



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 23.6 L 17.6

MYMENSINGH H 23.7 L 18.5

CHITTAGONG H 25.1 L 21.5

SYLHET H 20.9 L 18.9

RAJSHAHI H 29.0 L 18.8

RANGPUR H 27.2 L 17.6

KHULNA H 25.5 L 19.8

BARISAL H 23.5 L 20.6

COX'S BAZAR H 25.2 L 21.8

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Barisal divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01am.

COX'S BAZAR SC upholds directives to save Jhilonja from grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The Supreme Court has upheld a High Court verdict that in 2011 directed the government to take necessary steps to protect Jhilonja Mouja, an ecologically critical area in Cox's Bazar, from encroachment. The SC passed the order on Sunday after hearing a petition filed by the Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner. Following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), the HC on June 8, 2011 ordered the government to take necessary steps so that the natural characteristics of Jhilonja Mouja are protected, its soil cannot be dug and structures cannot be built there.

26 held from Ibn Sina factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur  
Detectives early yesterday arrested 26 employees, 12 of them officials and the rest security staff, conducting a drive in a factory and residential quarters of Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry Ltd in Shafipur of Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila. The arrestees are leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its associate organisations, said Md Amir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gazipur Detective Branch of police. The drive was conducted on a tip-off that they were planning to commit subversive activities, he added.



The room where four members of the family were injured after loose bricks from an under-construction multi-story building, right, fell through its tin roof, in Dhopapara area of Chittagong city's Kazirdewri yesterday. There was no safety canopy and nets around the building for fall protection.

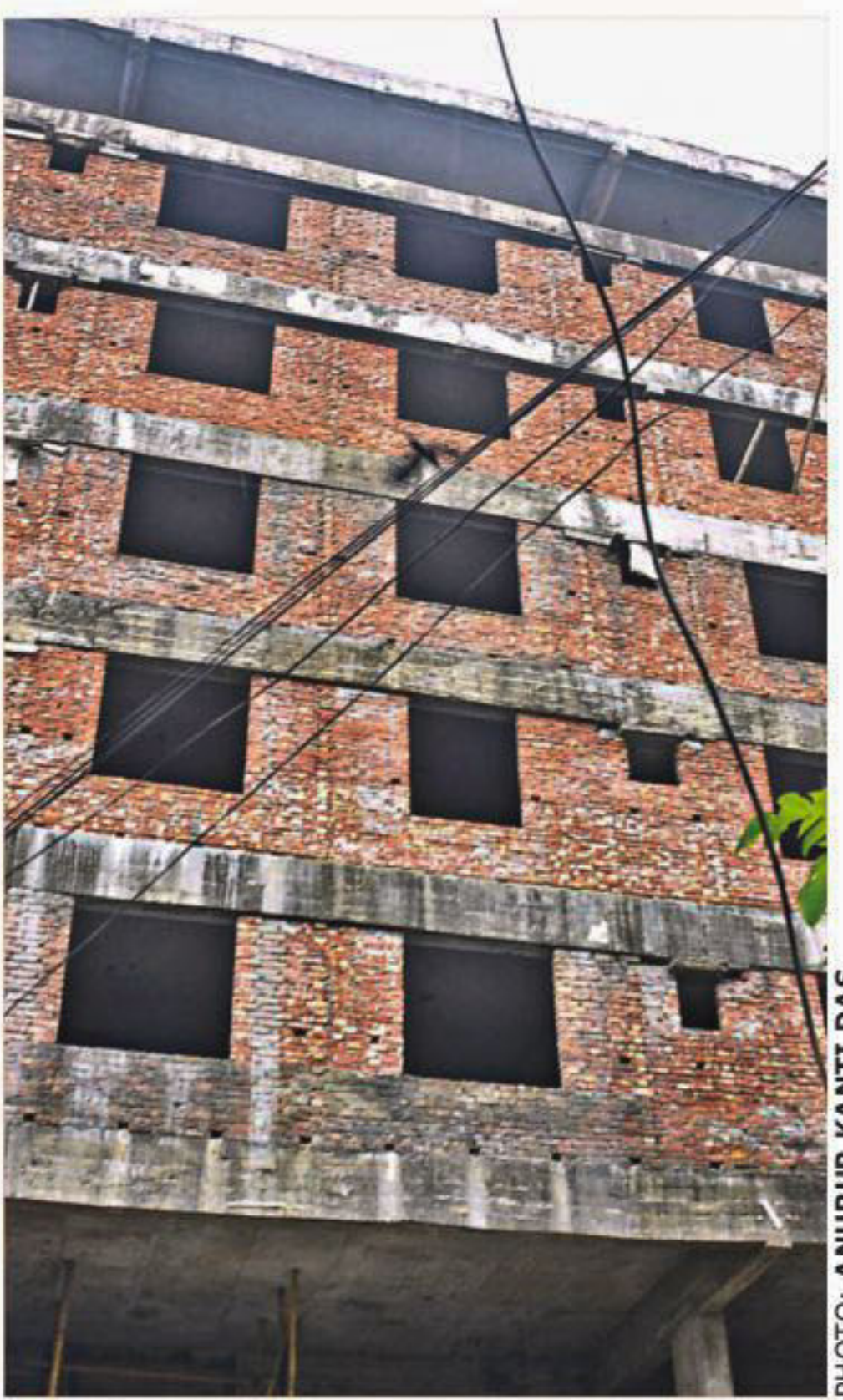


PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

No safety in high-rise building construction

Falling bricks injure four of a family inside room

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four people of a family, including two students, narrowly escaped death but sustained injuries as bricks from an adjacent under-construction high-rise fell on them through the tin roof of their house at Dhopa Para in Chittagong city's Kazirdewri area early yesterday. Tagor Bala Das, 70, sustained injuries to her legs and back; while Sahadeb Das, 23, Ovi Das, 19, and Arup Das, 24, to their hands and legs, said doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital where they were admitted. Of them, Tagar's condition was critical, said Dr Biswajit Das. Arup is a student of Government City College while Sahadeb of East Delta University, they told The Daily Star at the hospital. Locals said the bricks fell from the top floor of the eight-storey building. "At first we thought it was a sound of thunder as it was raining and we were asleep," said Aparna Das,

daughter-in-law of Tagor Bala Das. She said, "My mother-in-law was covered with a pile of bricks and she became unconscious." Tagar Bala's son Gopal Chandras Das alleged that there has been no safety measure around the building for about three years. "Chunks of brick often fell onto the roof. We requested the owner to cover the site with safety net but he did not pay any heed..." Hasan Bin Shams, executive engineer of Chittagong Development Authority, said according to the CDA building code, maintaining safety measures is a must for construction sites. When asked why no action was taken against the building owner, Hasan said CDA chief town planner Shahinul Islam Khan would be the right person to reply to this question. Shahinul could not be contacted as his cellphone remained switched off. The building owner Eteram Hossain said they maintained such "safety net", but it was removed as the construction work has been "postponed" for several months. "We will cover it up with net tomorrow."

CU medical centre off limits to female students after 6pm!

CU CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of an incident of alleged sexual assault on a female student by a male physician, the Chittagong University authorities yesterday in a notice asked its female students not to visit the university medical centre after 6:00pm. The notice, however, says only those female students will get treatment whose condition is very serious. It reads, "If any female student needs primary treatment after 6:00pm, she has to go to the medical centre along with a female house tutor and the matter must be informed to the medical centre through the respective hall's provost or house tutor". Earlier on March 10, the residential student of CU filed a written complaint against Md Mostafa Kamal, a physician of CU medical centre, for allegedly groping her during a check-up. Later, the physician was sent into forced leave.



An almost empty ward at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, where doctors, teachers, and interns have been on a strike since March 15. Many inpatients have left, while many were turned away at the outdoor section. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PORIMOL PALMA

Hospitality can boost Bangladesh tourism

Observe two envoys in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Smiling faces of Bangladeshis and their gesture of hospitality are the best resources that the country can utilise to attract foreign tourists to visit it, observed two envoys in Dhaka. But the poor road infrastructure and a lack of other facilities are discouraging foreigners, they said. French Ambassador in Dhaka Sophie Aubert and Canadian High Commissioner Benoit-Pierre Laramée made the observation at a roundtable on tourism organised by travel magazine Bhraman, Alliance Française, and French embassy, at the historic Rose Garden Palace in Old Dhaka. The diplomats appreciated the hospitable and friendly people of Bangladesh and their smiles that can make the difference. "Whenever we visit any place of Bangladesh, we see people with their natural smile which is necessary to be a tourist-friendly destination. Bangladeshi people like to talk with natural smile in their faces which tourists love to see and visit," said Canadian high commissioner. French Ambassador said, "... Bangladesh also has a good number of attractive destinations which foreign tourists like to visit. But a lack of infrastructure facilities discourage them from visiting Bangladesh." Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Memon said the government is working to address two problems -- infrastructure and connectivity -- in tourism sector. Laila Raquib, owner of Rose Garden Palace, said Awami League held its inaugural meeting in the Palace; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman attended that meeting.

International College of Dentists convocation held

CITY DESK

The convocation of International College of Dentists (ICD) was held at Dhaka Regency Hotel on Sunday. Prof Kamrul Hasan Khan, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, was the chief guest, says a press release. BSMU Treasurer Prof Ali Asgor Moral, ICD International President Dr Rajesh Chandra, Asian section President Dato Dr How Kim Chuan, Prof Abul Kasem, Dr Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Prof Mostaque H Sattar and Prof Shamsul Alam spoke at the convocation.



Several organisations including Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and local residents of west Panthapath form a human chain near a dumpsite in the capital yesterday, demanding removal of the garbage containers from the street there.

PHOTO: STAR

Don't harass or arrest BNP's Sohel: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the law enforcers not to harass or arrest BNP leader Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel without any specific case or any arrest warrant after his release from jail following his writ petition. Advocate M Masud Rana told The Daily Star that his client has got bail in all 147 criminal cases filed since 2013. But, he apprehended that he might be rearrested after getting released from Keraniganj jail, as he was detained on March 6 after he had been released, the lawyer said citing the petition. On last October 9, Sohel, a joint secretary general of BNP and president of Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal, was sent to jail after he surrendered to a Dhaka court in 41 arson cases.

Doctors turn their back

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but he was now suffering from continuous fever. "Doctors do not see my son regularly. They instruct the nurses via the mobile phone. Is this a system? I am afraid of my son's condition," she said. Prof Rouf Sarder, who was recently removed from his additional duty as a director by the Bangladesh Medical Studies and Research Institute (BMSRI), parent body of BMCH, said the doctors, teachers, and interns began the strike a day after transfer of Dr Saiful Islam, a medical officer of BMCH, Dhanmondi, to Uttara Adhunik Medical College Hospital on March 14. He said around three months back, some doctors and teachers complained to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) about the alleged corruption of some BMSRI staff. Transfer of Dr Saiful was a result of that, he said. He further said the strike was triggered by a conflict between BMSRI and BMCH's governing body, which had been going on for the last three years. Contacted, Prof Niaz Ahmed Chowdhury, honorary secretary of BMSRI, told this correspondent that if there was any allegation of corruption, there was a due process to follow. An investigation regarding this is going on, and the health ministry has taken the probe over from ACC, and so there were no grounds for a strike that puts patients in trouble, he added. "We have transferred Dr Saiful Islam for his unruly behaviour," he said, adding that they would take legal action against such behaviour of a small section of doctors and teachers who wanted to control the hospital. Dr Saiful Islam, who was transferred, said as per the law, the governing body would govern BMCH, not BMSRI.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Mowla (Lisa). Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Faiz Mohammed, only son of Fauzia

On the occasion, food will be distributed in an orphanage and prayers will be offered, says a press release. Faiz was the project manager of Augmedix.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Yunus Ali Kalu, former football player of the district and vice-president of Thakurgaon Town Club, died of kidney disease in his Kalibari residence in the town on Sunday night. He was 61. He left behind his wife and two sons. He was buried at Senua Graveyard in Thakurgaon municipality following his namaz-e-janaza.

VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN 2016

Most crimes committed by non-indigenous people: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-indigenous people were involved in 85 percent of violence committed against indigenous women and girls in 2016 while law enforcement agency members were involved in two percent of the incidents, revealed a study conducted by Kapaeng Foundation. Thirteen percent of the 53 offences - took place in both hilly and plain areas of the country -- mentioned in the study the same year were committed by members of the indigenous community, according to the study. A total of 58 indigenous women and girls were tortured in those incidents while 6 were killed. This was disclosed at a discussion on "Government Pledges and Present Situation of Indigenous Women and Girls in Bangladesh", organised jointly by Kapaeng Foundation (KF) and Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network (BIWN) at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.



Participants at the discussion.

Violence against women continues unabated in the country although the government had ratified various international conventions pledging to eradicate violence against women, many speakers said during the discussion. The government needs to take stern actions against the perpetrators of the crimes to establish the rights of indigenous women and girls after determining the causes behind such violence, they demanded. BIWN Coordinator and KF Member Falguni Tripathy presented the keynote speech at the discussion. KF Executive Director Pallab Chakma said the government is not

doing enough to ensure rights of indigenous women and bring to an end to discrimination against them. Referring to atrocities against Santals in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "It was a pity that the Santals had to take up bows and arrows to protect them from government officials." Romila Kisku, a Santal woman from Gobindaganj, alleged that the Santals in her village were still being harassed by members of the administration. Lawmaker Shirin Akhter said political commitment is necessary to ensure rule of law in the country. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Joint General Secretary Rakhi Das Purkayastha, Sulekha Mrong of BIWN, former information commissioner Sadeka Halim, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Farida Yasmin and Halima Begum of Department of Women Affairs, among others, also spoke at the discussion.

PHOTO: STAR