

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 34.0 | L 23.0 MYMENSINGH 33.1 | L 21.8 CHITTAGONG 32.7 | L 25.0 SYLHET 30.6 | L 21.9 RAJSHAHI 36.6 | L 26.0 RANGPUR 26.3 | L 19.5 KHULNA 35.2 | L 25.8 BARISAL 33.8 | L 24.5 COX'S BAZAR 32.8 | L 24.8

Rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius and night temperature may rise slightly over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43am.



Muslims offering Juma prayers on a street next to the capital's Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday. The Friday prayers drew a large crowd since the prayers were attended by Vice President of two holy mosques in Makkah and Madinah Mohammed bin Nasser bin Mohammed Al-Khuzaaim and Imam and Preacher of the Prophet's (SM) mosque Abdulmehsin bin Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim.

PHOTO: STAR

WATCHING CRICKET ON TV BCL groups clash at DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladesh Chhatra League factions clashed following a dispute during watching a Bangladesh-Sri Lanka cricket match at Sir AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University Thursday night, injuring five activists.

Witnesses said a group backed by Hafizur Rahman, president of the dormitory unit of the pro-Awami League student organisation, and the other by general secretary Mahmudul Hasan Tushar were watching the cricket match in the TV room.

Some from the supporters of Tushar were also listening to the match on radios by wearing headphones. They shouted during an exciting moment, prompting the other group watching TV to shout back angrily, triggering the clash, the witnesses said.

The BCL men also ransacked a part of the TV room and rooms 421, 304 and 306 and took away a laptop and two cellphones belonging to students, they alleged.

With injuries to the heads and noses, Saiful Islam, Afjal Khan, Mahfuz Arafat, Jamilur Rahman and Mostafa from

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Savar school owner 'rapes' student

Another schoolgirl 'violated' in Faridpur
CITY DESK

A school owner was arrested on Thursday night allegedly for raping a class-V female student and sexually abusing six other students in Savar.

The arrestee Amir Hossen, 35, of Narsingdi is also the headmaster of the Amir Day Care Model School of Ashulia.

Amir raped the girl around a week ago and she disclosed the matter to her mother on Thursday evening.

Following a complaint filed by the victim's family, police arrested Amir at his house in Kurgon area on that night, said Mohoshinul Kadir, officer-in-charge

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Religious equality still a dream

Prof Rehman Sobhan tells conference of Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-six years after the country's independence, the dream of an equal society for all irrespective of their caste, creed or religion, is yet to be fully realised, said eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday.

"The dreams of our independence were that all citizens would have equal rights, access to politics, and enjoy equal economic benefits; there would be no difference in terms of religion and caste. Unfortunately, the dreams are not materialised fully," he said.

Prof Rehman made the remarks at the inaugural ceremony of a triennial conference organised by Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, a platform of different religious minority groups, at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

He said the expectation of independence was that the concept of minority would not exist in the country, but unfortunately the word "minority" is still being used.



Eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan hoisting a flag at the inaugural ceremony yesterday.

PHOTO:
STAR

If the country's founding constitution had been followed properly, such organisation (Oikya Parishad) would not have been needed, he said.

Prof Rehman urged the leaders of the Parishad to work closely with all political parties for building an equal society as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

At the two-day conference, the

Advocate Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of the Parishad, alleged that the religious and ethnic minorities are being tortured and forced to leave the country the way they were forced during the 1971 war.

"We want to get rid of it. We also want to enjoy equal rights as the citizens of Bangladesh and live in the country in peace. The government and the political parties have to take the responsibility in this regard," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said the situation of the minority communities will not change until the anti-liberation forces are barred from coming to the power.

GM Quader, co-chairman of Jatiya Party; Maj Gen (retd) CR Datta, Bir Uttam; Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik, former general secretary of the Parishad; Ushaton Talukder, a lawmaker of Rangamati; Hubert Gomes, a president of the conference, were present, among others.

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