



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.7 L 26.9

MYMENSINGH H 28.0 L 26.7

CHITTAGONG H 33.5 L 27.0

SYLHET H 32.4 L 23.3

RAJSHAHI H 30.5 L 26.8

RANGPUR H 28.2 L 20.4

KHULNA H 35.3 L 26.9

BARISAL H 34.5 L 26.5

COX'S BAZAR H 33.6 L 26.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:18am.

Govt torturing minorities

Alleges Khaleda during Buddha Purnima reception

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night alleged that the government is torturing the minority communities, saying, people from any religion are not safe during the rule of the Awami League government.

"No one is safe in the country at present. In fact, people of no religion have security under the rule of the current government," Khaleda said while exchanging greetings with members of the Buddhist community at her Gulshan office on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

Referring to the 2012 attacks on the Buddhist temples in Ramu, the BNP chief said, "You [Buddhists] had to go through immense sufferings and you were also attacked. We went there [Ramu] and witnessed how you had been tortured."

She further said everyone knows who carried out the attacks. "The ruling party men unleashed it."

The BNP chief also described the AL as a "chameleon" and urged all to get united to save the country from its "misrule".

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, is being celebrated in the country today.

1.39kg gold recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Customs intelligence officials detained a man with 12 gold bars, weighing 1.39kg, worth Tk 65 lakh, hidden in his rectum at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday.

Md Belal, 37, of Najirhat of Fatikchhari upazila, came from Sharjah by an Air Arabia flight.

Four small packets, each containing three gold bars, were found in his rectum, said the officials.



Clockwise from left, incessant dumping of waste in the capital's Banasree canal is not only suffocating the water body but also contributing to the continual waterlogging problem in the area. Though there is a signboard saying anyone would be fined Tk 5,000 for dumping waste on or next to the water body, locals continue to ignore it. Meanwhile, the roadside area beside the canal has been transformed into a waste dumping zone, from where garbage is also being spilled into the canal. The photos were taken on Monday.



PHOTOS: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Girl accuses teacher of giving 'lewd' lecture, stops going to college

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A female student of Masjid Mission Academy School and College in Rajshahi filed a complaint against a teacher of the institution for "sexually harassing" her and another female student by discussing "lewd" topics in the class.

The student of class XI said she complained to the college authorities against a lecturer of Islamic Studies of the institution, on April 19.

She said she also stopped attending college, as the authorities delayed in taking action.

In his classes, the teacher, also the ameer of Boalia Thana unit of Jamaat-e-Islami in Rajshahi city, would bring up "irrelevant and improper" topics, which were mostly "sexual", on a regular basis, the student alleged in her complaint.

She said she and the other student were the only students in his class as they were admitted early this year.

"His lectures often turned sexual, which made us uncomfortable," she alleged.

The other student stopped going to the college for avoiding his classes in early March, but she continued, she claimed. "Finding me alone in the class, the level of his lewdness increased," she alleged.

She claimed that when she requested him to stop, he threatened her and said that he would force her out of the college if she complained.

"I didn't want to attend his classes anymore, but he forced me to. He would look for me around the campus when I tried to hide," she told this correspondent.

She also alleged that one day she

hid inside a women's washroom of the four-storied college building. "But he forcibly opened the door in front of several other students."

She said following her parents' advice, she eventually stopped going to college.

When asked, Akbar Ali, the college principal, said, "We have received the complaint on May 3 and four days later formed a committee to look into the matter."

He told this correspondent not to ask him anymore questions as he was "not feeling well".

Contacted, the accused teacher, said, "The story has been made-up to tarnish my image. A vested quarter in the college conspired against me and brought the allegations through the student."

"Have I gone mad that I would chase her to the washroom?" he said.

WAR CRIME CHARGES AGAINST SIX GAIBANDHA MEN

Verdict any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will deliver verdict any day in a case filed against six Gaibandha men for allegedly committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque passed the order after hearing closing arguments on evidence from both the prosecution and defence yesterday.

Defence counsel Gazi MG Tamim told the court that the prosecution relied on two reports published in The Daily Janakantha and Bhorer Kagoj in 2001 and 2007 respectively where former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, one of the accused, was mentioned as alleged commander of local Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the then Pakistani Army.

Tamim claimed that the reports were published to tarnish Aziz's image by his political rivals as he participated in the

national polls in 2001 and 2008.

The defence counsel also said the prosecution relied on a list of Razakars produced by a local freedom fighter but he was not made witness in the case.

He then prayed to the tribunal to acquit his clients from the charges.

But, Prosecutor Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon said they were able to prove all the charges beyond reasonable doubt and prayed for capital punishment for the accused.

The accused are facing three charges -- looting and killing of one Hindu man at Moujamali village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, killing of one Chhatra League leader, and killing of 13 chairmen and members of five unions in Sundarganj.

Other accused are Ruhul Amin alias Manju, Abu Muslim Md Ali, Abdul Latif, Najmul Huda, and Abdur Rahim Mia. Only Latif is in jail now while others are absconding.

On June 28 last year, the tribunal indicted the accused.



Legs sticking out of the wooden platforms, used by hawkers, are kept leaning against metal fence on the median on a road in the capital's Motijheel area. This mindless act of storing unauthorised objects right in the middle of the busy road can cause serious accidents to moving vehicles at any time. As per the direction of the Dhaka South City Corporation, the hawkers are allowed to run their business on the sidewalks in Gulistan and adjacent areas after 6:00pm on work days. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ACC warns govt officials of action

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) warned government officials once again that if any irregularity is found in providing services to common people, stern action will be taken against the persons responsible.

ACC commissioner Dr Nasiruddin Ahmed made the warning while addressing a follow-up public hearing jointly organised by the national anti-graft watchdog and the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at Savar Upazila Complex yesterday.

"I am saying unambiguously that the ACC has the authority now to arrest anyone in any condition if specific corruption allegation is found," he said, warning that the government officials will lose their jobs and land in jail if they are found guilty.

The ACC commissioner instructed the government officials to hang a slogan - "My office and I are corruption-free" - in their offices to increase peoples' confidence in government services.

He called upon service-receivers not to provide bribes to brokers or public servants to obtain government services.

Nasiruddin asked all the representatives of different local government offices to hang citizen charters in visible places to make the service-recipients aware of their rights and to avoid middlemen.

Bangladesh, Qatar to deepen banking cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Qatar Central Bank Governor Sheikh Abdulla Bin Saoud Al-Thani signed a MoU Monday to further deepen cooperation between their two central banks.

The signing ceremony was held at Qatar Central Bank, said a foreign ministry press release.

Mahmood Ali, who was on a three-day visit to Qatar, also met Chief Executive Officer of the Qatar Investment Authority Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Saud Al-Thani at the QIA headquarters. The CEO expressed willingness of the Qatar government to invest in different development projects in Bangladesh.

Poultry farmers want fair prices of feed, chicks

BSS, Rajshahi

More than 10,000 marginal poultry farmers in Rajshahi are looking for reasonable market price of poultry feed, medicine and chicks along with their produced and reared birds and eggs for making their existing business sustainable.

Monwar Kabir, owner of Fida-Fima Poultry Farm in Chalkpara area of the city, said, "We need at least congenial atmosphere to run our business smoothly and successfully."

There is an enormous scope of further promoting the sector, he added.

While talking to the news agency, he mentioned existence of poultry industry is very important for supplying proteins to the community regularly. Its role is also vital to generate employment and poverty eradication.

Kabir produces around 4,500 eggs per day on an average in his 6,000-bird farm currently. He started his business with 700 birds in 2004 with an initial investment of around Tk 4 lakh elevating his business capital to Tk 70 lakh at present. Seven day-labourers including two females are working there.

He says the production cost for each of the eggs is around Tk 5 whereas its wholesale price is hardly Tk 4.30 in local markets. On the contrary, he said the consumers in

general have to purchase an egg at Tk 6 to Tk 8 in retail markets.

Kabir terms the problem artificial and manmade and demanded rational reduction of price-gap between wholesale and retail.

"I have compelled to reduce the number of birds to 4,000 from 10,000 to minimise the gradually declining operating cost to some extent," said Arifuz Zaman, owner of Asif Poultry Farm at Kamapur under Godagari upazila.

Tyranny of mid-level opportunists and all sorts of monopoly businesses centring the poultry sector must be stopped to save the marginal farmers, he suggested.

Nadim Hossain, owner of Tanaka Agro Limited at Kapasia under Paba upazila, drew the government's attention and intervention to protect the sector.

"Basically, we have no hands on markets as it's totally controlled by all the persons concerned," said Dr Zulfikar Md Aktar Hossain, additional district livestock officer.

"We along with around 43,000 workers are facing an embarrassing situation due to the exorbitant price of poultry feed, medicines and chicks in one hand and lower price of eggs and birds on the other hand," said Masudul Haque Nilu, district unit president of Poultry Owners Association.

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