



YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 32.4 L 25.0

MYMENSINGH
H 30.5 L 24.0

CHITTAGONG
H 32.0 L 24.0

SYLHET
H 31.1 L 23.0

RAJSHAHI
H 32.2 L 23.9

RANGPUR
H 30.6 L 23.4

KHULNA
H 32.5 L 24.6

BARISAL
H 32.8 L 24.4

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.2 L 23.5

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01am, Met office said.

JOYNAL'S WEALTH INFO HC dissatisfied with ACC dillydallying

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed dissatisfaction at the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) for its long delay in examining the wealth statement of former apex court judge Justice Md Joynul Abedin.

The anti-graft body has been running at the "speed of a tortoise". It sought documents from the Supreme Court this year for examining his wealth statement, which the commission received from Justice Joynul Abedin in 2010, the HC observed.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim made the observation during hearing a rule it had issued on October 9, questioning the legality of the SC administration's letter to the ACC about taking action against Justice Joynul.

The letter had said that it would not be appropriate for the ACC to take action against Justice Md Joynul Abedin.

Yesterday, ACC's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told the HC that the commission has taken time to seek information from the SC about Justice Joynul, as it had to collect information from some foreign countries through mutual legal assistance.

During the proceedings, two amici curiae (friends of court) -- Advocate Prabir Neogi and Advocate AM Aminuddin -- told the HC that SC administration's letter to the ACC about Justice Joynul Abedin is unlawful, as the administration cannot issue such a letter.

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A TALE OF SUFFERING



The Khilkhet Bazar Road in the capital has been in a deplorable condition for over five months due to an ongoing drainage development work. Rainwater mixed with sewage is worsening public sufferings as well as affecting local businesses. Locals allege that they drew attention of the authorities concerned many times, but to no avail. Clockwise from top left, Carrying his son, a man walks over an inundated portion of the road. A man, wearing rubber boots, prepares to cross the road. A woman groans in pain as she falls off a rickshaw after it hits a pothole. A schoolboy takes off his socks before getting in the dirty water. A car hits a pothole. People cautiously cross a submerged section of the road. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A towel worth lakhs!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A simple towel can fetch lakhs of taka!

This may sound bizarre, but the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has claimed to have arrested three members of a racket that used to export towels for around Tk 2 lakh a piece.

Rab said they arrested the three individuals -- Mir Manjur Sunny, Mahmudul Hasan Choyon and Habibullah Khan -- from the capital's Pallabi area on Monday.

The three arrestees have already smuggled four consignments of such towels, tainted with banned drug Ketamine, from the country to Spain, Mufti Mahmud Khan, Legal and Media Wing director of Rab, told reporters yesterday while disclosing their arrest.

The drug smugglers used to spray the liquid drug onto towels, dry the towels and then smuggle those to European countries, especially in Spain, he said.

Rab has seized 34 of such drug-tainted towels, each containing about 100 grams of Ketamine, and each towel used to be sold for nearly Tk 2 lakh in Spain.

One of the arrestees, Mir Manjur, returned home six months ago from London, UK. He stayed there for six years for his studies. The other two arrestees worked

in marketing department of a private bank, said Mufti Mahmud.

Mir Manjur's brother Mahdi Manjur Manna, who had been staying in Spain for around 15 years, and a Spanish national named Aramdo Gonzale run a drug racket in Spain.

Ketamine has been banned in Bangladesh since March of 2014, but drug addicts in European countries use it as an alternative to heroin and cocaine.

The smugglers used to collect 10 ml (millilitre) vials of prescription injection with brand name G-Ketamine -- used for anaesthesia during medical surgery -- from pharmacies and later boiled the liquid, the Rab director said.

"Each ml contains Ketamine HCl USP equ. [equivalent] to 50 mg Ketamine base," reads the print on the cover of the injection.

When the drug concentrated after reaching boiling point, the offenders sprayed the liquid onto towels and dried those thereafter. They later sent those towels to Spain by courier service. "It takes about 200 bottles of the injection to prepare a towel for smuggling," Mufti Mahmud said.

Of the total 34 towels, Rab seized 18 from a

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GRAFT CASE

Khaleda pleads for further cross-examination of witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking its directive on the trial court concerned to allow her lawyers to re-cross-examine nine prosecution witnesses of Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

After a brief hearing, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain sent the petition to the full bench of the apex court for its hearing tomorrow.

Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a leave to appeal

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Coaching business a threat to education: NHRC chief



Winners of "Word Master" competition with guests yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque yesterday called upon the education ministry to take vigorous measures to ban "coaching business", which is a threat to the education system.

Though the government took positive initiatives such as distributing free textbooks and school feeding programmes, the coaching business is destroying the education system, he said.

The NHRC chairman made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a prize giving ceremony organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) in association with Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) in the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

At the ceremony, he and other guests

distributed prizes among the winners of an English learning competition, "Word Master", organised by BSAF and GNB for underprivileged children.

A total of 3,727 children of 111 primary schools from nine districts took part in the competition. Of them, 15 received the prizes, including certificates and cash.

Kazi Reazul stressed ensuring equal rights for children and putting more focus on the underprivileged group.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of CAMPE, said the government and NGOs should also take such initiatives to teach the children.

Emranul Huq Chowdhury, chairperson of BSAF; Dr Arifa Rahman, vice-president of Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association; and Mainuddin Maiul, director of GNB; also spoke.

HC stays trial of two cases against Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings of two criminal cases including a murder case against BNP Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

One case was filed over killing a person at the capital's Malibagh on November 30, 2013 and another case over vandalizing a vehicle in March the same year.

After hearing two petitions filed by Fakhrul, the HC also asked the the government to explain why the trial of the cases should not be scrapped.

Correction

In the report headlined "Bangladeshi scientists find cheaper way to detect cancer", published in The Daily Star on Tuesday, we inadvertently missed out the name of Dr Muhammad JA Shiddiky of Griffith University, Australia. He is one of the lead researchers of the project on cancer diagnosis. We regret the error.

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