

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 37.0 L 28.4

CHITTAGONG
H 35.0 L 28.0

SYLHET
H 34.5 L 24.0

RAJSHAHI
H 40.6 L 26.6

KHULNA
H 38.0 L 27.7

BARISAL
H 36.5 L 27.8

RANGPUR
H 35.0 L 23.5

COX'S BAZAR
H 34.0 L 28.8

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rangamati, Chandpur, Noakhali, Syedpur, Barisal and Patuakhali may continue. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:23am.

President, PM greet workers on May Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages greeting the working people of the country and wishing their overall welfare.

In addition, different political and labour organisations, particularly the labour wings of the parties, professional bodies and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the historic May Day today.

In separate messages on the eve of the day, the president and the prime minister expressed solidarity with the working class and urged all to come forward for establishing their rights and ensuring their welfare, reports BSS.

In his message, the president called for establishing good worker-owner relations, ensuring fair wages and safe and congenial workplace, and enhancing skills of workers.

There is no alternative to manufacturing world class products to survive in the competitive world, he added.

In her message, Sheikh Hasina paid deep respect to the people who embraced martyrdom to establish fundamental rights of the working people in Chicago in 1886, added BSS.

"We are relentlessly working to follow the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the welfare of the working people," she said.

The present government has reopened mills and factories, closed during the BNP-Jamaat regime, she said, adding that the government had already announced minimum wages for workers of 38 industrial sectors including garment.

Both the president and the prime minister wished all the May Day programmes a success.

In a message, Khaleda said the working class was still oppressed and deprived of their just rights across the globe including Bangladesh.

Khaleda Zia will speak as the chief guest at a rally this afternoon at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, organised by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal to mark the day.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad will also address a rally at 3:00pm today at the party's Kakrail central office.

Different media outlets will publish and broadcast special supplements and programmes highlighting the significance of the day.



A woman cleans the floor while the family dines. Thousands used to help families like this before and also earn money but they were not considered workers under the Labour Act, hence losing certain benefits and protection. The recognition, however, came last December, and this is the first May Day they are observing as workers. The photo was taken in a Dhaka city apartment recently.

PHOTO: SHOMMAN.ORG

CU medical centre badly needs treatment

MD ABBAS, Cu

Mahabuba Jahan Rumi is a second year student of Public Administration Department of Chittagong University. Couple of months back, she felt a sudden chest pain and worried went to the lone university medical centre for a check-up.

But without any medical test, the on-duty doctor provided her Napa tablets, she told The Daily Star.

Fortunately for her, she went to a city hospital and took proper treatment on time, as she found out she had nerve related problems.

Rubaiyat Rafi, a third-year student of philosophy department was not even that lucky. "I went to the centre for an oral saline, as I was feeling weak. But the centre did not have it," he said.

The medical centre at CU is limping due to shortage of doctors, adequate medicines and equipment for a long time, depriving the students and teachers of healthcare services.

Every day around 200 patients turn

up with different physical ailments, but it has no capacity to provide services to the serious patients for lacking lab facilities, said CU Chief Medical Officer Dr Kazi Mohammad Saifullah.

Except for measuring blood pressure and fever, they have no facilities for other tests, he said, adding, "Hence the student was given a pain killer tablet there."

The medical centre was set up in 1967. But dearth of manpower and equipment have made it difficult for the centre to give first aid properly, complained students and teachers.

Currently, only seven out of 11 doctors are serving three shifts a day. Three other doctors, temporarily appointed, work part-time, Saifullah said.

"To run a medical centre properly, it requires to have at least 15 to 20 doctors," said Prof Selim Mohammad Jahangir, principal of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital.

Upon visiting the medical centre, this correspondent found it to be in a

dilapidated condition, with no operation or lab facilities, and only two oxygen support machines. Two ambulances, out of four, are operational, as the centre has two drivers.

A senior teacher of the university, who visited the medical centre two weeks ago, alleged that there was no diagnostic facility for them except for urine and blood tests.

Patients with critical illnesses or injuries are forced to go to CMCH, some 22 kilometres from the university, which takes more than one and a half hour.

Mohammad Arif, class-IV employee, died on the way to CMCH in 2007, due to excessive bleeding after being stabbed by miscreants on the campus.

Couple of years back, Asaduzzaman, a second year student of Accounting and Information Systems department, succumbed to his stab injuries at CMCH as it took too much time to take him to the hospital.

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This is pretty much it! Chittagong University Medical Centre! Badly in need of an adequate funding, sufficient manpower, and proper medical equipment.

PHOTO: MD ABBAS

Insecurity of women cause of child marriage

Prof Serajul Islam Chy tells Bangladesh Itihas Parishad's 50th founding anniversary programme; 22 individuals and DU honoured on the occasion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of security for women is the reason behind the high prevalence of child marriage in Bangladesh, educationist Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury said yesterday.

"We didn't hear about gang rapes earlier. Pakistanis committed gang rapes in a particular time... But today gang rapes have become a rare enter-

tainment," said the Dhaka University professor.

Prof Choudhury was delivering the "Golden Jubilee Speech" during the 11th Two-yearly National History Conference at TSC, marking Bangladesh Itihas Parishad's 50th founding anniversary.

Bangladesh has the fourth highest rate of child marriage in the world, according to a 2014 Unicef report.

Prof Choudhury said Sohagi Jahan Tonu was killed in a place which was supposed to have high security.

The body of Tonu, a second year history student of Comilla Victoria Government College and a theatre activist, was found inside Comilla Cantonment on March 20.

"The investigation was done, autopsy carried out. Her body was

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Hasina again blames BNP, Jamaat for recent killings
Inaugurates five development projects; unveils foundation plaques of six

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that the BNP-Jamaat-Islami nexus was committing secret killings failing to topple the government.

"The BNP-Jamaat clique does not want development of the people...they cannot give anything except burning people to death and destruction...they have chosen the path of killing teachers and common people...selectively," she added.

She was addressing a function the inauguration of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eye Hospital and Training Institute, the newly-constructed Chapail Bridge over Madhumati River, Tungipara Head Post Office, Gopalganj District Shishu Academy Complex and Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Bhaban by her.

She also laid the foundation stones of Sheikh Lutfar Rahman Dental College, Gopalganj Textile Engineering College, Gopalganj 10 Kilowatt FM Radio Station, Gopalganj-Kashiani-Gobra Rail Line Project, and Tungipara and Mukshudpur Upazila Muktijoddha Complexes, reports BSS.

Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat conducted attacks on mosques, temples and churches when they were in power. "They even killed a Krishak League leader inside a mosque in Bogra," she said.

Those engaged in money laundering, corruption and embezzling orphans' money cannot change common people's fate, she said.

Hasina said due to politics of revenge by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, the southern region, particularly Gopalganj, had always been neglected for long.

"But the government of Awami League...believes in a balanced development policy," she said. Steps were taken to set up medical universities in every division, she added.

Addressing a civic rally at Kotalipara Sheikh Lutfar Rahman Ideal Government College Ground later in the afternoon, she described

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More judges must to avoid judicial disaster

Says Law Commission's annual report submitted to President Abdul Hamid

UNB, Dhaka

Lamenting the very poor judge-people ratio in the country, the Law Commission has recommended the appointment of 200 judges every year to avert the collapse of the judiciary and to expedite trial processes.

"Over 30 lakh various cases have long been pending with different courts and the number is on the rise. A too inadequate number of judges are responsible to settle these cases," said the commission.

"But there is no way to deny that the rate of case settlement is higher than any other country of the world compared to the ratio of the judges. Our judiciary is bound to collapse if quick action is not taken to resolve this abnormal case backlog," it added.

The commission made the recommendations in its annual report -2015 submitted to President Abdul Hamid recently.

Over **30** lakh cases pending

Country needs at least **4,000** judges

Currently, approved posts: **1,655**

1,198 judges now on-duty

457 posts lying vacant

Judge-people ratio **1: 1,52,000**

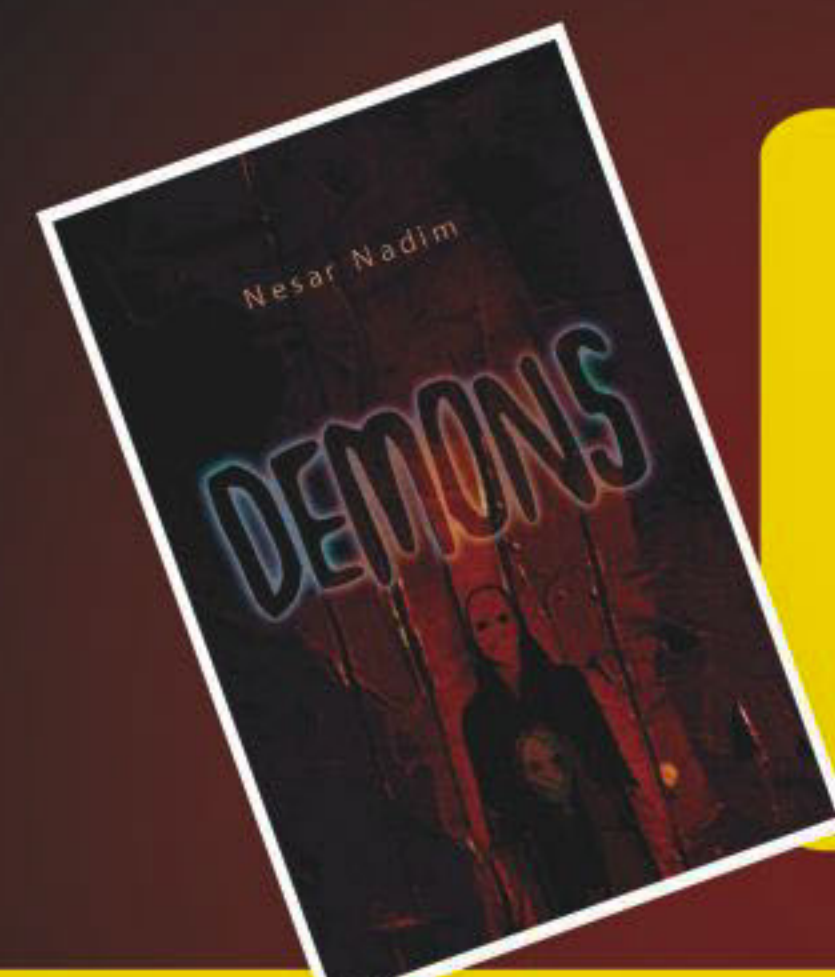
2,400 more judges required

In its recommendations for the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, the commission suggested formation of a "monitoring cell" led by the chief justice to observe the case settlement at the High Court Division, and increasing the number of vacation benches to ensure quick sending of copies and records of the verdicts to lower courts.

About the lower courts, the commission suggested taking a number of steps to expedite trial process, including setting up of adequate courtrooms in courts across the country, introduction of computers for typing replacing the existing type machines and shunning delay without any reason.

It is the demand of time to establish "case management authority" at the national level to observe the status of cases under trial across the country, observed the commission.

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