

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.0 L 27.6	H 33.2 L 25.2	H 33.2 L 26.4	H 34.1 L 23.3	H 36.2 L 25.2	H 32.0 L 23.8	H 36.0 L 26.5	H 35.2 L 26.4	H 33.2 L 25.6

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Kushitia and Comilla 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 the Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Khulna and Satkhira and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 05:19am.

SC starts hearing HC verdict on 16th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday started hearing on the government's appeal against the High Court verdict that scrapped 16th amendment of the constitution which empowered the parliament to remove its judges for incapacity or misbehaviour.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha began the hearing after rejecting a prayer moved by Attorney General Mahbub Alam seeking adjournment of the hearing. The attorney general sought the adjournment for taking preparation to place arguments on the appeal.

The apex court rejected the adjournment prayer, saying that it has earlier given long time to the attorney general for taking preparation.

Later, the SC began hearing proceedings with Additional Attorney General Murad Reza reading out from the High Court verdict. After concluding today's proceedings, the apex court adjourned the hearing till today.

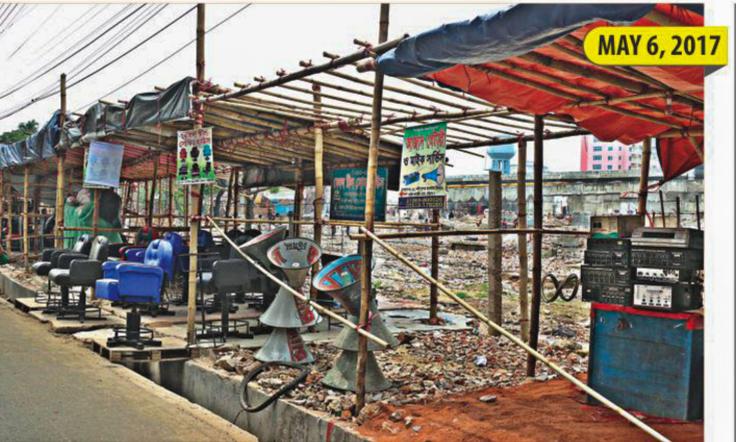
Following a writ petition filed by nine SC lawyers, the HC on May 5 last year declared the 16th amendment to the constitution illegal.

The HC, however, allowed the government to move an appeal before the Appellate Division against the verdict.

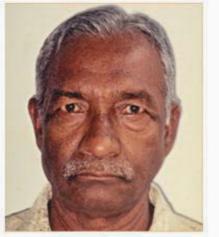
On January 4 this year, the government filed an appeal against the HC verdict with the SC.



ENCROACHERS AT IT AGAIN... A photo taken on December 21 last year shows a portion of a vacant piece of land, left, belonging to Bangladesh Railway on Ice Factory Road in Chittagong city following an eviction drive by the authorities on December 3 and 4. The railway authorities regained control over the land after illegal shanties, known as Bastuhara Colony, infamous for trading of illicit drugs, were demolished during the drive. Only five months later, encroachers are creeping in again to grab the same piece of land, right, by setting up various shops there.



MAY 6, 2017



Journalist Shamsuddin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Eminent journalist Shamsuddin Ahmed, also a permanent member of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC), died of cancer at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning. He was 70.

He left behind his wife, four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Shamsuddin Ahmed had a journalism career spanning over four decades. He was buried at Jurain graveyard in the capital after Maghrib prayers.

Earlier, his first namaz-e-ajanaza was held on the press club premises and the second one at a local mosque near his Gendaria residence.

In a message, JPC president Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman and acting general secretary Shahed Chowdhury expressed their condolences at the death of Shamsuddin.

Born in Louhajang thana under Munshiganj in 1947, Shamsuddin Ahmed started his journalism career with the then Radio Pakistan in the late 60s. Since then, he had worked for Eastern News Agency (ENA), The Daily New Nation and lastly at United News of Bangladesh (UNB), where he worked for many years, serving as a city editor and a chief reporter before retiring in 2012. He was also the vice-president of the Bangladesh chapter of Commonwealth Journalists Association.

Two killed, 20 injured in Narsingdi clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least two persons were killed and 20 others injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Bangsari char area of Raipura in Narsingdi yesterday over establishing supremacy.

At least 30 to 35 houses were set on fire during the clash.

Police and locals said there had been a long standing feud between present Bangsari union parishad chairman Serajul Haque and former chairman Hafizur Rahman Shahed over establishing supremacy in the area. Hafizur, also Bangsari union unit Awami League president, was defeated in the last UP elections.

In a sequel to the previous enmity, both sides prepared for a showdown since the morning. They locked in the clash with lethal weapons around 1:00pm.

Narsingdi additional superintendent of police Shafiqur Rahman confirmed the death of two persons in the clash.

Additional police were deployed in the area to contain the situation.

University teacher among six militant suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers arrested six suspected members of banned militant outfits Ansarullah Bangla Team and Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh in two separate drives in and around the capital on Sunday.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate press briefings yesterday confirmed the arrest.

In the drive inside the capital, CTTC arrested four suspected Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) men including a teacher of a private university in the capital's Motijheel.

The arrested ABT members include ABM Sohailud Doulah, an associate professor of a private university, who reportedly went missing last Thursday. In this regard, his family also filed a general diary (GD) with Tejgaon Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Mazharul Islam.

However, CTTC chief Monirul Islam during the press briefing at DMP Media Centre said they were not aware of any such GD.

"The teacher might have gone into hiding as police started enquiring about him," Monirul said.

Sohailud Doulah might have connections with the missing people believed to be hiding abroad, but it needs further investiga-

12 forest staff suspended for illegal logging in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Forest Department on Sunday suspended 12 of its employees, including three officials, for illegal logging of Sundari trees in the Sundarbans.

Speaking with The Daily Star, Amir Hossain, conservator of forest for Khulna Circle, said the suspended employees were engaged in sneaking nearly one cubic metre of Sundari logs out of the forest. With the help of Gol Pata (nipa palm) collectors, they used to transport the logs in boats hidden under Gol Pata.

"Stern action will be taken against anyone who destroys the Sundarbans," he said.

Four of the suspended are from Jongra camp under Chandpai Range. They are Abdur Rouf, forest officer; Sheikh Ali Ahmed, boat man; Bidhan Chandra Halder, forest guard; and Sultan Hawlader, boat man.

Eight others are from Sharankhola Range. They are foresters Amjad Hossain and Mobarak Hossain; forest guards Harunur Rashid, Abdul Awal, Badsha Sheikh and Abdur Rashid Sikder; and boat men Salim Sarder and Nurul Islam.



President Abdul Hamid speaks at the inauguration of a programme marking the 156th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at Potisar of Naogaon yesterday. During his speech, the president stressed the need for establishing a humanitarian non-communal society, which would be free from all sorts of exploitation, deprivation, fanaticism and militancy, being imbued with the spirit and ideals of the Nobel laureate poet, reports BSS. Rabindranath upheld the image of Bangla culture and literature in the world arena. The Bangla-speaking people of the world owe to him for his outstanding creations as a poet, composer, litterateur, dramatist, artist, essay writer, philosopher, educationalist and social reformer, the president added. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor presided over the programme.

ACC arrests ex-ADC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday arrested Zafar Alam, a former additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Cox's Bazar, near the Supreme Court premises in connection with a corruption case after the High Court rejected his bail petition.

Earlier in the day, the HC rejected Zafar's bail petition.

The ACC team produced Zafar before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate which sent him to jail, court sources said.

SM Mahmudur Rahman, a land acquisition officer, filed the case with Cox's Bazar Model Police Station on December 7, 2014 against several people including an Anisur Rahman on charge of misappropriating Tk 19.82 crore of the officer through forgery.

Speeding main cause of road crashes

Ilias Kanchan tells press

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speeding is the main cause of road crashes, said Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan yesterday.

Therefore, people should drive their vehicles following speed limit to avoid such accidents and casualties on roads, said the film actor.

He made the remarks at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters' Unity organised by Nirapad Sarak Chai, a platform working for ensuring road safety, marking "4th United Nations Global Road Safety Week" being observed from May 8 to 14 with the theme "Save Lives: #SlowDown".

Citing a World Health Organization (WHO) study, Kanchan said a five per cent cut of the speed can reduce approximately 30 per cent of such crashes.

According to the study, approximately 40 to 80 per cent drivers drive above the permitted speed limit across the world. But approximately 90 per cent of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low- and middle-income countries like Bangladesh, the study said.

The study suggested taking speed management measures through setting up appropriate speed limits on all roads and enforcing the speed limits.

In 2015, the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry fixed speed limit for vehicles on highways at 80km, but failed to implement the decision, he said.

The government's initiative to observe the week could have helped create awareness on road safety, Kanchan said, adding that his organisation would organise rallies, workshops and seminars in and outside Dhaka.

Dr Wazed's anniversary of death today

BSS, Rangpur

The eighth death anniversary of noted nuclear scientist and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's husband Dr MA Wazed Miah will be observed in Ragpur today.

Dr Wazed Smriti Sangsa, Dr Wazed Foundation, Awami League (AL) and its associate bodies, and family of Dr Wazed chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Fateha will be offered and wreaths will be placed at his grave in Pirganj's Fatehpur.

After Asr prayers, milad mahfil and special munajats will be held at Keramotia Mosque in Rangpur city.

A memorial discussion on Dr Wazed will be arranged in Shilpokola Academy auditorium in the city at 7:30pm.

Girl 'kills herself' for not obtaining GPA-5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl allegedly committed suicide at her house in Uttara of Dhaka as she could not obtain GPA-5 in SSC examination this year.

Deceased, Sanjida Islam Nova, 16, daughter of Nazrul Islam, had secured first in her class at Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Govt High School in Uttara, said her uncle Nasir Uddin.

Family members found her body hanging from the ceiling fan at her house around 6:45 am, he said. Sensing trouble, family members broke open the door and found the body, he added. Family members said she received GPA 4.73 against her expectation of A+ in all subjects.

JS passes BARI bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament last night passed the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute Bill, 2017 aimed at continuing research in the agriculture sector to boost production.

With the passage of this bill, the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute Ordinance, 1976 would be scrapped.

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury placed the bill in the parliament. According to the bill, the institute would be a statutory body with one director general as the chairman of its board. Its head office would remain in Joydebpur, Gazipur. However, the institute would be able to set up its regional center and sub-regional center at any place across the country with prior approval of the government.

Earlier, the minister placed a bill titled "The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Bill, 2017" aiming at increasing rice production through research, and innovating developed and high yielding varieties.

City street may lose

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"These trees are a gift of nature and the protector of the neighbourhood," he said. When asked about the initiative of tree felling, DNCC Engineer Md Farhad declined to comment over the matter. Pressed further, he only said it was part of the playground development project.

200 tonnes of govt rice seized, 5 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-8 yesterday detained five men and seized 200 tonnes of rice of government projects which were allegedly being smuggled from Barisal local supply Depot to Khulna.

They are Deputy Assistant Food Inspector Abdur Rahim, security guards of the LSD Md Shamsuddin, Md Kabir Khan and Md Arif, and Gdowan In-Charge Abdullah Al Mamun.

Helper of the truck, Kabir, said rice trader Abdus Satter rented the truck to transport the rice to Khulna.

Deputy Assistant Director of Rab-8 Amjad Hossain said miscreants might have used the documents of the rice shipment which was scheduled to set off for Range Reserve Force (RRF) in the morning.



The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Vice Chancellor of Green University of Bangladesh Prof Dr Md Golam Samdani Fakir at a ceremony at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Both the organisations signed a memorandum of understanding styled "Enhancing Knowledge" to promote reading English newspapers among the university students. Serajum Munira, assistant professor and coordinator of Language Centre, and Golam Ahmed Faruqi, dean of faculty of Business Studies and director of MBA programme of the university, were present among others.