

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 22.8 | L 18.7 MYMENSINGH 22.5 | L 19.6 CHITTAGONG 26.5 | L 19.4 SYLHET 22.1 | L 19.6 RAJSHAHI 23.6 | L 18.4 RANGPUR 26.7 | L 16.5 KHULNA 22.6 | L 19.0 BARISAL 23.5 | L 18.8 COX'S BAZAR 28.0 | L 21.4

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur division with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:31am, Met Office said.

MOVE TO BAN BIDI

Ensure workers' livelihood first

Roundtable urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must ensure alternative livelihood for workers involved in the "bidi" (a type of cigarette made of unprocessed tobacco wrapped in leaves) industry before shutting it down as part of the efforts to make the country tobacco free by 2040, speakers said yesterday.

Thousands of people are directly involved with the industry, so their lives and livelihoods would be threatened if they do not get other work opportunities, they said.

The government should form a roadmap in this regard.

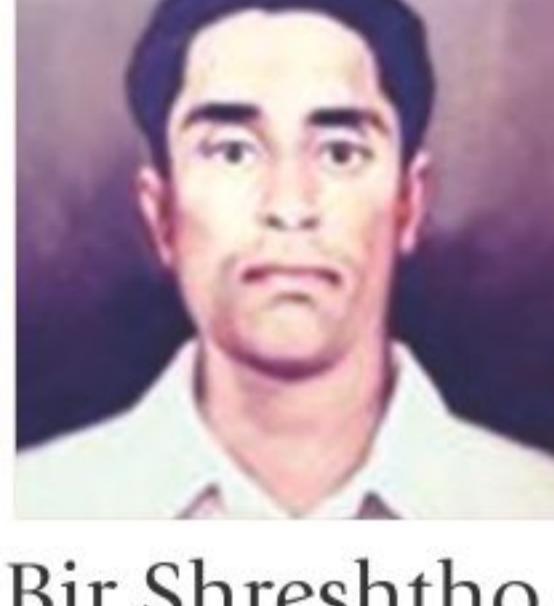
They alleged that cigarette companies, especially a giant multinational company, get privilege from the government bodies concerned and the finance ministry. But bidi factories have to pay "higher and advance tax" than the cigarette companies, they said at a roundtable.

Research and Development Collective (RDC) organised the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

RDC Chairperson Prof Mesbah Kamal said, "We are against tobacco and its products, but many lives are involved with it. Alternative livelihood has to be ensured for them first..."

The government kept its activities limited by only announcing that it would make the country tobacco free. It does not have any roadmap, instead it gives "incentives" to a particular multinational tobacco company, which evades tax, he alleged.

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Big day for the differently-abled

Private companies recruit 72 of them at job fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sohrab Ahmed Shamim has difficulties walking. His left leg is too weak to support the load of the body. Because of his disability and financial conditions, he could study up to only seventh grade. For him, it was quite difficult to find a job and live a dignified life.

But fortune smiled on him when he received treatment at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in Savar. The CRP authorities referred him to Eco Fab Ltd, a garment factory, and he finally secured a job there as an apprentice for ironing clothes.

Yesterday, he came to collect the appointment letter at a job fair in the capital's BGMEA Bhaban. He would be receiving Tk 6,000 every month throughout his apprenticeship.

The 19-year-old was one of the 80 people with disabilities who received appointment letters at the fair. They were recruited earlier through different channels.

Moreover, 200 more such people appeared for job interviews at the fair and 72 of them got on-the-spot appointment, said Monirul Rahman, programme officer of Leonard Cheshire Disability, a partner of Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN), which organised the fair.

With a master's degree in accounting, Liakat Ali Sarker, 28, also came to attend an interview. Having suffered from polio, he faces trouble walking. That's why he was looking for the job of a computer operator.

At least 20 private enterprises offered positions at the daylong "Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities 2017".

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Marking 11th Manabdhikar Natya Utsab (a theatre festival), Bangladesh Manabdhikar Natya Parishad brings out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CTG JUBO DAL LEADER MURDER

None arrested in seven days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

No arrest was made till yesterday seven days after Jubo Dal leader Harunur Rashid Chowdhury had been murdered in Chittagong.

Besides, the investigators could neither unearth the clue about the murder nor recover the firearms used in the killing mission.

Harun, joint convener of Sadarghat thana Jubo Dal unit, was shot dead from a tail of a procession brought out by Awami League and Jubo League in the city's Kadamtali area on December 3.

His elder brother Humayun Chowdhury filed a case against unnamed persons with

Sadarghat Police Station. However, Humayun mentioned the names of 10 persons as suspects.

Expressing frustration, Humayun alleged that police are not playing their due role in arresting the killers.

"After the murder police told us that they know the identity of the killers," said Harun's sister Dr Rahela Banu, adding, "But why they are not arresting them."

"Video footage shows the people who took part in the killing mission," said Rahela.

Jahangir Alam, assistant commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (Kotwali Circle), said they identified the killers and are trying to arrest them.



Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) brings out a procession yesterday marking International Anti-Corruption Day. Starting from ACC office, the procession ended at the same spot via Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

'Genocide' evident

Says report of Centre for the Study of Genocide and Justice, bearing Rohingya testimonies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent atrocities on Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State intended to destroy the ethnic group permanently, bearing clear elements of genocide, according to a report of the Centre for the Study of Genocide and Justice (CSGJ).

The report, based on testimonies of persecuted Rohingyas who took shelter in Bangladesh, said mass killings -- shooting, slaughtering, beheading and burning alive -- were carried out in Rakhine State. In addition, enforced disappearances of right-conscious Rohingyas took place, while their women were subject to torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Yesterday, the findings were disclosed at a programme at the Liberation War Museum (LWM) in the capital, marking "International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime". The day was observed globally the same day.

A 12-member team of CSGJ, an affiliated institution of LWM, visited different camps in Kutupalong, Thainkhali and Balukhali areas of Cox's Bazar on October 13-14.

They took testimonies of 67 Rohingyas. Of them, 32 were males and 35 females belonging to both Muslim and Hindu religious groups.

Presenting the report, Naureen Rahim, a member of the research team, said they

intended to find out elements of international crimes, if committed, and genocidal elements, if any, from the testimonies.

The research also aimed to analyse those testimonies as per international legal framework on the crime of genocide, and to initiate a proper documentation on the humanitarian crisis of Rohingyas, she said. As per the testimonies, the perpetrators aimed to cause serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, and the perpetrators took measures intended to prevent births within the group.

"There are no Muslim doctors, no educated established Muslims remaining. All were tortured to death by soldiers..." said the report.

"The soldiers would stab them, cut off their fingers and then toss salt on the wounds" to make sure that they suffer before death," said the report, bearing the testimony of 22-year-old Yakub.

LWM trustee and war crimes researcher Mofidul Hoque said it is a pity that the Genocide Convention, which was adopted alongside the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, largely remained out of discussion. "Genocide is a crime against human civilisation," he said, calling upon the international community to bring to book the perpetrators, including those who are guilty of committing genocide during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

Argentine genocide researcher Irene Massimino spoke, among others.

DUCSU POLLS Strike called off, not movement

DU student breaks fast with assurance from VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) student, who had been on a hunger strike demanding long overdue election to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), called off his strike yesterday after the authorities assured him of holding the polls soon.

As the strike rolls into the fifteenth day yesterday, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman visited Walid Ashraf around 12:30pm at the Memory Eternal premises on the campus, where he had been living in a tent since November 25. The VC fed him a banana and water to break his fast with assurance that he [VC] would take initiatives to hold the DUCSU polls soon.

"I know the DUCSU polls have not taken place in the last 27 years, but we will take necessary steps to hold the election as soon as possible," the VC assured the student.

Though he called off his strike, Walid declared that he would continue his movement by taking part in different activities on the campus demanding the DUCSU polls.

"I have called off my strike as the vice chancellor of the university assured me. We, who want DUCSU polls, will take position at the same venue (Memory Eternal) until the demand is met," said Walid.

Meanwhile, a group of DU students who earlier expressed solidarity with Walid's cause, staged a protest rally yesterday at the Memory Eternal premises demanding immediate announcement of DUCSU election manifesto.

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