

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.5 L 26.3	MYMENSINGH H 34.3 L 25.6	CHITTAGONG H 32.4 L 25.0	SYLHET H 33.2 L 21.6	RAJSHAHI H 37.6 L 25.0	RANGPUR H 34.0 L 20.4	KHULNA H 37.0 L 26.5	BARISAL H 34.8 L 25.6	COX'S BAZAR H 33.2 L 25.3
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Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country with a chance of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Sylhet division till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Mild heat wave sweeping over Tangail, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore, Kushtia and Khulna may continue, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am.

Atia Mahal tenants asked to collect belongings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Metropolitan Police yesterday asked tenants of Atia Mahal to collect their belongings. Basudeb Banik, deputy commissioner (south) of SMP, said police and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have taken over the charge of the building from Rapid Action Battalion and started collecting the evidence. "We have asked the tenants of the building to come by around 10:00 in the morning tomorrow (Tuesday) and collect their belongings from the building; however, we are not going to allow them to stay in the building as it is still unsafe." He also said the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) is also on their way to collect evidence from the building. Earlier in the day, Rab handed over the responsibility of Atia Mahal to police for collecting further evidence. The handover came eight days after Bomb Disposal Squad of Rab started its drive to recover explosives from the five-storey building. Four militants were killed in Atia Mahal during an army operation last month. Yesterday, Lt Col Abu Haydar Azad Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-9, at a press briefing near the building announced the conclusion of Rab's operation. "We found a total of nine explosive devices which we have defused," he said.



Clockwise from top, Water is barely passing through this section of garbage-filled Jirani canal in Manda area in the capital. Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority finished its duty by only posting a warning sign stating that blocking the flow of the canal with industrial and domestic waste is a punishable offence. As a deterrent to encroachers, the authorities demarcated the canal with concrete embankments, but failed to keep the canal flowing as garbage dumped in it over a long period of time has solidified in this portion of the canal. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

GOLD SMUGGLING HC summons two cops for not submitting charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned two police officers of Biman Bandar Police Station before it for making delay for more than one year in submitting charge sheet of a gold smuggling case. The officer-in-charge of the police station and investigation officer of the case have been directed to appear before the HC on May 22 to explain their roles in this regard, Deputy Attorney General Farhad Ahmed told The Daily Star. The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim passed the order during hearing a petition filed by Mafizul Alam, an accused, seeking bail in the case. Law enforcers recovered 13 gold bars from Mafizul, a passenger of a Dubai-Dhaka bound flight at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in January last year. The case was filed against Mafizul with Biman Bandar Police Station on January 20 last year. The police was supposed to submit the charge sheet in 15 days after filing of the case but they did not press any charge sheet in this regard, said DAG Farhad. The HC summoned the OC and IO of the case to hear their explanation about their failure in submitting the charge sheet, he said, adding that the HC will pass a further order on May 22.

Formulate law similar to Holocaust denial act

Demands Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday demanded that the government formulate a law similar to Holocaust denial act, to ensure punishment for those who deny the historical truth of the 1971 Liberation War. Addressing at a discussion marking the 47th anniversary of the declaration of independence, Nirmul Committee also demanded that the property of the people who took anti-liberation stance in 1971 be confiscated. "I support the demand of an act similar to the Holocaust denial act, and will place the demand before the parliament," said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed at the programme in the capital's WVA auditorium. Holocaust denial is the act of denying the genocide of Jews and other groups by the Nazis during World War-II. To prevent distortion of history, 14 European nations enacted Holocaust denial act under which denial of the genocide figure of World War-II is a punishable offence. Former law minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed,

however, said it is possible to file a sedition case against a person who will deny the Liberation War or genocide of 1971 under the article 7 of the constitution of Bangladesh. He also said if the government amends the ICT Act and give power to the tribunal, the tribunal will be able to confiscate the property of those who will be convicted in the crimes committed during the Liberation War. Dr Nuzhat Choudhury, daughter of martyred intellectual Dr Abdul Alim Choudhury, demanded that the property of those who will be convicted in the war crimes, be distributed to the families of Liberation War martyrs. Shahrir Kabir, president of the Nirmul Committee, said though the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) wants to compensate the families of the victims of Liberation War, there is no law. Shahrir urged the government to formulate a law in this regard. Barrister Tureen Afroz, central leader of the Nirmul Committee and a prosecutor at ICT, urged all to work together for international recognition of the Genocide Day on March 25. Noted writer and researcher Prof Muntasir Mamun also spoke.

Discussion on Abul Mansur Ahmad's book held

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Study Forum (BDSF) has arranged a lecture on the book of reminiscence, *Amar Dekha Rajnir Panchash Bachhar*, authored by politician, litterateur and journalist Abul Mansur Ahmad. Emran Mahfuz, editor of Abul Mansur Ahmad Smarak Granth, delivered the lecture as the keynote speaker in the Ducusu building at Dhaka University on Saturday, says a press release. Sabidin Ibrahim, general secretary of BDSF; Md Ala Uddin, lecturer of the Bangla department at Asian University of Bangladesh; and Sagar Barua, chief coordinator of BDSF, among others, spoke. They also talked about Abul Mansur's life and his other books including *Aina*, *Food Conference*, and *Sher-e-Bangla Haite Bangabandhu*.

Road accidents kill eight

CITY DESK

Eight people were killed and 11 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday. Our Pabna correspondent reports, three people were killed as a bus hit a three-wheeler at Bonbaria in Sirajganj Sadar upazila yesterday. The dead were Abdus Subhan, 35, his brother Belal Hossain, 32, and Al Amin, 30, all from Kamarkhand upazila. Meanwhile, Rina Rani Das, 30, and her daughter Tuli Das, 5, of Ullapara municipality area, were killed and Rina's husband Shyamol Kumar was injured when a truck hit their motorbike at Mayorgasa point in Ullapara upazila. Shamol was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, a banana trader, Bachchu Mia, 50, of Sadar upazila, was killed as a power-tiller hit him at Majhipara village in Joypurhat. Our Gazipur correspondent reports, two persons were killed and 10 others injured when a cement-laden truck veered out of control and hit a roadside makeshift restaurant at Jhajhor in Gazipur city. One of the dead was identified as Aklima, 50. The injured were taken to different clinics and Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital.

NGO staff shot, robbed of Tk 5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot and injured an NGO staff and looted Tk 5 lakh from him in the capital's Uttara area yesterday. Abidul Islam, 29, who was shot in the left leg, works at Kuwait-funded Saza Trading Corporation. A group of six muggers and snatched away his handbag containing the money on Road No-12 in Uttara, Sector-12, around 12:45pm, said police. The criminals on three motorbikes were wearing helmets so that they could not be immediately identified through the CCTV, Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Uttara Paschim Police Station, told The Daily Star. The victim's brother Sohrawardi Alam said Abidul went to Islami Bank on Sonargaon Janapad Road with one of his friends to withdraw some money on behalf of the NGO. They came under the attack while returning to Abidul's office from the bank, he added.

HC looks into Oishee's mental state

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two High Court judges yesterday quizzed Oishee Rahman, who was sentenced to death for killing her parents, to observe her mental condition. Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain asked some questions and heard her replies in their chamber room where Oishee's lawyer Sujit Chatterjee and Assistant Attorney General Atiqul Haque Salim were present. The judges and lawyers, however, did not disclose the content of their conversations. The court adjourned the hearing yesterday but did not fix any date for its further hearing. On November 12, 2015, a Dhaka court sentenced Oishee to death after her father Mahfuzur Rahman and mother Swapna Rahman were found dead in their Chamelibagh house in Dhaka on August 16, 2013.

Six Ctg educational institutions shut for overcharging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Education Board yesterday cancelled the academic recognition of the city's six educational institutions for charging extra admission fees. The institutions are Mern Sun School and College, Merit Bangladesh School and College, Chittagong Ideal High School, National English School, Bangladesh Elementary School and Mirza Ahmed Ispahani High School. Besides, the board issued show-cause notices to another five institutions -- Chittagong Cantonment Public College, Chittagong Cantonment English School and College, Halishahar Cantonment Public School and College, Bangladesh Noubahini School and College, and BAF Shahin College -- on the same charge. The official orders were sent to the 11 institutions, the board sources said. Earlier on April 6, in a letter signed by education ministry's Assistant Secretary Ashim Kumar Karmakar directed the board to take necessary steps against them, said Chittagong Board's School Inspector Kazi Nazimul Islam. On Sunday, the board chairman approved cancellations of the six institutions, he said. On complaints, five district administration teams, led by executive magistrates, started inspection on January 20 and found that 46 educational institutions, including the 11, were realising additional admission fees from Tk 3,500 to Tk 25,000 from the students violating the education policy.



Shishuder Jonno Foundation (SJF) organises a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club where schoolchildren and representatives from various children's organisations take part wearing black bands around their mouths in protest at the rising trend of violence against children across the country. According to the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, 50 children were killed in the country during the first two months of this year alone. SJF said child rapes rose by 51 percent this year in the first three months when 145 children were raped.