

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.8 L 28.9	H 31.5 L 21.7	H 35.0 L 28.3	H 29.5 L 21.8	H 37.6 L 28.2	H 33.0 L 25.0	H 37.7 L 29.0	H 36.2 L 28.4	H 35.0 L 28.5

Mild heat wave sweeping over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Barisal, Patuakhali, Chandpur and Noakhali may continue, reports UNR. Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:38pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 am.

PRO-AL PANEL SWEEPS DU SENATE POLLS Students demonstrate for Ducsu election

STAR REPORT

The ruling Awami League-backed "Blue Panel" swept the senate elections of Dhaka University yesterday.

Meanwhile, around 40 students wearing black masks demonstrated in front of the Senate building during the election around 11:30am, demanding holding of Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducsu) election.

Different left-leaning student organisations joining the demonstration said the Senate election is being held regularly.

The students are being deprived of their due rights because of the dysfunctional Ducsu and absence of student representatives in Senate, they alleged. During the demonstration, a group of teachers pushed them off the Senate building.

Mir Asadul Haque, one of the demonstrators, said as per the relevant law, there should have elected students' representative in senate. "That's why we are demanding Ducsu election and our demand is logical."

He alleged that some teachers attacked the demonstrators without any provocation. Denying the allegations against the teachers, DU Proctor Prof AM Amzad Ali said seven to eight students were demonstrating at the Senate building when teachers tried to calm them.

At that time, the students were requested to demonstrate outside the building premises, he said.

During the conversation, few students even rebuked the teachers, said the proctor.

Pleas challenging Dawra degree recognition rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected two writ petitions challenging the legality of the government decision to recognise Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to master's degree.

The HC rejected the petitions considering that those were not moved properly.

Kamal Hosain Miah, the lawyer for a petitioner, told The Daily Star that they urged the HC to reject the petitions as the gazette notification, which was issued recognising Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to master's degree, has yet to come into effect. "We will move a new writ petition before the High Court challenging the gazette notification once it will come into effect," the lawyer said.



Transport vessels known as 'bulkheads' and trucks are being loaded with sand that is piled up on a large section of the bank of the Bongshi River. Local law enforcement authorities are yet to take any action against such encroachment and destruction of a natural water body although this illegal act has been going on under broad daylight for a long time. The photo was taken on Sunday near Nayar Hat in Savar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Man sued over rape in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman sued her boyfriend yesterday on the charge of raping her in a Dhaka hotel six months ago.

The 29-year-old, a university graduate, filed the case with Banani Police Station, accusing Mahmudul Hasan alias Jewel, 30.

The man had sex with her after promising that he would marry her, said Banani Police Station Sub-inspector Sohel Rana, quoting the FIR.

Mahmudul, however, refused to do so later, said the SI. The woman was sent to the one-stop crisis centre (OCC) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he said.

Her forensic test will be conducted today, OCC sources said.

BNP meets CEC, opposes use of EVM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP wants to hold talks with the Election Commission and propose amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

The party also submitted a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) KM Nurul Huda urging the commission not to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in the next general elections.

Stressing the need for amendments to the RPO, the party also expressed its eagerness to hold talks with the CEC to discuss the electoral law.

"The chief election commissioner said that he would send booklets to all concerned people including political parties seeking their opinion in this regard," BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan told reporters after

holding an hour-long meeting with the CEC at his office in the capital.

A three-member BNP delegation led by Nazrul Islam Khan met the CEC and handed over the letter signed by the party's Secretary General Fakhru Islam.

When asked about the talks, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda told The Daily Star, "We are thinking of holding talks after the Ramadan, probably from July. We are taking preparations, but the issue is yet to be finalised. We will invite all registered political parties followed by other stakeholders."

Emerging from the meeting, Nazrul Islam Khan told journalists that he told the CEC that many countries across the world have already rejected the EVM method while Bangladesh is going to use it. There is a possibility of digital rigging in the election, he said.

During the talks, the CEC termed

the EVM as a new system and said they would not use this system if objection from any quarters is raised, Nazrul said.

Contacted, CEC Huda said that the BNP has submitted a letter to the EC opposing the use of EVM in the polls.

"We told them that we will scrutinise technical aspects of the EVM. We will hold talks with political parties. If the political parties agree, then we will use it. If they do not agree, we will not use it," he said.

BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and Sujauddin were present during the meeting.

BNP TO HOLD PROTEST RALLY ON MAY 24

The BNP has sought permission from the authorities concerned to hold a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan on May 24 protesting the raid on the Gulshan office the party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The party has sent letters to Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Public Works Department on Monday seeking permission to hold the rally on May 24, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of the party, told The Daily Star.

The decision of holding the protest rally in the capital was taken at a standing committee meeting of the party, held at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the BNP in a statement said the party's standing committee members alleged that the police raided the office to serve an "ill intention of the government".

Police said they raided the office to seize "materials for carrying out anti-state and subversive activities". During their over two-hour-long search they, however, could not find anything of that nature.

NEWS IN brief

HC starts hearing death references, appeals in N'ganj 7-murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing the death references and appeals in the Narayanganj seven-murder case.

The HC began the hearing with Deputy Attorney General Abdul Mannan Mohan reading out from the paper book of the case. The hearing will resume today.

Earlier on January 16, a Narayanganj court found 35 people, including 25 former Rab officials and expelled ruling Awami League man Nur Hossain, guilty of abduction and murder of seven people and destroying evidence in April 2014.

The court handed down death penalty to 26 people, including 16 former Rab members, and jailed nine others for various terms.

AL MP Bahauddin Nasim gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to ruling Awami League lawmaker AFM Bahauddin Nasim in a case filed for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.83 crore without any known source of income and concealing information of wealth worth Tk 17.58 lakh.

The court passed the order after his surrender before it seeking bail. The commission filed the case on November 21.

SC verdict on Khaleda's appeal in Barapukuria graft case on May 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court will deliver its verdict on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's appeal against her trial in Barapukuria coalmine graft case on May 28.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha fixed the date after concluding hearing on the appeal yesterday.

The High Court on September 17, 2016 rejected the petition filed by Khaleda challenging the legality of trial proceeding of the case against her.

Drug peddler gets life term in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday sentenced a fugitive drug peddler to life imprisonment.

Jahangir Matubbar, son of late Toiab Ali Matubbar of Shariatpur district, was also fined Tk 30,000, in default he would have to serve nine more months in prison.

Jahangir was arrested in Launch Ghat area of Barisal city on June 18, 2015 with 36 grammes of heroin and 148 Yaba tablets. He went into hiding after securing bail.

GOOD DEED GOES BAD



Prawn larvae seized by Bangladesh Coast Guard being released yesterday in the Buriganga, a river heavily contaminated with toxic effluent and garbage from surrounding factories and households. Top, some of the 88 containers filled with approximately 10.30 lakh prawn larvae. The coast guard had seized the larvae during separate drives in early hours on Sunday on the Meghna near Kanchpur Bridge and the Padma River near Mawa river terminal. Mezbah Ul Haque, a Department of Fisheries official in Narayanganj, said the larvae will die in the polluted water of the Buriganga. Salt water in the Bay of Bengal or the delta of the Meghna would have been the most suitable environment for their survival, he said. PHOTO: STAR

HC asks govt to remove name of Tridib Roy from structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to remove the name of Tridib Roy, father of Chakma Raja Debashish Roy, from structures in the next 90 days for his alleged anti-liberation role.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Rezaul Haque and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the order after hearing a writ petition filed by two freedom fighters -- Badiuzzaman Saudagar from Rangamati and Helaluddin from Khagrachhari -- recently.

In the petition, they said Tridib Roy acted against the Liberation War of Bangladesh. But there are many structures in Chittagong Hill Tracts area, which were named after him.

SC asks teacher to surrender at court over sexual harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered Mahfuzur Rashid Ferdous, a teacher of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology in the capital, to surrender before the lower court in a week in a case filed over sexual harassment.

The SC said the trial court will issue arrest warrant against Mahfuzur if he does not surrender in a week after receiving its order, Deputy Attorney General Khandaker Diliruzzaman told The Daily Star.

On May 4, Ferdous was arrested from his Eskaton apartment following a case filed by an AUST alumnus on the charge of sexually harassing his female students at different times.

Later on, he made a confessional statement before a Dhaka court.

JANATA BANK TEST 'QUESTION LEAK' HC restricts result announcement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday imposed a restriction for three months on publishing the results of written test for the post of senior officer of Janata Bank Ltd and its further proceedings.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why their inaction to investigate the allegation of question leak and cancelling the tests should not be declared illegal.

The court passed the order and rule following a writ petition filed by 15 candidates who appeared for the written test, challenging the inaction of the respondents.

Finance secretary, law secretary, Bangladesh Bank governor, president of Bangladesh Bankers' Association, chairman of selection committee, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, dean of social science department of DU university, and managing director of Janata Bank have been made respondents to the rule. Petitioner's lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that DU social science department organised the written test for the post of senior officer of Janata Bank on April 21. But the question paper of the test was leaked just before the tests.

Sri Lankan president

FROM PAGE 3

expected to sign several agreements to further promote bilateral ties. To prepare grounds for the visit, Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Esala Weerakoon will arrive in Dhaka and hold discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart Md Shahidul Haque on Thursday.

Clarification

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"I had spoken generally about three issues. First, I had described some of the challenges that democracies face, particularly in the areas relating to freedom of thought and expression, and indicated the need to be vigilant and active about protecting such fundamental rights. Second, I had emphasized the Razaq Foundation's interest and effort in providing an intellectual space for different ideas, persuasions and orientations to be expressed, as part of the process of strengthening the values and practices of democracy. Third, I had explicitly stated that the Foundation does not necessarily share or endorse any particular point of view conveyed by any of its guests and presenters.

"I hope that the Daily Star will set the record straight by publishing my clarification. Incidentally, the report had also got my name wrong."



A car approaches a metal fence tilted dangerously outside of the median in Ramna Park area near Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. Unless the authorities fix the median fence urgently, any distracted or unmindful driver can get into a serious accident that may lead to severe injuries or even death. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS