

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.4 L 20.5	H 31.0 L 19.6	H 26.0 L 19.6	H 29.1 L 20.5	H 30.0 L 20.6	H 30.8 L 19.6	H 30.5 L 22.5	H 28.8 L 21.8	H 29.0 L 24.8

Rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Madaripur till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:04am, Met office said.

HC summons two secretaries over ambiguity in children act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned two secretaries to appear before it on November 12 for explaining as to why the government did not amend the children act, 2013 despite ambiguity over trying an adult accused under the law.

Secretaries to the legislative and parliamentary affairs division of the law ministry, and the social welfare ministry have been ordered to place explanation on November 12 on the progress of making amendment to the law.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim passed the order during hearing of a rule issued earlier asking the government to explain why a contempt of court rule should not be issued against it for not complying with its previous order.

Meanwhile, the court also rebuked the officials concerned including its superintendent Rafiqul Islam Khan for not sending its earlier summon order to the social welfare secretary on time.

The same bench on October 15 had directed the social welfare secretary to appear before it yesterday for his explanation on the progress of amendment of the law. But, the welfare secretary did not appear before the HC yesterday as his office did not get a copy of the HC order.

Barrister Ashikur Rahman, the lawyer for the social welfare secretary, told the HC that his client did not get the order.

Under the Children Act, 2013, only the Child Court is empowered to hold trial of an offence if a child is a victim or a witness in a case.

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Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman speaks at a public lecture on "Muslims in Bengal (up to the 18th century): Plurality of Identity" at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday. On his left are Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan and Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation Director General Prof Ahrar Ahmad.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangalee Muslim identity was never simple

Prof Anisuzzaman observes in his lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangalee Muslim identity has never been a simple or straightforward matter that can be only aligned with one's adherence to Islamic faith or nationality although people's identity is often linked to both, said Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman during a lecture yesterday.

He was speaking on "Muslims in Bengal (up to the 18th century): Plurality of Identity". The lecture was based on the premise that the idea of identity is more subtle, fluid and multi-layered than people think. An individual has multiple identities although he or she may choose one over the others.

The event was the third of an ongoing lecture series, organised by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation. The earlier two lectures were delivered by Prof Rehman Sobhan and Badruddin Omar.

Prof Anisuzzaman said, "It's important to note that one's religious identity, like one's residence or marital status, can change. But our ancestral and linguistic identity is immutable."

Highlighting that the plurality of identity cannot be ignored, he said, "The plurality of identity can lead to unrest and crisis if we decide to assume only one identity, or mix up different components of our identity."

"When we identify a group of people as Bangalee Muslim, we highlight only one aspect of their self-identity. But if we observe closely, we'll see that they contain multitudes," he said.

Prof Anisuzzaman noted that in the 19th century, the Bangalee Muslims faced a crisis of identity because of a conflict between their Bangalee and Muslim identities.

The lecture drew upon historical documents, accounts by contemporary writers and literary sources to present a compelling picture of the diversity of Muslims in terms of their preference of languages, attires, occupation, customs, and moral, religious and political beliefs -- which made them different not only from their Hindu counterparts, but also from each other.

There were upper-class and lower-class Muslims -- much like the division of classes

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Several crude bombs explode in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several crude bombs exploded in a dustbin near the rail track in the capital's Moghbazar area yesterday after a cleaner had dumped garbage there in the morning.

The explosion spread panic among locals in Daktar Goli area, said Kazi Mainul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station.

No casualty was reported following the blast.

Locals informed the law enforcers and fire service of the incident.

Police also found several unexploded crude bombs there, said the OC.

A team of bomb disposal unit defused one of the crude bombs there, said HM Azimul Haque, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Ramna Division).

The other bombs were inactive, he added.

A resident of the area quoted the cleaner as saying that he collected the garbage from a housewife of a nearby flat.

The woman told the cleaner that those were just containers of pesticides, the resident said.

Police picked up six persons, including the housewife, from the flat, for interrogation.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Most women don't want legal support: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite being victims of sexual violence, most women do not want to take legal support as they have to face different types of harassment in the process, according to a study.

Misbehaviour and non-cooperation of the legal service providers and law enforcement agencies, delay in legal procedure, and weakness of existing laws are among the major barriers, it said.

ActionAid, an NGO, conducted the study in between January and December in 2016 by analysing the existing laws, doing case studies of different violence incidents and interviewing concerned people.

The findings of the study titled "Laws on Sexual Harassment in Public Places" were revealed yesterday at a seminar in the capital.

The study said the government has no specific law to take legal action for sexual violence against women, although this issue has been

included in some acts, like Prevention of Oppression against Women and Children Act 2000, and Penal Code of Bangladesh 1860.

Most of the acts are not strong enough to punish the culprits, so the government has to work on it, said the study.

It also recommended defining sexual violence as a crime in the laws, ensuring transparency and accountability of law-enforcing agencies, enforcing the existing laws properly, and preparing the government hospitals to provide the rape victims with proper treatment.

At the event, ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir said the government has to strengthen the laws through reformation. At the same time, people should change their mindset towards women in a bid to resist violence against them, she added.

Taslima Yasmin, assistant professor of law at Dhaka University, said the correction

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LEAVING FOETUS INSIDE WOMAN'S WOMB

HC summons Comilla civil surgeon, doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned Comilla civil surgeon, owner of a hospital and a doctor of the hospital to appear before it on November 7 and explain as to why the doctor left a foetus inside a woman's womb after delivering a baby.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and AKM Zahirul Hoque issued the order and the rule on a suo moto (voluntary) move following two newspaper reports over the incident, published on the daily Prothom Alo and the New Age on October 26.

Barrister Mahfuzur Rahman Milon placed the newspaper reports before the HC judges.

On September 18, the doctor, Sheikh Hosne Ara, delivered Khadiza Begum's baby girl by Caesarean section at Gouripur Life Hospital and Digital Diagnostic Centre in Daudkandi of Comilla.

An ultrasonogram report during seventh month of Khadiza's pregnancy showed that she was carrying twins. However, during surgery, the doctor delivered one baby and stitched up the mother's womb without delivering the other, conjecturing that the other was a tumour.

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ONE YEAR INTO NASIRNAGAR ATTACK

Probe still incomplete

RASHIDUL HASAN and MASUK HRIDOY

One year has passed since the attack on houses and temples of Hindu people at Nasirnagar upazila in Brahmanbaria but police could not complete investigations and submit the charge sheet into the incident yet.

Eight cases were filed with Nasirnagar Police Station in connection with the last year's October 30 attack, in which religious zealots swooped on Hindus and vandalised over 100 homes, 17 temples and looted valuables from the houses. The attackers also beat up over 100 people of the community.

The attack was triggered by a Facebook post purportedly from the account of one Rasraj Das, 27, for "hurting religious sentiment of Muslims".

Rasraj, a fisherman, was freed on bail several months ago as police found evidence that someone else, not Rasraj, posted the anti-Islamic content either through hacking or faking his Facebook account.

But in the last year, law enforcement agencies failed to detect who actually posted the anti-Islamic element and what was the motive. Police also could not identify the masterminds who posted fake statuses to provoke the attack and gain their petty political interests, locals said.

Many locals at that time said the attack could have been averted had the local administration and police acted promptly and taken preventive measures. But no departmental action was taken against any officials in this regard.

Although the three-hour attack took place in broad daylight and following announcements from two rallies organised by two Islamist groups -- Touhidi Janata and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat -- police are yet to arrest top leaders of the organisations.

In the eight cases, around 3,000 unnamed people were accused.

An alleged organiser and instigator of the attack, Haripur unipon Parishad chairman Atiqur Rahman Akhi, was arrested in November last year.

Locals and police said the attack was a result of an internal feud of Nasirnagar Upazila and Brahmanbaria district units of the Awami League. Police in its primary probe also found the feud behind the attack.

So far 124 people are under police custody now, said Mahbubur Rahman, inspector of Brahmanbaria district judge's court.

Asked, Shawkat Hossain, investigation

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Gregorian Alumni Club launched

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury made chief adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new social club named "Gregorian Alumni Club" was launched on Friday following an initiative of a group of alumni of St Gregory's High School, a century-old renowned educational institution in the capital.

Gregorian Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, a former student of the school, formally inaugurated the club in Gulshan area by hoisting the club's flag, says a press release.

In his inaugural speech, Prof Jamilur Reza said the club would strengthen the bonding among the Gregorians of different generations and, in the process, would pass on the

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The alumni of St Gregory's High School in the capital pose before floating the event emblem of the inauguration of Gregorian Alumni Club on Friday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



The century-old laboratory building in the capital's Khamarbari being knocked down. It has been termed risky by the Public Works Department (PWD). The colonial era two-storey structure has historical and architectural significance and is testimony to major agricultural research works. The photo was taken around 3:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

5 MOULVIBAZAR MEN ICT completes recording of IO's testimony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday completed recording of testimony of the investigation officer of a case filed against five Moulvibazar men for allegedly committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

Hari Debnath, also the 15th and last prosecution witness in the case, exhibited several documents to probe the charges and gave description of his investigation.

He will face further cross-examination on November 2.

The accused are Yunus Ahmed, 71, Ujer Ahmed Chowdhury, 63, Samsul Hossain Tarafder, 65, Nesar Ali, 75, and Mobarak Mia, 66. Of them, Yunus and

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HC Division will get new judges soon

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said new judges to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court will be appointed soon to address the backlog of cases caused by a shortage of judges.

He told this to The Daily Star following his meeting with Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah -- who has been performing functions of the chief justice -- at the latter's office on the SC premises yesterday afternoon.

Without revealing the number of appointees and the tentative dates of their appointments, Anisul, however, said, his meeting with Justice Wahhab was regarding a judicial conference to be held on December 2, not about the issue of judges' appointment.

When asked about the possibility of appointing new judges to the Appellate Division of the SC since the division is also facing judge shortage, he said he could not provide any date for it either.

With the retirement of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana -- the first-ever female judge of the apex court -- on July 7 this year, the number of Appellate Division judges has come down to six -- a figure that was 11 in 2009.

The High Court Division is facing a similar shortage of judges. The number of HC judges now stands at 83, which was 100 in June 2012.

Robber killed in 'gunfight' with cops in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A robber was killed in a gunfight with police while his gang was preparing to commit a robbery in Gazipur city yesterday, claimed the law enforcers.

The dead is Afajuddin, 32, of Pachahar village at Pagla of Mymensingh, said police.

Police arrested Alam and Rubel and seized a pistol, a bullet and several other equipment from the spot, said Sakhat Hossain, additional SP (Gazipur Sadar-Tongi Circle).

Two policemen -- Assistant Sub-inspector Sadeque, 35, and Constable Hazrat Ali, 42, of Joydevpur Police Station -- were also injured in the incident, he added.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the area and sensing their presence the robbers opened fire on them, triggering the gunfight, said the police official.