



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.5 L 27.5

MYMENSINGH H 33.5 L 26.2

CHITTAGONG H 33.5 L 26.0

SYLHET H 33.3 L 25.4

RAJSHAHI H 35.6 L 26.5

RANGPUR H 34.2 L 27.3

KHULNA H 34.0 L 26.5

BARISAL H 33.0 L 26.4

COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 25.8

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Mymensingh, Rangpur, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36am.

Fire breaks out at Anam Plaza

A fire broke out at Anam Rangs Plaza in the capital's Dhanmondi area yesterday, burning valuables of three shops.

The fire completely gutted a shop and the other two partially on the third floor of the six-storey shopping mall, said Rakibul Haque, a businessman at the building. The ceilings of some other shops were also damaged in the fire that started around 4:00pm, he added.

However, no casualty was reported, said fire service and police.

On the spot, Lt Col M Mosharrar Hossain, director (training) of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told reporters, "We primarily suspect that the fire might have originated from a kitchen of a fast food shop on the third-floor."

They would be able to ascertain the reasons behind the fire after investigation, he said.

Around 13 units of firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control around 6:40pm, after two and a half an hours of efforts, he added.

Mohammad Jony, an employee of a shop of shoes and bags, who witnessed the incident, told The Daily Star that he heard a big bang from a fast food restaurant and saw smoke coming out of its kitchen around 4:00pm.

Immediately, people came down from the building as the fire started spreading, he said.



A smoke-covered Anam Rangs Plaza at the capital's Dhanmondi. A fire broke out at the shopping mall yesterday afternoon, which gutted three shops. Firefighters doused the blaze around 6:40pm. No one was reported to be injured in the fire.

PHOTO: STAR

HC rejects Khaleda's trial court transfer plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the Senior Special Judge's Court-5 of Dhaka to continue trial proceedings of Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and others.

The bench of Justice Shawkat Hossain and Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder disposed of a petition with some observations. The petition was filed by Khaleda for transferring the case against her from the court of Special Judge-5 Md Akhtaruzzaman to another court.

The HC order means that the trial of the case will be held at the court of Special Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The court observed that both the defence and state counsels should uphold the dignity of the court, he said, adding, the detailed observations will be known once the court releases the full text of its order.

Meanwhile, Advocate Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan, a lawyer for Khaleda, told this correspondent that his client will file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC order.

The ACC filed the case on July 3, 2008, accusing Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank.

On August 6 this year, Khaleda Zia filed a revision petition with the HC for transferring the case from the court of Special Judge-5 Md Akhtaruzzaman to another court.

Berlin confce urges govt to stop Rampal project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day international conference on Rampal power plant and alternative energy solutions ended yesterday through adoption of "Berlin Declaration" that called upon the Bangladesh government to cancel the project.

In the declaration, environmentalists demanded that the government adopt alternative energy solutions in order to save lives and ecosystem of the world's largest mangrove forest as well as producing cheap and affordable electricity in future.

The declaration was made yesterday during the closing session of "International Conference on Rampal Coal-fired Power Plant and Alternative Energy Solutions for Bangladesh", organised by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports and its European Action Branch, in Berlin.

It also made a call to the government to learn from other countries which, have already started to shift their power production from coal and other fossil fuel to cheap and environmental friendly renewable energy.

Through the declaration, environmentalists voiced concern as the adjacent areas of Sundarbans has already become a "hub of industries" because of this mega power plant project.

Professors of different universities in Germany along with representatives of international environmental organisations and specialists from Bangladesh took part in the conference. Syed Babul, a representative of the national committee's European Network; Anu Muhammed, a professor of Jahangirnagar University; Dr Animesh Gayn, a researcher of German Geo-Science Research Centre, and Wilfried Endlicher, a professor of Berlin Humboldt University, also spoke at the event.

9TH WAGE BOARD Journo stage demo in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Covering their faces with black cloth, journalists staged a demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday demanding formation of the ninth wage board.

The journalists under the banner of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) organised a rally around 11:30am before blocking a road in front of the press club.

They also demanded removal of Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu for his negligence in forming the wage board.

Addressing the rally, DUJ President Saban Mahmud said they would continue their movement until the ninth wage board is formed.

"We'll hold a press conference at the [Jatiya] press club tomorrow (August 22) with an explanation of why we demand the formation of the ninth wage board and the removal of the information minister," said Saban, adding that they would announce tougher programmes at the same press conference.

He also demanded that Finance Minister AMA Muhiht apologise for his comment in this regard.

Moderated by DUJ General Secretary Sohel Haider Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Omar Faruque, Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) President Shakhawat Hossain Badshah and its General Secretary Mursalin Nomani and former BFUJ secretary general Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, among others.

Keya Yarn boss held over misappropriating Tk 111 cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested the managing director of Keya Yarn Mills Ltd in connection with a case filed over misappropriating Tk 111.14 crore of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB).

Abdul Khaleq Pathan was arrested in the capital's Segunbagicha.

Pathan withdrew the money from Kawran Bazar branch of the bank and misappropriated it, ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya told The Daily Star.

The anti-graft body filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station yesterday accusing eight people including Pathan.

Other accused are Keya Yarn Mills Ltd's Chairman Khaleda Parvin, directors Masum Pathan and Tansin Keya, BKB's former senior principal officers Abul Hossain and Golam Rasul, and its former assistant gen-

eral manager Sarwar Hossain and deputy general manager Jubair Manjur.

According to the case statement, Keya Yarn imports raw cotton, manufactures yarn and sells it to export-oriented garment factories.

Between 2009-2010 BKB issued a loan of Tk 111,14,65,031 to Keya Yarn for importing raw cotton.

In the inquiry, it is found that no raw cotton was imported with the money and the company did not even submit any document of selling cotton to garment factories, to the bank.

Even after that, the official of the BKB's Karwan Bazar branch continued issuing LC (letter of credit) to the company.

It appears that they collaboratively misappropriated the money which is a punishable offence, reads the FIR of the case.

It will be further investigated whether more persons were involved in it, it added.

SBMCH extension building lies incomplete for nine yrs

SUSANTO GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barisal

A two-year project to construct an extension building of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barisal has not been completed in nine years, multiplying the accommodation crisis.

The construction of the five-storey building was left in such a state five years back with only 60 percent work done.

Consequently, the hospital is facing a pressure of patients beyond its capacity every day, hospital sources said.

About 1,700 to 2,000 patients are generally admitted to the hospital where it can accommodate only 1,000, said SBMCH Director Dr Serajul Islam.

Besides, 4,000 to 5,000 outpatients are given treatment on a daily basis, he added.

Rajia Sultana, 25, who came from Jhalakathi for her mother's treatment, said, "We have been staying on the floor for two days as we did not find any bed in the female medicine ward."

Like Rajia's mother, a lot of patients were seen lying on the floor. He said Azad Construction, an engineering firm, got the



The under construction building.

tender of the Tk 20-crore project financed by Public Works Department.

Starting on December 12, 2008, the project work was supposed to be finished within the next two years and two months.

Later, the duration of the project was extended by one and a half years following an appeal made by the contractor, said the director.

At the beginning of 2011, the contractor appealed further to revise the project as its cost increased by that time.

However, the application was not accepted, said Dr Serajul, adding, the tender

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Rights activist Sultana Kamal speaks at a discussion on use of rape case evidence at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Non-government organisation SHOKHI organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR



Covering faces with black cloth, journalists stage a demonstration in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding formation of the ninth wage board for them. A faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

KHALAF MURDER SC verdict Oct 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed October 10 for delivering its verdict on the appeals filed by the government and the accused in sensational Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali murder case.

The SC set the date after concluding hearing on the appeals.

Khalaf Al Ali, an official of the Saudi embassy in Dhaka was shot dead in the capital's Gulshan on March 6, 2012.

On December 30, 2012, a Dhaka court gave the death sentence to Saiful Islam Mamun, Al Amin, Rafiqul Islam Khokon, Akbar Ali Lahu, and Selim Chowdhury for the killing.

Following appeals filed by the convicts, the HC on November 18, 2013 acquitted Selim, who is on the run, upheld the death sentence on Saiful and sentenced Al Amin, Khokon and Lahu to life term imprisonments.

Journalist Moinul dies in road crash

CITY DESK

Moinul Islam, a former journalist of erstwhile Daily Buniyad and Commercial Times which were published from Chittagong, died in a road accident in Dhaka yesterday.

Moinul, 82, who hailed from Mirersarai in Chittagong, had been living in Dhaka since 1958, says a press release.

A pick-up van ran him over in front of his Old Dhaka residence in Kayetully area while he was going to Ramna Park for a morning walk around 6:20am.

He was buried at Azimpur Graveyard. All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

ACC to monitor relief distribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has directed its officials to monitor whether any corruption is taking place in distribution of government relief among flood-hit people.

ACC Director General (Investigation) Zafar Iqbal gave the directives to all the deputy directors of its 22 district offices and directors of seven divisional offices.

The commission earlier took legal actions against such "corruption" in a Tk 10 rice distribution scheme, he said, adding, "The ACC will follow similar steps."

"All officers will strongly monitor relief distribution system so that no one gets a chance to commit corruption," said Zafar.

Asking field officers to give feedback, he said the activities of officials concerned will be monitored from the headquarters.

Meanwhile, ACC yesterday donated one-day salary of its officials worth Tk 3 lakh to Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

ACC Director General Muhammad Munir Chowdhury handed over the money to the PM's office secretary.