

WEATHER
FORECASTYESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURESDHAKA
H 32.8 L 24.0MYMENSINGH
H 31.6 L 21.8CHITTAGONG
H 30.6 L 22.4SYLHET
H 31.9 L 22.0RAJSHAH
H 33.4 L 23.0RANGPUR
H 31.0 L 21.0KHULNA
H 34.2 L 24.0BARISAL
H 32.8 L 23.3COX'S BAZAR
H 30.3 L 21.6

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two paces over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali and Comilla 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 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53am.

NEWS IN
brief

Four militant suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained four militant suspects in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday.

Jihadi books and crude bombs were also seized from Toufiq Hasan, Ahammad Rakib Al Hasan, Arefin Islam and Shamsul Haque, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

Indian tourist visa rules eased

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi tourist visa applicants with confirmed air tickets to India can now walk-in and submit their visa applications at visa centres up to three months in advance from their date of journey to India.

Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday conveyed the decision which will come into effect from April 1 in Indian Visa Application Centers in Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna, Jessore, Mymensingh, Barisal and IVAC in Dhaka's Mirpur.

Two engineers recognised by UK inst

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi engineers were honoured for becoming fellows of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), UK at a reception hosted by the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake yesterday.

Maj Gen Abu Syed Md Masud, chief coordinator of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, and Prof Saiful Amin of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt), travelled to the UK last month to receive their certificates from the ICE, UK president, says a press release.

Free medical camp held

CITY DESK

A free medical camp of United Hospital was held at Yunus Khan-Mahmuda Khanam Memorial Health Complex in Louhajong of Munshiganj on Sunday, marking Independence Day.

Faridur Rahman Khan, managing director of United Hospital Ltd, organised the camp, says a press release.

Over 50 doctors from cardiology, cardiac surgery, urology, nephrology, neonatology, medicine, eye, ENT and head neck surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology and other non-clinical departments provided treatment.

BNP slams AL for

FROM PAGE 4

The government has finalised signing of four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) relating to defence during the prime minister's April visit to India and it is not disclosing the hidden and dangerous motives behind the MoUs, Rizvi said referring to media reports.

He warned that signing any deal or MoU with India will not be beneficial for Bangladesh. "Instated, it'll be a serious threat to the country's independence and sovereignty."



Piles of earth dug up from a road in Shantinagar to improve the drainage system. Similar development works go on across Dhaka city all the year round, only reinforcing the speculation that the capital's sewerage system has major structural flaws. This is not only putting an economic burden on the government, but also is causing public sufferings. The photo was taken near Karnaphuli Garden City. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Beware of militancy: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to be aware of militancy and terrorism in the country.

"We don't want militancy and terrorism in the country," she told a discussion marking the 47th Independence and National Day arranged by Bangladesh Awami League at Krishibid Institution in the capital.

"I'll request everyone to keep watch on their own children, students and even those in workplaces and try to find out whether anyone has involvement in militancy," she said.

Hasina asked the owners of flats and houses to collect information about their tenants before renting houses to them.

Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League president, said the government will do whatever is

needed to eradicate militancy from the country.

Turning to the debate over the proclamation of the country's independence, the premier urged all not to get involved in the debate as this is a settled issue. "The High Court in its verdict clearly said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence," she said.

Hasina questioned the intention of those who have not accepted the court verdict. "This section of people never believed in the country's independence and they always obey the defeated forces. That's why they raise such a question and it's unfortunate for us."

She also criticised the BNP-Jamaat clique for not observing the Genocide Day on March 25.

"BNP has made it clear that they aren't with the people of the

country... they're with the Razakars, Al Shams, Al Badrs and occupational forces," she said.

Hasina firmly reiterated her commitment to uphold the independence that was earned through the sacrifice of millions of people, and take the country to the world arena keeping its head high.

She also said no single person will remain homeless in the country as her government is implementing a programme to provide houses to 2,80,000 homeless people.

She urged the people to make commitment to work together and thus turn the country into a middle income one by 2021 and a prosperous one by 2041.

At the outset of the discussion, a one-minute silence was observed as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs of the Liberation War and 1975.

Two kids among three burnt in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons, including two children, were injured in a fire caused by "gas leak" at a house in the capital's Jurain area yesterday.

Morsalin Sarkar, 50, suffered 28 percent burns, Hasan, 9, 18 percent and Shaon, 9, 22 percent, said doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where they were being treated at its burn unit.

The trio sustained injuries mostly in the face, neck and chest, they said.

Morsalin is an automobile parts trader, Hasan, 9, a second-grader, and Shaon, 9, a resident of Muradpur in Jurain, said Kazi Wazed, officer-in-charge of Kadamtali Police Station, while talking to The Daily Star.

Hasan's father Nurnabi said Shaon and Hasan, who are friends, were on the premises Morsalin's house to play in the morning.

The fire broke out from the leakage in gas pipeline when Morsalin attempted to switch on the nearby motor of a water pump around 8:30am, he quoted witnesses as saying.

FARUK MURDER

MP Rana's bail verdict March 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed March 30 for delivering a verdict on the bail petition of Tangail's Awami League lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana in connection with freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case.

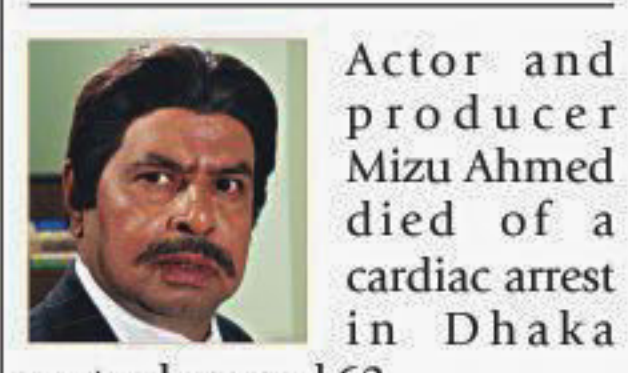
The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil set the date after concluding hearing on a rule issued on the question of granting bail to Rana in the case, Assistant Attorney General Bashir Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Following the bail petition filed by Rana, another HC bench on January 18 issued the rule asking the government to explain why Rana should not be granted bail in the case.

The bullet-hit body of freedom fighter Faruk, also a district AL leader, was found on January 18, 2013.

Mizu Ahmed dies

UNB, Dhaka



Actor and producer Mizu Ahmed died of a cardiac arrest in Dhaka yesterday, aged 63.

Mizu Ahmed, known for his negative roles he played in Bangla film industry, breathed his last in a train at Airport Railway Station around 8:00pm while he along with a movie unit was going to Dinajpur for the shooting of film "Manush O Omanush", said film director Ahmed Ilias.

Born on November 17, 1953 in Kushtia, Mizu Ahmed got involved in a local theatre group before making a career in the film industry. In 1978, he made his film debut with the film Trishna. After a couple of years, he established himself as one of the best villains in the Dhallywood.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion organised yesterday by Bangladesh Awami League at Krishibid Institution auditorium in the capital on the occasion of the 47th Independence and National Day. PHOTO: PID

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Professor M Asaduzzaman, former chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), said a press release of Dhaka University (DU).

He was a professor of The Department of Public Administration of DU.

To mark the day, "Prof Asaduzzaman Memorial Lecture" will be held in Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury auditorium of Social Science Building on the campus at 11:00am.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will address the programme as chief guest. His relatives, friends, colleagues and students are requested to attend the lecture and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Technology makes lessons easy, entertaining

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mursalin Zaman, a fifth grader of Miapara Government Primary School in Kurigram, knows how to produce electricity from fruits and vegetables, like lemon and potato, and how an electric motor works.

The 10-year-old boy, from rural Phulbari upazila, also knows why climate change occurs and earth's temperature rises.

The lessons, which he got through the Green School Project for Rural Bangladesh by Light of Hope, a non-government organisation, helped Mursalin and other students of the school enrich their knowledge.

Through the project, Light of Hope set up solar-powered multimedia classrooms, science laboratories, and libraries at two schools in the rural areas of Dhaka and Kurigram, and provided their supplementary audio-visual reading materials to help the students to learn through fun.

"I learned many things from them, and they helped my studies as well. I like the animated videos most because I enjoy them and can learn at the same time," Mursalin said at a programme yesterday while sharing

his experiences.

Light of Hope organised the programme at EMK Center in the capital to share the experiences of the one-year project (January 2016-January 2017), funded by Korean National Commission for Unesco.

Mijanur Rahman, head teacher of the school, said fear of science almost disappeared from the students' minds after getting engaged with the project as they learnt scientific lessons through hands-on activities and audio-visual materials.

They learned eagerly and also grew reading habits, he added.

Waliullah Bhuiyan, chief executive officer of Light of Hope, said their aim was to make the children learn while having fun instead of going through pressure, and help the students in rural areas learn science and climate change issues easily.

The students in rural areas will be benefited if such projects can be run at other schools in the country, he said.

Representatives of different government and non-government organisations, school teachers, donor organisations, and social workers were present at the programme.

ERSHAD'S Tk 1.91CR GRAFT CASE
CJ assigns HC bench to hear three appeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday assigned a High Court bench to hear three separate appeals in a 25-year-old corruption case filed against former president HM Ershad.

The bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty will now fix a date for hearing the appeals, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

One of the three appeals was filed by Ershad challenging the lower court verdict that sentenced him to three years imprisonment in the case. On the other hand, the two other appeals were filed by the government for enhancing the sentence of Ershad.

On March 23, the bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus refrained from delivering verdict on the appeal filed by Ershad against the lower court judgement against him.

The same day, the judge, who was set to deliver the verdict, also sent the appeals to the chief justice for a decision.

The then Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac), which became defunct after formation of the ACC in 2004, had filed the case against Ershad with Cantonment Police Station in 1992 on the charge of misappropriating Tk 1.91 crore by misusing powers at different times when he was the president from December 11, 1983 to December 6, 1990.

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