

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.0 L 21.0	MYMENSINGH H 32.2 L 21.6	CHITTAGONG H 33.8 L 22.6	SYLHET H 32.8 L 22.1	RAJSHAHI H 32.6 L 20.3	RANGPUR H 31.5 L 21.6	KHULNA H 33.7 L 20.7	BARISAL H 34.0 L 21.0	COX'S BAZAR H 33.5 L 23.0
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong division till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:28pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.

Farewell to Qazi Arif

DU CORRESPONDENT



People from all walks of life paid their last tribute to eminent elocutionist and cultural personality Qazi Arif as his body was kept at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

After the body was taken to the Shaheed Minar premises around 11:45am, Arif was given a guard of honour in the presence of Cultural Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu.

After one and a half hours, his body was taken to Dhaka University central mosque where his namaz-e-janaza was held. Later, the body was taken to his daughter's Dhanmondi house. Arif will be buried today at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur, said his daughter Antara.

Earlier around 9:00am, the body arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka from New York.

An architect and freedom fighter, Arif was famous for poetry recitation in Bangla.

The elocutionist passed away at a New York hospital Saturday night, aged 65. He was on life support as his health condition deteriorated following a heart operation at the hospital on April 25.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ), a cultural alliance, coordinated the programme paying tribute to him, where Arif's friends, well-wishers, cultural personalities, various organisations, including the political ones, showed their last respect.

Awami League and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal paid homage. Cultural personalities also showed their respect.

Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, National Museum, Abritti Somonnoy Parishad, National Poetry Council, Kanthashilon, Mahila Parishad, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Buet Alumni Association, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, theatre troupe Prachyanat, and Muktakantha and other cultural organisations placed wreaths on the coffin of Qazi Arif.



Wreaths being placed on the coffin of Qazi Arif yesterday at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar where he was also given a guard of honour, inset.



Form 9th wage board for journo soon

Journo leaders reiterate demand at press club discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Journalists' union on Monday reiterated their demand for immediate announcement of the 9th wage board by the government for enhancement of salary scales for newspersons.

They said journalists are suffering economic hardship as the government is yet to form the 9th wage board.

"The living standard of journalists went below a tolerable level," the leaders told a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, arranged by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) marking May Day.

PM's Media Affairs Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury addressed the event with BFUJ President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul in the chair.

DUJ General Secretary Shohel Haider Chowdhury moderated the discussion.

BFUJ Secretary General Omar Faruque, Jatiya Press Club General Secretary Farida Yeasmin, BFUJ former secretary general Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and other journalist leaders including Khairuzzaman Kamal and Kuddus Afrad, also spoke.

They alleged that journalists sometimes are terminated without payment of outstanding salaries and other allowances.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said journalists have to unite for realising their demands.

Addressing the programme, the BFUJ president hoped that the 9th wage board would be formed very soon.

So-called labour leaders out to destroy industries

Prime minister tells May Day discussion

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday criticised so-called labour leaders for their repeated attempts to destroy the industrial sector through complaining to foreigners.

"There's a vested quarter and their job is to just send messages abroad against Bangladesh," she said at a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, marking May Day.

Questioning the gains of these labour leaders for working against the country's interest, Hasina said, "Do they work on hire? Are they doing this for some foreign agencies? This is my doubt. Or else, why will they search for their masters without trying to resolve the matters locally?"

She said these "foreign people" will just provoke workers on local matters. "If this provocation leads to shutdown of factories, what will the workers get from this?" She further questioned, "Will the labour leaders provide the workers with food, assistance and treatment if they lose their jobs being



provoked? Surely, they won't. I don't understand where their interest lies then."

Hasina urged the mill and factory owners to properly look after the wellbeing of their workers. "And I'll call upon the workers to take care of the mills, and factories that are sources of your livelihood."

The premier categorically said both the owners and the workers have equal responsibility. "Because, if there's no factories, how will you (owners and workers) manage your food, clothing and other expenses."

The prime minister urged the owners to develop the workplace conditions. "There'll be a cordial relation between owners and workers...," she stated. She said the government will always stand by the workers who are contributing to the country's economic development.

Hasina mentioned that she had worked as a bargaining agent for increasing the salaries and wages of workers.



SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Rab again asked to place probe report June 11

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to submit on June 11 the probe report of the case filed over the killing of Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi in February 2012.

Metropolitan Magistrate Khurshid Alam gave the order after Rab Assistant Director Wares Ali Miah, the investigation officer, failed to submit any report yesterday.

With this, three agencies, including the current investigation agency, failed to submit the probe report despite taking 49 dates.

On February 11, 2012, Runi, senior reporter of private TV channel ATN Bangla, and her husband Sagar Sarwar, news editor of another TV station, Maasranga, were murdered. Their only son, Megh, was inside the house at the time of the murder.

After investigation by Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police and the detectives, Rab started probing the murders on April 18, 2012.

Rab later claimed that it got reports of the DNA tests of the 21 suspects and evidence samples collected from the scene, but those did not match.

However, the reports confirmed the presence of two unknown men during the murder, the force claimed.

At least eight people including their "family friend" Tanveer Rahman had been arrested.

Tanveer was released on bail later but the others are still in jail.

WAR CRIMES IN KHULNA, SHERPUR

8 suspects sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent eight men from Khulna and Sherpur to jail after police produced them before it in connection with two separate cases filed over the crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

In a case, police produced seven Khulna men who were shown arrested in the war crimes case on March 9 and April 3, and the tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque sent them to jail.

The accused are Shahar Ali, Ashraf Sheikh, Amzad Hossain Hawlader, Mozahar Ali Sheikh, Atiar Sheikh, Motasim Billah, and Kamal Uddin Goldar. Nazrul Islam, another accused in the case, is yet to be arrested. All the accused are from Batiaghata upazila in Khulna.

The tribunal also asked the prosecutor to submit on July 5 either the investigation report or a report on the progress of the investigation, which began on November 15, 2015.

In another case, Emdadul Haque alias Kwaza Doctor of Nakla in Sherpur was produced before the ICT-1 which sent him to jail.

Emdadul was arrested on April 24, hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrant against him and two others. Emdadul is one of the four accused of the case. Of them, Aminuzzaman Faruk of Eshibpur village in Nokla is now in jail. Besides, AKM Akram is now in jail, while Mukhlesur Rahman alias Tara was yet to be arrested, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told The Daily Star. The next date for the case is May 22.

PATUAKHALI CASE

The three-member tribunal also recorded the testimony of the first prosecution witness in a case filed against five Patuakhali men for allegedly committing crimes in 1971.

Aiyub Ali Matabar, a freedom fighter from Patuakhali Sadar upazila and the first prosecution witness in the case, gave testimony linking five accused to killing and rape of women at Itabaria village in the upazila in 1971.

The five accused -- Eshaq Shikder, Abdul Goni Hawlader, Awal alias Awal Moulavi, Abdus Sattar Pyada, and Solaiman Mridha, of Patuakhali Sadar upazila -- are in jail.

Dr Ehsan gets humanitarian award

CITY DESK



Dr Ehsan Hoque, founder and executive director of US-based Distressed

Children & Infants International (DCI), has been given a humanitarian award by Bangladesh

Medical Association of North America (BMANA)-CA for his contributions to humanity.

Dr Aboo Nasar Shumon, president of BMANA-CA, presented the award in the USA recently, says a release.

Dr Ehsan has dedicated his life to helping thousands of children and their families in Bangladesh, said Dr Nasar.

NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROAD

Five lives lost

Five others injured

CITY DESK

Five people were killed and five others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday and on Monday.

In Jhenidah, two people were killed and two others injured as a truck collided head-on with a human-hauler carrying them on Kaliganj-Jibonnagar road near Kotchandpur fire station in Kotchandpur upazila on Monday evening.

The deceased were Nimay Haldar, 50, of Singia village and Pankaj Haldar, 25, of Kagmari village.

In Dinajpur, a man was killed as a three-wheeler collided head-on with a bus on Birganj-Pirganj road near Kadamtoli Bridge in Birganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Shahin Islam, 26, of Chakmohanpur village. In Joypurhat, a person was killed as a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit his motorcycle in Uchai village under Panchbibi upazila on Monday.

The deceased was Aminul Islam, 45, of Sita Fakirpara under Panchbibi upazila. In Tangail Sadar, a car driver was killed and three of his passengers were injured as the vehicle collided head-on with a bus on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Darun area yesterday. The deceased was Fatim Miah, 40, of Baoar Kumarjani village under Mirzapur municipal town.



Rice recovered from a capsized cargo vessel is being spread under the sun to be dried up on an open area in front of Mallikpur Food Storage in Sunamganj yesterday. Lashed by the Monday night's nor'wester, the cargo vessel loaded with the rice capsized, inset, in the Surma river near the food storage. The vessel was anchored there with 360 bags of rice to be distributed among flood-hit people at Rangarchar union the next day (yesterday).



Workers chant slogans to press home their demands, which include fair wages, at a procession marking May Day in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital on Monday.

Youth hurt in 'shootout' with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A "drug peddler" suffered bullet injury as law enforcers opened fire for "self-defence" during a raid in the capital's Kadamtali early yesterday, claimed police.

Picchi Falan, 28, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody. Police recovered four crude bombs and 2,200 pouches of heroin from Falan, claimed Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Kadamtali Police Station.

Sensing presence of law enforcers, Falan and his cohorts hurled crude bombs and fired at police, said police, adding that his cohorts managed to flee.

KHELAGHAR'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

4 get Bazlur Rahman Bhaiya award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khelaghar yesterday awarded four personalities with "Sangbadik Bazlur Rahman Bhaiya Padak" for contributions to their respective areas on the occasion of the 65th founding anniversary of the cultural organisation.

The awardees are journalist Toyab Khan, writer and researcher Mofidul Hoque, artist Syed Abul Barq Alvi and Prof Niranjan Adhikari.

The award giving ceremony was held at the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, where Law Minister Anisul Huq was present as the chief guest.

Addressing the event, Anisul Huq said children should be enlightened with the history of the country's Liberation War.

Stressing a unified education system, eminent cultural personality Nasiruddin Yusuf said, "Some of the educational institutions do not conduct any national anthem programme."

Former mayor of Tongi municipality Azmat Ullah Khan and Khelaghar central presidium chairman Prof Panna Kaiser also spoke.



Obituary

CITY DESK

Miratul Islam, founder principals of Shibganj Mahila Degree College and Shibganj Degree College, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Monday noon. He was 78.

He was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Hailed from Masterpara area of Shibganj municipality in Chapainawabganj, he left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter.

He was buried in his family graveyard in Jalmachari area yesterday.