

WEATHER FORECAST

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA | MYMENSINGH | CHITTAGONG | SYLHET | RAJSHAHI | RANGPUR | KHULNA | BARISAL | COX'S BAZAR |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | H 25.7 L 15.8 | H 25.8 L 15.2 | H 27.2 L 16.4 | H 26.5 L 15.0 | H 25.4 L 11.0 | H 24.8 L 13.2 | H 26.5 L 13.5 | H 26.0 L 12.5 | H 27.2 L 18.2 |

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:44pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am. Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 10.4 in Tentulia.

RAJON KILLING
HC starts hearing death reference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing the death reference and appeals in the 13-year-old boy Sheikh Md Samiul Alam Rajon killing case.

During yesterday's proceedings, Deputy Attorney General Zahirul Haque Zahir read out from the paper book of the case before the HC bench of Justice Zahangir Hossain and Justice Md Zahangir Hossain.

The bench also fixed today for resuming the hearing. On July 8, 2015, Rajon was beaten to death by a group of brutes in Kumargaon Bus Stand area of Sylhet Sadar.

A Sylhet court in November 2015 sentenced four people to death.

The convicts later on filed separate appeals with the HC challenging the verdict.



Carrying sticks and sharp weapons, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men chase away Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists while the latter brought out a procession before Murari Chand College in Sylhet city yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Poverty, delay in justice deprive the marginalised

Discussion told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty and delay in delivery of justice mainly deprive the grassroots people of legal support, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

As a result, the marginalised resort to village arbitrations but they do not get justice there because arbitrations are influenced by politics and money, they said.

The discussion was organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with Brotee, an NGO working with UKaid-funded project Community Legal Services, at the newspaper's office.

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, member of Law Commission, said shortage of judges was a major cause of delay in justice. "We already informed the government of the reasons and called for recruitment of a sufficient number of judges, but it didn't give us any feedback," he said.

He also said 1,500 judges worked at courts across the country while the number had to be doubled.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission, said justice for the marginalised would be enhanced if each lawyer filed some cases per year for the people and fought for them.

Meghna Guhathakurta, executive director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, said legal service providers need have eagerness to provide the services, and people had to be aware that they could take the service.

Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust, said junior lawyers could be included providing such services while the Supreme Court need give more emphasis on the cases filed for public welfare.

Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive officer of Brotee; Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Fawzia Karim Firoze, president of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association; Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon, associate professor of law at Dhaka University, and Jerome Sayre, team leader of CLS, also spoke.

SYLHET MC COLLEGE
BCL men chase JCD activists with sharp weapons

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men chased and attacked Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists with sharp weapons and sticks before Murari Chand College in Sylhet city yesterday, leaving three of JCD injured.

The injured took primary treatment at a local hospital, JCD activists said. However, police claimed no one was injured in the attack.

JCD activists brought out a procession welcoming the newly formed convening committee of JCD college unit, said Badrul Azad Rana, convener of the committee.

When they were about to enter the college premises around 11:30am, a group of BCL men led by the college unit leaders Delwar Hossain and Hossain Ahmed suddenly attacked them with sticks and sharp weapons, he added. The Daily Star could not reach Delwar and Hossain despite repeated attempts over the phone.

Contacted, Sanjay Chowdhury, joint secretary of BCL Sylhet district unit, said the JCD activists were trying to create anarchy on the campus, which BCL activists resisted.

Shahjalal Munshi, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station, said the police intervened and brought the situation under control.

KUNIO HOSHI MURDER
Eight more testify at Rangpur court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Eight witnesses yesterday testified before a Rangpur court in a case filed over the murder of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi.

Rathish Chandra Bhowmik, public prosecutor, said with them, 33 out of 57 witnesses gave their testimonies till yesterday. The remaining ones will testify on Tuesday, February 2 and 5, court sources said. Unidentified criminals shot Kunio Hoshi at Aluwari village in Kaunia upazila on October 3, 2015.



Agriculture research inst bill placed at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute Bill, 2017" was placed in parliament yesterday.

The bill, placed by Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, will annul existing Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute Ordinance, 1976 and made provisions for framing a new law in this regard in Bangla language.

According to the bill, the institute would be a statutory body whose head office would remain in Joydebpur, Gazipur. However, the institute would be able to set up its regional centre and sub-regional centre at any places across the country.



Piles of garbage on a road in Chittagong city's Kalurghat industrial area with the authorities concerned taking no initiative to remove those. The photo was taken yesterday noon.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Two students die as vehicle hits their bike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two college students were killed as a covered van ran over their motorcycle at Customs Intersection in Chittagong city on Sunday.

They are Imrul Hasan Shibli, a BBA student of Government City College; and Mahtab Karim Siddique, a BBA student of Omar Gani MES College. Police detained the covered van driver, Md Parvez. A case was filed.

JUBO LEAGUE ACTIVIST MURDER
AL men stage demo blocking road for killers' punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of the ruling Awami League and its associate bodies yesterday demonstrated blocking a road in the capital's Norda, demanding punishment for the killers of a Jubo League man, which contributed to traffic congestion in the nearby areas.

The demonstration continued for nearly an hour, and was later postponed after getting assurance from police that the culprits would soon be held, said Rafiqul Islam, an assistant commissioner of police in Gulshan zone.

On January 23 night, Md Mainuddin, 40, a Jubo League activist of ward no-18, was called out of his Kalachandpur residence in Gulshan by some local thugs including Shaju, Shuvo, Abid, Shahin and Jahir, said Mainuddin's nephew Anisur Rahman Sujon.

When he came out, he was taken to a nearby place, and was beaten and stabbed to death, Sujon told The Daily Star.

On January 24, the victim's mother Ambiya Begum filed a murder case accusing the thugs. "But the police have yet to capture the culprits," said Sujon.

Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, said they have already arrested Shaju's wife Ruma Akter, an FIR named accused, and are trying to arrest the other accused.

HRIDOY KILLING
Fellows seek justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Hundreds of students of different institutions brought out a procession on Sadar Road in Barisal city yesterday, protesting the killing of schoolboy Hridoy and demanding exemplary punishment for the killers.

A group of students of Government Technical School and College allegedly stabbed Saydur Rahman Hridoy Gazi, 16, a student of Shaheed Abdur Rab Semiatat Government School and College, over previous rivalry on Saturday.

They also demanded police patrol teams during school hours.

Barisal court sent the six schoolboys, arrested so far, to jail.



Irregularities found in Ctg Customs House

Says ACC commissioner after visiting office
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Irregularities were found at every stage in Chittagong Customs House, said Anti-Corruption Commission Commissioner AFM Aminul Islam yesterday.

He was talking to journalists after visiting the customs house. The ACC commissioner said he ordered the customs authorities to suspend its officials who were seen taking bribe in the photos and video footages published and aired by the print and electronic media.

Aminul led a three-member team, including ACC directors general Muhammad Munir Chowdhury and Atiqur Rahman Khan.

Some government departments are yet to heed the warning on corruption, which the government has been making since March last year, said the ACC commissioner.

Earlier in the day, the team had a meeting with senior officials of Chittagong Customs House and leaders of Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association.

He said they found easy access for the staff of C&F agents and many outsiders to the assessment room of the customs office. He said he had hoped that the corrupt would be punished following the news reports, but to no avail.

The ACC will sign a memorandum of understanding with different agencies to unearth black money and resources, said Aminul. The anti-graft watchdog directed the customs authorities to enhance monitoring.

NEWS IN brief

Missing youth's body found in sack
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the decomposed body of a youth in a sack from a canal at Kalmia Bazar in Chittagong city on Sunday evening, four days after he went missing.

The deceased was Md Sohel, 27, son of Mobarak Hossain of Kalmia Bazar in the city, went missing on Thursday.

Mobarak filed a general diary with Bakalia Police Station on Saturday.

Bakalia police sent the body to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A murder case was filed.

Teacher dies from electrocution
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A teacher of Greenview Kindergarten School at Anwara upazila in Chittagong died from electrocution yesterday.

Abul Hasnat, 33, of the upazila, came in contact with a live electric wire on the roof of a three-storey school building, said Anwara police.

Fire guts valuables in Ctg
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted valuables, worth Tk 10 lakh, at two houses and a parking spot of rickshaws at Hasnabad in Bhatiari of Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila early yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at the parking spot, said Agrabad fire officials. Fire fighters doused the blaze within an hour.

Free medical camp in Khulna
A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A nine-day free medical camp for children with cleft lip and palate started at Khulna Shishu Hospital yesterday.

Around 100 patients will get surgical treatment from a group of 20 national and international medical experts. Rotary Club and the hospital are jointly holding the camp with assistance from Alliance for Smiles of the USA, and Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties of the USA till February 8.

Already 150 patients registered their names while 50 of them took primary treatment yesterday.



US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat speaks at a programme celebrating the 15th Founding Anniversary of Daffodil International University (DIU) on its Ashulia campus on Saturday. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI); Md Sabur Khan, chairman of DIU, also spoke.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rejoinder, Our Reply

FROM PAGE 3

ANNOUNCEMENT, wrote that Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission arrested IRIS deputy managing director, Datuk Hamdan Hassan, for his alleged involvement in corruption in an e-passport project of the Republic of Guinea. Another IRIS official was arrested on the same charges but his name was not mentioned because the newspaper could not confirm it. Bahjat's name was mentioned as he and Hamdan were involved in Bangladesh passport projects in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. We stand corrected.

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Vice Chancellor
Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury
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