

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 33.2 | L 28.5

CHITTAGONG
H 33.8 | L 26.6

SYLHET
H 33.3 | L 25.4

RAJSHAHI
H 35.3 | L 27.4

KHULNA
H 31.3 | L 27.2

BARISAL
H 32.0 | L 26.5

RANGPUR
H 33.5 | L 27.7

COX'S BAZAR
H 31.5 | L 26.0

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 05:33am. Country's highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 25.4 in Sylhet.

CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE



The people of Chittagong city are caught in a cycle of never-ending development works. So their sufferings never go away. Just days after the Wasa installed pipes under the road, the construction of a flyover has just begun, taking up half of its width in Dampara area. And the recent waterlogging has made things even worse, by leaving the roads like the one here in Halishahar Sabujbagh area battered. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS, BANGLAR CHOKH

DEMAND FOR VAT-FREE EDUCATION

Pvt university students to go to PMO today

CITY DESK

Private university students will demonstrate before the Prime Minister's Office in the capital today demanding withdrawal of 7.5 percent VAT (value added tax), which is set to be charged on their education from this current fiscal year.

Students of State University, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, and East West University under the banner of "No VAT on Education" yesterday organised a press conference at Dhaka University's Madhur Canteen to make the announcement.

Meanwhile, at an International Youth Day programme at Bangla Academy, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "The decision of imposing tax without discussing with the stakeholders is illogical." In Chittagong city, students of Premier University, East Delta University, BGC Trust University, and USTC Medical College formed a human chain at Prabartak intersection to realise their demand.

NEW CREDIT SYSTEM

Ruet suspends 2nd year classes amid protest

Students demand resumption within three days scrapping new system; threaten tougher movement otherwise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The academic council of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) yesterday suspended all academic activities for honours second year students following their agitation for withdrawal of a new credit system.

The decision has been taken after the students did not respond to their teachers' call to attend classes stopping their "illogical movement", Prof Rafiqul Alam Beg, vice chancellor of Ruet, told The Daily Star. The vice chancellor, however,

on Tuesday told journalists that they would consider the demand.

The students at a press conference on the campus yesterday threatened to launch tougher programmes if the authorities do not resume classes within three days after fulfilling their demand.

Earlier in the morning, some 50 students attempted to besiege the administrative building but police foiled their several bids.

They later marched on the campus and held a protest rally there.

The second year honours students started the agitation on Tuesday

demanding change in the new credit system introduced in 2013 that made mandatory for the students to secure at least 33 credits, out of 40, in an academic year. If any student fails to secure the mandatory credits in two semester examinations in a year, he or she has to restart the academic year with junior students.

Earlier, the students were allowed to be promoted to the next year despite being unsuccessful in several courses. Out of 725 students, 29 could not secure the required credits in the examinations to be promoted to the second year.

'DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY ARMY OFFICER'

HC stays transfer of case to military court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed a move to transfer a case against an army officer over the torture of his wife to a military court from a special tribunal.

Responding to a writ petition, it also stayed the proceedings of the case filed against Maj Nazir Uddin for brutalising his wife Nusrat Jahan Tushti, also a student of Dhaka University, for dowry on March 30.

The case was filed with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Tangail on April 2.

The petitioner's lawyer, Aneek R Haque, told The Daily Star that Area Commander (Logistics) of Army Headquarter Maj Gen Mizanur Rahman Khan on May 11 sent a letter to the judge of the Tangail court, stating that the case against Nazir should be tried in a military court, since the accused was an army officer.

In the letter, Mizanur also asked the Tangail court to transfer the case to the court-martial for its trial, he said.

The HC yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why the letter sent by the army general should not be declared illegal.

It also stayed the proceedings of the case and effectiveness of the letter till disposal of the rule.

The bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice AKM Zahurul Hoque came up with the rule and order after hearing the writ petition filed by Tushti's father Nurul Islam Bhuiyan challenging the legality of the army official's letter.

Aneek R Haque said after hearing the rule, the HC would decide which court should try the case.

Citing from the petition, he said the court-martial had no jurisdiction to hold the trial of the case filed under the women and children repression prevention act.

Nazir faces three years' imprisonment if found guilty by the Tangail court and a one-year jail sentence if convicted by the court-martial, the lawyer said.

Secretaries to the ministries of defence and law area commander (logistics) of the army headquarters, chief of the army staff, judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Tangail, and judge advocate general of the army headquarters were made respondents to the rule, Aneek added.



A contestant spelling a word at the Dhaka divisional round of Spelling Bee at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. A total of 59 from the 1,000 top spellers of Dhaka division were through to the television round. The divisional round concluded yesterday. A total of 96 spellers chosen from across the country's seven divisions will battle it out in the TV round, which is due to begin next week. The English spelling competition is hosted by Champs21.com, an initiative of The Daily Star, and this year it is supported by Summit Group. A total of 311,432 students took part in this year's contest. PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka-Sylhet bus strike called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Around 10 hours into its enforcement, transport workers yesterday afternoon withdrew their indefinite strike from Dhaka-Sylhet highway following government's assurance of trying the killers of their fellow.

Angry passengers allegedly beat bus driver Babul Debnath to death as the vehicle was late in reaching Dhaka's Sayedabad bus terminal from Sylhet.

DU admission applications start Aug 24

Elective English dropped DU CORRESPONDENT

The online admission process for the first year honours at Dhaka University will begin on August 24 and continue till September 10, said a press release. DU dropped "Elective English" from its admission tests yesterday. Earlier, candidates had to secure a minimum of 15 points to get admission to the English department. Dr Hasibur Rahman, convener of online admission committee said the exam will be applicable for those who did not study in Bangla, or for English medium students.

BYLC celebrates Int'l Youth Day

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) hosted an event titled "Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership" on Tuesday marking UN International Youth Day.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat was present as chief guest.

Hasina wants to stop flow

FROM PAGE 3

Hasina directed the information ministry to effectively project government's achievements in the last six and a half years.

She also asked the ministry to let people know about its future plans to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041.

The information ministry has a big role in making people aware against militancy, terrorism, and drug addiction as well as informing them of government's development initiatives.

Referring to the distortion of history of the country's independence, she said the ministry should take appropriate measures to disseminate untainted information.

Hasina mentioned that the wave of international terrorism also jolted the country during the BNP-Jamaat regime but her government dealt with the menace with an iron hand, and asked the media to make people aware to check the recurrence of the social menaces.

She said work on the adoption of the National Broadcasting Policy 2014 and enactment of the Broadcasting Commission Act was progressing fast for development of the electronic media through consolidating their freedom.

Besides, the draft of the National Film Policy has been finalised and the issue of a separate wage for electronic media journalists is being actively considered by the government, she said.

Secular state must give space for free expression

FROM PAGE 3

"but people should have their rights to express". "If any person breaks the law of the land, that's another issue. But killing is unacceptable," he reiterated at the workshop, at the foreign ministry.

Senior government officials, representatives from the private sector, financial institutions and others concerned are participating in the two-day workshop.

Speaking as chief guest, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said the workshop was aimed at making people more aware of global terrorist threats and tools available to counter those.

He said Bangladesh was affected in certain issues due to the current global phenomena of the rise of violent extremism and terrorism.

On terror financing, Haque said the

government had not only passed necessary laws to combat the issue and was also strictly enforcing the laws.

He said resources were flowing in the name of development, NGO, and welfare works but the government had addressed the issue to stop financing of crimes.

The resolution 1267 was adopted in 1999 to impose sanctions against the Taliban, while the 1373 resolution, adopted following the al-Qaeda "threats", targets international terrorism in general, and goes beyond 1267.

The UN members are bound to criminalise terror financing and freeze funds and other financial assets to stop terrorist acts under the 1373 resolution.

A member state can bring its private sector to account against terror financing under this resolution.

Landlord of Mufti Hannan gives

FROM PAGE 3

Battalion men arrested Mufti Hannan from his Badda residence on October 1, 2005.

Identifying Hannan in the dock, Md Ruhul Amin, the witness, told the court that Hannan introducing himself as "Zaman"

and a computer businessman rented his house in September 2005. Later he came to know that Hannan was a leader of Harkatul Jihad (Huji) and the prime accused in the grenade attack cases. The tribunal then fixed August 17 for next hearing of the cases.

Sraddha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Nilima



Hena

Sraddha of Nilima Majumdar and Smrity Kona Saha Hena, mother and wife of Aurthokogoj Editor Pronab Majumdar, will be held today at the capital's Sri Sri Loknath Brahmachari Asrom.

Food will be distributed among the destitute at several temples in Dhaka, Comilla and Chandpur.



Newly appointed Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Masato Watanabe pays a courtesy call on Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor in his ministry yesterday. At the meeting, the envoy assured Bangladesh of help to excavate and maintain its archaeological sites. PHOTO: COLLECTIVE