

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 25.8 L 15.3	CHITTAGONG H 25.6 L 13.8	SYLHET H 26.8 L 14.2	RAJSHAHI H 24.5 L 09.5	KHULNA H 26.0 L 12.5	BARISAL H 26.7 L 13.0	RANGPUR H 26.0 L 12.2	COX'S BAZAR H 27.0 L 14.6
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Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:26pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 27.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 09.0 in Chuadanga.

WAR CRIMES IN NETRAKONA

Death penalty for 2 sought at ICT

Prosecution completes arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday sought death penalty for Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani for allegedly committing crimes in Netrakona during the 1971 Liberation War.

Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal made the plea before the International Crimes Tribunal-1, as the prosecution completed their closing arguments on factual aspects saying that they have been able to prove five of the six charges brought against them "beyond any shadow of doubt."

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Anwarul Haque, asked the defence counsel to place their arguments today and prosecution to place their arguments on legal points after defence submission.

Taher and Nani, two alleged members of Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, however, pleaded not guilty before the tribunal.

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FEAR OF AL-BNP FACE-OFF IN CAPITAL

People suffer as most buses go off streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People had difficulties commuting in the capital yesterday as few buses were on the streets in anticipation that there would be a violent face-off between the Awami League and BNP.

The two major parties called three separate rallies in the city yesterday, marking the second anniversary of the January 5 national election.

In different parts of the city, people especially women struggled to get into buses but most of the time they failed because of impenetrable crowds at the door.

There were also traffic jams at some places. The ruling AL organised the gatherings at Bangabandhu Avenue and Russell Square, while BNP rallied in front of the party office at Nayapalton.

The public sufferings worsened when, unlike on normal days, buses kept their doors shut.

Commuters suffered most in Motijheel, Paltan, Guilstan, Jatiya Press Club, Shahbagh, Science Laboratory, Kalabagan, Farmgate, and Mirpur areas.

A helper of a city bus, Yousuf, said there were few buses because the transport operators were in panic over the rallies of the two parties.

Masuma Hossain, who works in a private Bank at Motijheel, waited at Mirpur-1 intersection for about one hour to get into a bus.

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BNP to bring vote 'snatchers' to book

Says Amir Khasru Mahmud Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP will form a tribunal to punish those "who are snatching people's voting rights", President of Chittagong city unit of the party Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday.

"A list of the persons including police officials, presiding officers who snatched people's voting rights and stuffed ballot boxes is being prepared. No one would be spared. One after one, they would be put on trial," he told a party rally in Kazir Dewri area of the city.

BNP leaders and activists from different thanas and wards assembled for the programme.

Khasru said the Awami League (AL) had a plan to set a new trend in election, in which people would be kept away from polling stations.

A section of bureaucrats and police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials is implementing the plan with the election commissioner as head, he added.

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Muggers snatch Tk 28.47 lakh shooting driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers snatched Tk 28.47 lakh after shooting a driver of Premier Cement Mills Ltd in Fatullah in Narayanganj district yesterday.

Rajab Ali was admitted to a private hospital in the capital with bullet wounds in his left hand.

Rezaul Karim, chief coordinator of the mill told The Daily Star that five muggers on two motorcycles intercepted their microbus in Kashipur area around 1:00pm, beat their three staff up and shot the driver when they were returning to the mill at Muktarpur in Munshiganj after withdrawing the money from a Bank in Fatullah.

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Cox's Bazar war crime accused dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Md Jinnah alias Jinnat Ali died at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in Gazipur early yesterday.

Jinnat, 58, had been in Kashipur High Security Jail for last five months and was rushed to the jail hospital with chest pain on Monday night, our Gazipur correspondent reports quoting Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of Kashipur Central Jail.

Later, he was rushed to the medical college hospital where doctor declared him dead around 12:45am yesterday, Mizanur said.

Jinnat, 58, of Muhurirdail village in Maheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar, was one of the 19 men from the district against whom the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal found evidence in connection with the crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Police arrested Jinnat on May 21 last year following the arrest warrant issued

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Fish being sun-dried in Bakalia of Chittagong city on Monday. Dry fish processing gets a boost every winter in the villages on the Karnaphuli River banks.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PAHELA BAISHAKH Chhatra Union rejects probe report on sexual assaults at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Union activists yesterday rejected the probe report which stated that none of the culprits, who sexually assaulted women during last year's Pahela Baishakh celebration, could be identified or arrested.

Detectives submitted the final report before a Dhaka Court on December 24, about eight months after the assaults took place.

Chhatra Union activists were the first ones to resist the sexual assaults on 20 women on Dhaka University campus for over an hour on April 14 evening. Chhatra Union leader Liton Nandi and some of his friends were injured while scuffling with the assaulters.

At a rally held before the National Museum in the capital yesterday, the Chhatra Union activists urged police to undertake a fresh investigation bringing the culprits to book.

"A number of policemen were standing nearby when

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Woman burnt in acid attack in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman suffered four percent burns to her hand, arm and leg after acid was thrown on her at Mohammadpur Geneva Camp in the capital early yesterday.

The victim, Sonia Akhter, 28, told journalists at Dhaka Medical College Hospital that miscreants threw acid through a window when she was asleep.

The family has a long-standing feud with their neighbours over a property at Geneva Camp, said police. Suspected attackers went into hiding and a man named Shahadat was detained for quizzing police added.

Some private universities yet to comply with rules

Says Nahid

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said a number of private universities are yet to fulfill their conditions.

"These universities cannot run in this way for long," he said while presiding over the fourth convocation of Uttara University (UU) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, said an official release.

The private universities have to follow 'Private University Act 2010' and create congenial atmosphere for modern and time-befitting research and develop libraries and

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Save Barisal pond in existing state: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to maintain status quo on filling up a five-acre pond in Barisal city for construction of a food storehouse for next six months.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the government to explain why their inaction to protect the pond should not be declared illegal and why they should not be directed to take steps to protect the waterbody.

The HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir came up with the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh challenging the legality of filling the pond for construction of the storehouse.

Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the government had reportedly started filling earth in the pond to the south side of Barisal Medical College and near the Kirtonkhola River to construct the godown in it violating the Water Bodies Act.

Militancy Bangladesh's new crisis

Prof Anisuzzaman tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called for a social movement to prevent communalism and militancy, and underscored the need for engaging Islamic scholars in it.

War Crimes Organisation Finding Committee organised the rally titled "Social Prevention in Restraining Militancy-Terrorism" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Addressing as chief guest, Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman said Bangladesh was facing a new crisis -- communalism and militancy.

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সাহিত্যিক, সাংবাদিক ও রাজনীতিবিদ আবুল মনসুর আহমদ স্মৃতি পরিষদের উদ্যোগে আবুল মনসুর আহমদের লেখালেখির ১০০ বছরপূর্তি উপলক্ষে ও সম্প্রতি অনুষ্ঠিত আবুল মনসুর আহমদ স্মৃতি সম্মেলনে পঠিত ৩টি মূলপ্রবন্ধসহ অতিথীদের ভাষণ নিয়ে 'স্মৃতিতে উজ্জ্বল আবুল মনসুর আহমদ' শিরোনামে একটি সংকলন বের হচ্ছে। এ বিষয়ে আপনার পূর্বে লিখিত/সংগ্রহীত যদি কোন লেখা থেকে থাকে সেই লেখাটি পাঠিয়ে দিন নিম্নোক্ত ঠিকানায় ২১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৬ মধ্যে। এবং সেই সাথে তাঁর দুর্লভ ছবি, হাতের লেখা চিঠি, অগ্রহীত কোনো লেখা, সাক্ষাতকারসহ উনাকে প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে এমন স্মৃতি চিহ্ন সংগ্রহ চলছে।

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