

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

24°C / 75°F

DHAKA

H 34.5 L 26.4

MYMENSINGH

H 34.5 L 25.7

CHITTAGONG

H 34.4 L 26.8

SYLHET

H 35.6 L 25.5

RAJSHAHI

H 34.8 L 24.7

RANGPUR

H 34.4 L 24.5

KHULNA

H 34.0 L 25.0

BARISAL

H 34.6 L 25.0

COX'S BAZAR

H 33.7 L 26.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNO. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35pm and rises tomorrow at 5:55am, Met office said.

HC stays trial of 18 cases against three BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings of 18 violence cases filed against BNP leaders -- Selima Rahman, Aman Ullah Aman and Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel in 2013.

The court also issued 18 separate rules asking the government to explain in four weeks why the trial proceedings of the cases should not be scrapped.

The bench of Justice Md Atif Uddin Chowdhury and Justice ANM Bashir Ullah came up with the orders and rules following 18 separate petitions filed by the accused BNP leaders seeking quashment of the proceedings of the cases against them. Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir told The Daily Star.

The government will appeal to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC stay orders, he said.

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PROTECTOR TURNS DESTROYER... A worker rakes out dead leaves and household waste from a pickup truck inside Suhrawardy Uddan in the capital. The pickup truck (Dhaka "Da" 4557) belongs to the Public Works Department that owns and maintains the park. A sign, *inset*, posted on its front reads "engaged in state and decorative works of residences of honourable ministers and the chief justice". The photo was taken around 2:00pm on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AL, BNP lawyers trade blame

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers yesterday staged demonstrations on the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) premises blaming each other over the issue related to Chief Justice (CJ) Surendra Kumar Sinha's leave.

Justice SK Sinha has been on a month's leave since October 3 on health grounds.

Ruling Awami League-backed lawyers formed a human chain and held a rally under the banner of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad in front of the SCBA office saying that the pro-BNP and pro-jamaat lawyers were making an issue out of CJ's leave.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam, AL President Member Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad's Convener Yusuf Hossain Humayun and its Member Secretary Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Bangladesh Bar Council Vice Chairman Abdul Baset Majumder, Awami League leaders Sahara Khatun, SM Rezaul Karim, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza, Rabul Alam Buda, Ashar Ullah Bhuiyan, and Noor-Alam Uzzal attended the meeting among others.

They said pro-BNP and Jamaat lawyers would not be allowed to fish in troubled waters over the issue.

Meanwhile, SCBA, which is currently dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, led by its President Zainul Abedin and Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, staged demonstration at the same time and held a rally in front of the office of SCBA president protesting what they said confinement of the chief justice.

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Provide need-based housing to displaced

Experts told discussion marking disaster reduction day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Housing for the people displaced by disaster must cater to their actual needs, rather than providing them with a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Displaced persons would consider their housing safe only when the facilities would ensure safety for their families and properties, they also said.

Christian Aid and Shifting the Power organised the discussion on safe homes, marking the International Day for Disaster Reduction at The Daily Star Centre.

Renowned disaster management expert Abdul Latif Khan during the discussion said, "Housing for the displaced isn't simply a matter of structures" as their lives and livelihoods will need to be considered while building a facility for them.

Gawher Nayeem Wahra, adjunct faculty of Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies at Dhaka University, said housing facilities for the displaced must have safety and security features for women and children. Also, a house should be designed in a way so it withstands local conditions.

Citing data from Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Gawher said 8,55,000 people have been displaced by disasters in the country during first six months this year. Around 20,000 families become displaced in the country every year due to river erosion alone.

Atwar Rahman, humanitarian programme manager at SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Three NGOs 'barred' from relief work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday called upon the government to keep vigil on the non-governmental organisations so that they cannot lure the Rohingyas refugees into getting involved in militancy or any other subversive activities.

Amid this caution, officials told the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs that the government has already imposed a ban on three NGOs from carrying out relief works as they were "involved in other business" in the name of relief activities. "The foreign ministry officials informed the committee that the government imposed a ban on Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid and Fazlullah Foundation as they were found involved in misguiding the Rohingyas refugees during their relief activities," Lawmaker Mahjabeen Khaled, a member of the committee present at the meeting, told The Daily Star.

Mahjabeen, also a ruling Awami League MP, said the officials informed the committee that without taking any proper permission from the NGO Affairs Bureau, the three

NGOs were involved in carrying out "religious activities" among the Rohingyas, which they cannot do.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the claim.

Faruk Khan, another AL MP and a member of the committee, said they have asked the ministry to take measures so that no one can provoke the distressed and vulnerable Rohingyas refugees to get involved in any subversive activities.

"The committee also asked the authorities concerned to remain careful in this regard," added Faruk.

Faruk also said they have asked the authorities concerned to reduce the number of Rohingyas camps from 16 to 10 for better management. "It would be easy for law enforcement agencies and other authorities to keep vigil on the Rohingyas and others working in the area if the number of camps is reduced," he argued.

The committee also opposed the move of some of the countries who were in support of permanent establishments for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh. It might linger the repatriation process, Faruk added.

'Citizen commission' to probe genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 35-member "citizen commission" comprising eminent individuals has been formed to investigate atrocities on Rohingyas in Myanmar that has led to exodus of over 520,000 Rohingyas refugees to Bangladesh.

Ekattorer Ghatat Dal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir declared the "Citizen Commission for Investigating Genocide and Terrorism in Burma", at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Justice Shamsul Huda and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, two former judges of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, have been made chairman and member secretary of the commission.

Former SC judges, lawyers, educationists, freedom fighters, security experts, rights activists and journalists were made its members.

To help the commission, there will be a secretariat coordinated by Kazi Mukul, general secretary of the Nirmul Committee. Most of its members will be journalists.

"The commission will work independently and Nirmul Committee will provide necessary assistance," said Shahriar Kabir. "We also hope for similar types of assistance from the government agencies, like-minded organisations and individuals."

Shahriar said they also took an initiative to form an international commission for implementing the recommendations the commission will give, and also for bringing a permanent solution to the Rohingyas issue.

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Work out permanent solution

JS Speaker urges world community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Chairman Shirin Sharmin Choudhury on Tuesday called upon world leaders and donor agencies to take effective steps immediately for a permanent solution to the issue of the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh has given shelter to the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds only as they took refuge in Bangladesh to flee persecution in Myanmar.

Speaker Shirin made the call while addressing a daylong parliamentary network workshop organised by The Bank and SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Participants at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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