

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.0 L 26.0	MYMENSINGH H 31.3 L 25.5	CHITTAGONG H 31.4 L 25.5	SYLHET H 32.8 L 25.1	RAJSHAH H 31.4 L 26.5	RANGPUR H 32.8 L 27.0	KHULNA H 31.2 L 26.0	BARISAL H 31.6 L 25.6	COX'S BAZAR H 29.5 L 25.2
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Rain accompanied by temporary gusty winds likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur division with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 06:00 today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain evenly unchanged over the country, says the office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47am.

TONU MURDER CASE

Justice elusive

Family want to meet PM

STAR REPORT

One and a half years have passed since college student Sohagi Jahlan Tonu was raped and killed inside Comilla cantonment, but the investigators are yet to arrest any of the killers.

"I don't know how long it will take... police are yet to arrest anyone," Tonu's mother Anwara Begum vented her frustration to The Daily Star.

The mother, however, still clings to the hope that they will get justice for her daughter.

Tonu, a student of Comilla Victoria College and also a theatre activist, was found murdered inside the cantonment on March 20 last year.

Two autopsies could not determine the cause of her death though her father Yaar Hossain, who first spotted the body in the back of his daughter's head smashed and injury marks on her nose.

But the police inquest report did not cite any sign of injury.

However, the family members saw a ray of hope of getting justice as CID officials through DNA tests found that Tonu was raped before being murdered.

The officials on May 16 last year said the tests of the specimens collected from her clothes found spermatozoa of three males. But CID could not match the DNA samples with anyone so far.

"We asked the investigation officer several times for updates, but he always says the investigation is going on," said Anwara Begum. "But no one was arrested for interrogation," she alleged.

She appealed for a meeting with the prime minister in this regard.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at a meeting at a hotel in New York yesterday. The premier is in the US to attend the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Bangladesh urges Canada, Japan to pressurise Myanmar

UNB, Dhaka

Mentioning that Canada and Japan can take actions in line with EU resolution, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has urged the country to keep sustained pressure on Myanmar military.

The foreign minister said the EU had postponed state delegation which was supposed to visit Myanmar.

The issues came during a meeting between Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and International Development Minister of Canada Marie-Claude Bibeau on the UNGA sidelines on Monday, said Bangladesh foreign ministry yesterday.

Mahmood Ali also said the incoming foreign minister, who visited Dhaka in December, publicly confirmed that Indonesia is with Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue.

At the meeting, the Canadian minister said her country is concerned about the situation in Rakhine State of Myanmar and thanked Bangladesh for hosting Myanmar refugees.

She said Canada would keep a close eye on the situation in Myanmar and continue to support democracy in Myanmar.

Mahmood Ali narrated the situation of Rohingyas and stated since August 25, more than 4,00,000 Rohingyas have so far come to Bangladesh and were still coming.

At another meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on the sidelines of the 72nd UNGA, AH Mahmood Ali said the affected area in Rakhine should be declared "safe zones" so the Rohingyas can go back to their homeland.

On Mahmood Ali's request for sending Myanmar military minister Dhaka, his counterpart said the vice minister will pay the visit after elections in Japan.

Mahmood Ali also requested for Japanese support in the UN Security Council if the issue comes for discussion.

Transparency key in climate fund use

Experts tell TIB dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a dialogue yesterday stressed that South Asian countries should work together to receive climate fund, and ensure transparency, accountability and integrity in using the fund for the climate victims.

As the South Asian countries are prioritising adaption than mitigation, the former should be included in the climate projects, they said.

They made the observations at the two-day programme, "Dhaka Integrity Dialogue 2: Climate Finance and Governance in South Asia", organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital.

Climate experts from India, Nepal, Australia, the Maldives, the Netherlands, the UK, Thailand and Bangladesh took part in the dialogue.

In the closing session yesterday, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said both local and foreign experts should share mutual experiences on how to ensure transparency, integrity and accountability of climate funds.

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Zero tolerance against sexual abuse

PM tells UN meeting; announces token contribution to victim support fund

UNB, New York

Announcing a US\$ 100,000 token contribution to the victims support fund of the UN secretary general's initiative to eradicate sexual violence and abuse, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh maintains a "zero-tolerance" approach to the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.

"We believe the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse deserve justice and also opportunities for rehabilitation," she said.

The prime minister was speaking at the high-level meeting on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) at Trusteeship Council Chamber of the UN Headquarters on Monday with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in the chair.

She also expressed Bangladesh's firm resolve to strengthen the UN chief's fight by providing timely support at all times over the issue.

Hasina further said, "As a major troop- and police-contributing country to the UN peacekeeping mission, Bangladesh attaches high importance to the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse."

She said Bangladesh remains committed to the UN chief's noble initiative to eradicate sexual violence and abuse.

Hasina mentioned that Bangladesh peacekeepers have consistently maintained a good image and credibility in almost all missions. "This was due to our strong moral values, effective motivation and high standard of discipline."

She, however, said two allegations that Bangladesh received in all these years have been dealt with strongly. She said one accused proven guilty has been punished with dismissal from service and imprisonment.

The members under such allegations are immediately repatriated at his/her own expenses. Hasina said, adding that his/her UN allowances are also suspended until the investigation is completed.

She also mentioned that "Protection against SEA" has been made an integral part of Bangladesh's peacekeeping pre-deployment training. "Our contingent commanders have been empowered with legal and administrative authority to address any allegation of SEA. They can investigate and prosecute the allegations within the mission area."

Hasina said the senior most peacekeeper in the mission area has the authority to take disciplinary actions against the Bangladeshi peacekeepers if they are charged with any criminal offence.

Recalling the heinous sexual violence unleashed by the Pakistani occupational forces against the Bangladeshi women during the 1971 Liberation War, the prime minister said Bangladesh had experienced worst form of sexual violence and the Pakistani forces and their collaborators.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took a bold initiative to acknowledge their contributions to the independence and recognised them as "Biranganas" (war heroines). "We've ensured justice by trying the perpetrators and the abettors of such heinous crimes through international crimes tribunal."

UN PEACEKEEPERS



Attorney General Mahubey Alam hands over new clothes to a member of local Hindu community ahead of the Durga Puja at his village home in Mousa Mandra under Louhajang upazila of Munshiganj yesterday.

Rohingya issue to be solved politically: AG

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Attorney General Advocate Mahubey Alam yesterday said the government will tackle and solve the Rohingya issue politically.

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Mockery of a speech

Say diplomatic analysts of Suu Kyi's speech as it lacks sincerity in resolving the Rohingya crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi's speech addressing the situation in Rakhine state lacks sincerity in putting a stop to the ongoing ethnic cleansing in the state, said former diplomats as well as foreign affairs, strategic and security analysts in Bangladesh.

The Myanmar state counselor, Suu Kyi, also ignored the expectation of bringing forth any proposition for a lasting solution to the decades-old crisis, they observed.

Termining her speech "utterly disappointing" and a notion of denial, they said she made such an inadequate statement before the international audience despite attention drawn by the UN General Assembly and amid global concerns and condemnations over the atrocities against the Rohingya.

They criticised Suu Kyi for refraining from criticising the military – that is being accused of arson and indiscriminate killing of the Rohingya – and assuring the military of her support by stating that she does not "fear international scrutiny".

Commenting on the Myanmar leader's speech, international affairs expert Prof Imtiaz Ahmad told The Daily Star that her speech did not deliver any aspect that could be considered "delightful or exciting".

In the first-ever public speech she made since the crisis broke out in late August, Suu Kyi made a fastidious effort in not blaming any group, especially the military, for the crisis, he observed.

Saying that she does not "fear international scrutiny", Suu Kyi in fact wanted to send a clear message to the military that she would be on their side. Prof Imtiaz, a teacher of International Relations Department at Dhaka University, explained.

Suu Kyi's comments lie in stark contrast to the testimony of refugees fleeing in Bangladesh, he added.

Noted strategic and security analyst Maj Gen (Retd) Md Abul Rashid said Suu Kyi, while trying not to antagonise the military, wanted to pacify the international community by finally recognising the plight of the Rohingya.

"Her stance did not show any spectacular change, but it has shown a slight sign of accommodation of international views on the crisis, he observed."

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9TH WAGE BOARD

Journalists' hunger strike today

BSS, Dhaka

Journalists will stage a daylong hunger strike at Jatiyaya Press Club today, demanding immediate announcement of the 9th wage board for them.

The 8th wage board was formed on June 19, 2012 and the gazette of the board's award was issued on September 22, 2017, he also said after a BFUI executive committee meeting in the club.

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Graft case conviction rate now 69pc: ACC

UNB, Dhaka

Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Iqbal Mahmood said the conviction rate in graft cases has increased to 69 percent in 2017, claiming that the commission was trying its best to improve the quality of its probes to bring suspects to justice.

"The conviction rate in graft cases increased to 69 percent up to August 2017. But, the Commission isn't happy at all. It wants to see punishment in 100 percent [of] its cases," he said.

The ACC chief was addressing a meeting with a delegation of German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development at the ACC head office in the capital last night.

He informed the delegation that once the conviction rate in graft cases filed by the ACC was only 20 percent, but it reached 54 percent in 2016.

Mahmood said ACC was trying to bring about a positive change in inquires and investigations, and complete probes within the stipulated time frame set by its rules.

"The commission may file fewer graft cases, he said, but it would not compromise with the quality of investigation."

He said the German government was providing assistance to ACC through its development agency, GIZ.

Customs seeks travel ban on Moosa Bin Shamsher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence has asked police to impose a travel ban on controversial businessman Moosa Bin Shamsher.

"We wrote a letter to the Special Branch to impose a travel ban on him so he cannot leave the country," Moinul Khan, director general of the Customs Intelligence, told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per his wealth statement, he has Tk 96,000 crore at Swiss Bank, he said.

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Dr. Tibar Banerjee
MBBS, MS (General Surgery)
M.Ch. (Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery)
Consultant - Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

- Worked in Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital under University of Calcutta
- Worked in Chittaranjan National Cancer Hospital-a regional cancer center in Calcutta
- Obtained MS (Gen Surgery) from Gulbarga University, India
- Worked in the Plastic Surgery department of Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai, India
- Worked at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
- Obtained M.Ch. in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery from IPGM&R (P.G Hospital) under University of Calcutta
- Received AWS fellowship under Prof Fu Chen Wei in Chang Gung Hospital, Taiwan
- Received UPSI fellowship for training at Ganu Hospital, Coimbatore, India
- Underwent Cosmetic Surgery and Laser training under Prof. Abdu Lari in Kuwait
- Was Chief Consultant for Plastic and Cosmet Surgery in Fortis Hospitals, Kolkata since inception

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