

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 33.8°C L 27.2

CHITTAGONG
H 34.0°C L 27.6

SYLHET
H 29.5°C L 25.5

RAJSHAHI
H 34.0°C L 25.7

KHULNA
H 34.5°C L 27.8

BARISAL
H 33.2°C L 27.6

RANGPUR
H 31.2°C L 26.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.0°C L 27.2

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:13am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Satkhira and lowest 25.0 in Dima and Tetulia.

PM to blame for deaths of militant suspects: Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday alleged that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is responsible for deaths of militant suspects including Golam Faizullah Fahim.

"Fahim was killed in a stage-managed drama. Police said Fahim was killed in crossfire, but actually it was not crossfire. He was just killed."

Khaleda told an iftar party at a Dhaka hotel, organised by Bangladesh Labour Party, a component in the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

On June 17, Fahim, who was on a 10-day remand in connection with the attack on Madaripur college teacher Ripon Chakraborty, was killed in a "gunfight between his associates and police" in Madaripur Sadar.



A craftsman gives the finishing touches on a prayer cap in a factory of Al-Hedayah Cap in the capital's Kamrangirchar on Wednesday, seeking to meet high demands ahead of upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS IN brief

TV show on entrepreneurship opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of television reality show "Future Leaders Programme (FLP)" yesterday launched a new show titled "The Excellence in Entrepreneurship Programme (EEP)" to inspire innovations of grassroots level.

UK-based Future Leaders Ltd (FLL), the key organiser, announced it at Dhaka's channel-i office.

NGO staff shot, robbed of Tk 5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot a person and allegedly took away Tk 5 lakh from him in the capital's Hazaribagh yesterday.

Victim Saiful Islam, 35, an NGO worker at Kamrangirchar, was returning to Kamrangirchar in a jeep after withdrawing the money from a Dutch Bangla Bank branch in Hazaribagh. He was attacked in Glass Factory area in Hazaribagh. Locals took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. None was arrested.

Bengal Publications to award best research publications

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Publications in assistance of Bengal Foundation will introduce Jibanananda-Bhumendra Guha Award for the best research publications on the occasion of the poet Jibanananda Das' birth anniversary in every February-March, says a press release.

Any research work by a Bangladeshi author last year will be considered. This year, articles published in 2015 will be evaluated for the award, which is worth Tk 1 lakh.

Woman found dead in house in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was found dead in her house in Dakkhin Bisil of the capital's Darus Salam yesterday.

Marjina Begum, 48, might have been strangled as a scarf was wrapped around her throat, Darus Salam Police.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Scholastica graduates awarded

CITY DESK

Scholastica hosted a three-day graduation ceremony to mark the milestone in the academic careers of its O and A-level students.

The celebration ended on its senior campus in Uttara yesterday where 474 graduates were awarded certificates.

On the last day, Kazi Inam Ahmed, director of Bangladesh Cricket Board and Gemcon group; Wasima Parveen, director and chief operating officer of Scholastica Ltd; Sadequa Hassan, managing director of Future Solution for Business Ltd; and Syeda Madiha Murshed, managing director of Scholastica Ltd were present.

BANKING SCAMS

JP MP seeks Muhith's resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party MP Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu yesterday in parliament demanded that Finance Minister AMA Muhith resign, saying he lost the moral right to hold the post the moment he admitted that the banking sector was tainted by a series of scams, including some massive thefts.

Making the statement in his closing speech before the supplementary budget's passage on June 7, Muhith also told parliament, "There were some faults, sometimes there were looting. I want to say the irregularities were massive at times."

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VIOLENCE CASES

BNP leaders Rafiqul, MA Mannan get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Mia and suspended Gazipur City Corporation mayor MA Mannan for six months in two violence cases.

The case against Rafiqul was filed with Shah Ali Police Station in the capital in March last year, while Mannan was shown arrested in April this year in a case filed with Joydevpur Police Station in Gazipur.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Shawkat Hossain and Justice KM Kamrul Kader granted bails to the BNP leaders after hearing two separate bail petitions filed by them.

Rafiqul has so far got bail in 27 cases from the HC and lower courts, said his lawyer Raghob Chowdhury. He could not say whether Rafiqul was arrested in any other cases.

Rafiqul was denied bail and sent to jail by a Dhaka court after his surrender on May 16 this year in nine arson cases filed last year. Mannan's lawyer Abu Hanif told reporters that his client would get released from jail if he was not shown arrested in any other cases.

The LGRD ministry on August 19 last year suspended Mannan after a Gazipur court accepted a charge sheet against him over an arson attack on a bus in the city February 4 the same year. On April 11 this year, the HC stayed the suspension order.

Political will must for ethnic minority rights

Speakers tell discussion marking 161st anniversary of Santal Revolution to be observed on June 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land of the ethnic minority people can be preserved through good political will as well as commitment, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP), Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Kapaeng Foundation jointly organised the discussion titled "Political commitment is needed for the preservation of lands of the Adivasi people" at the capital's Cirdap auditorium, marking the 161st anniversary of Santal Revolution to be observed on June 30.

JAP President Rabinranath Saren presided over the meeting.

Prof Abul Barakat of Dhaka University said, "Land dispute of the Adivasi people is not an ethnic problem, but rather it is a class problem."

Problems centring around the rights of

the ethnic minority people are everywhere in the world. They along with other oppressed people must come forward to protect their own rights as soon as possible, he added.

While addressing the discussion, Dr Sadeka Halim of the same university said the ethnic people were always excluded from the land surveys...

Tipu Sultan MP said, "The Adivasi people took part in all struggles of the country. So they are our part and their rights must be preserved..."

Pankaj Bhattachariya, president of Oikya Nap, said, "Struggle is a must to protect the rights of these people. So all the oppressed must stand together and fight for their rights."

"The ethnic minority people are always being deprived. They must fight for their rights taking inspiration from the Santal Revolution," said Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Forum.

DU saves on research

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

The Dhaka University authority yesterday announced its proposed annual budget of Tk 664.11 crore for the FY 2016-2017, allocating only Tk 12.16 crore, or 1.83pc of the total budget, for research.

The allocation for education and research sector is only 0.17 percentage points higher than that of the last year's revised budget.

Education and research sector accounts for only 9.16 percent of the total budget, while the major portion of the budget, 82.54 percent or Tk 548.15 crore, will be spent for salaries, allowances and pensions of teachers and employees.

However, teachers said the small allocation for education and research will narrow quality and opportunities of research.

Moniruzzaman Khondker, director of Centre for Advanced Studies and Research in Biological Sciences of the university, said, "Last year 13 research proposals of our teachers were selected. As only Tk 5 lakh were

allocated for the centre, I had to distribute the money for all the projects in very small amounts. So a teacher could complete only two or three phases of his or her research.

Conducting a masters level thesis requires Tk 2 to Tk 3 lakh. Many teachers and students cannot conduct a quality thesis owing to such an insufficient allocation, added Moniruzzaman, a professor of botany.

Inadequate funding for research is one of the reasons for the university to rank low in global standards, he mentioned.

According to the university administration, there are more than 2,000 teachers in 81 departments and over 50 research bureaux and centres at DU.

"Many teachers are being recruited and numerous departments introduced, but quality of teachers is falling. Teachers get promoted without submitting quality research papers," said Sadeka Halim, director, Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences.

TOTAL BUDGET	TK 664.11 CR
UGC	91.61pc
DU's internal sources	6.17pc
Deficit	2.21pc
EXPENDITURE	
Salaries, allowances, pensions	82.54pc
Education, research	9.16pc
Others	8.97pc

Foreign cigarettes seized at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence yesterday seized 2,500 cartons of foreign cigarettes at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

They claimed it was the largest seizure in recent times. Smugglers kept the 22 boxes containing 4.95 lakh sticks ready for smuggling by evading a 602 percent tax applicable to foreign cigarettes, said Moinul Khan, director general of customs intelligence.

The boxes were found inside three airplanes arriving from the Middle East, he added.

2-day Eid exhibition starts today

CITY DESK

A two-day Eid exhibition will start at Emmanuelle's Banquet Hall in the capital's Gulshan-1 today.

The exhibition, organised by UC Events, will start at 10:00am and continue till 10:00pm.

The event ahead of Eid will showcase diversified brands -- including Nimbus, Areez, Zariya, Feathers and Pretty Lady -- with exclusive collections like trendy bags, hijabs, men's wear and kids' accessories.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Today is the third death anniversary of the former Bangladesh Bank governor Lutfar Rahman Sarkar.

On this occasion, a memorial discussion and a doa mahfil will be held in Conference Hall of Bogra municipality after the Asr prayers today for the salvation of the departed soul.

Born on February 1, 1934 in Fulcoat village of Bogra, he died in 2013 at the age of 80.

He served as the 6th governor of Bangladesh Bank from 1996 to 1998 and was a part-time teacher at the business faculty of Dhaka University.



Women get their motorcycles registered at a temporary centre of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, erected in front of Rajdhani High School on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital to provide on the spot service yesterday marking United Nations Public Service Day. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Motorcyclists get on-spot registration service

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Rayhan Uddin, a private job holder, bought a motorcycle a few months ago but could not register it due to time constraint.

It takes at least two or three days to complete the registration process. As he could not take leave from office, his vehicle had remained unregistered.

Finally he got an opportunity when the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) came up with a daylong on-the-spot registration service yesterday.

Dozens thronged Rajdhani High School on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital where it took only 20-30 minutes to register one motorbike.

BRTA had advertised the service in the media.

In the advertisement, BRTA gave detailed instructions of how to register and which documents to

require.... I came here with all the necessary documents and registered in 30 minutes," Rayhan told The Daily Star.

BRTA arranged the service for the first time, marking United Nations Public Service Day, said officials.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader inaugurated the service around 11:00am and it continued till 3:00pm.

"The major aim of the service is to encourage people to register their motorcycles," said BRTA Secretary Showkat Ali.

Around 200 motorcyclists gathered on Manik Mia Avenue, and 85 of them registered, said BRTA officials. The service-takers welcomed the initiative and called for making it frequent.

"Those who had proper documents could easily register. But how can we give registration to those

who did not have documents?" said Showkat Ali.

"I came from Demra.... Arriving here, I came to know that my documents have some faults. So I could not get registration," said Mohammad Raju, a businessman.

Eminent urban expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said such on-the-spot registration service benefited people, and it would help to reduce the number of unregistered motorcycles.

He also suggested making on-the-spot registration service available for public transport, especially buses.

The government has been cracking down on unregistered motorcycles for the last few months in the capital.

According to BRTA, there are 4 lakh registered and hundreds of unregistered motorcycles in Dhaka city.

Journo hurt by muggers in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A broadcast journalist was injured as muggers tried to snatch her handbag in Dhaka's Dhanmondi Wednesday evening.

Sharmin Roma of BBC Bangla with her daughter was going to her Dhanmondi residence from Lalmatia, she told The Daily Star.

Later, two muggers riding a motorbike pulled her handbag of which belt was attached to her right hand and she fell onto the road, said Sharmin.

The snatchers dragged her several yards away before giving up the handbag and fled, she added. Her daughter was unhurt.

Dhanmondi police said she filed a general diary.

Ananta Group starts management development programme

CITY DESK

The Ananta Group recently launched a programme titled "Ananta CDC Mid Management Excellence Development Programme" under which it aims to boost its business performance by strengthening job quality and people management skills, says a press release.

The six-month programme will be carried out in partnership with CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution and frontier fund which is managed by Brummer & Partners Asset Management (Bangladesh) Ltd and investors in Ananta Apparels Ltd.