

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURESDHAKA
H 33.2 L 25.5CHITTAGONG
H 32.5 L 26.3SYLHET
H 33.5 L 26.5RAJSHAHI
H 34.3 L 24.9KHULNA
H 34.0 L 25.0BARISAL
H 33.2 L 24.7RANGPUR
H 34.0 L 25.8COX'S BAZAR
H 32.6 L 25.6

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:24pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am. Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Syedpur and Jessore and the lowest 23.5 in Chandpur.



PHOTOS: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Clockwise from top left, the DAP Fertiliser Company Limited's factory in Chittagong's Anwara upazila where a gas tank exploded on Monday night releasing toxic ammonia. Some of the damaged pipes. Burnt vegetation and water discoloration was observed nearby yesterday. Persons falling sick arrive at Chittagong Medical College Hospital that night. Bangladesh Ansar personnel cover their noses with cloths. Curious onlookers gather nearby while firefighters try to bring the situation under control.

Patients at CMCH share ordeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Suddenly his respiration became perturbed; his eyes started to burn and darkness engulfed him, said Riad Hossain, an on-duty Armed Police Battalion (APBn) member at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport, while describing the situation he faced on Monday night.

"Running, I called my mother and told her it was possibly my last call," recounted Riad, hailing from Gopalganj.

"I entered the airport and became senseless," he said, adding that he regained his senses at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Like Riad, about 52 people including a woman and a one-year-old child from

different areas were rushed to CMCH, said its emergency medical officer yesterday.

"There was panic everywhere," said Mohammad Ismail, another APBn member.

Around 15 APBn members got sick due to gas inhalation, he added. Mohammad Alamgir, an Ansar member, echoed.

Mohammad Monir, a staff of DAP-2, said smoke was billowing from the top of the tank of DAP-1. He said he started vomiting due to the gas and faced respiratory problems.

"I cannot breathe. I am lying beside the Butterfly Park in the airport area," said Mohammad Ekram quoting his younger brother Emon Chowdhury as saying over the phone.

Emon works at CEPZ and was returning

home, said Ekram. "We rushed to the spot to rescue him," he added.

Mostafa Kamal, an Ansar member working at Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (Kafco), said while entering the factory around 10:05pm on Monday, he smelt the ammonia gas.

"Soon I started coughing. I could not understand from where the gas originated as there are three factories, Kafco, DAP and CUFL," he said, adding that he managed to enter the duty post before losing his senses.

Sharif Hossain, an Ansar member of Kafco, said around 17 Ansar members, working there, were hospitalised.

Contacted, Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed, CMCH emergency medical officer, said the

patients were out of danger.

"We want to observe them for another day as some are suffering from stomachache," said Chittagong Civil Surgeon Dr Azizur Rahman Siddique.

Jamila Akter of Eidgah of Cox's Bazar Sadar felt sick when she went to the airport as she was supposed to leave for Hajj.

She was rushed to CMCH, said Mohammad Arman, her son, adding that she was released as her flight was at 10:00am today.

Out of 52 patients, nine were released, said police. About 250 people fell sick after inhaling gas following an ammonia tank blast at DAP Fertiliser Company Limited at Anwara upazila in Chittagong on Monday night.

DEATH PENALTY OF MIR QUASEM SC set to hear review petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convicted war criminal Mir Quasem Ali yesterday again appealed to defer, this time for three weeks, the Supreme Court hearing scheduled to begin today of his June 19 petition seeking review of its verdict upholding death penalty for him.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain told The Daily Star that the adjournment petition might be heard today.

He explained that he could not prepare arguments as assistant lawyer and Quasem's son, Barrister Mir Ahmmad Bin Quasem, who had the case's records and documents, had "disappeared".

The previous deferment petition on July 24 sought two months for Khandker's preparations. The next day, the Appellate Division granted one month, fixing today's date.

In the review petition, the 63-year-old Jamaat-e-Islami leader sought acquittal on all seven charges he was found guilty on.

On November 2, 2014, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 handed down the capital punishment over crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The Appellate Division upheld the verdict on March 8 this year and released the full text on June 6, hours after which ICT issued a death warrant.

Meanwhile, some United Nations human rights experts urged the government to annul the death sentence and retry Quasem in compliance with international standards, reports our diplomatic correspondent.

"Ali's trial and appeal processes were reportedly marred with irregularities and failed to meet international standards on fair trial..." claimed the experts on extrajudicial executions, judiciary's independence, torture, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances in a statement issued in Geneva.

The experts are Agnes Callamard, Mónica Pinto, Juan E Méndez, Sétondji Roland Adjovi, and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

SC writes to ministry to relocate ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has sent a letter to the law ministry asking it to relocate the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) from its old High Court building and to hand over its possession by October 31.

The letter sent recently stated that different parts of the building were temporarily allocated to the ICT.

As the SC now lacks adequate accommodation capacity for its judges and other staff, it needs the spaces allocated to the ICT in the old High Court building to resolve the crisis, it added. Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star that he was talking to the people concerned to take steps in this regard. The tribunal's prosecutor Tureen Afroz said the relocation might delay the ongoing trial proceedings.



Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amena Khan, wife of late Amzad Husain Khan of Faridpur, breathed her last at a Faridpur hospital yesterday morning.

She was 84, said a press release.

She left behind five sons, three daughters, seventeen grandchildren, three great grandchildren and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She held her family together in 1971 when her husband was put to jail by Pakistani occupation army.

Her Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Faridpur Yasin College ground.

Later, she was buried beside her husband at the town's Alipur graveyard.

China for win-win cooperation

Chinese envoy tells event marking birthday of its leader Xiaoping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China does not want to be a superpower with an ulterior motive to reign over other countries, but it looks forward to cooperating with its neighbours for development and peace, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Ma Mingxian, said yesterday.

"We are involved in many projects in Bangladesh. We are for win-win cooperation," he said, while addressing as chief guest at a discussion in the national museum main auditorium in the capital.

Deng Xiaoping Study Center and Bangladesh-China Friendship Center jointly organised it, marking the 112th birth anniversary of Comrade Deng Xiaoping, a revolutionary Chinese leader.

Ma Mingxian said Bangladesh is a huge market for China, and if the people here become rich, its market will expand.

Similarly, with Bangladesh manufacturing products at competitive prices, it can have a market in China, thus benefiting each other, he added.

Learning from the experiences of China, Bangladesh can avoid the mistakes China made on its way to economic development, opined the ambassador.

Lawmaker HN Ashequr Rahman said Deng is now recognised as the architect of modern China for his outstanding contributions to the country's economy.

Former Bangladesh ambassador to China, Azizul Haque, said Deng's revolutionary leadership helped lift millions of Chinese people out of poverty since his takeover in 1978.

Bangladesh-China Friendship Center President M Delwar Hossain and Deng Xiaoping Study Center Member Secretary Mizanur Rahman also spoke.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Abdur Rahman Taloi, an office assistant at Chittagong Sangbad-

patra Hawkers' Bahumukhi Somobai Samity Ltd, died on August 17, aged 60, said a press release.

He left his wife and a daughter.

The Samity's president Yousuf Ali and general secretary Delwar Hossain, among others, mourned his death.

Rahman had long been working at the Samity's Dhaka office.

Demo for

FROM PAGE 3
stuck on the intersection and the nearby roads.

"We are on the street for our rights of accommodation," Shafiqul Islam, one of the students, told The Daily Star.

"Our problem has to be resolved immediately, we want dormitories," he said, adding that the demonstration would continue until the demand is met.

Sylhet BCL 'attacks'

FROM PAGE 3
shops before fleeing, said the OC.

Arriving on a motorcycle around 10:00pm at Ambarkhana Point where 10 policemen, including the injured six, were stationed, Masud and two others demanded that their vehicle be allowed to pass, he said.

"We are of Chhatra League. Why can we not go?" the OC quoted Masud as saying to the policemen.

Vehicles were barred from plying the road from Ambarkhana to Chouhatta from Monday evening till last night to facilitate access on foot to the Urs at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA), said the OC.

An altercation ensued and the three called in some 36 more activists before launching the "attack", he and Fazle added.

General Secretary of the pro-ruling party student organisation SM Jakir Hossain said he got to know from local BCL leaders that police stopped the activists who were going to the Urs and "hit" them, leading to a "clash".

"This is a total misunderstanding and I have requested the police commissioner to ensure that the real attackers are found and that innocent activists are not harassed," he said.

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