



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 36.4 L 28.2

CHITTAGONG H 32.1 L 27.3

SYLHET H 30.3 L 20.0

RAJSHAHI H 40.1 L 26.6

KHULNA H 37.0 L 28.5

BARISAL H 34.6 L 28.3

RANGPUR H 31.0 L 22.2

COX'S BAZAR H 33.0 L 28.5

Severe and mild to moderate heat waves sweeping over Kushtia, Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka, Tangail and Faridpur may continue and spread over the adjacent areas. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:24 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30am.

# US leader urges end to violence against religious minorities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A US congresswoman has called for an end to violence against religious minorities and secular activists in Bangladesh.

"In Bangladesh, the horrendous, brutal street assassinations of members of minority religions, secularists, and atheists violate every single value we hold dear," she said.

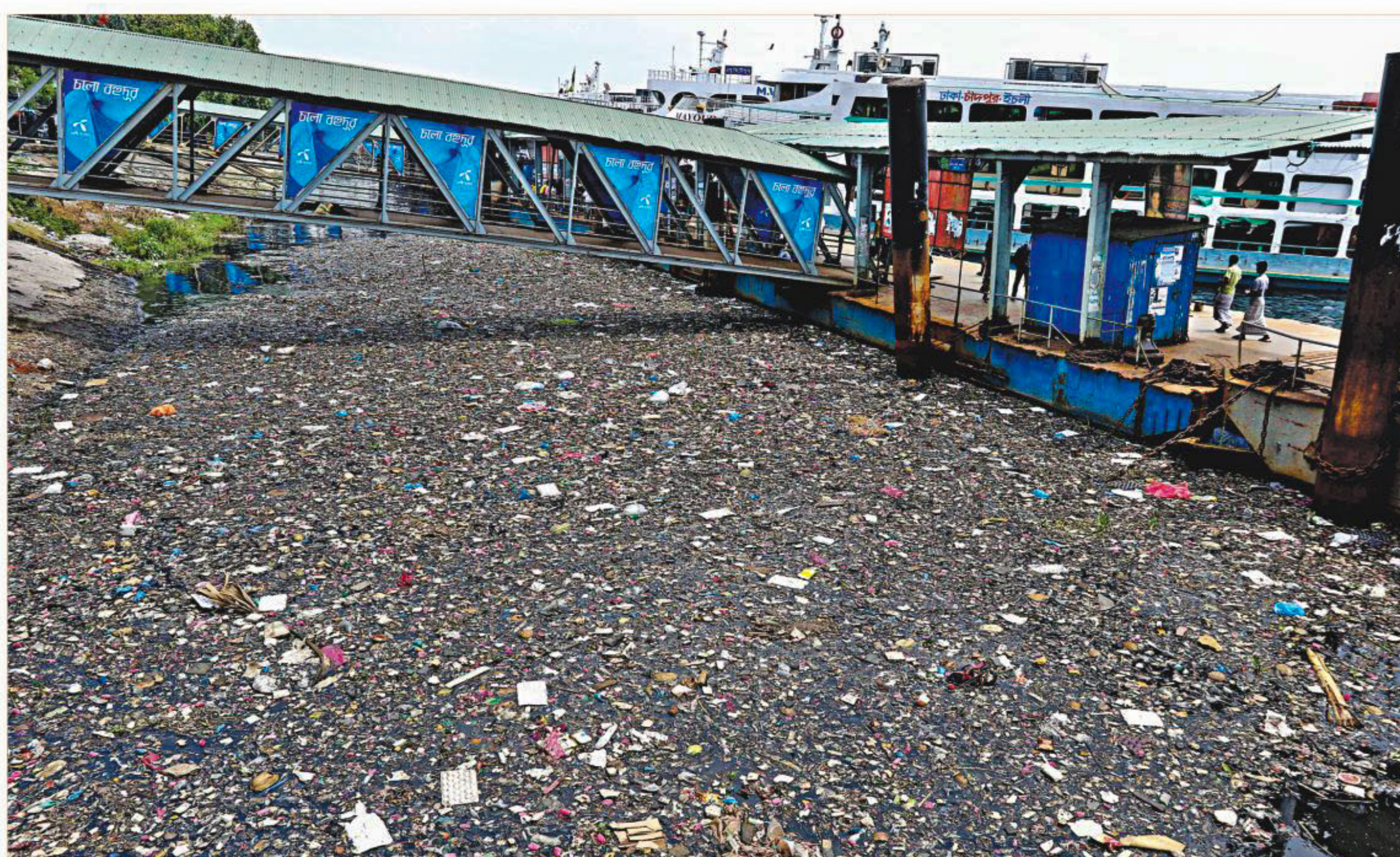
Speaking on the House floor in Washington DC on Thursday, Tulsi Gabbard, who is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, condemned violence against religious minorities, including the murder of Nazimuddin Samad and other secular activists who have been killed in Bangladesh over the past 14 months.

Just two weeks ago, 28-year-old Nazimuddin was hacked to death in Dhaka after speaking out against the persecution of religious minorities on social media, according to a press release available on her website.

In Bangladesh, she said, discrimination and deadly violence against atheists, secularists, Hindus, Buddhists, and other religious minorities has unfortunately become a regular occurrence.

"This underscores the absolute necessity of not only defeating this global wave of intolerance, but standing up and fighting for the right of others to freely express their views regardless of whether you agree with those views or not," Tulsi said.

In this context, she referred to a resolution, which she introduced last year, calling on the government of Bangladesh to protect the rights of all of its religious minorities, including Christians, Hindus, atheists, and others.



A thick layer of garbage collects between the bank and the dock at Sadarghat Launch Terminal in Dhaka. The Buriganga is not only threatened by untreated liquid waste flowing from the industrial units along its banks, but also by disposal of waste material by the general public including travellers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# N'ganj road crashes kill 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two people were killed and 20 others injured as a bus carrying a bridal party and a pickup van collided head-on on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sonargaon area of Narayanganj last night.

Satya Moni Rishi Das, elder brother of the bridegroom, was among the deceased. Mohammad Ibrahim, duty officer of Sonargaon Police Station said another was the helper of the bus.

The bus of Gazaria Paribahan was going to Kanchan in Bandar of Narayanganj from Daudkandi in Comilla, said police and fire service, adding that both of the vehicles overturned around 10:07pm.

Locals took the injured to different hospitals after three fire fighting units rushed to the spot and rescued them.

UNB reports, three auto-rickshaw passengers were killed instantly and 10 others injured when the vehicle and a truck collided in Fatullah of Narayanganj, said Fatullah police.

# Female drivers driving towards empowerment

UNB, Dhaka

Ferdous Begum has been driving for 18 years and has traveled to 55 districts already.

Driving exhilarates her spirit.

But she is a careful driver too. She rightfully boasts that there is no record of accident in her driving career.

Back in 1998, she received training from Gonoshasthya Kendra to become a professional driver. She said she continued her driving there for six years. Later in 2004, she joined Care Bangladesh.

"I'm enjoying this profession very much. Being a woman, I'm doing the job of a man. Even my husband and family members never discouraged me."

Fedous, who is currently posted in Kishoreganj, draws around Tk 31,000 monthly, in addition to other facilities.

Though it is still a rare sight to see women

on the driving seats of office vehicles, the number is increasing in Dhaka and elsewhere across the country.

Female drivers are being preferred by many employers as they have already earned the reputation of being comparatively safer with the steering.

Breaking the "social taboo" has been the only challenge for the women wishing a career in the driving profession, observed Aklima Khatun, director of Gonoshasthya Kendra, which runs a driving school for women.

Shahida Akhter, who also received training there, has overcome many challenges as she is still driving the vehicles of WaterAid.

Shahida said she sometimes had to face harassment on the roads. "After my marriage, my husband and in-laws used to force me to leave the job, but I didn't," she added.

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# RU professor forced to retire over 'sexual harassment'

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University authorities have sent a senior professor on forced retirement on charge of "sexually harassing" a female student.

Quamrul Hasan Mazumder, teacher of geology and mining, was also then president of Rajshahi University Teachers' Association.

The decision came from a syndicate meeting on Thursday night, confirmed Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin. Syndicate sources said

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# PARIS CLIMATE DEAL Researchers warn against sea level rise

UNB, Dhaka

Researchers warned that a lack of ambition to limit global warming could have devastating effects in terms of sea level rise and other climatic conditions as world leaders in New York were set to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change yesterday.

With the possible prospect of the world warming dangerously and uncontrollably, half of one degree Celsius may sound like a negligible temperature change unlikely to make much difference to life on earth, according to a message received from Climate News Network.

But scientists say 0.5°C could make a crucial difference in some regions -- particularly in developing countries in the tropics -- that are already at great risk from climate change. The consequences could include

higher sea level rise and extended heat waves, threatening most tropical coral reefs.

Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics and a member of the research team that has produced the cautionary report, said, "Our study shows that tropical regions -- mostly developing countries that are already highly vulnerable to climate change -- face the biggest rise in impacts between 1.5°C and 2°C."

### VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

"Our results add to a growing body of evidence showing that climate risks occur at lower levels than previously thought. They provide scientific evidence to support the call by vulnerable countries, such as the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, that a 1.5°C warming limit would substantially reduce the impacts of climate change."

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# Huda reveals leadership of his fifth political party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP leader Nazmul Huda led Trinamool BNP yesterday announced its central committee, comprising mostly unknown faces.



Nazmul Huda became chairman, former BNP vice-chairman Jahana Begum co-chairman, former deputy minister of the Ziaur Rahman government Arif Moinuddin senior vice-chairman, and former Jahangirnagar University professor

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With a 15-point charter of demand, including fixing of the minimum wage for the workers at Tk 10,000, Bangladesh Water Transport Workers Federation forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Interactions for students' smooth learning stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday underscored extensive interaction between teachers and students to improve latter's learning process, at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day conference organised by the Centre for Pedagogy of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Dr Robery Matthew, director of centre for Academic Research and Development of Durham University, UK, presented the keynote paper at the conference, themed,

"Education in the current world: Pedagogy, Research and Social Change".

In his paper "Reflections on Educating University Students in the 21st Century", Matthew said technology can help learning but it is a social process which requires human interaction.

Students often face difficulties in coping with uncertainty, so academician should focus more on that, he said.

He emphasised on student centered activities

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# Girl 'gang raped' in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

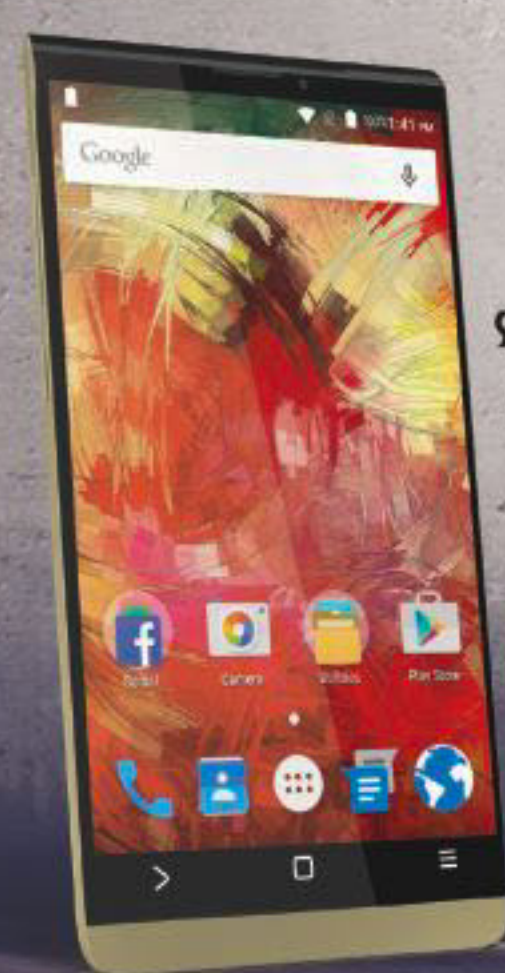
A teenage girl was allegedly gang raped in her house of Chunarughat upazila in Habiganj early Thursday.

Mother of the 13-year-old girl, who is a sixth-grader, sued two youths Anu Miah, 20, and Foisol Miah, 21, in this connection yesterday.

The two broke open the door of the house in the absence of her parents and raped her, Officer-in-Charge of Chunarughat Police Station Nirmalendu Chakrabaty quoted the girl as saying. The girl was sent to a local hospital for medical test. The OC said they were trying to arrest the accused who were on the run.

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