

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 34.2 L 27.2	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 32.7 L 27.1	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 32.6 L 26.3	<b>SLYHET</b> H 33.0 L 26.0	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 36.1 L 27.1	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 33.7 L 27.2	<b>KHULNA</b> H 34.0 L 26.2	<b>BARISAL</b> H 33.2 L 26.0	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 30.8 L 26.0
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Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy to heavy fall at places over the country till 03pm today, reports the IMD. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:36pm and rises tomorrow at 5:13am.



Students and rights activists form a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday protesting the recent incidents of rape and violence against women. Nari Nirapotta Jote, a platform comprising individuals and organisations, organised the event demanding safety for women.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**None can interfere in JS affairs: Nasim**

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League Presidium Member and Health Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday said none has the authority to interfere in the affairs of the parliament.

The parliament, elected by the people, is sovereign and none, except the people, has the authority to interfere in its affairs," he said speaking as chief guest at a discussion in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban on Road 32 at Dhanmondi in the capital.

Awami Swochchhashebak League (ASL) organised the discussion marking the 87th birth anniversary of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib.

AL Youth and Sports Secretary Hanunur Rashid and AL central executive member SM Kamal Hossain were present as special guests with ASL President Molla Md Abu Kawsar in the chair.

**BISHWAJIT MURDER CONVICT Shown absconding, but found on Facebook**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the killers of Bishwajit Das, who was heinously killed by BCL activists of Jagannath University (JnU) unit, is shown absconding in the murder case, but found active on social networking site Facebook.

Rajon Talukder updated his Facebook post mentioning his trip to Kathmandu of Nepal from India's Siliguri on August 4.

Yesterday, Rajon, one of the two convicts in the murder case, even left a comment on the Facebook post of former JnU unit BCL organising secretary Saidur Rahman.

Exploring his Facebook profile it was seen that Rajon updates his posts every now and then. Some of the JnU unit BCL leaders also confirmed that Rajon was very much active on the social networking site.

In one post, Rajon criticises BCL for not being strict about Shibir, student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

In another post, he lambasts the BCL central body for its inaction to save him from punishment, claiming that he had done everything for the interest of the organisation.

On August 6, the High Court upheld the death sentence of two BCL men, commuted that of four to life term and acquitted two in the case over the killing of Bishwajit in 2012. All the eight were handed down capital punishment by a lower court on December 18, 2013.

Death sentence of ex-BCL activists Rafiqul Islam Shakil, now in jail, and Rajon was upheld for murdering Bishwajit. Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, Emdadul Haque Emdad, GM Rasheduzzaman Shaon and Noor-e-Alam Limon were given life imprisonment.

Rajon and Limon are now absconding. Two death convicts Md Saiful Islam and Qayum Mia Tipu were also acquitted.

**Put an end to violence against women immediately**

Rights body Naripokkho urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the rise of rape in the country, women's rights body Naripokkho has demanded that the government put highest importance on stopping such violence against women.

The society is being affected due to the repeated incidents of violence against women and children, said the organisation in a press statement received yesterday. "We are aggrieved and concerned in such a situation..."

Referring to the report of human rights body Ain o Shalish Kendro, the organisation said in the first six months of this year, 280 women and children were victims of rape.

It also said 39 more were victims of attempted rape, 16 were killed after rape while five committed suicide after rape.

According to a police headquarters report, in the first six months, a total of 1,914 rape cases were filed while 1,109 rape incidents took place between April and June, indicating 12 rape incidents every day, said the statement.

"The most dreadful point is that a good number of the accused are leaders and activists of the ruling party," the statement said. Even if anyone is arrested, they get out of jail using their influence, it reads.

Naripokkho identified that the incidents of rape have been taking place in the country repeatedly due to a culture of impunity, absence of the rule of law, a lack of accountability among the authorities concerned and political influence.

**2 bullet-hit men among six held after 'gunfight' with Rab**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six alleged robbers, including two with bullet wounds in their thighs, were arrested by Rab after a "gunfight" in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The two injured - Mohammad Helal, 32, the "gang leader", and Siraj Sikdar, 55 - are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The two are accused in several cases, Rab claimed.

Four other arrestees are Rasheduzzaman alias Sumon, 22, Mokhes alias Nure Alam, 18, Nur Mohammad Ali, 20, and Abdul Wahab alias Sumon, 19.

11 Col Iftakharul Mabud, commanding officer of Rab-2, said the gunfight took place near Ekota Housing around 2:50am when Rab arrived there on information of a robbery attempt.

Being challenged by Rab men, the "robbers" fired at them, forcing the law-enforcers to retaliate. Helal and Siraj were injured during the "gunfight," he claimed.

A pistol, two bullets and some instruments were recovered from the spot.

**HC starts hearing on Article 70**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing a writ petition that challenged the legality of Article 70 regarding cancellation of membership of a lawmaker for voting against his or her political party.

The HC Bench of Justice Moyeul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan adjourned the hearing till October 8 as writ petitioner Advocate Eunus Ali Akond in a supplementary petition has "misquoted" the Supreme Court's observations about Article 70.

According to Article 70, a lawmaker has to vacate his or her seat if he or she votes in parliament against the party that nominated him or her.

Eunus told The Daily Star that he submitted the supplementary petition to the HC yesterday containing some of the observations the SC had made in the judgement in the constitution's 16th amendment case, but there were some "typing errors" in the supplementary petition.

He said he will correct the supplementary petition during the next hearing.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sanu opposed the writ petition saying that Eunus Ali Akond has filed the writ petition for his personal interest as he said in the writ petition that he is a candidate for the post of president of the republic.

On April 18, Eunus submitted the writ petition with the HC, challenging the legality of Article 70, saying that it is against democracy and contradicts Articles 7, 19, 26, 27, 44, 31 and 119 of the constitution.

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