

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.2 L 16.8	H 26.2 L 14.8	H 26.5 L 17.2	H 27.3 L 16.4	H 26.0 L 13.5	H 25.0 L 14.5	H 26.6 L 15.2	H 27.2 L 14.4	H 29.0 L 18.4

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight to till this morning, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

A musical treat for Tagore aficionados

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Museum and "Raktakarabi", a Chittagong-based cultural organisation, held a special musical programme titled, "Berey Othar Obolombon", featuring Tagore songs, prose and poems in the main auditorium of the national museum on Friday.

Dr Ghulam Murshid, renowned researcher and litterateur, spoke at the event as the chief guest while Dr Shihab Shahriar, keeper (department of education) of the national museum, delivered the welcome speech.

Poet and essayist Abul Momen compiled the entire programme while noted singer Shila Momen directed music for the programme.

"We are delighted to jointly organise this special event with Raktakarabi. Tagore was not only a poet but also an essayist, short story writer, novelist, musician, playwright and a world-class painter,"



Artistes of "Raktakarabi" perform in the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on Friday. PHOTO: STAR

Freedom of judiciary, media a must to ensure people's rights

Says Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted human rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday said freedom of the press and judiciary is imperative to ensure peoples' rights.

"People's rights will be ensured if the media and judiciary become free," she said at the 18th monthly lecture titled, "The judiciary and limits to freedom of press", organised by Reading Club Trust and Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation in the RC Majumdar auditorium of Dhaka University.

Sultana Kamal also called upon the government to exclude provision like section 57 of ICT Act while formulating the proposed Digital Act.

She also urged the lawmakers to be conscious while enacting any law.

The human rights activist said if parliament does not remain active, freedom of media and judiciary will not be ensured.

Mizanur Rahman Khan, joint editor and an analyst of the constitution who was the key speaker at the lecture, said press freedom and freedom of expression depend on the independence of the judiciary.

If the state files any lawsuit against any journalist or a person for writing against the government, it is only the judiciary that can save the victim, he said.

The constitution of Bangladesh has specified freedom of the media, which is not mentioned in the constitution of many countries including Indian and Pakistan, he added.

RANGPUR MAYHEM

Prime accused held in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The prime accused in the cases, filed for attacking the houses of Hindus at Thakurpara village in Rangpur Sadar upazila on November 10, has been arrested in the capital.

The arrestee, Md Fazlar Rahman, an engineer of Rangpur Zilla Parishad, plotted the attack, said locals and police.

Acting on a tip-off, police made the arrest at a house in Shyamoli area on Thursday night. Police were taking him back to Rangpur, said Mizanur Rahman SP of Rangpur.

On November 10, hundreds of religious zealots

Form council to save heritage sites 7 burnt in factory explosion

Urge experts; ask govt to revoke latest gazette

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest government gazette notification shortening the list of conservable historic structures is "destructive to heritage properties", said historians, architects and cultural activists at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

The speakers demanded that the government revoke the latest gazette and form a heritage council to protect heritage properties.

Institute of Architects Bangladesh, Bangladesh Institute of Planners and Bangladesh Itihas Sammiloni organised the discussion on independence, heritage and architecture in Cirdap auditorium.

"We are totally in the dark as to how and on what basis the list was shortened," said eminent historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon.

The new gazette means the century-old Curzon Hall, Pogose School, Mitford Hospital, Salimullah Muslim Hall, Jagannth Hall, Fazlul Huq Hall and Dhaka Medical College can be demolished, he said.

The shortened list of heritage buildings looks like yielding to the power of real estate developers, as government bows down to grabbers of rivers and canals, he added.

The very identity of the nation depends on conservation of its heritage and destroying country's historical monuments is a sheer blow to such identity, said Emeritus Professor Rafiqul Islam.

Rivers like Turag and Balu and scores of canals in the capital and elsewhere that are integral parts of our culture and heritage have been killed

rendering a blow to the nation's existence, he said.

AKM Shahnewaz, a professor of archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, echoed the same.

Supreme Court lawyer AF Hassan Ariff said that the government is constitutionally obliged to protect heritage, which is a matter of inheritance and none has right to destroy it.

The government published a gazette notification last month with a list of 75 conservable heritage buildings in the capital. The previous list contained 93 buildings.

Noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque, noted painter Hashem Khan and journalist Kamal Lohani, among others, spoke.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven workers sustained burn injuries at an explosion at Rahima Ispat Mills Ltd in the capital's Kadamtali area early yesterday.

The injured were identified as Abdul Gaffar, 24, Nazrul Mollah, 28, Jamal, 35, Abed Ali, 35, Sohel, 40, Ramjan, 29, and Shamim, 48.

Nine labourers were working in the factory at around 1:30am to melt scrap metal, when an explosion took place, Nazrul Mollah, an injured worker told The Daily Star.

The explosion in the oven sprayed liquid iron on the workers, leaving seven of them injured, he said.

The injured were rushed



One of the wounded workers at DMCH. PHOTO: STAR

to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Nazrul, Gaffar and Abed were receiving treatment while four other took first aid, said DMCH police outpost in-charge Sub-inspector Bachchu Mia.

A duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence said locals doused the fire originated from the explosion before two fire fighting units rushed there.



Few vehicles turn right, while bikers wait in the middle of the road. Meanwhile, some of the vehicles head straight, and in between pedestrians continue to cross the street. This is how the chaos unfolds in the busy Bangla Motor intersection every day. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Zia family's 'assets in KSA' can be proved

Says Muhith

UNB, Sylhet

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith yesterday said it can be proved that Khaleda Zia's family has got assets in Saudi Arabia.

"The prime minister has raised the allegation and there must be sufficient information in this regard, which can be proved," said the minister while talking to reporters after unveiling the Mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU).

Muhith also said that the reply to the legal notice sent by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be given through legal procedure.

Lawyers will handle the legal notice served by Khaleda, he added.

RANGPUR CITY CORPORATION ELECTION

AL majority in councillor posts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Although the Awami League candidate lost the Rangpur City Corporation mayoral race, majority of councillors got elected from the ruling party.

The election was held peacefully on Thursday.

Returning Officer Subash Chandra Sarkar declared the results of ward councillors on Friday afternoon.

AL candidates won 14 out of 33 councillor posts while BNP, Jatiya Party and Bangladesh Socialist Party seven, two and one respectively. Independent candidates won in nine wards.

Out of 11 reserved seats for women councillors, AL candidates won seven.

The elected AL candidates are Abul Kalam Azad (ward 2), Haradhan Chandra Roy (ward 4), Monowarul Islam Lebu (ward 6), Mamunur Rashid Manik (ward 8), Fazle Elahi Fulu (ward 13), Zakaria Alam Shiplu (ward 15), Aminul Islam (ward 16), Touhidul Islam (ward 20), Sekendar Ali (ward 23), Nurunnabi Fulu (ward 25), Saiful Islam Fulu (ward 26), Rahmat Ullah Babla (ward 28), Mutkar Hossain (ward 29) and Shamim Ahmed (ward 32).

The elected BNP candidates are Mahfuzar Rahman Mafu (ward 7), Nazrul Islam Dewani (ward 9),

Rangpur polls a model: Shujan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Terming the Rangpur City Corporation elections a model, Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan) yesterday said the Thursday's election was free, fair and credible.

The Rangpur chapter of Shujan organised a press conference in Sahitya Parishad auditorium of the city in this regard.

Shujan also acknowledged the election commission, government, returning officer, local administration and law enforcers for their support.

It also placed a five-point proposal to the elected mayor and councillors. The proposals include fighting corruption, turning the city corporation into an effective and public service oriented

Risky living in JU hall

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Like other days, Al Mamun Raza, a resident student of Jahangirnagar University (JU), was walking on the top floor of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall, when a piece of concrete fell from the roof and startled him.

Panicked students posted about the incident on social media and requested the provost to visit the hall to see the situation.

Recently, the provost, along with hall authorities have visited the building and assured the students of immediate renovation.

Prof Shafi Md Tarique, provost of MMH hall, said the incident may have taken place as the building has turned old. The university's engineer section has been notified at least four times, but they are yet to



Long march for safe return of Rohingyas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding safe return of the Rohingya refugees to their homeland, Ideal Citizen Movement (ICM) yesterday began a long march from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar.

Before starting off, the organisers held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club and protested the killing of Rohingyas in Myanmar.

They also called upon its government to give the Rohingyas citizenship. The march started off towards Teknaf around noon.

The speakers urged the international organisations including the United Nations to intervene in ensuring safe repatriation of the Rohingyas. They criticised the role of China, Russia and India for not taking steps to resolve the issue.

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