

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 36.8 | L 28.2

CHITTAGONG
H 33.8 | L 27.5

SYLHET
H 32.4 | L 23.2

RAJSHAH
H 39.4 | L 27.9

KHULNA
H 36.5 | L 28.2

BARISAL
H 35.8 | L 27.6

RANGPUR
H 34.0 | L 23.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 34.5 | L 27.7

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Dinajpur and Chandpur may continue. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:26pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am.**

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's 80th birthday celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed yesterday spent a busy day at work despite it being his 80th birthday, carving out time to enjoy a 4D exhibition and a festive programme when a book containing articles about him written by noted personalities was also unveiled.

Former diplomat Faruk Chowdhury, who edited the book, presented Sir Fazle with a copy and the latter cut a cake, said a press release.

Born in 1936 in Bangladesh, Sir Fazle was educated at both Dhaka and Glasgow universities.

He was a professional accountant in his thirties, working as a senior corporate executive at Shell Oil when the 1971 Liberation War had a profound effect on him, dramatically changing the direction of his life. He left his job, moved to London and devoted himself to Bangladesh's war of independence.

When the war was over, he returned to the newly independent Bangladesh, finding the economy in ruins.

In 1972, he established Brac to rehabilitate the returnee refugees from India in a remote area in north-eastern Bangladesh. He directed his policy towards helping the poor develop their capacity to better manage their lives.

Sir Fazle has been honoured with numerous national and international awards for his achievements in leading Brac, including the World Food Prize (2015), Inaugural WISE Prize for Education (2011), Entrepreneur for the World Award (2009), Gates Award for Global

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Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed cuts a cake celebrating his 80th birthday with officials and employees at the organisation's head office in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

COP TORTURE OF KID IN DHAKA BNWLA demands punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) yesterday demanded that the authorities concerned for the government take stern action against the policemen for torturing a child in the capital's Crescent Lake area beside the National Parliament.

Issuing a press statement, the organisation stoutly condemned and protested the incident by terming it barbaric.

Referring to the media reports on the incident, it observed that torture on children is increasing nowadays since the child protection law is not being properly applied.

BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali said the alleged police torture on the child was very reprehensible and unpardonable. She urged the authorities concerned of police to probe into the incident and take necessary actions against the perpetrators.

A video recently went viral on social media including Facebook showing a policeman was beating up a boy, aged 12 to 15, while his colleagues were watching it near the lake on April 21.

The man who secretly captured the incident on his camera and shared on Facebook said they beat up the child allegedly for taking a bath in the lake.

"We are trying to identify the police members who were on duty that day. We will take action after an investigation," said Biplob Kumar Sarkar, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon Zone), adding that he too watched the video on Facebook. The torture came amid a recent string of attacks on children in the country.

Violence raising doubts about electoral system

Governance Advocacy Forum meeting on UP polls told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's electoral system has become questionable due to irregularities and violence in the ongoing polls to union parishads (UP) and in that held earlier to municipalities, city corporations and upazila parishads, speakers told a views-exchange meeting yesterday.

On holding free and fair polls, they emphasised that the Election Commission (EC) should strictly enforce rules and that the political parties and government must cooperate.

The meeting, on UP polls, was organised by Governance Advocacy Forum (GAF), a civil society organisation, in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

Elections were held to 725 UPs on March 22 in the first phase, 639 on March 31 in the second, and 615 on April 23 in the third; to Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations and municipalities last year and to upazila parishads the year before.

Media reports say all the elections were marked by irregularities and violence, the recent ones witnessing the killing of over 45 people, including

21 on three voting days, and injuring of several thousand.

Polls to 743 UPs are slated for May 7 in the fourth phase and 733 for May 28 in the fifth. Around 700 more UPs will go to polls in the sixth phase in June.

The electoral system deteriorated so much that people's confidence is eroding and polls now arouse panic instead of festivity, said eminent local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed, adding that the government and political parties must be cordial to make fair elections possible.

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RU PROF SHAFIUL MURDER CASE

Key charge-sheeted accused surrenders, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A key charge-sheeted accused in Rajshahi University Prof AKM Shafiul Islam murder case was sent to jail after his surrender at a Rajshahi court yesterday.

Anwar Hossain Ujjal, convener of Rajshahi district unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, and the prime accused in the charges framed against a total of 11 persons, was evading arrest for over a year.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate Court Judge Mokseda Asgar rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail.

With him, police are able to detain all the

11 accused, said Abul Hashem, the court inspector.

However, other than Ujjal and Jubo Dal activist Abdus Samad Pintu, all the accused are enjoying bail from the High Court, he added.

Unknown people hacked Prof Shafiul, 48, known as a progressive-minded teacher, to death near his rented house in Choddopai area, on the outskirts of Rajshahi city, on November 15, 2014.

Ansar Al Islam Bangladesh-2 claimed responsibility for the murder in social media and police arrested three militants for the claim.

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Watermelons being sold by the road may quench the thirst of passing pedestrians reeling from the heat wave sweeping across the country but it also poses hidden dangers in the form of diseases lurking in the dust and flies, inset, swarming all around the open shops. The photo was taken at Topkhana Road in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week, the *Star Weekend* has an array of interesting articles for our readers. The spotlight this week is on the recent killings that have been taking place, the negligence of the authorities, and the growing fear amongst the mass population that the authorities are choosing to ignore. We also have an article on noted Bharatanatyam dancer, Leela Samson. Don't forget your copy of the *Star Weekend*, coming out tomorrow, Friday!

STAR WEEKEND
in other news...
APRIL 29, 2016

GRIPPED WITH FEAR

ELITA KARIM

With four murders to make the headlines within a span of three days, last week probably marked the beginning of the 'era of fear' within the people of Bangladesh. With a feeling of helplessness, many watch as their favourite professor, a comrade, a fellow university friend or an about-to-retire public servant are murdered in broad daylight or worse, inside their homes, by unidentified men. The spotlight today puts the previous week into perspective and summarises almost all the gruesome murders that took place and were reported. To read further, turn to pages 8 and 9.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

3 THREE YEARS OF BANA PLAZA: PROBLEMS AND BILLIONS
An article remembering the Bana Plaza tragedy and recalling how the victims have been rescued from compensation.

4 THE LONG AWAITED LAW
A review of the proposed education law that is going to make some of the most significant changes in Bangladesh's education system.

5 AMERICAN POLITICS AND WORLD ENTERTAINMENT: ONE AND THE SAME
The career of pop-rock band surviving similarity between United States' Presidential Elections and the WWE.

13 A LIFE OF NIBTVA
An interview with the co-ordinating director of the National Institute of Bank Training, Chatterghosha, Inbar and Writ, Ganga Saran.

INSIDE

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