

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.0 L 24.6	CHITTAGONG H 32.3 L 24.6	SYLHET H 32.5 L 20.4	RAJSHAHI H 34.0 L 16.4	KHULNA H 34.4 L 24.6	BARISAL H 34.0 L 24.2	RANGPUR H 31.4 L 14.0	COX'S BAZAR H 33.0 L 25.5
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Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:11pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am.

SC upholds death penalty for JMB man Asaduzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death penalty of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activist Asaduzzaman Chowdhury alias Panir for killing eight people by carrying out suicide bomb attacks at Udichi and Shata Dal Shilpi Goshthi offices in Netrokona in 2005.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha dismissed an appeal filed by Asaduzzaman challenging the High Court verdict that had affirmed the trial court judgement sentencing him to death.

Deputy Attorney General Sashanka Shekhar Sarkar told The Daily Star that the jail authorities could take steps for executing the convict after receiving the apex court verdict, if he did not take any further legal step.

Asaduzzaman, who is

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The National Memorial in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, getting a makeover yesterday ahead of March 26, the country's Independence Day, when thousands from around the country will arrive to pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War of 1971. PHOTO: STAR

Violence against ethnic minorities increasing

Reveals Kapaeng Foundation report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Last year, 85 women and girls from ethnic minority communities, 44 from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and 41 from plain land, became victims of violence, according to "Human Rights Report 2015 on Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh".

The report published by Kapaeng Foundation with support from Oxfam, an UK-based international development organisation, showed that since 2007, more and more women and girls from ethnic minorities had been falling prey to violence, which includes rape and gang rape, attempted rape, killing after rape, physical assault, abduction, sexual harassment and trafficking.

Pallab Chakma, editor of the report and executive director of Kapaeng Foundation, explained that the data from the related reports published in different local and national newspapers and local network organisations, which in turn were often verified by Kapaeng's staff.

The report was launched yesterday morning at a ceremony organised by Kapaeng with Oxfam's support at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Out of the 69 incidents of violence against ethnic minority women and girls, which were documented last year, cases were filed against 46, and the rest were either resolved through local arbitration or not reported to police, read the report.

The report also mentioned that 78 percent of the perpetrators of these incidents were not from ethnic minority communities, 15 percent from ethnic minority, six percent unknown and one percent was security personnel.

The 208-page report has six chapters besides introduction and situation of women and girls, focusing on situation of civil and political rights, rights of land and natural resources, rights of youth, child and education, the CHT accord of 1997 and climate change.

The chapter on civil and political rights showed that there were a total of 52 arrests and detentions of ethnic

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DETERIORATION TIMELINE	
YEAR	NUMBER OF FEMALE VICTIMS
2007	9
2008	4
2009	16
2010	25
2011	31
2012	75
2013	67
2014	122
2015	85

Fund scarcity gnawing away at TB programme

6,000 died of TB last yr

8,103 children were diagnosed positive; experts of National Tuberculosis Control Programme say marking World TB Day

SAY OFFICIALS OF GLOBAL FUND, NTP

PORIMOL PALMA

Fighting tuberculosis remains an uphill task as the country faces budget shortage while some 1.5 lakh patients of the air-borne disease remain undetected annually, said experts and officials.

For the three-year TB programme since June 2015, Bangladesh had prepared a budget of \$153 million, but only some \$77 million was mobilised, according to Dr MA Hamid Salim, advisor to Global Fund, and National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP).

The major fund, \$66.6 million, came from the Global Fund, \$8 million from USAID, \$4.9 million from the World Bank as loan and \$0.6 million from the government.

During the 2011-15 TB programme, 43 NGOs provided the TB patients with support and care, but now only 28 NGOs are working, said officials at

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More than 2 lakh people were diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and at least 6,000 died of TB in the country last year, officials at the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) told a press conference in the capital yesterday.

A total of 206,919 people and 8,103 children were diagnosed and treated with TB last year, they added.

The death figure might be 80,000 a year as thousands of others remain undetected and/or unreported, said the officials while addressing the conference ahead of World TB Day which will be observed in the country and beyond today to raise awareness among the people.

World Health Organization (WHO) will observe

Bangladesh sixth among TB prone countries

- 227 out of every 1,00,000 found infected in 2015
- 51 out of every 1,00,000 died of the disease
- 880 cases of Multi-drug Resistant TB detected same year
- Over 4 million patients found worldwide in 2014
- Around 1 million of them died

the day with the theme "Unite to End TB."

Dr Abdul Hamid Salim, advisor to NTP, said the most of the TB cases could be detected in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj thanks to a relatively greater awareness among the people than among

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BNP criticises CEC's fair UP polls claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday lambasted the chief election commissioner for his comment before journalists on Tuesday that the first phase of the union parishad polls was largely fair and acceptable.

Addressing a discussion Jatiya Jubo Jagga organised in the capital's Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association marking Independence Day, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Rakibul Islam's comment did not reflect the reality as 12 persons died and over 500 were injured in the polls violence.

"We have seen in the media that widespread violence and irregularities took place across the country during the polls...If this is the situation, where and to whom will people go to?" said the party's leader. Fakhrul also alleged that the election system has been destroyed to impose a one-party rule in the country. At one stage, he said to have lost interest in talking about the election system, and commission. "The government has gradually destroyed all the democratic institutions and basic structures of the state. There are killings, violence, uncertainty and chaos everywhere as no single democratic institution exists," he observed.

Improve drainage system, stop drug peddling

Residents of Ward 34 demand from DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crises due to poor drainage system, lack of safe drinking water and illegal drug trading in some parts of Old Dhaka have to be resolved immediately, demanded the residents.

The dwellers of Ward No-34 placed the demands when Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon joined a programme at Shuritola Primary School to hear local problems.

They also demanded that more deep tubewells and public toilets be set up and waste management be improved. The residents said there had been a drainage problem in Alubazar and Nazirabazar for a long time. The crisis worsened during monsoon due to waterlogging, they said. Nowadays illegal drug trading is going on unabated in the areas, they added. A resident of the ward

said 80 percent of garbage is generated by different factories set up there while the rest by households.

In response to their demands, the mayor said Wasa was entrusted with resolving drainage problem. He assured them of setting up deep tubewells and public toilets on an emergency basis. He urged Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Lalbagh zone), who was also present there, to conduct a two-week special drive against such drug trading.

About garbage management problem at Suritola, the mayor said 100 bins would be set up there shortly. Khokon asked councillor Mir Samir of the ward to take steps to shift factories from the residential areas. In response to it, the ward councillor said he would conduct a survey about the factories and, later, would ask them to leave the residential areas.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week, the *Star Weekend* has an array of interesting articles for our readers. The spotlight reveals what the makers of the constitution of Bangladesh had in mind and heart as they planned on shaping the nation. There is also an article on today's Islam, in conversation with noted Professor of Islamic studies and critical traditionalist, Ebrahim Moosa. Don't forget your copy of *Star Weekend* tomorrow, Friday!

SHAPING A NATION

When Bangladesh declared its independence on the 26th of March, it was the culmination of a historical struggle of self-determination and autonomy. 45 years on, do we still remember the core tenets of our constitution? What did we learn as a liberated Bangladesh? Were we successful in giving a state, a home and citizenship to those who fled the sword in the name of their religion, race and ethnicity? In these 45 years of the country and its constitution, and its forgotten promises, its dreams and pitfalls, to read more about this week's spotlight, turn to pages 7, 8 and 9.

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