

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

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

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

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 Daktarer 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.

ONE YEAR INTO NASIRNAGAR ATTACK

Probe still incomplete

RASHIDUL HASAN and MASUK HRIDOV

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 one 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 politi-

cal 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 -- Touhid 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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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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.



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

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, Ujir 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 Sakhawat 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.

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.

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."

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

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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 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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