

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.2 L 18.0	MYMENSINGH H 28.3 L 17.1	CHITTAGONG H 30.0 L 19.6	SYLHET H 30.0 L 15.9	RAJSHAHI H 28.7 L 17.2	RANGPUR H 25.5 L 15.3	KHULNA H 33.0 L 19.9	BARISAL H 33.0 L 18.6	COX'S BAZAR H 30.0 L 20.8
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions with hails at isolated places till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may fall slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:10pm and rises tomorrow at 06:01am.

HAZARIBAGH TANNERIES SC stays HC's compensation order on factory owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed until Thursday a High Court order that directed the tannery owners to pay Tk 30.85 crore compensation for polluting the environment and failing to relocate their factories to Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossein gave the order following a petition filed by the tannery owners seeking stay on the HC order.

The chamber judge also sent the stay petition to the full bench of the Appellate Division for its hearing on Thursday, Barrister Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury, a lawyer for the tannery owners, told The Daily Star.

On March 2, the HC directed 154 Hazaribagh tannery owners to pay the government Tk 30.85 crore within two weeks for polluting the environment, and ruled that the tannery owners will face serious consequence if they don't deposit the money to the state fund in line with its directive.

Earlier in July last year, the Appellate Division ordered that every tannery owner must pay Tk 10,000 a day for damaging and polluting the environment in the area and also ordered the owners to shift their businesses to Savar.

WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN CAN BE NEGLECTED



Though before Independence Day and Victory Day, the National Memorial in Savar sees a major facelift, the west side of the memorial compound remains neglected for lack of proper maintenance and monitoring by the authorities concerned. *Clockwise from left*, The lake behind the memorial not only stays polluted but also spreads malodour. The boundary wall of some parts of the 84-acre compound, especially on its west side, is partially broken. There is a check post on the compound's north-west corner, which is left unused due to its dilapidated condition. Some of the lamp posts are damaged while light bulbs of some others are missing. A broken portion of a boundary wall. A paved footpath missing blocks. The memorial is also facing a shortage of manpower and funding, said the authorities

PHOTOS: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Journos observe 3-hr strike for 9th wage board

BSS, Dhaka

Journalists of newspapers, news agencies and other media yesterday observed a three-hour "pen down" demanding constitution of the 9th wage board as pledged by the authorities concerned more than a year ago.

"Newspersons across the country observed the three-hour pen down from 11:00am as per an earlier announcement. The programme will be continued till March 21," said Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Omar Faruque.

The BFUJ at a meeting at Jatiya Press Club said they will go for a street march toward the Prime Minister's Office to submit a memorandum on March 22 if the demand is not met by then.

Road crashes kill 3, injure 5

CITY DESK

Three people were killed and five others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday and the day before.

In Brahmanbaria, a day labourer was killed and four others injured as a brick-carrying truck plunged into a ditch beside Comilla-Sylhet highway in Darkhar area of Akhaura upazila in Brahmanbaria yesterday morning.

The deceased was Muktar Miah, 25, of Shahbazpur village under Sarail upazila.

Police said the incident occurred as the driver lost his control over the vehicle.

In Dinajpur, a person was killed and another injured as two goods-carrying trucks collided head-on on Parbatipur bypass road at Britiparamor in Parbatipur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was Hanif Sheikh, 35, of Kapasia Paschimpara in Rajshahi. He was the helper of one of the trucks.

In Jamalpur, a local journalist was killed as a picnic bus ran him over on Tarakandi-Jamalpur road at Tarakandi intersection in Sarishabari upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased Hafizur Rahman, 32, of Kandarpara village, was a staff reporter of the daily Nobotan, a Jamalpur-based newspaper. He died on the spot, said police.

EKRAMUL KILLING SC asks lower court to finish trial in six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the lower court concerned in Feni to finish the trial proceedings of Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque killing case in six months.

After disposing of an appeal filed by the government, the apex court also scrapped a High Court verdict that on last November 24 granted bail to local BNP leader Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury Minar, the prime accused in the case.

Ekram, 45, former president of the upazila Awami League unit, was shot and burnt to death in his car in Feni town's Academy area on May 20, 2014.

Rezaul Haque Jashim, the victim's brother, filed the murder case the same day, accusing Minar and 30 to 35 anonymous people.

8 militant suspects held

STAR REPORT

Police arrested eight suspected militants, including four alleged members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Patuakhali, Jessore, and Sylhet yesterday and the day before.

Four suspected JMB men were arrested in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, said GM Shah Newaz, officer-in-charge of Kalapara Police Station. "The gang might have planned sabotage activities. We are interrogating them for more information," he said.

They were identified as Milon Sikder, 28, and Kamal Hossain, 30, of Pirojpur's Mothbaria upazila, and Babul Khan, 45, and Pappu, 28, of Jhalakathi's Kathalia upazila.

The OC said they came to know that Milon Sikder was a Hindu, and was interrogating him to be confirmed whether he was involved in militant activities.

Police challenged the gang after seeing their "suspicious movement" about 50 yards from the police station, the OC

Hosiery factory official killed in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A hosiery factory official in Kashipur area of Narayanganj's Fatullah upazila was killed allegedly by two of his workers in the factory yesterday, police said.

Fahim Ahmed, 26, marketing officer of Rupaiya Hosiery Factory, was found in a pool of blood with head injury inside the factory which was locked from outside, said his brother-in-law and the factory owner Rashed Shikder.

The two fugitive suspects, Shohag and Yusuf, used to sleep with Fahim inside the factory, said police quoting Rashed.



Law enforcers stand guard behind a bunker in front of the capital's Banga Bazar police barrack yesterday. Security has been strengthened at police outposts across the country as well as the airports and prisons following a suspected suicide attack at a Rab barrack in Ashkona.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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