

WEATHER FORECAST

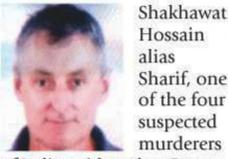
YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.0/L 22.0	H 30.0/L 21.5	H 31.4/L 21.5	H 30.6/L 21.5	H 31.0/L 22.2	H 29.5/L 21.8	H 30.0/L 21.3	H 28.0/L 21.2

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am. Country's highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Faridpur and Bogra and lowest 19.6 in Rangamati.

Three killed Tavella

Another suspect tells court denying his link

COURT CORRESPONDENT



Shakhawat Hossain alias Sharif, one of the four suspected murderers of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella, yesterday told a Dhaka court that the three others were directly involved in the killing and that he did not have any role in the murder.

The three other suspects are Tamjid Ahmed alias Rubel alias Shooter Rubel, Russell Chowdhury alias Chakki Russell, and Minhazul Arifin Russell alias Bhagne Russell.

Sharif said that on the day of the killing, Bhagne Russell forcibly took his motorbike for two hours, saying his "Boro Bhai" MA Matin, brother of former BNP ward councillor

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Gonojagoron Mancha brings out a torch procession from Shahbagh in the capital yesterday, urging all to observe hartal today announced by the mancha protesting the recent murders of writers and publishers.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

2016 to get 22 public holidays

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved the proposed list of holidays for the 2016 calendar year with 14 general holidays and eight more by the executive order of the government.

The approval came at the regular weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam told reporters that apart from these 22 public holidays, there will be three optional holidays for the members of various religious communities.

"Besides, there will be optional holidays on 29th of Chaitra and 2nd of Baishakh for the people living in the Chittagong hill districts on the occasion of Boishabi festival of the ethnic minority groups," he added.

DIPAN MURDER

Protest intensifies

Chhatra Union, Chhatra Front demand resignation of home minister; protests held at DU, RU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Arts Building yesterday condemning the murder of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan and attacks on bloggers.

Around 400 people from all walks of life including Imran H Sarker-led Gonojagoron Mancha activists and student organisations joined the human chain.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front yesterday demanded resignation of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal for his "failure" to stop the killing of bloggers and ensure justice for the victims.

Addressing a press conference at Madhur Canteen, the student leaders also urged all to make today's half day hartal, called by Imran-led Gonojagoron Mancha, successful.

The countrywide six-hour hartal starts at 6:00am.

Last evening, the Gonojagoron Mancha



activists brought out a torch procession in support of the shutdown, and paraded different streets of Shahbagh and DU campus.

Dhaka University Teacher's Association will also form a human chain today at 11:00am at the base of Aparajeya Bangla.

The human chain of DU teachers and students was followed by a protest rally under the banner of Shikhhak, Shikhharthi, Lekhok O Nagorik Brindo (students, teachers, writers and citizens).

Addressing the programme, historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon said, "Though the prime minister announced zero tolerance for militancy, some leaders of her party were lenient to militancy."

Protesting the comment of Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, he said, "They are not showing good taste by making unwanted statements."

Former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Anwar Hossain urged all

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Pro-BNP body blames govt

STAR CORRESPONDENT

A BNP-backed platform of eminent citizens yesterday held the government responsible for Saturday's killing of Faisal Arefin Dipan of Jagriti Prokashani.

Meanwhile, BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and termed a "blatant lie" her allegation hours earlier that BNP leaders and activists were secretly carrying out murders. Ripon told a press conference in the party's Nayapalton office.

The platform, Shata Nagorik Jatiya Committee, in a statement strongly condemned the Saturday's attacks. Educationist Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, poet Al Mahmud, and advocate Khandakar Mahbub Hossain, among others, signed the statement.

Malaysia govt seeking agent-free recruitment

Dy Prime Minister Zahid tells parliament; team arrives to finalise govt-to-govt recruitment of Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi yesterday told parliament that they were looking for a new mechanism to manage recruitment of foreign workers without involving middlemen.

Replying to a lawmaker's query, he also confirmed that Real Time Networking Sdn Bhd, a company owned by his brother Abdul Hakim, did not get a government contract to manage the recruitment of 1.5 million Bangladeshi workers, reported Malaysian newspaper Malaysiakini.

Meanwhile, a five-member Malaysian government delegation arrived in Dhaka to finalise recruitment modalities for Bangladeshi workers.

The delegation is scheduled to attend a special meeting of the Joint Working Committee on the government to government (G2G) recruitment system today in the capital's Probashi Kalyan Bhavan.

Malaysian human resources ministry's

Secretary General Saripuddin Bin Hj Kasim and Bangladesh's expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry's Secretary Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider will lead the respective sides.

The Malaysian government reportedly wanted to regulate the recruitment of Bangladeshis through a Malaysian outsourcing company.

Allegedly in its consideration were Real Time, Bestinet and Synerflux Sdn Bhd, some of the names coming up in the media in Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur in the last three months.

Recently, it was reported that the Malaysian home ministry was in talks with Synerflux. But Zahid yesterday clarified that only Synerflux had been shortlisted.

Last month, leaders of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) opposed the appointment of Synerflux, accusing it of trying to monopolise the labour market by creating a syndicate.

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A police official checks to see if the meter in the CNG-run auto-rickshaw is running accurately in Gabtoli of the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority has been launching drives to ensure that drivers charge fares according to the meter.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Girl gang raped, two arrested in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two rapists were arrested yesterday in connection with gang-rape of a female job seeker at Khagan in Savar, outside the capital, on Saturday morning.

Md Zakir Hosen, 25, and Anwar Hosen, 30, confessed to the Detective Branch of Police that they along with Polish, 28, and Shujat, 27, raped the 16-year-old girl in an empty place near the garment factory before which she was waiting for an interview call.

They tricked her into the place saying that they would help her get the job.

Seeing her critical condition, the four, with two others, who were on guard during the horrendous incident, admitted the victim to Islamia General Hospital and Diagnostics Lab.

Later, they went to her house to threaten her two elder sisters to leave the area as early as possible.

The sisters tactfully informed police who arrested the duo at the hospital yesterday.

AREA-BASED ADMISSION POLICY ISSUED 40pc quota for local students

UNB, Dhaka

The government has issued a policy saying 40 percent of seats must be reserved for local students in Dhaka during admission to secondary, junior secondary and combined primary sections at private schools and colleges.

The education ministry issued a set of guidelines yesterday. Students countrywide seeking to study in class 1 will have to be selected through a lottery while there must be a waiting list. Selected students will lose their seats if they fail to get admitted within the stipulated time and those from the waiting list will get the opportunity.

The authorities can take Tk 200 for application forms for admission in the MPO and partially MPO-listed educational institutions.

The admission fees along with session charges will not be more than Tk 500 in rural areas, Tk 1,000 in upazila headquarters, Tk 2,000 in district towns and Tk 3,000 in all metropolitan areas, except the capital. It will not be more than Tk 5,000 in Dhaka city.

The authorities of partial-MPO and non-MPO listed institutions offering education in Bangla can charge a maximum Tk 8,000 in admission, session and development fees for teachers' salaries and allowance while English medium schools can charge Tk 10,000.

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Prof Beggzadi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Prof Beggzadi Mahmuda Nasir, founder principal of Central Women's College and founder vice chancellor of Central Women's University, died at a Dhaka hospital yesterday morning.

She had been in the intensive care unit (ICU) of Square Hospital since October 22, says a press release.

Born on April 16, 1929, Beggzadi achieved her bachelor's degree from Lady Brakourne College of Kolkata in 1947 and Master's of Arts in English literature from Dhaka University in 1950.

Prof Beggzadi worked as the principal of Central Women's College from

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Four sued over attack on witness against Subhan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The son of a witness, who testified against convicted war criminal Abdus Subhan and was hacked on Sunday night, yesterday filed a case accusing four people, including Awami Krishak League's Ishwardi upazila unit secretary, while police have arrested a man in Pabna's Shahpur village.

In the case statement at Ishwardi Police Station, Sajib Rahman said Sadek Ali Bishwas led the attack on Abdur Rahman Sarder in the latter's Shahpur residence around 8:00pm over a feud centring their residence's boundary wall. The arrestee was identified as Abdur Rahim allies Sentu.

Another links 2 Habiganj war crime suspects to 2 FF killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday linked two of three accused in a war crimes case to the murder of two freedom fighters in Habiganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

The first three witnesses -- Mostor Ali, Qumrunnesa and Taraz Ullah -- said all three -- Muhibur Rahman Boromia, his brother Mujibur Rahman Angur Mia and their cousin Abdur Razzak -- were involved.

Sabuj Ali, the fourth witness, is the younger brother of one of the freedom fighters, Akal Ali of Pachim Khagaura village under Baniachang.

He told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that Akal and their neighbour Rajab Ali joined the Liberation War around one-and-a-half month after it started and came home on November 11.

On information, Razakars, including Muhibur, Razzak and Abdul Hamid, surrounded their house and Muhibur shot

Rajab Ali dead when he tried to flee, said the eyewitness.

Razakars then dragged out Akal while his two wives, Bhingraj Bibi and Police Bibi, and daughter, Qumrunnesa, pleaded to Muhibur for his release, he said.

Akal was taken to a Razakar camp and they heard the next day that Razakars had killed him and hid the body, said Sabuj.

Around 15 days earlier, Muhibur, Razzak, Hamid, Malu Mia and other Razakars along with the Pakistani occupation army looted and burnt Col MA Rob's house, said Sabuj.

The same was done to around 20 houses in nearby Hindu Para, that of Kamala Mia and other residences in Beri Para, he added.

Muhibur and Razzak helped the Pakistani army rape two women there, one of whom committed suicide by ingesting poison, said Sabuj.

The tribunal adjourned proceedings until November 10 after defence counsels completed cross-examining Sabuj.

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