal Student Union, Khushi Student Union, Hill Women's Federation, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, and Chanchia took part in the programmes, organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad.

The speakers also called for observing International Day of the World's Indigenous People nationally, which is celebrated across the world on August 9 through special events.

Former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri Bappaditya Basu said,

"As a member of the United Nations, it's the duty of the state to observe the day, but Bangladesh's government does not do that; rather Adivasis are barred from celebrating the day."

President of Garo Student Union Salgira Mri urged the government to stop grabbing of indigenous people's land and their eviction from homes.

The speakers said the government had to protect the rights of all minorities including Adivasis so that they could also be involved with the development process.

Toni Mathew Chiran, acting general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, also spoke.

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DU opens male dorm for all faiths

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

Breaking with tradition, Dhaka University has opened a newly built dormitory for all male students irrespective of their religions.

A syndicate meeting decided on July 13 that Bijoy Ekattor Hall, which can house 1,000 students, would not be restricted for members of any single faith.

The students of all communities who will get admitted in the upcoming 2015-16 session can apply for seats at the dormitory, said Prof AJM Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan, the provost.

After the hall was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 14, 2013, only Muslim students were residing in it following DU's traditional practice, wherein non-Muslim male students live in Jagannath Hall and Muslim males in the rest of the 14 halls.

"But this hall was named to commemorate the ideals of the martyrs of our Liberation War, which was fought by the people of all communities," said Prof Bhuiyan, mentioning he wrote a letter to the syndicate on July 9 requesting that the hall be opened for all faiths.

"We hope that such a step would help improve religious harmony in society," he said.

Asked why there are separate halls for different religious communities, Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said there were no written rules about this. It has been there since the university's founding in the British era, he said.

The VC said all six female halls were open to all communities, and students were staying there in harmony.

Asked about any plan to open all the halls for everyone, he said this decision could not be taken hastily. "After considering the circumstances, we will think it over."

Asked about the other universities of Bangladesh where

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