

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA** H 34.5 | L 25.8

**MYMENSINGH** H 33.7 | L 22.4

**CHITTAGONG** H 31.5 | L 23.8

**SYLHET** H 34.3 | L 21.2

**RAJSHAHI** H 36.0 | L 21.0

**RANGPUR** H 33.5 | L 21.0

**KHULNA** H 34.8 | L 24.5

**BARISAL** H 35.0 | L 24.0

**COX'S BAZAR** H 32.8 | L 23.0

Rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Noakhali and Comilla with hail at isolated places in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:11pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

# Genocide Day observed

STAR REPORT

Marking the atrocities and massacres committed by the Pakistani military on the civilian Bangalees on the Black Night of March 25 in 1971, National Genocide Day was observed yesterday in different districts across the country and Bangladesh missions abroad.

In Dinajpur, the day was observed in a befitting manner--offering prayers, placing floral wreaths at mass graves, and holding discussions, reports our district correspondent.

A group of people -- led by Shibli Sadiq, lawmaker of Dinajpur-6 constituency -- placed floral wreaths at Chararhat mass grave in Nawabganj upazila of the district. Pakistani army shot dead 98 Bangalees at Chararhat on October 10 during the Liberation War.

In Hakimpur upazila of the district, special prayer was offered by the upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad at its complex.

In Joypurhat, special prayer was offered and a discussion was organised at Abul Kashem Moydan in the town.

M Mokammel Haque, deputy commissioner of Joypurhat, chaired the discussion. Advocate Samsul Alam Dudu, lawmaker of Joypurhat; Arifur Rahman, chairman of Joypurhat Zila Parishad; Belayet Hossain, acting superintendent of police; and Amzad Hossain, district commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad; spoke at the discussion.

Earlier, an art competition was held for school children at the same venue.

In Rangpur, Muktiyoddha Sangsad organised a discussion and offered a special prayer at the public library ground.

Meanwhile, Barisal Sanskritik Sangathan Samonoy Parishad (BSSSP) observed the day, and demanded international recognition of the genocide carried out by the Pakistani occupation forces, reports our district correspondent.

Marking the day, a discussion was held at Sahid Abdur Rab Serniabat Secondary School.

Prodip Kumar Ghosh Putul, a freedom fighter; Shafiur Rahaman Jamal, son of a martyr; Sushanta Ghosh, a liberation war researcher; addressed the meeting with Papia Jesmin in the chair. Around five hundred students took part in the programme.

Another programme was held at Govt Women's College with the principal of the college Motaleb Howlader in the chair. Mahabub Uddin Bir Bikrom addressed the meeting as the chief guest.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Marking the atrocities and massacres committed by the Pakistani military on the civilian Bangalees on the Black Night of March 25 in 1971, National Genocide Day was observed yesterday in a befitting manner. Clockwise from top, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, a platform campaigning for war crimes trial, brings out a torch procession from Central Shaheed Minar that ends at mass killing ground at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University. President of Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) Maj Gen (ret) KM Shafiullah administers an oath at a programme organised by the SCF at Independence Monument in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, vowing to continue supporting the trial of war criminals. At the same venue, a theatre group performing a drama symbolising the horror unleashed by the Pakistan army on unarmed Bangalees on the night of March 25 in 1971. Praner '71 holds a candlelight vigil at the Shaheed Minar in memory of the victims of genocide.

# Launch campaign for international recognition of genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes trial campaigners yesterday urged the government to launch a campaign for international recognition of genocide committed throughout nine months of the country's Liberation War in 1971.

They made the call, as the government has an initiative to earn recognition of March 25, now being observed as National Genocide Day, as International Genocide Day.

At present, each year, December 9 is observed as International Genocide Day based on a motion placed by Armenia before the United Nations in 2015, according to Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, a platform campaigning for war crimes trial.

The declaration was made unilaterally and in presence of Bangladesh and 192 other countries at the UN. Which is why, there is no scope to declare March 25 as international genocide day, the committee said in a declaration paper, which was read at a programme at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar.

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# Couple get life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday sentenced a couple to life term imprisonment for killing a domestic help after rape in 2003.

The convicted are Altab Hossain, 65, a former sub-inspector; and his wife Saleha Begum, 55.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Court of Zabid Hossain handed down the verdict yesterday in the presence of the duo.

According to the prosecution, Monjila Khatun, 14, was employed as a domestic help at the couple's house. On May 24, Altab Hossain raped the girl and later strangled her to death and later with the help of his wife hid the body at a nearby paddy field.

Her mother Rabeya Khatun filed a murder case with Rangpur Sadar Police Station accusing the couple on May 25.

# Patrons of war criminals should also be tried: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Mentioning that the patrons of war criminals who had been involved in genocide during the 1971 Liberation War are equally guilty, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said they should also be tried for their crimes.

"We've held the trial of war criminals and executed the court verdicts. I think it's necessary to equally try those who rewarded the war criminals, gave the national flag to their hands and made them ministers in independent Bangladesh," she said while addressing a discussion in the capital.

The prime minister continued, "The war criminals carried out the genocide. But those who patronised them, made them ministers, MPs and created a scope for them to do politics are equally guilty."

Ruling Awami League arranged the programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, marking Genocide Day.



Hasina said BNP founder Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia had made war criminals ministers.

She said the trial of those who had directly been involved in genocide will continue on the soil of this country. "There's no mercy for them. They must be tried. And hatred will also be vented on the patrons."

She said no genocide with so severity was committed in any other country across the world where so many people had been killed in a short time. "There's

no newspaper in the world that didn't carry the news of this genocide."

She said, "I become surprised when some political leaders in our country, even Khaleda Zia, say that 30 lakh people were not killed (during the Liberation War)."

About parliament's adoption of a resolution in 2017 to observe March 25 as Genocide Day, she said they took the decision so that the nation and next generations do not forget the misdeeds of the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators, including Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams, who committed the genocide in 1971.

The prime minister said they must establish Bangladesh as a dignified country in the world. "Bangladesh will have to go ahead upholding the status of a developing country."

She said the centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the

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# Youth gets death for killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday handed down death penalty to a youth for killing an auto-rickshaw puller in 2013.

Judge's AKM Enamul Haque of Gazipur District and Sessions Judge's Court delivered the sentence yesterday against convicted Nayeem, 27.

Three others Hassan Imam alias Rabbi, 24, and Jahirul Islam alias Farhad, 23, and Raihan Uddin alias Nirob, 21 were acquitted of all charges.

According to the prosecution, a case was filed against Nayeem and three others in Joydebpur Police Station on 29 November 2013.

Harish Uddin Ahmed, public prosecutor of Gazipur court's said, rickshaw puller Julhas Uddin went missing from Gazipur

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# He is not unstoppable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Using government logo on the windshield of his Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) and getting a flagpole mounted on the front fender, he thought he was unstoppable.

But law enforcers proved him wrong as they intercepted the vehicle and arrested him with around 50,000 of Yaba pills in Chittagong yesterday.

Jaasim Uddin, 32, hailing from Cox's Bazar, has been peddling Yaba this way for long dodging law enforcers, said police.

Being tipped-off, detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) intercepted the vehicle on its way to Chittagong in Fakinnir Hat area under Karnaphuli Police Station at around 4:30pm, and arrested Jaasim with the contraband items, said Assistant Commissioner (AC) Moinul Islam of DB (West).

A case will be filed in this regard, he said.

# Road crash kills 3 in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three people were killed and seven others injured when a truck hit a three-wheeler on Navaron-Satkhira highway in Sharsha upazila of Jessore yesterday afternoon.

The dead were Najrul Islam, 55, Md Alom, 34, both residents of Navaron Bazar area, and Roksona Bagum, 24, resident of Sotoachra village in Benapole.

The injured were admitted to local hospitals.

A case was filed.



Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry brings out a procession in the port city's Agrabad area yesterday, celebrating Bangladesh's developing country status.

PHOTO: STAR

# CAESAREAN SECTION HC summons Comilla civil surgeon over newborn's head injury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the civil surgeon of Comilla, director of Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and its five doctors to appear before it on April 4 in connection with head injury of a newborn during a Caesarean section.

The five doctors are Karuna Rani Karmokar, Nasrin Aktar Popi, Janibul Hoque, Dilruba Sharmin and Ayesha Afroj. The HC also issued a rule asking them to explain why stern actions should not be taken against them.

The bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque passed the order and rule on a suomoto (voluntary) move following reports on the incident in different newspapers including the daily Janakantha and Amader Somoy. According to the news reports, expecting Julekha Begum, 30, wife of Shafik Kazi from Jatrapur village under Muradnagar Upazila of Comilla was admitted to CMCH with labour pain on March 17. The doctors led by Dr Karuna Rani Karmokar, head of the Gynaecology department of CMCH, operated on Julekha on March 18, the Janakantha reportsaid.

The doctors cut the uterus of Julekha and thus the baby's head during the operation, it said. The baby's body was dumped near the hospital through its security guard, it added.

On behalf of Ain o Salish Kendra, four lawyers -- M Asaduzzaman, Farhana Islam Khan, Anisul Hasan and Shagufta Tabassum Ahmed -- placed the newspaper reports before the court.

Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star that the doctors' negligence had caused the death of the baby which is a criminal offence under Section 304 of the Penal Code.

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