

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.4 L 24.0	H 32.0 L 25.0	H 33.8 L 22.9	H 32.8 L 21.7	H 33.5 L 24.5	H 32.3 L 24.2	H 32.0 L 22.6	H 33.0 L 25.0

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:30pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am. Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 21.6 in Sreemangal.

Govt suffering from 'Khaleda, Tarique phobia'

Claims BNP's Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been suffering from a "phobia" of Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman as ministers are spreading propaganda about the BNP chief's visit to the UK and her return home, claimed BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday.

"The ruling party blames Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman for anything bad that happens in the country....," Nazrul said while addressing a doa Mahfil at the BNP's Nayapalton central office.

"The government knows very well that the BNP chairperson went to London for treatment. Still the prime minister, ministers and Awami League leaders are spreading propaganda," he added.

Meanwhile, BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon in a statement called upon the government not to harass its political opponent in the name of enquiry into the murders of two foreign nationals.

KHALEDA'S RETURN

Party insiders and family sources of Khaleda Zia said the BNP chief is likely to return to Dhaka on October 21 or later this month.

"The doctors have removed cataract from one of her [Khaleda] eyes. But considering her physical condition, she is still undecided whether she will undergo another operation to remove cataract in her other eye," a BNP leader staying in London told The Daily Star recently.



Police charge batons on the road march of Gonoatantrik Bam Morcha after it reached Magura yesterday on the way to Rampal, near the Sundarbans, protesting a government move to build a power plant there, putting the largest mangrove forest of the world in danger of pollution. At least 10 protesters, including the morcha coordinator, Saiful Haque, were injured in the attack, which came just the day after a previous attack on the group in Manikganj.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Cops again club Rampal power plant protesters

STAR REPORT

Some 15 Gonoatantrik Bam Morcha leaders and activists were injured yesterday noon after police for the second time in two days charged baton in Magura on their "road march" from Dhaka to the Sundarbans demanding cancellation of the coal-based Rampal power plant project.

Meanwhile, another "Expedition to Save the Sundarbans" of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal over the same demand ended at Bagerhat after holding a rally at the Old Court Intersection.

Speakers at the rally announced holding a national convention in the capital on November 14 and that the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will hold a rally on October 19.

The expedition started off from the capital's Jatiya Press Club on October 13, reports our Bagerhat correspondent.

POLICE TRUNCHEON

The injured include the morcha Coordinator Saiful Haque, Gono Sanghati Andolon Central General Secretary Zonayed Saki and Gonoatantrik Biplobi Party General Secretary Moshrefa Mishu.

Some 100 persons of the morcha in a procession were heading towards the Vaina intersection from Kitchen Market in Dhaka road area when they were stopped by police, leading to a scuffle and then the baton charge, said

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Hindu Mohajote demands 3-day Durga Puja holiday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote leaders yesterday demanded that Hindus be immediately granted a three-day holiday to celebrate Durga Puja, as it is for Muslims during Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha, saying the constitution prohibits religion- or ethnicity-based discrimination.

They also demanded a separate ministry and 60 reserved parliamentary seats, including eight for women, for religious minorities as per the electoral roll, which states that they constitute 17 percent of the country's voters.

The provincial assembly of 1954 had 72 seats reserved for Hindus, said the Mohajote secretary general, Gobinda Chandra Pramanik, while reading out a written statement at a press conference organised by the association of 23 Hinduism-based organisations in Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

While Muslims get three days to celebrate their biggest religious festivals, Hindus and other religious communities get one day only, they said.

No elected representative in parliament has ever raised voice against "oppression" and "persecution" of Hindus, they said in

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Gonojagoron Mancha's Imran gets 'death threat' on Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha, alleged that he received a threat on his life through Facebook yesterday.

The threats came from a person named as Araf Al Islam ISB, Imran told The Daily Star. "I received death threats three today."

In the message, Imran was termed a black sheep for the Muslims and was asked to get prepared to be killed soon. Imran filed a general diary with Shabbagh Police Station. Shiblee Noman, assistant commissioner of Ramna Zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they are investigating the matter.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN Incidents did not increase but reporting did

Claims Meher Afroz Chumki

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against children in the country did not increase, rather more incidents were reported by the media, said State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Ministry Meher Afroz Chumki yesterday.

"Years ago children were married off at the age of 10-11 and were tortured in almost every house but these were never reported. Nowadays with so many newspapers, television channels and online media, an incident is immediately reported and we get scared," she said, adding that statistics at police stations did not show an increase.

She was responding to a query from a child in the audience regarding her concern about the increasing violence against children, at an open discussion on ways to prevent child marriage and violence against children.

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, the Debate for Democracy, Shariatpur Development Society, International Child Development Initiative (ICDI) and Islamic Relief organised the programme at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation in the capital.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) statistics, the number of children killed and tortured last year was 218, and between January and July this year was 161.

Children of different age and socio-economic background participated in the discussion and asked questions to the state minister; Sultana Kamal, human rights activist and also executive director of ASK; and Krishnapada Roy, joint commissioner (crime) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Replying to a question from a child belonging to the Dalit community who

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A woman attacks a traffic police constable in Chittagong city's Agrabad area yesterday, alleging that he inappropriately touched one of the three of them who were crossing a road. The constable, however, claimed he accidentally touched her, without premeditation or ill intention. The OC of Double Mooring Police Station said it was a misunderstanding, and was amicably settled.

PHOTO: STAR

Juta demands removal of BCL man from admin officer post

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (Juta) at a general meeting in Zahir Raihan Auditorium yesterday threatened to launch a movement if the appointment of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) JU unit organising secretary as an administrative officer was not cancelled within 24 hours.

Faysal Hossain Dipu and five others were appointed

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চেম্বার পরিবর্তন

পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, আমাশয়, কোলন ক্যান্সার, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার এবং কোলনস্কপি

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(জিগাতলা বাস স্ট্যান্ড) ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।

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