

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.4 L 24.8	H 33.5 L 25.3	H 32.6 L 27.0	H 29.6 L 23.6	H 37.9 L 24.0	H 33.6 L 25.2	H 35.7 L 23.4	H 34.5 L 27.0	H 32.0 L 26.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Khustia till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, says Met Office. Mild heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore, and Satkhira may continue. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:26pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am.



A teacher of Khanpur LK Government Primary School assists a student inside the school's temporary classroom at Sree Sree Siddhi Gopal Akhra temple in Khanpur area of Narayanganj city. The temple authorities are assisting the school continue its operation since 2015 when the school building was declared risky by the authorities following an earthquake.

PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

Harmony at its best

SANAD SAHA, N'ganj

As soon as the puja ends at Sree Sree Siddhi Gopal Akhra at Khanpur in Narayanganj town in the morning, around 70 to 80 children rush inside the temple to grab a seat on the floor.

Soon the temple turns into a classroom after the children sit in two groups beside the altar and two female teachers separately impart lessons on them.

They have been doing it since 2015 as the building of Khanpur LK Government Primary School, adjoining the temple, have become unfit for use, said Nepal Chakroborty, priest of the temple.

Kazi Salma Akhter, assistant teacher of the school, said due to an earthquake on April 25, 2015 cracks had developed in the walls of the building and it was declared risky by the upazila primary education office following a report on the condition of the school.

The report was submitted by the then upazila LGED engineer who visited the building after a few days of the incident. Later, the upazila primary education office directed the school authorities to search for a nearby place to conduct classes, she said.

The school authorities have been conducting operations of the school after the authorities of the temple agreed to allow them use the temple premises as their classroom, she added.

Around 70 to 80 students of class I and II are taught regularly inside the temple from 12:00pm to 2:00pm while 120 to 130 students of class III, IV and V are taught from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, said Salma.

The adjoining room of the temple is also used as a classroom as the space beside the altar is not

enough for three groups, she said, adding, "Sometimes we have to send class-V students to the risky school building when the number of students increases."

Though the school authorities are able to conduct their school activities in the temple somehow, students and teachers reiterated that having no classroom facilities

the students' exercise books and rest of us copy from it," said Nisha Taslim, another class-V student.

"We cannot concentrate on lessons due to the noise coming from all over and during the rainy seasons, rainwater gets inside," she said.

Contacted, the priest of the temple, said, "Though devotees in

mates if there is no more room left in the temple. Besides, my children say it's also difficult for them to study in the temple."

The school was established in 1929, but its two-storey building was constructed in 1993. Around 537 students from pre-primary to class-V study in the school in two shifts and each shift has five teach-

The government has provided laptops and projectors for our students, but those lie unused for lack of rooms. Teachers sit in the school building risking their lives but do not allow students to sit there fearing accidents, she farther said.

Umme Saleha, another headteacher, said, "There are a lot of problems. The school building is not only risky, but there wasn't sufficient classrooms for the number of the students it has. That's why we used to conduct classes in two shifts."

"I have been teaching in the school for six years. There were times when plasters from the ceiling of the classrooms came off during classes. It got more risky when cracks developed due to the earthquake in 2015," she said.

Contacted, Narayanganj District Primary Education Officer Syeda Mahfuza Begum said following an appeal by the school committee in 2016, the government sanctioned Tk 3 lakh for the repair work of the school building.

As the building was risky, the committee was advised to search for an alternative place to construct a temporary school. But the money was returned as no alternative places were found, said Mahfuza.

Jaasim Uddin, president of the managing committee of the school, said, "After I took the responsibility couple of months ago, I have applied to all the government departments concerned for construction of a new school building."

"We will send a letter to the local lawmaker regarding the issue for a quick solution. Until the problem is solved, we decided to continue our school activities in the temple," he added.



Kazi Shirin Sultana, a head teacher of the school, shows a crack that developed on a column of the wall inside the school building.

PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

— such as blackboards, tables and chairs — in the temple hampers regular study.

Lima Akhter, a class-V student of the school, said, "All of us have been attending classes and taking examinations in the temple since 2015. We find it difficult to attend classes here. We want our school to be repaired soon."

"It is really painful to study on the floor. There is no blackboard here. If our teachers want to write something, they write on one of

the temple do not get annoyed, but it is undeniably true that school activities hamper our puja and vice versa."

"I hope the school authorities will construct a new building soon so that these children will not have to go through difficulties for a long time," he said.

Soma Rani, mother of two students of the school, said, "I feel scared when my daughter who is a class-V student is sent to the risky school building with her class-

ers and a headteacher, said Kazi Shirin Sultana, one of the headteachers.

The school's pass rate was 100 percent in the Primary Education Completion (PEC) examinations this year and five students got A+, Shirin said.

"I have been teaching in the school for the last 11 years. Since then, no development work has been done in the school," Shirin said, adding, "Even toilets were built one year after I joined here."

Ensure workplace safety, provide legal services for women

Urge rights activists, experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists and experts at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for providing legal services and ensuring safety in the workplace so that more women are encouraged to join the workforce.

Unfair treatment of women by men is on the decline at the moment, but occupational hazards are still a concern for women, said the speakers at a programme on the occasion of May Day and the 25th anniversary of Kormojibi Nari (KN) at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the capital.

Mentioning the fatalities at Tazreen Fashions in 2012, Rana Plaza in 2013 and a rice mill in Dinajpur on April 19 this year, when 13 workers died and 40 others injured, the speakers said these incidents should not be considered as mere accidents. Reasons for these fatalities have to be unearthed through due investigations to serve justice to the deceased.

Participation of women in the decision-making process in policies and politics of the country has increased, but they — from the grassroots to the top level — are still struggling to prove their capabilities due to the patriarchal mindset of the society, they observed.

Progress has been made, but much more still needs to be done, said Shirin Akhter, MP, founder of KN.

Meher Afroz Chumki, state minister for women and children affairs ministry, said women should earn their own rights and dignity. They should be confident and educate themselves to combat social injustice.

Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation, said wages of women compared to men still remain discriminatory in the country.

2 held with Tahrir posters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained two youths while they were pasting Hizb ut-Tahrir's posters in the capital's Hazaribag area yesterday.

The youths, aged between 22 and 28, were held with 90 posters of the banned outfit, said Mir Alimuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Hazaribag Police Station.

They were paid Tk 500 each by an unknown man to paste the posters, the OC quoted the youth as saying.

Ambassador Ziauddin meets Congressman Steve Chabot

DIPLOMAT CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi Ambassador to the United States Mohammad Ziauddin met Republican Congressman Steve Chabot and his aides at Capitol Hill on Thursday to discuss many issues including counter terrorism, women empowerment and duty-free market access.

Chabot is the member of the House Foreign Affairs Sub Committee on Asia and the Pacific, and also of the House Judiciary Committee.

Toufique Hasan, minister (political) of Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC, was present at the meeting.

Youth held for 'threats'

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Tk 5 lakh to a specific bank account.

Tausif made similar threats to the Jaago Foundation as well. The cellphone number and the bank account number he used belong to a person by the name of Nurul Haque Munna.

In primary interrogation, Tausif also told the investigators that a few months back he opened a fake Facebook page under the name 'Visa Counselling Service'.

Nurul communicated with him on the page and paid him Tk 1.80 lakh for a foreign visa. After Nurul started pressurising him for the visa, Tausif collected Nurul's bank account number so he could return the money, Najmul Islam Sumon, additional deputy commissioner (cybercrime) of CITEC, told The Daily Star.

Tausif used Nurul's bank account number and phone number in making the threats so that Nurul would not be able to demand the money as he would on the run with police chasing him for the threats. Tausif used to live with his parents in Banashree area and his father was an Assistant General Manager of Janata Bank, he added.

Land acquisition

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Certificate examinees in the area, many others said. Mohila Parishad Mymensingh unit President Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, its secretary Monira Begum Onu, district President of Communist Party of Bangladesh advocate Emdadul Haque Millat and committee convener Prof Syed Mosharrar Hossain addressed the rally, among others.

Govt made 49 requests to Facebook for info last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh government has made 49 requests to the Facebook authorities last year.

According to the government report released on April 27, it has sought information about 57 Facebook accounts from its authorities.

To its reply, the Facebook provided 24.49 percent information, the report said.

The report was based on the timeframe of July 2016 to December 2016.

In the Bangladesh chapter, among the 49 requests, 24 were on legal process request while 25 are emergency type of request.

"We respond to valid requests relating to criminal cases. Each and every request we

receive is checked for legal sufficiency and we reject or require greater specificity on requests that are overly broad or vague," the report said.

"As part of our ongoing effort to share more information about the requests we have received from governments around the world, Facebook regularly produces a Government Requests Report," said the report.

"We publish this information about requests related to our various products and services (including Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram) because we want people to understand the nature and extent of these requests and the strict policies and processes we have in place to handle them," it added.

15 Barguna artists honoured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Barguna Shilpakala Academy Thursday honoured 15 artists of the district for their contributions to cultural activities.

The ceremony was held at the academy where District Commissioner of Barguna Moshirul Alam was present as the chief guest.

The artists are Kashiwar Chandra Roy (instrumental music), Abdul Halim Bacchu (theater), Abdul Goni Bayatee, (folk art), Prio Ballo Karmaker (singer), Nityananda Howlader (Jatra artist), Hossen Bayatee (folk art), Niranjon Karmaker (Jatra artist), Shukhranjon Shil (drama), Monindra Nath Mondol, Madhobee Devnath, (singer), Nikhil Chandra Das (instrumental music), Subol Krishna Talukder (art), Zakia Sultana Nargis (drama), Zakir Hossain Panna (singer) and Jahiruzzaman (photographer).



Full-bloom golden-showers (Sonali in Bangla) glow in the streets of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area in the capital. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Haor flashfloods caused

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among the destitute.

The rights body recommended providing food, cash and fodder support for the flashflood victims, bringing them under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme, introducing open market sale

(OMS), ceasing wetland lease for alternative livelihood, providing farmers with agricultural input, involving community in embankment repair process for accountability and transparency, improving drainage across the basin, raise embankment height and conducting ecological assessment.