



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.8 L 25.9

CHITTAGONG H 32.0 L 26.0

SYLHET H 33.0 L 24.5

RAJSHAHI H 35.2 L 26.6

BARISAL H 32.5 L 26.2

COX'S BAZAR H 32.2 L 26.2

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am, said Met Office.

SC asks CMM to return Manna's passport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The Supreme Court yesterday directed the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka to return the passport of Nagorik Olkya Convener Mahmudul Rahman Manna for three months so that he can go abroad for treatment.

The apex court also ordered Manna to submit the passport to the CMM in seven days after he returns from abroad.

The three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order following a petition filed by Manna on August 21 seeking its order upon the CMM to return his passport so that he can go abroad for treatment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Workers push an overloaded cart on a road in the port city's Chaktai area yesterday. The metal drums tied with ropes hanging precariously outside the length of the cart can cause a severe accident.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Couple found dead in house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man and his wife were found dead in their Kamrangirchar residence in Dhaka yesterday.

Police suspect that either the couple committed suicide or the man killed himself after killing his wife.

Jewel's body was hanging while his wife Rikta's lying on the bed, said police.

Level, 20, hailed from Nagarkanda in Faridpur and used to work at a video shop while Rikta Akhter, 16, at tailoring shop.

They had been living at a rented tin-shed house in Roni Market area of Kamrangirchar for the last two months.

Babu Kumar Saha, inspector (investigation) of Kamrangirchar Police Station, said like other days the couple returned from their work places on Wednesday night and slept.

In the afternoon yesterday, a neighbour through the window noticed that Jewel's body was hanging. Babu quoted witnesses as saying.

Later, locals informed police of the matter.

The bodies were sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsies.

The reasons behind the deaths can be ascertained after the post-mortem.

Meanwhile, two unidentified youths, aged around 25, were found hanging from trees in separate incidents in the capital.

One incident happened in Minar Masjid area of Mohammadpur while the other beside MASA road in Mugda.

Police sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsies.

Savar tannery workers stage demo for workplace rights

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Thousands of tannery workers at Savar Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar yesterday demonstrated to realise their basic workplace rights and facilities.

They abstained from work for two hours and staged a rally demanding Tk 3,000 interim allowance, a hospital at the estate, a canteen at the factory and housing facility.

Under the banner of Tannery Workers Union, more than 3,000 workers carrying red flags in their hands joined the programme. Later, they brought out a procession.

The speakers said they have to struggle to cope with the price hike of essential commodities with their poor income.

They said their salary is Tk 5,400 to

Tk 8,400.

Moreover, majority of the workers have to bear more transport fare as they join their workplaces from the capital's Hazaribagh, said the workers.

These costs could be avoided if they had accommodation facilities near the estate, they added.

Zafar Mia, a tannery worker, said, "I have to spend Tk 2,200 every month for transport which is unaffordable for me."

ATM Liaquat Hossen, another worker and also assistant general secretary of Tannery Workers Union, stressed development of roads, drainage and lighting systems at the estate.

Even a little rain causes waterlogging there, he added.

Abdul Maleque, general secretary of the union, said an office for their

union has to be set up so that they can run their activities.

He also demanded an end to termination of workers.

The speakers threatened to conduct a tougher movement after Eid-ul-Azha if their demands are not met soon.

Abul Kalam Azad, president of Tannery Workers Union, also spoke on the occasion.

Shaheen Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association, said only 50 percent of the tannery factories have been shifted from Dhaka to Savar recently. They will meet the workers' demands gradually, he added.

He, however, did not mention any time period.

At the estate, the owners started production at around 90 tanneries where more than 10,000 workers are working.



Tannery workers rally at Savar Tannery Industrial Estate to realise their rights yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

HC stays trial of Falu in 5 vandalism, arson cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The High Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings against

BNP leader Mondasdek Ali Falu in five vandalism and arson cases filed during the anti-government agitation enforced by BNP-led alliance in 2015.

The court also issued five separate rules asking the government to explain why the trial proceedings against Falu should not be scrapped.

The stay orders on the trial proceedings of the cases will remain in force until the rules are disposed of, Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir told The Daily Star.

He said the government will move appeals before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC orders.

The HC bench of Justice Md Miflah Uddin Choudhury and Justice ANM Bashir Ullah passed the orders and rules after hearing five petitions filed by Falu for scrapping the cases against him.

DAG Moniruzzaman said among the five cases against Falu, three were filed with Mirpur Police Station while one with Khilgon Police Station and the other with Badda Police Station on different days in January 2015.

The trial courts concerned have framed charges against Falu in the cases, he said, adding that Falu is on bail in all the cases.

BCL in a shambles

Clash among different factions regular phenomenon in absence of committee

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cg

On Saturday, two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists were locked in a clash at Chittagong College.

During the clash, Pinki (not her real name), a student of the college, got injured as she fell to the ground heavily while running away from the campus along with other fellows.

"Such clash among different BCL factions has been a common phenomenon on the campus for over a year," she said.

Students said BCL men often clash to establish supremacy on the college campus.

As a result, they remain in panic while staying on the campus lest rival BCL groups should clash with each other, they said.

A student of the college, on condition of anonymity, said, "I used to come to the college every day. These days, I visit the campus only if I have any important class to attend."

The students also alleged that they had been under a constant pressure from BCL men to join their groups.

Talking to students and BCL activists, it was found that different BCL factions have been locked in clashes on the campus more than 30 times since June last year till date.

Sources in Chawkbazar Police Station also said over 50 students including BCL men were injured in such clashes.

Until 2015, Islami Chhatra Shibir, pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body, used to dominate the college campus and three student dormitories for around 20 years. During the period, no other student organisations were allowed to run any activities on the college campus, said the students.

BCL activists drove the Shibir men out of the campus and the dormitories on December 16 that year. Following police raids in the dormitories the same day, the college authorities shut the dorms. Since then, the dormitories have been shut and

Shibir activists could not enter the campus.

Meanwhile, BCL men have taken control of the campus but kept on fighting among themselves dividing into different groups, as no committee of the organisation has so far been formed.

BCL insiders said at present, three factions are active on the campus — one local to Chittagong city unit Awami League President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, another to Chittagong city Mayor AMI Nasir Uddin and the other to Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam.

In the absence of any committee, BCL men are running activities under different groups. As there is no chain of command, they often clash with each other, the BCL insiders added.

Mahmudul Karim, a BCL activist of the college, said the city BCL leaders should immediately form the college committee of the organisation so that a chain of command can be established in the organisation.

Echoing Mahmudul, another BCL activist Abu Md Arif said outsiders have been seen taking part in the recent clashes.

"We cannot control the activists as there is no committee," he added.

Contacted, Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of BCL of Chittagong city unit, acknowledged that there was no committee at the college, and said they would form one soon.

"The college administration and police should take strict measures against those who take outsiders to the campus to create violence," he said.

Asked, Jesmin Akter, principal of Chittagong College, said they had asked police to take action against those who are creating violence at the college.

"We have a police outpost on the campus to give security to students," she said, adding, "Action will be taken if we get formal complaint against any."

Always zero tolerance against terrorism

President tells outgoing Japanese envoy about Bangladesh's stance

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday reiterated the country's zero tolerance policy against terrorism and militancy as outgoing Japanese Ambassador Masato Watanabe called on him at Bangladesh.

Referring to the terror attack at Gulshan Holy Artisan Bakery where the president expressed his profound grief at the loss of lives, said President's Press Secretary Md Joyal Abedin quoted him as telling the envoy.

A tested friend of Bangladesh and also an important development partner."

He congratulated the Japanese ambassador on completion of his successful tenure in Bangladesh and recalled with gratitude the contribution of Japan to Bangladesh's Independent War and recognising independent Bangladesh on February 10, 1972.

"The bilateral relation between Bangladesh and Japan is being enhanced day by day," the president observed, saying more Japanese investments in Bangladesh.

Abdul Hamid lauded different development projects of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), which is playing a very positive role to accelerate the country's socio-economic progress.

He expressed his content over the bilateral relation with Japan and expected it to be boosted further in the near future.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude to the president for extending all-out cooperation in discharging his duties in Dhaka and also expressed satisfaction over the law and order and other security arrangements in Bangladesh.

Watanabe also thanked the government for hosting the 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference successfully and assured the president of providing continued supports to Bangladesh in the days ahead.

He also expressed his sympathy over the losses and damage caused by the recent floods at some parts of Bangladesh.



Several homeless boys sleep on a footbridge while people walk by. The homeless sleep, in many cases, live on footbridges -- a situation that discourages people from using those. The photo was taken on the footbridge on Mirpur Road near Labaid Diagnostic Centre around 1:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMU