

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 30.5 | L 22.5

CHITTAGONG
H 32.0 | L 25.3

SYLHET
H 30.2 | L 19.5

RAJSHAHI
H 34.1 | L 19.8

KHULNA
H 33.5 | L 24.0

BARISAL
H 31.2 | L 24.5

RANGPUR
H 30.8 | L 19.5

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.5 | L 24.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50am.

N'GANJ 7 MURDERS
Father-in-law of slain panel mayor Nazrul gives testimony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday recorded testimony of witness Shahidul Islam, father-in-law of slain panel mayor Nazrul Islam, in two cases filed over sensational seven-murder.

District and Sessions Judge Syed Enayet Hossain started recording of the testimony around 10:30am, said Public Prosecutor Wazed Ali Khokon.

Earlier in the morning, law enforcers produced 23 charge-sheeted accused, including three sacked Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials, before the court amid tight security.

On Monday, Senior Judicial Magistrate Begum Chadni Rupom and Mizanur Rahman, brother of slain Moniruzzaman Swapan, gave testimonies before the court.

Earlier, nine persons, including Senior Judicial Magistrate KM Mohiuddin and complainants of the two cases, gave testimonies.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Clockwise from left, demanding arrest of the rapists and killers of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Union try to break through a police barricade in front of the public library at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, while heading towards the Prime Minister's Office to besiege it. A schoolgirl chanting slogans at a demonstration, organised by Joyjatra Foundation in front of Jatiya Press Club. The history department students of Dhaka University form a human chain demanding justice for Tonu, who was a history student at Comilla Victoria College.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, SK ENAMUL HAQ

Air pollution overarching reason for pulmonary diseases

Experts tell seminar in capital while revealing findings of a research conducted by Bangladesh University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly one fourth of the dwellers in the capital suffer from abnormal pulmonary function, for which high level of air pollution is an overarching reason, leading medical experts told a seminar yesterday.

Adolescent children, elderly people and pregnant women are much more susceptible to this menace, they said while revealing findings of a research

on effects of air pollution on public health, conducted by Bangladesh University (BU) over the last three months.

The university and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) jointly organised the seminar at the capital's Krishibid Institution.

The research was based on a random sample of 500 persons, aged from 10 to 40 and above, chosen from various slums and schools in different

parts of the city.

Around 25 percent of the people tested were found to have abnormal lung function, said Prof Md Ruhul Amin, a paediatric pulmonologist at Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Generally, exposure to high levels of air pollution causes bronchiolitis, pneumonia, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), said Amin, adding that such

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Garbage dumped indiscriminately on Ramchandrapur Canal by people living along its three-kilometre body, obstructing its flow from Mohammadpur Shia mosque to Gabtoli and posing the threat of waterlogging during the monsoon as it drains out water from a part of the capital round the year. The photo was taken from the Mohammadpur part of the canal near the Shia mosque on Tuesday.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

GRAFT CASE
Khaleda asked to appear before court April 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to appear before it on April 7 in Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

After completion of the cross-examination of Harunur Rashid, the investigating officer of the case, Judge Abu Ahmed Jomadar of Special Judge Court-3 passed the order.

On that day, the court will question Khaleda and two others about the statements placed by 32 prosecution witnesses.

The BNP chief has skipped her appearance before the court for 25 dates since September 10 last year.

Meanwhile, the HC yesterday adjourned the hearing until Sunday on a petition filed by Khaleda seeking cancellation of the proceedings.

The bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Mahmudul Haque started the hearing on Wednesday.

On March 9, Khaleda challenged the legality of Harunur's appointment, saying that the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has not published

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

ENVIRONMENT COURT
Laws need to be changed

Says Law Minister Anisul Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Laws should be changed for the environment court system's effective functioning, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday, assuring to take up the issue to the environment and forests ministry, and the prime minister soon.

The environment is an evolving issue and so relevant laws should be changed from time to time, he said, adding that Bangladesh has been facing serious threats to the environment.

He was addressing a workshop, "Functioning of Environment Courts: The Regional Experience", organised by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) in the capital's Brac Centre Inn. The first court was set up in 2000 during the Awami League's tenure, the law amended in 2010 a second tenure and now the current government will again make the court functional as it does not lack in political will on addressing environmental issues, he said.

Advocate Ritwick Dutta of the Indian Supreme Court said their "National Green Tribunal" (NGT) was independent and any aggrieved person or representative could file petitions, even if they think a development project might damage the environment. It comprises 10 judicial members and 10 environment experts with either a Supreme Court judge or a retired High Court chief justice as the chairperson.

Ritwick cited an instance when NGT cancelled an environment and forests ministry-approved 2,640MW coal-fired power plant project in Andhra Pradesh, for the larger interest of the nation from the point of view of ecology and the environment. Chairing the session, Bela Chief Executive Rizwana Hasan lamented that Bangladesh's environment court was not functioning properly despite being set up a decade

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

HC wants to know whether Tarique got summons in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka to inform it by April 6 whether the summons on BNP leader Tarique Rahman in a money laundering case reached his London address.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Amir Hossain passed the order after a prayer moved by the Anti Corruption Commission to fix a date for hearing its appeal against Tarique's acquittal in the case involving Tk 20.41 crore.

The anti-graft body filed the case against Tarique and his friend and business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in October 2009 for syphoning off the money to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

On November 17, 2013, a Dhaka court acquitted Tarique and sentenced Mamun to seven years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 40 crore in the case.

On December 5 the same year, the ACC appealed to the HC, challenging Tarique's acquittal.

The HC on January 19, 2014 ordered Tarique to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Call 10678

For Appointments and Emergencies
Apollo Call Centre is Open 24/7

Notice

Changed Address of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' Sales Office at Banani from 3rd April, 2016

New Address

Ahmed Tower, Seventh Floor/Eight Level
(South West Corner) 28 & 30 Kamal Ataturk Avenue
Banani, Dhaka-1213, Phone: +88-02-9822272
+88-02-9822260, +88-02-9822263, +88-02-9822264.

~~**Old Address**~~

House No - 97, Road no - 4, Block - B, Banani

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES
www.biman-airlines.com

CORRUPTION CASE
SC upholds bail for Mirza Abbas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that granted bail to BNP leader Mirza Abbas in a corruption case, clearing the way for his release from jail.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha dismissed an appeal filed by Anti Corruption Commission against the HC verdict.

Abbas' lawyer Sagir Hossain Leon told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar to his client's release from the custody following the SC order.

Abbas was sent to jail on January 6 when he surrendered to the lower court in connection with the case.

ACC filed the case against Mirza Abbas,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH
WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED

Do you want to be a journalist or a TV specialist or an animation film-maker?

Enroll@AIUB's BA in Media and Mass Communication (MMC)

The Department of Media and Mass Communication (MMC) offers a four-year degree program in eight consecutive semesters and offer the following majors:

- Major in Mass Communication and Journalism
- Major in Television Production and Animation

Why MMC @AIUB?
BA in Media and Mass Communication (MMC) @AIUB aims to interconnect a wide range of avenues concerned with

- Information systems
- Mass communication
- Public Relations
- Newspaper Journalism
- Television Journalism
- Television Production
- Multimedia Journalism
- Culture and Society
- Advertising
- Television Presentation
- Documentary Production
- Animation

-thus providing a unique opportunity to a dynamic individual to acquire both a strong theoretical as well as effective practical knowledge in multifarious avenues of media and communication.

The Department has excellent facilities including a TV studio, Animation lab, Computer lab, and Photography lab to impart state-of-the-art practical lessons to students.

Admission Open For Summer 2015-16
Admission Exam : 2 May 2016

ADMISSION INFORMATION OFFICE:
83/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani
Phone: 9897387, 58815387
Ext.100, 199; Email: info@aiub.edu