

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.8 L 27.5	H 32.4 L 27.3	H 35.5 L 24.2	H 38.1 L 22.5	H 38.8 L 26.5	H 36.5 L 27.2	H 35.0 L 20.3	H 32.7 L 28.0

Rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet and Chittagong divisions with hails at places till 6:00pm today, Met Office said. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Sayedpur, Dinajpur, Barisal and Patuakhali and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 5:37am.

Five Netrakona war crimes accused sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent four Netrakona men to jail, a day after they were arrested over charges of committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque also fixed May 29 for passing the next order in the case.

The four are Azizur Rahman, 65, Ashak Ali, 82, Md Shahnewaz, 88, and Ramjan Ali, 78, of Durgapur upazila of Netrakona.

They were arrested on Tuesday, hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrants for five persons including the four. The fifth accused, Khalilur Rahman, is still on the run, said Prosecutor Zead Al Malum.

Meanwhile, the tribunal allowed the prosecution to interrogate Sohrab Fakir, accused in another case, at the safe home of the investigation agency. As per the order, he could be interrogated for one day on April 20. Two other accused of the case -- Hedayet Ullah Anju and his brother Enayet Ullah Manju of Atpara upazila of Netrakona -- are still on the run, said Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal.



A danger of flooding, created by heavy rains in the haor areas of Sunamganj in recent time, has given rise to a new phenomenon. People are selling out their cattle which they fear would get washed away in the flooding, making the poor families completely broke. Traders of Sunamganj and Sylhet have seized the opportunity and are buying the cattle in boatloads at low prices. According to local people, around 200-300 cattle are being sold every day. The photo was taken in the Boala river in Madyanagar on Tuesday.

SC upholds stay on Gazipur mayor's suspension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that stayed suspension of Gazipur City Corporation mayor MA Mannan over criminal charges.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed "no order" on an appeal filed by Gazipur city's panel mayor Asaduzzaman Kiron against the HC order.

There is no legal bar for Mannan to discharge duties as the mayor of GCC following the apex court's order, Abu Hanif, a lawyer for Mannan told reporters.

The LGRD ministry on August 19 last year suspended Mannan, after a Gazipur court accepted a charge sheet against him in a case filed with Joydevpur Police Station for an arson attack on a passenger bus in the city on February 4 the same year.

Mannan, also an adviser of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was arrested in his Baridhara residence on February 11 last year.

The HC on April 11 stayed for six months the LGRD ministry's suspension order.

Fire breaks out in port city market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Fire gutted valuables, worth Tk 4 lakh, of two shops in a market in Chittagong city early yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit in a shop of Rahaman Market in Chawk Bazar Kitchen Market area and soon spread to another adjacent shop around 3:40am, said Fire Service officials.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and managed to douse the blaze around 5:20am.

Baby thief caught red handed at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Medical College Hospital staff and patients' visitors beat up and handed over to police a man as he tried to snatch an eight-month-old baby girl from an aya (ward assistant) on Tuesday night.

Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shahbagh Police Station, told The Daily Star that the detainee, Shahajuddin, 35, might have lost mental balance.

He said they would verify the information they got from locals. No case was filed till last evening.

Ahsan Ullah Biswas, 50, of Keraniganj, father of the girl Khadizatul Kubra, was admitted to the surgery ward on the ground floor of the hospital on March 9, the OC said.

The aya, Rehana, 60, said Shahajuddin held the hands of the baby and tried, in vain, to snatch her when her mother took Biswas to a toilet.

Abu Bakar said at that time people rushed in and asked Shahajuddin whether he was trying to steal the baby. Later, he confessed to doing so, he added.

HC questions legality of MPs being on governing bodies

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday challenged the legality and issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks as to why the Section 5(50) of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board Rules-2009 that allowed lawmakers to hold post of chairman on governing bodies of local school and colleges should not be declared unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice Zinat Ara and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond challenging the legality of the 2009 rules.

According to the Article 65 of the constitution, the lawmakers are permitted to research and formulate laws, but they do not do that properly, said Eunus.

"Under the Section 5(50) of the 2009 rules, a lawmaker can hold post of chairman on governing bodies of four separate institutions, which is contrary to his or her duties defined by the constitution," added the lawyer.

Education secretary, chairman of Dhaka Education Board, and Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, who is also chairman of governing body of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, have been made respondents to the rule.

DU hall provost confined for raid against outsiders

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students, including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists, confined the provost of Amar Ekushey Hall of Dhaka University to his room for one hour and a half and vandalised his car early yesterday.

The attackers also vandalised furniture of the administrative room, scattered documents, and damaged some CCTV cameras of the dormitory when the provost and four house tutors raided the hall around midnight to evict outsiders and overstaying students, said witnesses. They also demanded resignation of the provost.

Provost Prof Anwarul Islam accused some "political students" of carrying out the vandalism and provoking others. DU unit president of BCL Abid al Hasan said BCL activists were among the protesters. Condemning the incident, he said action would be taken against the BCL men responsible. Acting proctor M Amzad Ali said action would be taken after investigation.



Celebrated folk singers enthralled the audience at the daylong Chaitra Songkranti Utsab at the capital's Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) yesterday, organised by the university, marking the eve of Bangla noboborsho.

ACC arrests four current, former govt officials for embezzlement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested four current and former government officials in three separate cases for misappropriating about Tk 11.26 crore at different times.

The arrested are Executive Officer of Sonali Bank Mosharef Hossain, Manager and Executive Officer of Sonali Bank Jakir Hossain, Engineer of Local Government and Engineering Division (LGED) of Patiya Ziaul Haque Dulal and former civil surgeon Dr Aftab Uddin Ahmed.

Meanwhile, the anti-graft watchdog sued Ekushey Television's former chairman Abdus Salam, its Director Ashrafal Alam and Senior Manager (Finance) Fazlur Rahman Shikdar for allegedly laundering Tk 26.7 lakh.

Sources said LGED engineer Dulal "gobbled up" Tk 6.34 lakh from a project and did not construct a 172 metre road in Bagaichhari Upazila of Chittagong during the 2013-14 fiscal.

He was sued on March 8, 2016.

Documents show former civil surgeon Aftab embezzled Tk 9,164,096, by withdrawing money without deducting VAT and showing higher values of medicines and instruments than the market price in the 1997-98 fiscal.

He was sued on March 21, 2016.

According to another case statement, Sonali Bank Manager Jakir Hossain, former senior executive officer Kazi Enamul Haque, former executive officer Mofizul Islam Chowdhury, former senior executive officer Kamal Hossain lent Tk 6.15 crore to Pellucid Textile's chairman Mohsin Ahmed, its managing director Mahbub-ul-Azam Khan and director Saful Amin illegally because they had already been classified as loan defaulters by the bank.

They were sued on September 30, 2015.

Another statement reads that the bank officials Mosharraf and Jakir provided managing director of Oli Knitting Fabrics Ltd Ayesha Afroz Tk 4.14 crore from the cash incentive fund of the bank against fake documents.

They were sued on July 2, 2015.

EKUSHEY TELEVISION

Sources said on instruction of Salam, his brother Ashrafal borrowed Tk 26.7 lakh from Premier Bank, and later converted the money to €30,000 on January 26, 2015.

Later €20,000 was given to Senior Manager (Finance) Fazlur to hand it over to Salam.

Fazlur kept the Euro at his mother-in-law Dania's house, which the Rapid Action Battalion seized about a year later.

Stalking makes Sylhet girl quit school

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resolve the issue, where an altercation ensued between him and Sumon and his friend Jamshed over the matter, and at one stage the latter stabbed Biplob, who later died at a city hospital, said Biplob's family.

Two of Biplob's friends, who were with him at that time, were also injured in the incident.

Though a case was filed with the police station, accusing some 11 persons including Sumon and Jamshed of the killing, police did not take any action regarding it, alleged the family, adding that Jamshed was a local Jubo League activist and brother of Javed Siraj, Awami League secretary of ward-19.

Contacted, Alam Khan Mukti, convener of Sylhet city unit of Jubo League, said Jamshed did not hold any post but was involved with the organisation, adding that he should get punished if involved in the murder.

However, Sohel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the murder occurred over a clash between two local groups.

"Because most of the killers are still at large, Sukla Roy, who married Biplob just 15 days before he was murdered, left her in-laws' house due to the insecurity and fear of being kidnapped," said Bishwajit.

Asked about the GD filed for security, the OC said he was not aware of it.

Denying the allegations of police indifference, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Rahmat Ullah said, "We are routinely monitoring Poly and her family's safety. She should feel safe to go to school and lead a secure life." But the ADC declined to explain what measures they were taking to monitor safety and security.

Sub-inspector Md Ebadullah, also investigation officer of the case, said they arrested Sumon in Moulvibazar's Barlekha on March 20, while he was trying to flee across the border.

Meet

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which, in this case, meant jobs were being sold and this was unacceptable as nurses' duty was to serve people. Mizanur also condemned police action on the demonstrators in the capital's Shahbagh on March 30.

HC issues

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following a writ petition filed by 13 local residents.

They submitted the petition based on a report recently published on Prothom Alo which says some influential persons have been constructing at least 200 concrete structures near the kitchen market, said Redwan Ahmed Runjib, a lawyer for the petitioners.

The LGRD secretary, mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation and six others concerned have been made respondents to the rule.

HC likely to start hearing death reference

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during the Pahela Baishakh celebration at Ramna Batamul in 2001.

Six other militants of the banned Islamist outfit were sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement in the blasts.

Later, 8 of the condemned accused filed nine separate appeals with the HC challenging the trial court verdict on them, added DAG Moniruzaman.



Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, prime minister's media advisor and editor of The Daily Observer, and Siddhartha Chattopadhyay, first secretary at Indian High Commission in Dhaka taking a look at photos at a photography exhibition at the capital's Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association office yesterday after inaugurating it. The exhibition was organised by the association, marking Bangla noboborsho.