

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.2 L 24.8	H 34.2 L 24.0	H 34.5 L 24.5	H 34.5 L 22.2	H 37.0 L 22.8	H 33.3 L 21.7	H 36.5 L 24.1	H 35.2 L 24.0	H 33.7 L 25.0

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Dhaka, Tangail, Feni, Faridpur and Rangamati and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am.

N'GANJ 7-MURDER
Death row convict surrenders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A death row convict in the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder case yesterday surrendered before a local court. Jamil Uddin, a close aide of prime accused Nur Hossain, surrendered before Narayanganj Sessions Judge's Court around noon.

The court sent the convict to jail after his surrender, said Wazed Ali Khokon, assistant public prosecutor of the district court.

Seven people, including the then NCC panel major Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker, were abducted from the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road on April 27, 2014. Later, their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river.

A Narayanganj court on January 6 gave death penalty to 26 people and jailed nine others for various terms.

New platform launched to promote peace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new platform, Bangladesh Peace Observatory, was launched yesterday, aiming to generate data on violence and promote peace.

The Centre for Genocide Studies of the University of Dhaka, in partnership with government and non-government organisations, academia, civil society, and media, initiated the platform.

The aim is to fill the knowledge gap that restricts institutions from addressing the obstacles to peace, said Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University, during its launch at a hotel in the capital.

The platform will provide data, map analysis, research, and education opportunities to better understand the state of violence, says a statement.

"Unless we know what drives violence, all strategies and policy actions to combat violence would fail," said Brig Gen (ret) Shahedul Anam, Associate editor of The Daily Star.

Action Aid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir and UNDP Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee also spoke.

The Peace Observatory is part of a larger initiative, "Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh", carried out by UNDP in Bangladesh.



The students of Institute of Fine Arts at Chittagong University bring out a Chaitra Sangkranti procession yesterday on the faculty premises wearing black badges to protest the incident of defacing a portion of a painting on a roadside wall near the faculty around Tuesday midnight. The graffiti was created as part of their Pahela Baishakh festivities.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

In protest, in high spirits

CU fine arts students celebrating Pahela Baishakh

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Full of high spirits, the students of Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) at Chittagong University will carry on with their Pahela Baishakh festivities today, putting the wall painting smearing incident behind them.

They were found making last minute touch-ups on Wednesday on colourful masks and structures they prepared for yesterday's Barsho Biday procession and today's Mangal Shobhajatra.

A large colourful procession -- participated by hundreds of students, teachers and people from all walks of life, wearing black badges and carrying a banner stating "Jongi Nirmuler Chetona Baishakh" -- was brought out yesterday afternoon in the city to bid Bangla year 1423 farewell as well as to protest defacing of the wall

painting.

Around or past Tuesday midnight, a portion of a wall painting created by the IFA students was smeared by unidentified miscreants. The students of the institute, nearly 22 kilometres away from the main campus of CU, created the 70-foot-long painting as part of Pahela Baishakh festivities on the campus.

As an act of protest, the IFA authorities decided to leave the defaced wall as is while students near the site hung a banner that reads: "Ekhono Gelona Andhar/ Ekhono Rohilo Badha/ Aar Rekhona Andhare/ Aamay Dekhte Daao."

The smeared portion of the wall art will be left intact so the people can see exactly what had happened here, said Shaila Sharmin, director of IFA.

Sajib Sen, a master's student and one of the conveners of the Pahela

Baishakh Celebration Committee of IFA, said the students worked hard over the last 15 days for this programme and they were focused on completing their task.

On Wednesday afternoon, a local named Ishtiaq stopped near a portion of the wall painting, on which female students were working on, and threatened to shut down the IFA unless they stopped their work, Sajib alleged.

The same person had made similar threats last year against the institute, said IFA director Sharmin, adding that the incident this year has been reported to the CU authorities.

Contacted, Nurul Huda, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station, said although no case was filed following the incident, police were investigating it and examining CCTV video footages from surrounding areas.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Md Tofazzel Hossain, a small trader from Betagi upazila of Barguna, has been suffering from blood cancer since 2014. Now he is undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Doctors say the only curative option for the disease is bone marrow transplantation and around Tk 30 lakh to Tk 35 lakh is needed for his treatment in India.

With wife and two minor daughters, Tofazzel, 39, has already sold all of his belongings for his treatment and is unable to afford the cost anymore.

So, his family is appealing to the well-off to extend their helping hands to save his life.

Assistances can be sent to AC SB No: 100003793, Syed Md Tofazzel Hossain, Sonali Bank, Niamoti Bondor Branch, Barisal.

The family can be reached at 01710-577655.



A group of people form a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding compensation for the flood-affected haor residents of Sunamganj, Netrakona and Kishoreganj. They also sought a permanent solution regarding the embankments.

PHOTO: STAR

SNAPS & snippets

Mufti Hannan, two cohorts buried

STAR REPORT

The bodies of Mufti Abdul Hannan, chief of banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh, and his two cohorts were buried at their village homes early yesterday.

The three had been hanged on Wednesday night over the grenade attack on former British envoy Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet in 2004.

Hannan's body was buried at his family graveyard in Hiron village of Kotalipara in Gopalganj, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

Bodies of his two associates -- Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul and Delwar Hossain alias Ripon -- were buried in Chandpur and Moulvibazar, report our correspondents in the two districts.

Live telecast of Khaleda's press briefing obstructed: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday condemned the government for "preventing" private television channels from live telecasting Khaleda Zia's media conference on Wednesday.

The BNP chief held the briefing at her Gulshan office to express the party's reaction to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent India visit. Addressing a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office yesterday, BNP senior joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed said the broadcast was stopped immediately after the channels went live.

46th death anniversary of five martyrs tomorrow

CITY DESK

Tomorrow is the 46th martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Engineer Fazlur Rahman; Shaheed Hosne Akhter, an NGO trainer; Shaheed Mostafizur Rahman Moznu, a college student; Shaheed Hasinur Rahman Hiron, a school student; and Shaheed Azizur Rahman Babu, also a school student, says a press release.



They were killed at their railway government residence in Sayedpur of Nilphamari by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators on this day in 1971. The killers charged bayonet on Hosne Akhter and buried her alive.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute. All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed souls.



Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon along with guests looks at a photograph at the national photo exhibition in the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Case transferred

FROM PAGE 3

Rashidul Islam yesterday.

Meanwhile, the court of Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate Kudrat-e-Khoda yesterday granted Inspector Anwar's petition for sending Raudha's phone and laptop to the CID's IT forensic laboratory in Dhaka.

Contacted, Raudha's father Mohamed Athif said he went to the police station yesterday and spoke to Anwar about his complaints and queries regarding the murder.

HC verdict any day

FROM PAGE 3

During the hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said all 589 people who took part in the killing and moved with arms during the incident had a common intention to kill the army officers so that the army personnel could not remain in BDR force.

He prayed to the HC to give maximum punishment to all of them considering the charges brought against them.

However, the defence lawyers argued that most of them were innocent as they were not involved in the incident of killing.

Advocate Aminul Islam, a lawyer for around 400 -- both convicts and accused, told the HC that most of the accused had not made confessional statements before the magistrate.

The confessional statements made by some were not their voluntary statements, he said, adding that the prosecution had failed to produce sufficient evidence to prove the allegations against his clients. Therefore, the accused cannot be sentenced to death or life imprisonment, he argued.

The death reference and the appeals were filed with the HC months after a Dhaka court announced the verdict on November 5, 2013, nearly five years after the bloody mutiny.

The trial court gave death sentences to BDR 150 soldiers and to two civilians, and jailed 160 others for life for their roles and involvement in the carnage.

It also handed down rigorous imprisonment to 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers. The court acquitted the remaining 277 accused, but the government later appealed against the acquittal of 69 of them. The HC started hearing the death reference and appeals of the convicts in January, 2015.

বৈশাখী অফার

এই অফার চলবে ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০১৭ পর্যন্ত।

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আকাশে শান্তির বীড়

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স

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