

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL
	H 34.5 L 27.2	H 35.3 L 27.8	H 35.7 L 26.0	H 36.4 L 25.0	H 37.2 L 27.5	H 34.4 L 24.5	H 37.0 L 27.8	H 36.3 L 26.5

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Barisal & Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna and Sylhet divisions with hail at isolated places till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna & Barisal divisions and the regions of Tangail, Feni, Madaripur, Sitakunda, Sandwip, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni, Hatia, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Rajshahi & Ishwardi and it may abate from some places. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.



Resident students leave Jahangirnagar University campus following an order of the administration to vacate all dormitories by 10:00am yesterday. Unrest was created on the campus the day before centring on the death of two students in a road accident. While the students blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway and besieged vice chancellor's residence, police used tear gas to disperse the protesters and made dozens of arrests. The photo was taken around 9:30am yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Supreme Judicial Council suitable for SC judges' removal

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam tells court as amicus curiae

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam yesterday told the Supreme Court that the system for removal of the judges through parliament has not been successful in different countries including India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, rather the method has created debate there.

The Supreme Judicial Council is a balanced method for removal of the SC judges in the country, he said, adding that the apex court in its judgement said in constitution's Fifth Amendment case that the Supreme Judicial Council is much transparent and effective.

He was placing arguments as amicus curiae (friend of court) before the seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha during hearing the appeal against the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment of the constitution.

The 16th amendment of the constitution had empowered the parliament to remove a SC judge for incapacity or misbehaviour. Following a writ petition filed by nine Supreme Court lawyers, the HC on May 5 last year declared the amendment illegal. The government on January 4 this year filed the appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict.

The SC will resume the hearing on the appeal today.

Another eminent legal expert Barrister MI Farooqui yesterday started placing arguments as amicus curiae before the apex court. Barrister Farooqui is expected to continue placing his arguments today.

Int'l Day for UN Peacekeepers today

BSS, Dhaka

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will be observed today in Bangladesh along with other countries across the world in a befitting manner.

The day is observed on May 29 every year to underscore the importance of maintaining global peace and pay tribute to those who are involved in the peacekeeping missions and honour the UN peacekeepers who had lost their lives for peace.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

They also prayed for the salvation of the departed souls of the peacekeepers who made supreme sacrifices for the cause of peace.

In his message, the president said Bangladesh has emerged as a country of peace and communal harmony. The peacekeepers of Bangladesh have been able to attain credibility through

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99pc water used by slum people contains faecal contamination

Says study conducted on four Dhaka slums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ninety-nine percent water used by the slum population in Dhaka contains faecal contamination, which causes various diarrhoeal diseases and consequently malnutrition, mostly to children, says a new study.

The contaminated water has faecal coliform [bacteria] over 100 colony forming units (cfu) per 100-ml of water, posing a serious health hazard to its users, the study finds.

In explaining the situation, the study says the slum people collect water from the last point of water supply by the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) [for instance, water taps] and store it in different reservoirs for household use. The contamination happens during the time in between, it adds.

The findings of the study, conducted early this year, were presented at a discussion jointly organised by WaterAid Bangladesh, Brac University, Lancaster University of the UK, and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

While presenting the findings, Dr Manoj Roy, lecturer at the Lancaster Environment Centre of the University of Lancaster, said, "We are talking about safe water for all in the arena of Sustainable Development Goals [SDG], but the findings indicate a difficult situation."

For the study, researchers collected 480 water samples -- both from the last delivery point of Wasa and the water stored for households use -- from four slums of Dhaka.

Dr Manoj said, "We have tested water samples from the slums having Wasa's supply water. If almost 100 percent water of these slums is found with faecal contamination, the situation would be worse in the slums using open or other water sources," he said.

Some 30 percent of slum population [estimated 4 million] in Dhaka have access to Wasa's supply water.

Prof Abdur Rob Mollah of zoology department at Dhaka University, also a researcher of the study, said water samples collected after the last delivery point had 99 percent faecal contamination.

He said supply water on its way from the production point to the households may be contaminated due to pipe leakage. But, that was found much less in this study, but more in water collected after the last delivery point.

"This can happen because of dirty

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Suspended DU teacher Reazul gets back job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that stayed the suspension of Prof Md Reazul Haque of Dhaka University, clearing the way for him to discharge his duties.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order through disposing of an appeal filed by the DU authorities challenging the HC order.

Following a writ petition filed by Reazul, teacher of the department of development studies of DU, the HC on April 9 stayed his suspension for six months and also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of DU to explain why their decision to suspend him without assigning any reason should not be declared illegal.

Reazul's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for his client to join the office following the SC order.

Reazul was reportedly suspended following allegations of showing "obscene material" in one of his classes.

Reazul's lawyer Jyotirmoy earlier told this correspondent that the syndicate of DU decided to suspend his client on February 27 and the registrar of the university sent a letter to him to this effect on March 7 without mentioning any reason. There is no scope for the syndicate to suspend a teacher without any reason under the Dhaka University Ordinance and Regulation 1977, he said.



Palmyra palms piled up at Firingibazar of Chittagong city last week after they were bought wholesale from Comilla, Noakhali, and Chandpur. This summer fruit is widely consumed across the country because of its translucent, sweet jelly seeds. Traders buy a hundred fruits for Tk 300-800 based on the size.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Beat the heat with fruits

BSTI gives green signal finding no formalin in 193 samples

UNB, Dhaka

Amid the scorching heat, seasonal juicy fruits have flooded the markets in the capital bringing relief to consumers. But these summer delicacies also come with a worry for the people as they are unsure whether those are formalin-free.

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) recently submitted their reports after carrying out investigations on 28 products and 193 sample fruits respectively declaring that there is no presence of formalin in fruits.

The assurance over safe fruits boosted the confidence of consumers contributing to a substantial rise in fruit sale in the city.

Also, various types of dates added taste to the seasonal fruit basket as the month of Ramadan began with due solemnity.

A visit to the Motijheel and Secretariat areas, Karwan Bazar and Mouchak by the news agency found high presence of consumers at fruit outlets though they said the prices still remained high.

Some 33 oranges, 40 malts, 68 apples, 38 grapes, three watermelons, two mangoes, one banana and five dates, among others, have been tested at the BSTI to know whether there is any existence of formalin in fruits, according to BSTI sources.

"There's nothing to panic. We've tested 28 products, including fruits. We didn't get formalin, which is harmful," said Mohammad Mahfuzul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority.

Kamrun Nesa was buying fruits for her family from a vendor. She said that she heard about formalin-free fruits this time. "But the prices seem to be high."

According to market information, various types of mangoes are selling at Tk 80 to Tk 120 per kg, while litchi Tk 250 to Tk 500 (100 pieces) depending on size and quality, guava Tk 80 to Tk 120 per kg, watermelon Tk 300 to Tk 500 per piece depending on size and pineapple per piece Tk 20 to Tk 40.

Date is selling at Tk 120 to Tk 250 per kg against Tk 80 to Tk 220 last year at the retail markets, according to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).



Participants at a roundtable titled "A good job - unfinished? How faecal contamination in the 'Last 100 Metres' of water provisioning hurts the urban poor", at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. WaterAid Bangladesh, Brac University, Lancaster University of the UK, and The Daily Star organised the policy-focused discussion with the aim of improving the quality of life of the poor people in cities.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP leader Aslam Chy gets bail in sedition case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted bail to BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury in a sedition case, clearing the way for his walking out of jail.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha dismissed a petition filed by the government seeking stay on the HC order.

Barrister Shanjid Siddique, a lawyer for Aslam, told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar to this client's release from jail following the SC order.

Following a petition filed by Aslam, the HC on May 18 granted bail to Aslam, a joint secretary general of BNP, in the case

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4 held over killing of Khulna BNP leader Mithu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday arrested two people and detained two others in connection with a case filed over the killing of Sarder Alauddin Mithu, an organising secretary of district unit BNP.

Raj Sarder, younger brother of Mithu, filed the case with Phultala Police Station on Saturday.

Salim Sarder, elder brother of Mithu, said police summoned Mithu's two bodyguards -- Shimul Hawlader and Saddam -- at the police station for interrogation. Later the law-enforcers arrested Hasnat Rizvi Marthal Bhuiya, a member secretary of Phultala BNP, and Motaher Hossain Kiron, a BNP activist.

Mizan Hawlader, father of Shimul, said though he had heard about his son's arrest but police denied arresting him when he went to the station. Shimul is traceless since Saturday noon.

On Thursday, five to six men in two motorcycles went to Mithu's office at Damodar in the upazila and opened fire killing him on the spot.

Two others -- Mithu's father-in-law Syed Selim and bodyguard Nowsher Gazi -- sustained bullet injuries in the attack. Nowsher later died at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Mentionable, Mithu's father Abul Kashem Sarder, a

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Woman, her lover to die for murdering husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday sentenced a woman and her lover to death, and their associate to life imprisonment for killing her husband on March 12, 2015.

The convicts, Momotaj Begum and her lover Kalam Hawlader, and the latter's nephew Rajib Rari, of Tum Char village of Barisal Sadr upazila, were also fined Tk 1 lakh each.

According to the prosecution, when Swarup Ali Mridha, 45, a fisherman of the area, figured out their extra-marital affair, the three with a rope in his house and later dug the body near a ditch.

Police recovered the body on the following day.

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LankaBangla Finance Limited ties with Rancon Motors Limited

A MoU signing ceremony was held between LankaBangla Finance Limited and Rancon Motors Limited. Under this agreement the customer will be facilitated with special rate of interest & maximum loan facility for both Individual (upto 90%) and Corporate (upto 100%) for the purchasing of Mercedes Benz with LankaBangla Auto Loan. It will also cover special services such as Premium loan approval procedure, minimum processing fees, dedicated customer service team etc.

In this ceremony, Mr. Khurshed Alam, Head of Retail Financial Services; Mr. Kazi Masum Rashed, Head of Credit Risk Management; Mr. Khandakar Zakaria, Head of Auto Loan from LankaBangla Finance Limited and Mr. Samuil Alam, Senior General Manager Operations; Mr. Safayet Chowdhury Jason, Head of Sales; Mr. Rubaiyat Saad Majid, Deputy Manager Marketing from Rancon Motors Limited were present.

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