

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 29.0 L 19.0	MYMENSINGH H 28.4 L 15.7	CHITTAGONG H 29.0 L 16.7	SYLHET H 28.8 L 17.0	RAJSHAHI H 27.5 L 11.3	RANGPUR H 26.7 L 13.0	KHULNA H 28.0 L 14.6	BARISAL H 28.5 L 14.8	COX'S BAZAR H 30.4 L 18.0
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Weather may remain 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 5:50pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am. Country's highest temperature 30.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.3 in Rajshahi.

Land broker sues SI for 'torture in custody'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A land broker yesterday sued a sub-inspector of police in Barisal city, accusing him of demanding extortion and torturing the complainant in custody.

Ripon Mridha of Rupatali area lodged the case with the chief metropolitan magistrate court of Barisal, Md Anisur Rahman. The court ordered Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hossain to investigate the allegations and submit a report within seven days.

According to the case statement, Sub-inspector Md Mohiuddin of Kotwali Police Station arrested Ripon Mridha and his friend Afzal Hossain in October last year and tortured them in the station after they refused to pay Tk 3 lakh as extortion. "We are local land brokers. SI Mohiuddin had been demanding extortion from us for a long time... We refused. He arrested me on October 27 and my friend on October 19, 2016 without any allegation and tortured us in Kotwali Police Station," Ripon said in the statement. "We were tortured...because we could not collect such a huge amount.... We had to give confessional statements in fear of cross-fires by the SI," he added.

Terming the allegations baseless, SI Mohiuddin told The Daily Star, "I arrested one Ripon Akon on April 1, 2016 in a case of stealing from one Sabuj's house." Based on Ripon Akon's information, Ripon Mridha and Afzal Hossain were arrested for their complicity in the stealing, and they confessed to the crime at the court, he said.



Opposing the coal-based Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans, students of the Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University protest at Cheragi Pahar Intersection in the city yesterday. They painted their faces with various colours depicting different animals, birds and greenery to portray the probable impact of the plant on the flora and fauna of the mangrove forest.

JIHAD'S DEATH

Verdict Feb 26

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed February 26 for delivering the verdict in a case filed over the death of four-year-old Jihad in 2014.

After completion of hearing arguments from the prosecution and defence Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the Dhaka's Special Judge Court-5 fixed the date.

On October 4, 2016, the same court framed charges against six people including five engineers of Bangladesh Railway. All of them are now on bail.

On December 26, 2014, Jihad died after falling into a 17-inch diameter abandoned shaft, near his house at Bangladesh Railway Colony in Shahjahanpur area while playing with his friends.

His body was pulled out by a band of indomitable volunteers the following day.

WASTE BINS A WASTE?

HELEMUL ALAM and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Md Solaiman, a security guard of a private bank at Karwan Bazar, used to drop light waste materials into a bin installed near the bank. To his surprise, one morning he discovered that the bin just disappeared. This is one glaring example of how a good initiative can go down the drain.

Metal waste bins set up along the city streets as part of two Dhaka mayors' vision to keep the city clean and green around a year back, are either stolen or badly damaged in many areas due to a lack of supervision by the authorities concerned and an absence of minimum civic sense of a section of city dwellers.

As part of their election pledges, the north and south mayors in their



The iron frame of a metal waste bin stands alone on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue as the bin has been stolen.

Banani Chairmanbari intersection and on Banani Road-11.

"It was a good initiative by the city mayors but people misused it by dumping household garbage into them; those were set up for light waste though," said Hasib Uz Zaman, a student of Tejgaon College.

Commodore Abdur Razzak, chief waste management officer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), said



A bin tied upside down in Ahmedbagh.

they had installed nearly 1,000 bins in its jurisdiction. "Of those, 17 percent have either been stolen or damaged," he said.

"The effort went in vain due to a lack of civic sense," Razzak said, adding that they were planning to launch a campaign to make people aware of waste management.

The situation is no different in areas under DNCC.

Many of the bins were tied upside

down on Satish Sarkar Road in Gendaria, Sharatgupta Road and Distilari Road in Dolaikhal, and in front of Gendaria High School.

Mintu Das, a staff of a shoe shop on Shartagupta Road, said they had found the bins tied up this way over the last few days.

Mohammad Abdul Barez, a staff of a gas cylinder shop on Dholaikhal Road, had the similar story to tell.

Khandokar Millatul Islam, additional chief waste management officer of DSCC, said they set up 5,700 bins.

He said the bins were designed for light wastes like packets of chips and chocolate, and plastic bags; but in some cases, people dump household garbage into the bins.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon on January 26 said they had conducted an assessment, and identified 220 bins were stolen and 197 damaged.

He said he had instructed the city corporation's store department to repair and replace the bins soon.

Some city dwellers tie the bins upside down to bar people from throwing solid waste into them in a bid to avoid bad odour, he observed.

Hopefully, people will gradually be accustomed to using the bins, he said, adding that they were running a public campaign in this regard on Facebook.

28 Jamaat women denied bail, sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of 28 female leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and sent them to jail in a case filed against them for planning to sabotage government establishments.

The court passed the order after the investigation officer of the case produced them before it on completion of their one-day remand. Previously, they were also remanded for two days in the case filed under the Special Powers Act.

On Friday, a team of Mohammadpur police arrested the 28 while they were holding a secret meeting in a building on Nurjahan Road.

The police also recovered leaflets, money receipts and monthly reports of Jamaat-e-Islami along with books authored by Ghulam Azam and Motiur Rahman Nizami.

'ASSAULT' ON FELLOW RMCH interns stop work for 22hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The majority of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) interns refrained from work for 22 hours till 2:00pm yesterday following an alleged assault on one of their fellows over a patient's death, said the RMCH authorities.

Shahin Ali Sardar, 35, a stroke patient with paralysis, a resident of Hadir Mor, died at the hospital on Tuesday hours after the doctors released him, said the family and hospital sources.

Brig Gen Rafiqul Islam, director of RMCH, said, "Unfortunately, the patient died before leaving the hospital."

Later, Shahin's relatives assaulted an intern named Mahfuzur Rahman, alleged RMCH Intern Doctors Council president Shafiqul Islam. The family, however, denied the allegation.

In retaliation, the interns and some staff of the hospital beat up Shahin's mother, sister and their relatives and handed over three of them to police, said a police officer, seeking anonymity.

Denying the allegations, the interns said they only had an altercation.

Shahin's family refused to receive his body until the detained persons were released.

Six hours later, police released them as the interns did not file any complaint, said Tawhidul Islam, sub-inspector of Rajpara Police Station.

Shahin's brother Shamim Ali Sardar said the incident caused a delay in burying the body.

Brig Gen Rafiqul said the patient was released as his treatment was completed. Such patients are advised to take rest at home as the hospital cannot accommodate them for a long time, he added.

CORRUPTION CASE

Khaleda wants transfer of court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a petition with the High Court, seeking a stay on the trial proceedings against her in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

In the petition, Khaleda sought the HC's order upon the lower court concerned for transferring the case to another court.

Citing the petition, Khaleda's lawyer Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon told reporters that Khaleda on February 2 submitted an application to the Special Judges' Court -3 of Dhaka expressing no confidence on the judge of that court on various grounds. But Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka rejected the petition, he said.

Khaleda yesterday submitted a revision petition to the HC challenging the lower court's rejection order, the lawyer added.



A badly damaged bin on the avenue.

respective areas installed around 7,000 bucket like metal bins so that pedestrians can drop light garbage into those instead of on roads and footpaths that make the city dirty.

According to officials of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), of the 5,700 bins set up in Dhaka south, nearly 1,140 are large in size costing Tk 12,000 each, while the remaining small-sized ones cost Tk 6,400 each.

During a recent visit to different areas in the capital, it was found that some of the bins were stolen, and some badly damaged. Some of the bins were being used for dropping household garbage for what those were not set up, while some were tied upside down, which makes them unusable.

It was hard to identify some of the trash bins in Farmgate area as posters were glued on them.

Three bins were found stolen leaving behind the empty metal frames at

ICT training starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will start an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training today for 24,000 volunteers, who will provide practical ICT education to students of 2,001 schools and colleges in the country.

The ICT Division in collaboration with the Young Bangla, a youth platform of the Centre for Research and Information (CRI), will conduct the training, said Tonmoy Ahmed, assistant coordinator of CRI.

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ACI launches awareness campaign on cleanliness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To create awareness on keeping the country clean, ACI Limited yesterday launched its campaign "Savlon-Clean Bangladesh" at a press conference in the capital's ACI Centre.

Author Anisul Hoque inaugurated the campaign, where the company's executive director Syed Alamgir, business director Md Quamrul Hassan and general manager of sales Md Zakir Hossain, were present.

Anisul urged everyone to participate in the campaign. With the slogan, "Let's build a germ-free Bangladesh," Savlon aims to help people develop the habit of dumping waste in the waste bins, said Syed Alamgir.

Govt may let in Malaysian relief vessel for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government may allow the Malaysian ship, carrying relief materials for Myanmar's Rohingyas who fled a military crackdown into Bangladesh, to anchor in Bangladesh territory but bar Malaysian volunteers on board the vessel from taking part in relief distribution, according to diplomatic sources.

The government is yet to announce where the ship may anchor and unload relief materials.

According to the Malaysian foreign ministry, Dhaka on February 3 informed its decision to grant the food flotilla mission to access the Port of Teknaf and provide humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The Bangladeshi government also agreed to issue Visa on Arrival (VOA) to the volunteers and crew of the vessel.

On the basis of the Bangladeshi government's agreement, Malaysian Foreign Ministry in a press release available on its website said it earlier undertook necessary logistical preparations for the vessel to dock at Teknaf and had been reassured by the Bangladeshi authorities that the delivery of humanitarian aid could be made at Teknaf.

But, on February 6, it said, the Bangladeshi side informed Malaysia that port of Teknaf was incapable of accommodating a big vessel like Nautical Aliya.

In this regard, the Malaysian government said, "We call upon the Bangladeshi Government to adhere to its decision of 3 February 2017 to provide access at Teknaf Port and VOA facilities for all the volunteers and crew of the vessel." The vessel is carrying 202 passengers and crew, as well as 2,300 tonnes of aid to be delivered to Rohingyas in both Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Bangladesh foreign ministry sources said the government in principle agreed to allow the Malaysian ship to anchor in Bangladesh, but not in Teknaf, as it did not have such infrastructure there to handle the relief materials and provide required facilities to the huge ship. The government is also not interested to allow the volunteers to take part in relief distribution works as tens of thousands of Myanmar nationals are in Cox's Bazar and it might create a serious problem if the volunteers go for distribution, they said.

Rather, the government thinks the relief materials can be distributed smoothly through international organisations like International Organization of Migration (IOM) or Red Crescent Society, and the ship may anchor in Saint Martin's Island or Kutubdia.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week's spotlight talks about Bangladesh Taka Jadugar-- the country's first ever currency museum-- located at the Bangladesh Bank Training Academy that has a huge collection of around 9000 local and foreign currencies. We also have a remembrance piece on the great television, theatre and silver-screen personality, late Humayun Faridee and what his friends, colleagues, and fans say about him. Don't forget to grab your copy of the Star Weekend, tomorrow, Friday!

FROM BARTER TO BANKNOTES, ALL IN ONE

You may have heard that eight mound (around 295 kg) of preserved rice could be traded with one tala coin at the origin of Moulvi Khan (presently known as Moulvi Khan or Aurangabad) but have you ever heard of the 40 or 50 tala notes? Have you ever had a chance to glimpse the gold coins that the British emperor would use for their financial transactions? Not yet, but tomorrow night a visit to Bangladesh Taka Jadugar--the country's first ever currency museum--located at the Bangladesh Bank Training Academy in Mirpur will surely satisfy your curiosity. It boasts an impressive collection of currencies from West Banknote (1825), Indian (1200-1205), Magdal (1126-1887), British (1216-1947) and present times. To learn more about the museum, history and evolution of currencies, read this week's spotlight on pages 8 and 9.

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