

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.5   L 28.0	H 31.4   L 26.6	H 35.0   L 25.6	H 33.8   L 27.0	H 33.8   L 26.5	H 32.2   L 26.4	H 34.2   L 27.2	H 30.2   L 26.4

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am. Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sayerpur and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius in Kumarkhali.

### Chinese president, PM write to their counterparts condemning Gulshan massacre

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China will continue to support Bangladesh in fighting against terrorism for maintaining national security, stability and safeguard people's safety.

"China opposes terrorism of any form, and condemns terrorists' acts in the strongest terms," Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a letter sent to Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid.

"China will, as always, firmly support unremitting efforts by the Bangladeshi government and people to maintain national security and stability and combat terrorism," Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said in a separate letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Both the Chinese president and prime minister wrote to their Bangladesh counterparts on July 4

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People place flowers at a makeshift memorial on Road 79 at Gulshan-2, near Holey Artisan Bakery to commemorate the lives lost in the terrorist attack that killed 20 people including 17 foreigners on July 1.

PHOTO: STAR

### Pro-AL man shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League activist was shot dead by unknown miscreants in the capital's Sutrappur early yesterday.

Deceased Rajib Hasan, 38, was an activist of Jubo League's Dhaka south unit, and a resident of Kajla, said police sources.

Rajib went out of his home Friday afternoon and did not return, later his body was found in an alley in Rokonpur, said Tapan Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of Sutrappur Police Station, quoting witnesses.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later to a private hospital where the doctors declared him dead, the OC said.

Police received the body at DMCH and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy. None was arrested as of yesterday afternoon, he added. Rajib might have been killed for past enmity, suspected the OC.

### BNP chairperson denounces Sholakia attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has strongly condemned Thursday's attack on police near Sholakia Eidgah of Kishoreganj, saying evil efforts of extremists could be thwarted by building up resistance through unison shunning the path of confrontation and division.

In a statement that day, she also expressed deep shock at the death of two policemen and a housewife, prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved families.

Exchanging greetings with journalists in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre marking Eid-ul-Fitr that day, she accused the government of failing to check repeated "terror

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### Tapu left many things undone

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh



After finishing his day's work at the checkpoint near Sholakia Eidgah, he was supposed to come home in the afternoon to celebrate Eid. But militants struck in the morning.

Jahirul Haque Tapu, 24, was one of the two police constables killed in the attack.

Young and unmarried, he had a long to-do list this Eid.

Since joining the police force in 2011, Tapu had saved up and spent the money building a semi-concrete house. He invited relatives to his new house the day after the Eid day.

He was also preparing to attend the wedding ceremony of his cousin on the occasion and planned to sit for the HSC examinations the next year.

"He came home on June 30, bought me necessities and returned to duty. He told me he would come on Thursday," said Jubeda Khatun, the mother of Tapu.

"I want my son return to my bosom," she cried.

Tapu was the youngest of six siblings and son of late freedom fighter Abdul Mazid of village Bhatipara Balaswar in Phulbaria upazila of Mymensingh.

Along with other policemen, Tapu was guarding a checkpoint in Sabujbagh area of Char Sholakia, half a kilometre from Sholakia Eidgah where the country's largest Eid

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### IGP slams Hefajat for silence over terror attacks

UNB, Kishoreganj

Taking a swipe at Hefajat-Islam Bangladesh leadership for keeping mum over the Gulshan and Sholakia attacks, Inspector General of Police Shahidul Hoque yesterday said their silence proves they are with militancy.

"Why are you silent? Why aren't you becoming vocal against militants? If you keep mum that will prove you support militancy," he told a programme at Kishoreganj commemorating the two cops killed in Sholakia attack.

Terming those involved in militant activities the enemies of Islam, the IGP called for protecting children from their clutches.

He claimed that militants arrested in connection with the Gulshan and Sholakia attacks confessed that they had contacts with each other.

## Inpatients allege service delay at 3 public hospitals

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Many of the inpatients in three public hospitals of the capital suffered amidst the absence of most of the doctors and nurses during the nine-day Eid-ul-Fitr vacation for public servants which began on July 1.

They alleged that they did not get basic services on time, including dressing for injuries or administering of saline. Failing to avail such forms of treatment, some patients said to have bribed hospital staff for services which are meant to be provided free of cost.

Two security guards of a fabrics factory of Sonargaon in Narayanganj were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital's (DMCH) burn unit on Eid day after they suffered burns in a cylinder blast.

"Emergency doctors provided creams and bandaged the burnt parts of their bodies," Mizanur Rahman, who brought the two to the hospital where they were admitted that day, told this

correspondent yesterday evening.

They were shifted to the general ward yesterday morning but there was no doctor there the whole day and they were in the dark about the next course of action, he said.

"Dressing was done on one, but not the other... We went to the nurse. She asked us to go to the emergency department. We went to the emergency doctor in the afternoon but the on-duty doctor asked to wait for doctors who would come tomorrow at 9:00am," Mizanur said.

According to patients in DMCH's burn unit, there were very few doctors available since the Eid vacation started. When the nurses were approached, they suggested seeing the emergency unit doctors, who did not cater to issues other than major ones, they said.

Seven-year old Umme Maria, who suffered a fracture on her left leg in a road accident in Faridganj of Chandpur on Wednesday, was rushed to the emergency department of the

National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

Her uncle Muktar Hossain told this correspondent yesterday evening that she was admitted that day and he paid Tk 1,000 before she was administered a bag of blood and the injury was bandaged on an emergency basis.

"A doctor was scheduled to give a plaster (cast) on her fracture today but has not done so yet," he said.

Muktar said Maria was suffering from immense pain but a nurse said they would give the plaster cast on time. "This created uncertainty about her treatment," he said.

A rickshaw puller, admitted at Nitor after suffering a fracture on his leg in a road accident on Monday, said a dressing for the wound was scheduled to be given on Wednesday.

"The staff who came for the dressing demanded Tk 500. He did not provide the dressing as I could not pay him," he told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

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### Motivating derailed youths back to normal life urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moulana Farid Uddin Masoud, chairman of Bangladesh Jamiyatul Ulama, stressed the need for intellectual motivation for bringing misguided youths back to normal life.

"Those carrying out militant attack have been distorting Islam and it is clear that they are giving its wrong interpretations," he said.

Masoud was addressing a view exchange meeting of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance at AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

"It is the responsibility of all to bring the misguided youths to normal life, but the country's alem-ulema have to play a more important role," he said, adding that the main objective of the militants is to spread panic in public mind.

Masoud, who also leads the Eid prayers at Sholakia, the largest Eid congregation in the country, alleged that the Jamaat-Shibir was acting as proxy for the Islamic State in Bangladesh.

It is not possible to resist them by giving capital punishment as they have a misconception that the punishment would pave their way to heaven, he said.

He also said they have to be taught that

Islam is a religion of love, peace and fraternity.

The 14-party alliance organised the meeting to make its planned public rally at the Central Shaheed Minar tomorrow a success.

The rally has been called to protest the recent militant attacks at a restaurant at Gulshan and Kishoreganj, and targeted killings across the country.

AL presidium member Mohammed Nasim, who is also the health minister, presided over the meeting which was participated, among others, by AL leaders Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Mahbulul Alam Hanif, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, wife of a martyr Shyamali Nasreen Chowdhury, president of the National Press Club Shafiqur Rahman, Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad leader Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmick, director general of Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote President Golam Kuddus, cultural personality Mamunur Rashid and Film actor Faruque.

Addressing the meeting, speakers called upon the pro-liberation forces and the country's Alems and Ulemas to build an united resistance against militants and terrorists.

### Absconding army officer arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An absconding official of Bangladesh Army was arrested with the assistance Indian authorities recently.

Captain Udbhas Chakma was in Sylhet cantonment to receive training when he fled, on May 12 last year, says a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

He got involved in criminal activities with various terrorist groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) after fleeing the cantonment.

To avert arrest, he fled CHT and trespassed into India's Mizoram through a treacherous hilly terrain with his wife.

Actions were being taken against Udbhas under martial law, said the release. He hails from Khagrachari.



The emergency department of the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in the capital on Wednesday afternoon. Some inpatients alleged that services were not promptly provided to them at other units during the Eid vacation.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhab yesterday afternoon to apprise him of the country's overall situation. The president, accompanied by his wife Rashida Khanom, also exchanged Eid greetings with the PM during the meeting.

PHOTO: PMO

## Barisal jail holding double its capacity

Even two under-construction buildings unlikely to end crisis

SUSHANTA GHOSE, Barisal

The 185-year-old Barisal Central Jail (BCJ), designed to accommodate 633 prisoners, is holding double the number of inmates intended.

Around 1,138 prisoners -- 411 condemned and 727 under trial -- are kept in the jail, said Munir Hossain, deputy jailor.

This number often reaches 1,600 during special drives by the law enforcers, said Kamal Hossain, senior superintendent of the jail.

He said the crisis will be mitigated soon after completion of two under-construction four-

storey buildings with the total capacity of 224 inmates.

However, some recently released prisoners of the jail, seeking anonymity, said the situation has become so worse that the detained have to pay money to "some people in the jail administration" to sleep at night.

Each of the two 90-bed rooms of Kirtankhola ward, where under-trial prisoners are kept, holds 130 to 140 inmates at night, they said.

Meanwhile, each of the two 40-bed rooms of Dhanshiri ward, where convicted prisoners are kept, has to accommodate 75 to 80 inmates, while 90 to 110 pris-

oners sleep in each of the three rooms of Chandradwip ward, which has the capacity of 70 at night, said a prisoner.

The condition of Rupasee, Amdani, Juvenile, Division and female wards are also the same, he added.

Jail sources said at least 36 square feet space is required for each non-criminal prisoner, 24 square feet for each convicted and under-trial inmate, 54 square feet for each of the condemned; or there should be a solitary confinement cell for each death-row convict as per the jail code.

In addition to the accommodation problem, the prisoners face

nutrition, health, sanitation, and recreational facility crises, said Parvez Akon Biplob, a city BNP leader who was recently held in the jail.

For more than 1,138 prisoners, there are only 77 toilets for use during daytime and only 47 for night, which is less than one-third of the requirements, jail sources said.

The illegal prisoners stay at the jail hospital, which does not have any pathology laboratory, causing spread of contagious diseases like skin ailments, tuberculosis, typhoid, and dysentery, the sources said.