

YESTERDAY'S
 TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
 H 39.01 L 28.4

CHITTAGONG
 H 33.21 L 29.0

SYLHET
 H 32.21 L 22.7

RAJSHAHI
 H 40.01 L 26.4

KHULNA
 H 39.41 L 27.5

BARISAL
 H 37.51 L 28.7

RANGPUR
 H 37.51 L 22.5

COX'S BAZAR
 H 32.71 L 29.0

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rangpur and Barisal divisions and rest part of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Chandpur, Noakhali and Sreemangal may continue. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:25pm and rises tomorrow at 5:28am.

Khaleda to address May Day rally in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is scheduled to address a workers' rally in the capital on May 1, marking May Day.

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, a labour front of BNP, will hold the rally on Suhrawardy Udyan, BNP senior joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed said at a press briefing after a joint meeting of the party and its associate bodies at its Nayapaltan central office.

The BNP leader said Sramik Dal sought permission from both Public Works Department and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on March 27 for staging the rally.

Rizvi said although the Public Works Department said it had no objection if the DMP permitted arranging the programme, the police authorities were yet to respond to it.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates newly constructed buildings of 10 divisional and regional passport and visa offices, including of Dhaka, and "Passport Service Week-2016" from the Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) office in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

PM opens 10 new passport offices

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is making constant strides to reach the immigration and passport services to the doorstep of the people.

In this regard, she said the government is working to make the country's immigration and passport procedure completely modern through introducing safe travel documents including electronic passport.

She said this while inaugurating "Passport Seba Saptaha-2016" and new buildings of 10 divisional and regional passport and visa offices at a function at the Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) office in the capital.

The newly inaugurated passport offices are -- Dhaka Divisional Passport and Visa office and regional passport offices in Kishoregonj, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Patuakhali, Feni, Munshiganj, Kushtia, Pabna and Dinajpur.

The Passport Seba Saptaha will be observed till April 28 with the slogan "Passport Nagorik Odhikar; Niswartha Sebai Ongikar".

Pointing out her government's steps for development of the immigration and passport sector, Hasina said people usually go abroad in a large number from the districts.

She said so far 1.4 crore machine readable passports and 3.26 lakh machine readable visas were issued by the DIP.

Earlier, Hasina inaugurated newly built academic building of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Adarsha Mahila College.

Foreign missions, cross section condemn RU prof murder

STAR REPORT

Foreign missions in Dhaka and cross-section of people yesterday stoutly condemned the heinous murder of AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, professor of English at Rajshahi University, who was found with his throat slit in Shalbagan area in Rajshahi city on Sunday.

They also called for quick probe and bringing the perpetrators to book.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat said in a statement, "We urge the government of Bangladesh to condemn these murders and apprehend the perpetrators behind this and other attacks motivated by intolerance and hatred."

Mentioning that the initial findings indicate the murder was committed by fanatics, EU Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon said "Should it be confirmed, this would be yet another terror attack in Bangladesh in a short period of time."

"This murder is a direct attack on intelligence, culture and spirit of

generosity, which were what Professor Karim was representing," said French Ambassador Sophie Aubert.

The foreign envoys conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Educational institutions, teachers' organisations, students' bodies condemned the murder too.

Teachers' associations at Dhaka University issued a statement saying that the militant outfits were ruthlessly continuing their killing mission since similar murders in the past went unpunished while the teachers of Jagannath University held a human chain and a rally on the campus.

Teachers and students of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and Barisal University held human chains and rallies on their respective campuses, protesting the attack.

Those involved in such killings would continue their atrocities since the government in the past attempted to avoid its responsibilities... claimed

a statement of Ain o Salih Kendra.

Moreover, a joint statement signed by 22 eminent citizens called upon the people of the country to raise voice against murderers and their heinous activities.

BSS reports; Lambasting the murderer, Bangladesh University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan said, "Through the killing of Dr Siddiquee, it is evident that a group of people with strong political links has become desperate to damage the image of the country."

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said, "The process to get justice has been eliminated. As a result, such incidents are increasing alarmingly."

Many organisations including Samprodoyikota-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha issued separate statements condemning the recent murders including of Siddiquee.

They also criticise the prevailing culture of impunity in this regard.



Father of a victim of the Rana Plaza tragedy collapses on the ground in tears with her daughter's photo laying before him, while offering prayers at her grave in the capital's Jurain graveyard yesterday on its third anniversary. The world's one of the worst industrial disasters claimed lives of 1,134 and maimed countless more.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

GDP growth minus dignity

FROM PAGE 3

process has to ensure compliance with the recognised norms and standards, otherwise it will lead only to arbitrariness and chaos," she said.

It is a sheer fallacy that human rights and dignity can be taken away on the plea of security; this approach just makes people feel insecure, she said.

Commenting on a presentation by a senior BIDS research fellow, Dr Monzur Hossain, at a "Land Question" session, Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University said the move for acquiring agricultural land from tea gardens in Habiganj and the prime minister's vow not to lose any more arable land for other purposes was inconsistent. He called for optimising available land with a "land bank".

Mujahidul Islam Selim, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said khas lands were possessed by the politically powerful and were not distributed equally among the deserving. Moderating the session, Economic Research Group Executive Director Dr Sajjad Zohir said land was a resource which yields as much economic benefits as optimised.

Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan, BIDS Professorial Fellow Dr Asaduzzaman and BIDS Research Director Dr KA Toufique spoke in the two sessions.

Student bodies call hartal

FROM PAGE 3

Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University, hundreds of protesters brought out a torchlight procession at the capital's Shhbagh and adjacent areas yesterday evening, urging all to join the shutdown. Speakers at the rally said it was shameful for the whole nation that none was arrested or brought to book even after one of her murder. On March 20, Tonu was found murdered inside Comilla Cantonment.

Matia places EPZ labour bill in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday placed two separate bills titled "Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Bill" and "Bangladesh EPZ Labour Bill" in parliament.

The investment bill was aimed at setting up a new authority by merging together the Board of Investment (BoI) and the Privatisation Commission for encouraging local and foreign investments in the private sector.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary for scrutiny and sending back to the House within next 10 working days.

According to the bill, there will be a Bangladesh Investment Development Authority with its main office in Dhaka.

There will be a 17-member governing board headed by the prime minister, while its executive chairman will act as the member secretary.

The EPZ labour bill was also sent to the same parliamentary committee for scrutiny and sending back to the House within 15 working days.

NEWS IN brief

Raushan urges Ershad to defer JP's upcoming council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader Raushan Ershad yesterday urged Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad to defer the party's upcoming council scheduled for May 14 and cancel the appointment of co-chairman and secretary general as those were "one-sided" decisions.

"... the chairman did not talk to others before taking the decisions," said Raushan. Raushan, also a senior presidium member of JP, was addressing a press conference at the parliament's media centre.

In mid-January, Ershad appointed GM Quader and Ruhul Amin Howlader as the party's co-chairman and secretary general respectively.

'Jubo Dal leader' held with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Police arrested an alleged Jubo Dal leader and his associate with arms in Oxygen area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The arrestees are Taj Uddin Nuru, 38, of Fatikhchhari upazila -- president of Jubo Dal of ward-3 unit in the city -- and Abdul Quader, 40, of Hathazari upazila, said police.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

AFG Mohiuddin, a former additional secretary and a reputed columnist, died of a brain stroke at a hospital in the capital yesterday morning, aged 71.

He will be buried at Karbala graveyard in Jessore today following a namaz-e-janaza at Jessore Central Jail Parade ground.

Kudos to efforts of city

FROM PAGE 3

For this practice they have to face severe waterlogging in the area, said Pratim, a private university student residing in the area for the last two years.

The rainy season is the worst season to live in the area as he has to take a rickshaw to move from one ally to another as everything goes under ankle to knee-deep water, he said.

"We have seen the cleaning work around 10 days back but the garbage, which was kept beside the lid of the manhole, is still there," said Sohail Ahmed, a resident of Satis Sarkar Road of Gendaria. If the rains come, then all the work of the authority will go in vain as the garbage will go into the drain again, he said.

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Nurses voice opposition

FROM PAGE 3

Central Shaheed Minar around 11:00am before proceeding towards Shahbagh.

Police put up barricades in front of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University and they staged a sit-in there before the delegations set off, she said.

Ismat said they were not allowed to enter the PMO, and so handed over the memorandum to officials concerned at the entrance. The other memorandum was handed over to Health Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam.

"The secretary assured of taking our demands into consideration," said Nahida.

According to World Health Organization, the doctor to nurse ratio should be 1:3, but the picture is just the opposite in Bangladesh where for 63,000 doctors, there are 38,000 nurses.

Two years back, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that 10,000 new posts would be created for nurses. Mustafizur said the posts were yet to be created while the March 28 recruitment circular was following an "unjust" process.

Most private healthcare sector jobs are insecure and many of the nurses are frustrated, he said. "This is even more frustrating when the country's health sector is suffering due to a shortage of nurses," he said.

Health ministry officials could not be reached for comment.

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