

WEATHER FORECAST

Table with weather forecasts for Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Rangpur, and Cox's Bazar.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am.



MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT Integrity must for obtaining fund

TIB seminar on Climate Change Adaptation Finance told stressing project info disclosure

Transparency and accountability must be ensured to obtain global fund to mitigate and adapt to the threats of climate change, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

"We need to ensure that there is participation in the accountability process," Ifekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) told reporters at a seminar on "Integrity Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Finance: Transparency, accountability and Participation".

He said that Bangladesh will not get funds because it is a climate change affected nation and needed to prove that it used the fund responsibly for the victims of climate change.

The accountability process should include all stakeholders including government, private sectors, civil society organisation along with directly-affected communities, he added.

TIB organised the dialogue which had four sessions and was attended by national and international experts from 12 countries including Bangladesh, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

Masud Ahmed, comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of Bangladesh, and the chief guest of the closing event, said that his office carried out 112 audits of climate-related projects.

The CAG said that though most of the audits had observations, the funds in general are being spent with due diligence.

Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, independent member of Green Climate Fund Technical Advisory, however, noted the lack of sufficient public disclosure of funds for climate-related projects.

"There is no information on where the projects are being implemented, why it was chosen and how far the projects have progressed," he said, stressing the need to bring climate related projects under mandatory audit requirement.

He added that without such practise of public information disclosure, it would be difficult to get any future adaptation funds.

Annaka Peterson Carvalho from Oxfam, USA, also spoke at the session.

The day-long event also highlighted the need for transparency and accountability on the part of developed countries.

Speakers urged the developed countries to fully implement their commitment abiding by the principle that polluters pay the affected developing countries climate finance as grant and not as loan.

They also suggested using digital technology for disclosure of climate finance-related information to ensure transparency and accountability of all stakeholders.

TONU MURDER PROTESTS GAINING STRENGTH

Protests continued around the country yesterday with increased vigour over the alleged rape and murder of Comilla Victoria College student Shohagi Jahan Tonu with (1) students blocking Shahbagh intersection in the capital and (2) engaging in some scuffles with police, (3) the Workers' Party of Bangladesh forming a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club, (4) Ainjibi Samaj forming another on the Supreme Court premises, (5) Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organising a protest rally at Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University (DU), (6) Bangladesh Chhatra Union bringing out a torch procession on the DU campus, (7) Gaibandha Government College students forming a human chain blocking a road, (8) Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Gonojagoron Mancha, and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front forming another in Kurigram, (9) general people bringing out a procession in Akhaura, (10) students of Uttar Kattali Mostafa Hakim University forming a human chain in Chittagong citygate area, (11) Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Jubo Union forming yet another at Post Office More in Jhenidah, and (12) A woman condemning the incident at a human chain organised by Nandan Foundation in Laxmipur. Many other places in the country also saw similar demonstrations.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH



HC orders John Wilson School to take back two expelled students

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of Sir John Wilson School in the capital's Badda to allow its two students, who were expelled earlier, to attend their regular classes and examinations.

In response to a writ petition, the court also stayed the decision of the school authorities to expel Maliha Muskan Ahmed, a class VIII student, and her brother Maaniu Ahmed, a first-grader, for four months.

The school authorities expelled them on March 10 after their father Minhaj Ahmed Shafil had an altercation with the project director of the school MA Rouf over its playground the same day, petitioner Minhaj told The Daily Star.

Yesterday, the HC also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the school and government to explain in four weeks as to why the decision of expelling the students should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AHM Shahidul Huq came up with order and rule after hearing the writ petition filed for challenging the legality of the decision of the expulsion.

FBUTA calls off movement

DU CORRESPONDENT

With the government meeting a majority of their demands, the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA) yesterday called off their movement over the 8th national pay scale.

FBUTA Secretary General ASM Maksud Kamal made the announcement at a press briefing after holding a general meeting with representatives of several public universities at Dhaka University Teacher's Club at noon.

On March 24, a cabinet committee on salary discrepancies decided that public university professors will get promotions to grades 2 and 1 without selection grade. Fifty percent of professors in grade 3, having served at least four years and published two articles in

any recognised journal, will be promoted to grade 2, said meeting sources. After completing 20 years in service, including two years in grade 2, a professor would be eligible to get promoted to grade 1. However, a maximum of 25 percent of professors in grade 2 will be promoted.

FBUTA President Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed thanked the committee and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "We have fought for honour and honour has been re-established," he said.

He, however, urged the committee to consider other demands including promotion to super grade giving distinguished professors the status of a senior secretary. The FBUTA since January 19 has been intermittently suspending their movement, which began on May 2015, on getting the prime minister's assurance.

UGC, Macquarie University signs MoU

CITY DESK

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday with Macquarie University of Australia to promote academic, research, and governance cooperation.

UGC Chairman Abdul Mannan; Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Sydney Anthony Khouri Oam; UGC member Yousuf Ali Mollah; Pro Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University Sherman Young; Pro Vice-Chancellor International of Macquarie University Nicole Brig, and Senior Country Manager (South Asia) of Macquarie International Tanveer Shaheed were present.

BUBT observes Independence Day

CITY DESK

Bangladesh University of Business and Technology held a discussion on the 46th Independence and National Day on its campus in the capital on Monday.

Polls in Rangamati postponed

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will be held from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

THIRD PHASE FILING

A total of 2,817 chairman aspirants filed nominations for the third phase. Of them, 1,435 are nominated by 15 political parties and the rest are independent candidates, according to EC statistics.

Five AL-nominated chairman aspirants are set to be elected unopposed, while BNP has no candidates in 46 UPs.

FIRST PHASE RESULT

AL candidates won in 540 UPs (54 unopposed), BNP's in 47, main opposition Jatiya Party in four; Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) in three, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

in three, the Workers' Party of Bangladesh in one; Islami Andolon Bangladesh in one and independent candidates in 103. Besides, re-polling will be held in 22 UPs and election has been cancelled in one as a chairman candidate died there, according to EC's result sheet revealed yesterday.

25pc of pregnant women with hepatitis E die

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"It will save lives of 95 percent of babies," he opined. Ahmad also requested the local manufacturers to reduce the price of vaccines for the poor.

However, Managing Director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd Abdul Muktedir said they could not reduce the price of vaccine because of high interest rate. So he sought the government's assistance.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said donor agencies give the government various conditions which impedes the progress in the health sector. He said budget allocations should be increased to reduce dependency on donors.

Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr Deen Muhammad Nurul Haque said many people still depend on quacks to treat jaundice. "We need to make peo-

ple aware about modern treatment to refrain people from choosing quacks," he added.

Among others, Director General of Directorate General of Drug Administration Maj Gen Mostafizur Rahman, Secretary General of Bangladesh Medical Association Iqbal Arslan, singer Ferodous Ara, and President of the Society Dr Morol Nazrul Islam were present at the discussion.

Charges accepted against two

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incident of genocide in which eight Hindus were killed and three Hindu women raped in Risipara on November 5; another incident of genocide in which at least 43 people of six villages were killed on November 3; and killing of three brothers of Bhalukjan on November 21.

NOAKHALI CASE

The tribunal decided to try Abul Kalam alias AKM Mansur in absentia, along with four other detained accused of Sudharam upazila of Noakhali, for their alleged wartime crimes.

The decision came as Mansur did not appear before it even though advertisements were published in national dailies. May 12 was fixed for hearing of the charges. The other accused of the case, Abdul

Kuddus, 84, Amir Ali, 70, Md Joynal Abedin, 73, and Mohammad Yusuf, 60, are now in jail.

Meanwhile, the tribunal denied bail to Kuddus and asked the jail authorities to provide necessary treatment to him. The prosecution on October 5 last year pressed three charges against the five over the killing of at least 111 people.

HABIGANJ CASE

The tribunal completed recording the cross-examination of Nur Hossain, the investigation officer of the case, filed against three accused from Baniachang upazila of Habiganj. The court fixed April 4 for recording the testimony of the defence witness. Muhibur Rahman alias Boromian, Mujibur Rahman alias Angur Mian, and Abdur Razzak face four charges.

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