

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.3 L 27.6	H 33.7 L 26.5	H 33.2 L 25.6	H 35.5 L 26.5	H 34.5 L 25.8	H 33.5 L 26.8	H 33.5 L 26.6	H 32.8 L 26.2

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Tangail and lowest 25.0 degree in Rangamati and Netrakona.

Condemned war criminal Quasem shifted to Dhaka jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Death row war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali was shifted to Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur prison of Gazipur yesterday.

Prashanta Kumar Banik, senior superintendent of Kashimpur Jail-2, told The Daily Star that Quasem was sent to Dhaka jail around 7:15am.

He declined to give any reason behind the shifting.

The convicted Jamaat leader reached Dhaka Central Jail around noon, prison sources said.

On Sunday, Quasem sought review of the Supreme Court verdict that had upheld his death penalty.

Quasem submitted the petition with the apex court through his lawyer seeking acquittal of all the seven charges against him.

India genuine friend

Says BNP, hoping it won't support repressive govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming India a genuine friend of Bangladesh, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday hoped that India would not back any government or force that oppresses people.

"India is not only a neighbour but a genuine friend. We will hope that India will stay beside the people of Bangladesh," Fakhrul told a gathering at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in Dhaka.

Fakhrul made the remarks a day after India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said her government would give full support to Sheikh Hasina's government in its drive against militants.

BNP organised the gathering as a part of its countrywide protests against the mass arrests of "party

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Tailors in Chittagong city's Khalifapatti pass busy times working round the clock to meet deadlines ahead of upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken yesterday.

Cabinet okays draft of RDA Act-2016

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday gave final approval to the draft of Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) Act-2016 with a view to increasing the punishment and fine for violating the law.

Any construction work violating the act will be fined Tk 50,000 or face one year's imprisonment or both. Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam told reporters after the meeting. There was only Tk 5,000 fine for violating RDA law, which used to run under an ordinance enacted in 1976, he said, adding, the main features of the proposed act are ensuring proper land management, enacting of a master plan and following it.

Alam said prior approval must be taken for any kind of construction work or digging ponds in any areas of Rajshahi City Corporation, municipalities or unions. Approval from the RDA is also necessary to fill up low and wetlands, he added.

The cabinet meeting was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with the prime

UTTARA ARMS RECOVERY

No headway in probe but assumptions abound

Police suspect arms belonged to 'vested interest group'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have made no progress in the investigation of who abandoned a large number of arms and ammunition in a canal of the capital's Uttara on Saturday, but assumed that a "vested interest group", who wants to grab state power by creating instability, dumped the arms cache there.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police also claimed that it successfully foiled a conspiracy through the recovery.

"It is not easy for an ordinary man. It is the work of those engaged in a deep-rooted conspiracy against the country," said Asaduzzaman Mia, the DMP commissioner.

"We assume that those who burnt

women and children in 2015, those who want to tarnish the image of the country stocked the arms," he told a press briefing at DMP media centre yesterday.

He did not name any group but Awami League leaders have always accused BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami of killing people by firebombing vehicles last year.

The DMP chief believes that the arms were brought for destabilising the country but were abandoned because of the police's recent crackdown on extremists.

On a tip-off, police recovered 97 foreign pistols, including two 9mm pistols, about 1,060 bullets, 497 magazines, 10 bayonets,

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CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Charges framed against four of Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed three charges against four men from Noakhali for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity in the district during the 1971 Liberation War.

They were allegedly involved with Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of Pakistani occupation army, and the killing of at least 111 people in three incidents.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrowardi fixed August 7 for recording the prosecution's opening statements and testimonies of prosecution witnesses.

Amir Ali, 70, Md Joynal Abedin, 73, Abul Kalam alias AKM Mansur, 67, and Md Abdull Kuddus, 84, are of Sudharam upazila. Of them, Abul Kalam is on the run while the rest are in jail.

The prosecution on October 5 last year pressed charges against five men from Noakhali, including the four. Mohammad Yusuf later died of old age complications and was not indicted, prosecutor Zahid Imam told The Daily Star.

The tribunal said, "The formal charge and the statement of witnesses prima facie demonstrate that the accused persons enthusiastically sided with the policy and plan of the Pakistani occupation army and had allegedly carried out horrific activities of crimes against humanity and other inhumane acts."

"It is settled that mere framing charge does not prove one's guilt," the tribunal, however, said.

According to the first charge, the four were involved in the killing of at least 100 people of Sreepur and Sonapur villages on June 15.

Amir, Abul and Joynal were involved in the abduction and killing of two people of Pashim Karimpur and Debipur village on September 13, reads the second.

The third says Amir and Abul Kalam were involved in the abduction, torture and killing of at least nine people of Ramharitaluk, Debipur and Uttar Chakla villages on the same day.



A hawker sets up shop marking Eid-ul-Fitr occupying a footpath in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue and partially blocking off access to a dustbin yesterday.

BNP's Aslam now shown held in eight cheque bouncing cases, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sent BNP Joint Secretary General Aslam Chowdhury to jail after showing him arrested in eight cheque bouncing cases.

The court ordered sending him to jail after he was produced before it by the law enforcers, said additional deputy commissioner (prosecution) Nirmalendu Chakraborty at the court.

According to the prosecution, the BNP leader took Tk 36.08 crore as loan in the name of his firm M/S 7B Associates located at Bhatiari of Sitakunda from Pubali Bank, CDA branch of the port city, in 2013-2015.

Later in different times Aslam submitted cheques to the bank for repayment of the loan but the cheques were dishonoured due to insufficient funds, said court sources.

The bank lodged eight cases accusing Aslam under the negotiable instrument act with Kotwali Police Station in this regard in 2013-2015.

Of the cases, a case was filed on charge of bouncing a cheque of Tk 6.70 crore on December 2, 2013 while another case for bouncing another cheque of the same amount on January 2, 2014.

The bank also filed six other cases in 2015 over dishonouring six cheques of Tk 3.78 crore each, according to the case statements.

No lawyer stood for Aslam before the court seeking his bail.

Earlier on May 15, Aslam was detained from

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Sufia Kamal was mother courage

Memorial event told; Hasan Azizul Haque conferred with Sufia Kamal Honorary Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The life struggle, ideologies and legacy of poet Begum Sufia Kamal are timeless and would remain a source of inspiration for the new generation in every struggle, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

A torchbearer of justice and equality, Sufia, who is regarded as Janani Shahashika (the courageous mother), had worked all her life for people's emancipation, enlightened the society with her rebellious spirit and influenced the positive transformation of the status of women and the society as well.

And everything that she had worked for has become more significant now when the country is facing serious problems, they added.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) organised the programme that include a memorial speech and award ceremony at Bangla Academy on the occasion of the poet's 105th birth anniversary yesterday.

BMP gave its annual Sufia Kamal

Honorary Award to noted writer, essayist and researcher Prof Hasan Azizul Haque.

"When we remember Sufia Kamal, we do not only understand her poetry, political activities or her struggle against women's suppression. We go back to her creativity. She had a firm conviction for humanity," said Dr Nasim Akhter Hossain, in the memorial speech.

In her speech on "Begum Sufia Kamal and women's movement in twenty-first century", the professor of government and politics department of Jahangirnagar University gave a brief life history of the luminous figure, her various movements and contribution to the society.

For six decades, Sufia Kamal worked for people's emancipation, she said.

"She was the epitome of the country's democratic movement. She showed how to stand firm peacefully against the autocrat. She proved that people are the source

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Govt, NGOs must join hands to eradicate child labour

Speakers tell seminar highlighting that divisional councils for children's welfare yet to be fully functional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed for coordination and close working relation between government and non-government organisations to eliminate child labour.

Although the government formed divisional councils for children's welfare, those are yet to be fully functional, they said, stressing the need for regular coordination meetings between government and non-government stakeholders.

In observance of World Day Against Child Labour, Alliance against Child Labour, a platform of NGOs including Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) and Shapla Neer, arranged the seminar at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Atiqua Binte Baqui, advocacy officer of the Japanese NGO Shapla Neer, said although children are often abused and tortured while working as domestic help it is still not mentioned as a hazardous job in the child labour policy.

Scrutinising 25 incidents of violence against domestic help occurring between December last year and May this year, Atiqua found incidents of mental violence were found in all the cases while domestic helps were

tortured physically in 89 percent cases.

She said the incident of sexual harassment took place in 26 percent cases while the percentage of filing case against the torturers was only 22.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the number of child labourers was 17 lakh in 2013. Of them, 12 lakh were engaged in hazardous jobs.

Yukiko Fujisaki, country director of Shapla Neer, said alongside helping children involved in hazardous jobs, it is also required to work for the welfare of the domestic helps.

Helal Uddin Ahmed, divisional commissioner of Dhaka, said they will

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Healthy RAMADAN

FASTING AND HEART FAILURE

Patients with chronic heart failure, who are well controlled and nearly symptom-free may fast after taking precautions. They should avoid over eating at iftar and have small portion of food in gaps till morning. Excessive fluid intake like water, Dub water, sherbet, soup should also be avoided. Those with poor heart function, especially those with shortness of breath on exertion should not fast. Patients should take diuretics in the evening instead of morning, to maintain proper hydration.

Dr. Fatema Begum
Consultant, Cardiology

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