

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.3 L 26.2	CHITTAGONG H 33.4 L 25.2	SYLHET H 35.3 L 26.0	RAJSHAHI H 35.0 L 25.4	KHULNA H 34.5 L 26.5	BARISAL H 33.4 L 26.2	RANGPUR H 33.0 L 25.7	COX'S BAZAR H 33.8 L 25.0
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Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am. Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Bogra and lowest 23.4 in Rangamati.



Clockwise from left, protesters occupy the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday to force the government to meet their demand that a fresh test be held for medical college admission. On their way to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the demonstrators try to break through the police barricade in front of the National Museum. Parents keep on supporting their children by their spirited participation.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION

Question leak protesters write to prime minister

Nasim dismisses allegations of leak, likelihood of exam rerun; calls demand illogical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aspirants and their parents demanding rerun of the medical college admission test yesterday submitted a memorandum to the prime minister and demonstrated at the capital's Shahbagh intersection, blocking flow of traffic from all four sides.

However, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim dismissed the likelihood of any fresh test, saying the allegations of the question leak were not true.

"Illogical demands cannot be

met through such demonstration. There has to be logic," he told journalists at the ministry.

Alleging that the question paper of the September 18 test was leaked on social media, admission seekers have been demonstrating ever since.

On the exam day, an official of the University Grants Commission, Omar Siraj, was arrested and suspended on the charge of the question paper leak.

Three doctors and four coaching owners and instructors of Rangpur were also detained.

However, the UGC official died

in Rapid Action Battalion's (Rab) custody on October 1 while on remand.

Rab claimed that the official died from a cardiac arrest, but his family said he was tortured in custody, and injuries were seen on the body.

The demonstrators ended their sit-in at Shahbagh at 5:00pm and will resume the protest at 9:00am today at the Central Shaheed Minar, said Asif Bin Taki, the protesters' spokesman.

"We will keep on protesting until the prime minister assures us of rerun of the test," he said.

He also urged all the medical college students and interns to boycott classes and abstain from work for one hour today in support of the cause.

Expressing solidarity with the protesters, Pragatishil Chhatra Jote and Samrajyobad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya, two alliances of 14 leftist student bodies, will enforce a student strike at all educational institutions across the country on October 7, said their convener Imran Habib.

The students will bring out torch

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New contempt of court bill soon: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government would soon take up the initiative to pass a fresh contempt of court bill in parliament as the existing Contempt of Court Act 1926 has nearly become redundant due to expansion of the dimensions of media.

Relevant stakeholders will be consulted beforehand, he said as chief guest at a workshop on "Judicial Reporting" organised by Law Reporters' Forum at Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

In September 2013, the High Court scrapped the Contempt of Court Act 2013 that had given some protection to journalists and government officials, saying the law curtails the court's constitutional powers to deal with contempt cases.

The law minister said journalists have to be cautious while reporting on the judiciary,

so that its dignity, prestige and image are upheld. "If the journalists discharge their duties properly, the country will be much benefited," Anisul said.

SCBA Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon said most government employees were involved in corruption and took bribes. Although their job is to provide services, people have to bribe them for it, he said.

Khokon said the chief justice and law minister, lawyers by profession, knew very well the offices of the Supreme Court where lawyers have to pay bribes while processing the filing of a case.

The journalists should report on these activities, he added.

SC lawyer Ahsanul Karim said if any report or article scandalises a judge or a court, it would be considered contempt of court.

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Int'l situation disconcerting

EU Ambassador in Dhaka Pierre Mayaudon says on recent killings
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of recent killings in Bangladesh and other parts of the world, European Union Ambassador in Dhaka Pierre Mayaudon said the international environment was indeed a source of much concern.

"If we consider the current global context we can only deplore that this particular exhortation has fallen in deaf ears," he said.

Addressing a gathering arranged marking International Day for Non-violence by the Gandhi Ashram Trust in the capital on Saturday, he said it was definitely surrounded by dreadful news, be they brought from far by the media, such as the shooting in Oregon or happening literally at the doorstep with the killing in Gulshan of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella and of a Japanese citizen Hoshi Kunio in Rangpur.



After The Daily Star published the photo, left, of the illegal footpath shops in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Friday, the Dhaka South City Corporation demolished those yesterday. Authorities removed the shops several times in the past but the owners reoccupied the place every time, allegedly because of their links to politically influential people.



PHOTO: STAR

KISHOREGANJ 'RAZAKARS' ICT to frame charges against five Oct 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed October 12 to decide whether it will frame charges against five Kishoreganj "Razakars" for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War.

The accused are Gazi Abdul Mannan, 88, the alleged commander of Karimganj Razakar camp, and alleged Razakar members Hafiz Uddin, 66, Azharul Islam, 60, Nasiruddin Ahmed, 62, and his brother Shamsuddin Ahmed, 60.

Shamsuddin is now in jail while the four others are still fugitives.

During yesterday's hearing, Shamsuddin informed the tribunal that his lawyer will not conduct the case further. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque appointed Abdus Shukur Khan as his state defence counsel. Shukur is also defending the four fugitives.

The seven charges are killing of eight people and injuring of another of four villages on November 12; killing of Miah Hossain of Aila village on November 13; abduction and killing of Abdur Gafur of Kalatali on September 26; abduction, torture and killing of Fazlur Rahman of Atkapara on August 23; killing of Pares Chandra Sarkar of Ramnagar on September 7; torture and killing of Abu Bakar Siddique and another person on August 25; and arson and

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Tiger poachers are influential people

Manju tells workshop on the Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain Manju yesterday said it was hard to control tiger poachers and traffickers because they were socially influential and got political shelter.

He also said an allocation of Tk 100 crore was too inadequate to protect the Sundarbans.

The minister made the comments at a workshop titled "Monitoring Tigers, Prey and their Habitats in the Sundarbans", in the auditorium of the Forest Department.

The department and the World Bank jointly organised it.

Referring to the 2015 survey, Manju said, "We thought there were 440 tigers in the Sundarbans (according to the 2004 pugmark study), but the camera trapping survey showed it is 106."

Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed, secretary to the ministry, said they would have to find the reasons behind the decrease in the tiger population.

Dr YV Jhala, senior professor of the Wildlife Institute of India, who is a consultant to the Sundarbans tiger project, said the number of tigers could be increased but it was not possible to introduce tigers in the Sundarbans from outside.

"So it is necessary to remain careful so that the tiger population does not shrink further."

He said tigers should get the environment to move freely in the Sundarbans to increase their number.

Md Yunus Ali, the chief conservator of forest, said the Forest Department alone could not check traffickers and it needed support of the law enforcement agencies.

But, he said, the law enforcement agencies lacked coordination.

NEW TRAFFIC FINE PAYMENT SYSTEM Offenders being fleeced right under DMP's nose

Delay in return of seized papers frustrate people

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Two youths are overcharging traffic violators right under the nose of Traffic West Division taking advantage of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) newly introduced fine payment system, which some say is proving troublesome instead of easing sufferings.

Earlier, offenders just paid the fine and collected his/her papers seized during the ticketing at the division, covering areas from the Sonargaon hotel to Gabtoli. However, this took up quite some time as the division issues some 500 tickets every day.

To ease the process, the new system was launched where lawbreakers pay the fine through UCash, a mobile financial service

of United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL), which charges Tk 11.5 for the service.

However, Tk 20 was being charged by the youths, Bilash and Mohidur, who just last week had been offering the payment service from a room on the division's premises they said to have had rented for Tk 5,000 per month.

Admitting to this correspondent that they were not UCash agents, the youths till Saturday were offer the services on the footpath right opposite the division.

Once registered with UCash, anyone can transfer money, limited to Tk 25,000 per day through five transactions.

The rented room had a glass in front with the words "UCash Booth" written in red. UCash

Customer Care Officer Sylvia Afrin said UCBL did not set up the booth.

The receipt the duo were offering read "UCash Booth Center: West Traffic Office" and contains a cell phone number, 01747197032. Sylvia confirmed that Bangladesh Bank blocked transactions through the number for not containing updated information.

Bilash, apparently trying to justify the overcharging, claimed that many UCash agents were charging between Tk 35 and Tk 50. Sylvia said UCash agents get no commission for collecting fines and that there was no scope to charge over Tk 11.5.

Sergeant Razzakul Haider, prosecution-in-charge at the

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