

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.6 L 24.0	H 28.3 L 24.5	H 29.0 L 22.0	H 32.6 L 26.2	H 34.0 L 27.2	H 32.5 L 26.5	H 28.2 L 19.8	H 27.0 L 26.0

Rain is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:37pm and rises tomorrow at 5:13am.



Left, Bangladesh University Teacher Associations Federation, and Dhaka University Teachers' Association form a human chain on the campus yesterday in protest against the public humiliation of a Narayanganj headmaster on May 13 by local Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman. Right, the National Front of Teachers and Employees does the same in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club as protests rage on.



PHOTO: STAR

SOHEL MURDER IN CTG

Prime accused still at large

Victim's family alleges that he is being sighted from time to time in the city but police indifferent, demands transfer of case to DB or CID; cops deny allegation

ARUN BIKASH DEY, CTG

More than one month has passed since Nasim Ahmed Sohel, an MBA student of Premier University Chittagong, was stabbed to death on the university campus, but no visible headway has been made in the investigation and the arrest of the prime accused, Md Ibrahim Sohan, alleged the victim's family.

Sohan is also an MBA student of the university.

Abu Taher, father of Sohel, said, "The CCTV footage clearly shows who stabbed Sohel to death on that day and the murderers can clearly be identified in the video. But police are yet to arrest them.

"It seems to us that police are either indifferent to arresting the accused or they have pressure from some influential quarter for not arresting the killers," he added.

Since the murder, the family has been demanding that the case be transferred to the detective branch (DB) or criminal investigation department (CID) of police or the Rapid Action Battalion.

On May 10, when contacted, Taher reiterated the same demand.

"I heard that the prime accused is seen in different areas of the city, but police say they are not finding any trace of him," he said.

"I urge the prime minister to direct the law enforcement agencies to arrest the killers so that we can at least have a little consolation," added the bereaved father.

On March 29, Sohel was stabbed to death allegedly by his rival faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists over a feud centring on holding a farewell and freshers' reception ceremony of the university, according to the police and university students.

Taher lodged a case with Chakbazar police, mentioning the names of 13 people including Sohan and some 20 to 25 unidentified people.

Following the case, police arrested five accused -- Ashraf Islam, Wahiduzzaman Nishan, Zual Haider Chowdhury, SM Golam Mostafa, and Tamim-ul-Alam -- all students of the same university.

The five were taken on a three-day

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PROPOSED RAMPAL PLANT TIB calls for fresh impact assessment engaging int'l experts

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for a fresh environmental impact assessment (EIA) involving international experts for the proposed Rampal Power Plant Project.

The call came from the annual meeting of the anti-graft agency in its auditorium in the capital yesterday.

An EIA prepared in August 2013 by the government's Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services that gave the green light to the project is widely considered to be flawed.

"Once the coal-fired power plant is set up near the Sundarbans without an acceptable and fair environmental assessment, it will welcome havoc into the mangrove forest," said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharzaman.

The proposed 1,320MW power station is a joint venture between Bangladeshi and Indian companies.

Environmentalists claim that the power plant will pose a threat to the Sundarbans in various ways as it is located just 4km outside the designated ecologically critical area of the forest.

The plant is expected to produce 750,000 tonnes of fly ash and 200,000 tonnes of bottom ash a year, according to an earlier EIA.

TIB trustee board chairperson Sultana Kamal and its member Mohammad Shamsuddin, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Dev not possible without empowering women

Concluding ceremony of Copenhagen conference told

PORIMOL PALMA, from Copenhagen

State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan yesterday committed to investing more for gender equality, after attending a four-day global conference Women Deliver in Denmark.

"If you can give us projects that have welfare aspects (for women and girls), we will surely allocate budget for that...I can say this from my ministry's viewpoint," he said at a views-exchange meeting at Bella Centre in Copenhagen.

Some 30 representatives from Bangladesh's government and non-government organisations attended the programme on what messages they can carry home after attending the conference that concluded yesterday.

The conference in more than a 100 sessions and plenaries focused on health and education of women and girls, who are at the centre stage of Sustainable Development Goals 2030, which says none should be left behind.

State minister MA Mannan, Dr Habibe Millat MP, Health Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam, health ministry and NGO officials, and young leaders from Bangladesh attended the conference, where more than 5,000 representatives from around the globe participated.

Mannan said Bangladesh's domestic resources are increasing, but often there are allocation problems, and no logical projects are submitted.

He also suggested that the people, civil society members, NGOs and media should ask the government how it is spending its resources. "Watch our work...Inquire how and where we are spending public money. This is more important," he said.

Bangladesh, in various sessions, was appreciated for its progress in different areas of women empowerment, including reduction of maternal and child mortality rates, and equal enrolment of girls in primary schools.

But the child marriage level was still higher, which is 52 percent, and a major factor behind high-rate of maternal mortality, 170 per one lakh live births.

Dr Millat said the Bangladesh Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in a recent meeting has taken a resolution to keep the marriage age of girls at 18. "There should be no exception," he said.

Recently, the draft act on marriage age stirred debate as it has a provision allowing girls to get married at 16 with the parents' permission and court's approval.

Sathya Doraiswamy, chief of health at the UNFPA in Bangladesh, said equality, quality and accountability are the three basic components that need to be ensured in all programmes.

"The most important thing is to reach the society's most marginalised segment," he said, noting that the government, NGO and

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It has been less than two months since the Dhaka city corporations started placing waste bins as part of its campaign to keep the city clean, but already the containers are going missing. One was stolen at Farmgate and another, inset, at Karwanbazar recently. A guard at the Krwanbazar underpass said junkies were stealing the bins to sell them as scrap metal. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2016

CEC accuses media of playing up 'isolated incidents of rigging'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

The media repeatedly publishing some isolated incidents of voting centre occupation is giving people the impression that the Union Parishad election is going on badly everywhere, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

He said that after the first phase of the election, incidents like overnight occupation of polling centres had decreased, while no such incident occurred in the third phase. "But again one or two incidents occurred in the fourth phase," he added.

According to The Daily Star reports, supporters of Awami

AL will lose in a free, fair election

Claims BNP's Fakhru Staff Correspondent

Awami League candidates will lose their security deposits if a free and fair parliamentary election is held, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

"The Awami League is holding on to power through imposing a one-party rule and oppressing people as they know their candidates will lose their security deposits in a fair election," he told a doa mahfil at BNP's Naya Paltan central office, organised to pray for former Dhaka city BNP leader Azizullah who died recently.

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US reiterates hope for participatory polls in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has reiterated they still want to see free, fair and credible elections in Bangladesh in which citizens can participate.

"We still want to see Bangladeshi citizens able to participate in a democratic process," said John Kirby, spokesperson of the US Department of State, during the daily press briefing in Washington DC on Wednesday.

The spokesperson was responding to questions about the current US position regarding Bangladesh's election held in January 2014, which was boycotted by most political parties including BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

"We still want to see human rights observed and freedom of expression and freedom of the press in Bangladesh, as we want to see it elsewhere. So we still have these very real concerns, and that hasn't changed," John Kirby said.

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—সৈয়দ মনজুরুল ইসলাম

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