

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.5 L 17.4	H 27.8 L 15.8	H 30.4 L 20.8	H 28.9 L 17.5	H 29.0 L 13.8	H 26.5 L 13.5	H 29.0 L 17.8	H 28.4 L 18.0	H 30.8 L 20.5

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:07pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08am.** Country's highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.5 in Tentulia.



Green activists of Riverine People form the words, "Save River", during a rally on the bank of the Teesta in Rangpur yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

HC stays suspension of Sylhet mayor for six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the suspension of Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury for the next six months.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why the suspension of Ariful should not be declared illegal.

The HC also directed the authorities not to create any obstruction for Ariful in discharging duties as the SCC mayor following a writ petition filed by Ariful on Sunday challenging the suspension.

Ariful's lawyer Barrister Muhammed Abdul Halim Kafi told The Daily Star that the LGRD ministry on January 7, 2015, suspended Ariful after a Sylhet court had accepted a charge sheet against him on December 30, 2014 in former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case.

Later on January 4 this year, Ariful got an HC bail in this case, he said.

About the HC order, Ariful told the media that the victory belonged to the people.

If the government supports him, he will work for the development of the city as he used to, said Ariful.

NEWS IN brief

Switzerland, Bangladesh to boost ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating 45 years of diplomatic relations, Bangladesh and Switzerland have vowed to strengthen cooperation on a wide range of bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues, said a press release of the Swiss embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

In his letter, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, wrote that the excellent relations "have grown and multiplied since March 13, 1972, the day when Switzerland recognised independent Bangladesh."

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, in his letter to Burkhalter, highlighted the historic relations.

Constable stabbed by miscreants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman was stabbed in the neck by miscreants near Babubazar bridge in old part of the capital early yesterday.

Waliullah, 45, a constable of court police, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said sub-inspector Bachhu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Some seven miscreants attacked Waliullah, who was in civil dress, around 12:30am when he was going to Dhaka District Judge's Court in Sadarghat, said Kotwali police.

Hearing screams, locals along with the help of duty police nabbed Rezaul, Rakib and Rana. The gang might have targeted Waliullah for snatching.

'StrayBird' Forum celebrates anniversary

CITY DESK

StrayBird, a literary and cultural forum of the English department of Stamford University, Bangladesh celebrated its 12 anniversary on Saturday.

A literary colloquium and a cultural show titled "Literature and Performing Art" were held on its Siddheswari Campus.

Ataur Rahman, actor and director, and Prof Abdus Selim of North South University were the keynote speakers. The Vice-Chancellor Prof M Feroze Ahmed inaugurated the programme.

HC prohibits from collecting extra fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday prohibited the Viqarunnisa Noon School College and College authorities from collecting extra tuition fees from its students for next one year.

Responding to a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond, it also questioned the legality of the rules that empowers the education boards to form ad-hoc committees for running private schools and colleges.

The boards form the ad-hoc committee under Section 39 of the Private School and College Governing Body and Managing Committee Regulations, 2009, Eunus said.

The HC issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in four weeks why the Section 39 should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

Eunus also said the Viqarunnisa authorities has been illegally collecting additional Tk 500 from its college student and Tk 300 from its school student for the welfare of its teachers and staff since January through the ad-hoc committee.

Save Buriganga, save Kamrangirchar

Residents tell discussion on new DAP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents urged to ensure liveability of Kamrangirchar by ensuring water flow in the original channel of the Buriganga River that is under constant threat of encroachment.

They voiced their opinion yesterday at a public discussion jointly organised by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and three local ward councillors on the proposed new detailed area plan (DAP) of Dhaka.

Aside from demanding protection of the Buriganga from encroachment and pollution, the Kamrangirchar residents during the discussion also demanded a road to connect Muslimbagh-Sheikh Jamal Road and the road to Shikdar Medical College Hospital.

They also said adequate playgrounds, parks, maternity centres, fire fighting stations, waste transfer stations and community centres should be allocated on khas lands in Kamrangirchar under the proposed new DAP.

The new DAP should also include two 60-foot separate roads -- one stretching from the embankment to Kholamora and the other from Section Bridge to Lohar Bridge, the locals said.

With the current DAP expiring its 15-year term in 2015 without having implemented most of its key recommendations on conservation of wetlands and flood flow zones, Rajuk embarked on adopting yet another 20-year detailed plan in March 2015 for the period 2016-2035.

The new DAP was to be completed by April this year, but the government had extended the deadline till December this year.



Four buses burning at FA Engineering Workshop in Aminbazar outside the capital yesterday, after a fire originated from a welding machine at the workshop. Two of the vehicles belonged to Comfort Paribahan, one to Hanif and the other to Ekota. PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

People will not accept any deal except Teesta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday warned that the people will not accept any deal, except for the one on Teesta water sharing, made with India during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's tour in April.

"We saw in newspapers that the prime minister is probably going to India on April 8. The country's people will not accept any deal that may go against Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty and its interests," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said.

He was speaking at a press conference following a joint meeting of BNP held at the party's Naya Paltan central office on the Independence Day on March 26.

Referring to Indian media reports, Fakhrul said a defence deal for 25 years is going to be signed with India during Hasina's tour.

Fakhrul urged Hasina to make public her discussion agenda during the India visit.

BNP has been expecting for the last 11 years that the country will at least get water of the Teesta river as Awami League has very good relations with India, said Fakhrul.

About the procurement of two submarines from China for Bangladesh Navy, he said their party will welcome if the submarines work properly and can defeat enemy ships.

"PM'S COMMENT IRRESPONSIBLE" Terming Hasina's Saturday's comment that Khaleda Zia went to power in 2001 by giving an undertaking to sell gas to India "irresponsible", Fakhrul in return threw a question about whether Hasina came to power by giving undertaking to any country or with the help of RAW in 2014.



From left, Shyamal Yadav, Hasibur Rahman, Syed Ishtiaque Reza, Maja Daruwala, Aditi Dutta, Sanjoy Hazarika and Dr Shamsul Bari at a workshop titled "Value and use of RTI in media", organised by CHRI and MRDI, in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

COMILLA CITY POLLS Accept Mamunur's candidacy: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the returning officer concerned to accept the nomination of independent candidate Maj (ret'd) Mamunur Rashid for the post of mayor in Comilla City Corporation election to be held on March 30.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman passed the order following a petition filed by Mamunur Rashid seeking its order for accepting his nomination.

Petitioner's lawyer Md Fakhruddin told The Daily Star that now there is no legal bar for Mamunur Rashid to contest the election. He said Mamunur Rashid submitted the nomination paper to the returning officer of Comilla on March 2.

The returning officer on March 5 rejected his nomination on the ground of irregularities in the names of few of his voters whose list was submitted along with the nomination, he said. Mamunur Rashid filed an appeal with the divisional commissioner of Chittagong on March 7, the appellate authority to the returning officer, he added. He said the divisional commissioner also rejected his appeal on March 8.

Mamunur Rashid on Sunday filed the petition with the HC.

NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROAD

Six more die

CITY DESK

Six people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Sunday.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports, Rubel Miah, 25, son of Ekabbar Ali of Dewaniabari in Trisha, died as a Mymensingh-bound microbus ran him over on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Ukilbari area of Trishal upazila yesterday.

Shafiq Khan, 40, of village Habirbari in Bhaluka, was killed while another person injured when a Dhaka-bound bus ran them over in Masterbari area on the highway on the day.

Meanwhile in Jamirdia area, a sand trader, Noman Bhuiyan, 30, of Narsingdi district, was killed while another injured as a Dhaka-bound bus ran them over.

The injured was undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds, Abdul Mazed, 50, of Gomostapur upazila, was killed and his son Anwar Hossain, 32, was injured as an oncoming truck hit their motorcycle in Palsha area of sadar upazila yesterday.

Police seized the truck but its driver fled away.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds, a madrasa student, Md Kawsar, 20, son of Alal Akond of Taltali upazila, died as a covered-van hit his motorbike on Taltali-Patuakhali road at Karaibaria in Barguna yesterday.

The body was sent to Barguna general hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, Abdul Gafur Munsif, 70, of village Tazpur in Chirirbandar upazila, died as a motorbike hit him while he was crossing Dinajpur-Bogra highway at Amtoli in the upazila on Sunday.

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