

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.0 | L 22.5

MYMENSINGH H 28.8 | L 22.0

CHITTAGONG H 33.3 | L 22.7

SYLHET H 28.0 | L 21.4

RAJSHAHI H 36.3 | L 24.0

RANGPUR H 27.0 | L 22.5

KHULNA H 36.0 | L 26.8

BARISAL H 34.2 | L 26.3

COX'S BAZAR H 32.2 | L 24.0

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Barisal division with hails at isolated places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31am.

Relatives fail to meet Khaleda

Jail authorities barred them, says Fakhru; expresses concern over her health condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The jail authorities did not allow the relatives of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to visit her yesterday due to her illness, claimed party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

Talking to The Daily Star, he expressed his concern over her physical condition.

Khaleda's sister Selina Islam, younger brother Shamim Eskander's son Avik Eskander, Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman's mother-in-law Iqbal Band Banu and Tarique's sister-in-law Shahina Khan Jaman Bindu went to the old central jail on the capital's Nazimuddin Road.

Although the relatives took permission from the jail authorities, they were not allowed to meet her, said Fakhru.

"The jail authorities told the relatives that Madam [Khaleda] cannot come down to the ground floor. It seems to us that her physical condition is very bad," he said.

Earlier, on Thursday, three top leaders of BNP failed to meet Khaleda as the jail authorities did not allow them to enter the jail.

Fakhru said, "Hearing it from the jail authorities, family members of Madam are very anxious and so are we."

The BNP chief landed in jail on February 8 after a special court sentenced her to five years' rigorous imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

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SAND, A TOOL FOR GRABBING

The Turag is one of the lifelines of Dhaka city, and like many other rivers, it also faces the onslaught of the grabbers. While in some areas, people build illegal structures and dump waste to gradually encroach upon the banks, in the case of the Turag the approach is different. Grabbers put piles of sand on the bank and they gradually melt into the river, filling up the riverbed and thus giving them more land. The photos were taken in Mirpur's Shinnirtek and Ashulia's Birulia Bridge area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Eleven arrested for question leak in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Detectives arrested eleven members of a gang at different places in Barguna town yesterday for their alleged involvement in question paper leak.

Police also seized 12 electronic devices, 23 cellphones and six admit cards from their possession.

They were involved in leaking questions of the written test of primary school teachers' recruitment, said Superintendent of Police Bojoy Bashak at a press briefing at his office in Barguna.

Such written tests were held in 12 districts including Barguna yesterday.

The ring leader of the gang was identified as Humayun Kabir, 32, from Gazipura village in Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali, said the SP.

The other arrestees are Nazmunahar Nazma, 38, her daughter Maria Akhter, 16, Eunus Mia, 35, Rezaul Karim, 25, Sakibur Rahman, 26, Hasan Mahedi, 24,

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56 BNP leaders, activists arrested in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Narail police yesterday arrested 56 BNP leaders and activists, including two from the central committee, on the charge of plotting subversive acts.

The central committee leaders are BNP chairperson's adviser Kabir Murad and co-organising secretary (Khulna division) Anindya Islam Amit.

They were holding a clandestine meeting at the house of Sajjad Hossain Shuja, vice-president of the district BNP, in Kashishal village in the district, said Superintendent of Police Mohammad Jasimuddin.

Sajjad is also among the arrestees, he said. A case was filed against them with Kalia Police Station.

EC should allow MPs to campaign: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the Election Commission should allow the lawmakers to carry out campaigns in the upcoming city corporation polls.

"We placed a proposal to the Election Commission in this regard. The commission can accept it if it wants. I think it should provide the opportunity to the MPs," Quader said at a programme in the capital.

About election campaign of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Quader said a prime minister can carry out electioneering in all elections in a country with parliamentary democracy.

"See, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in the recently held

Bidhan Sabha elections of Tripura state. Then why our ministers and lawmakers would not be able to take part...?"

About the recently held Rangpur City Corporation polls, Quader said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has carried out an election campaign in favour of his party-nominated candidate.

"He [Fakhru] is a secretary general just like me. Then why I could not carry out polls campaign. Is this called a level playing field?" Quader said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said, "Khaleda Zia can run the election campaign but Sheikh Hasina will not be allowed -- is this called a level playing field?"

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It will be a violation of constitution

Says BNP leader Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the Election Commission allows lawmakers to campaign in city corporation polls it will be a violation of the constitution, said BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"We heard that Election Commission is likely to allow lawmakers to join the city corporation election campaign. We want to clearly say that it would be a violation of the constitution, law and electoral code of conduct," he said.

Addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club, the BNP leader said EC should uphold its independent and neutral character. The commission is yet to take any step to meet BNP's demand for army deployment in Gazipur and Khulna city corporation elections scheduled to be held on May 15, said Mosharraf.

Holding of the polls is an acid test for the EC, the BNP leaders said.

Following the ruling Awami League's request, the

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14-party alliance backs AL in Gazipur, Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday extended their support to the mayoral aspirants who got AL tickets for Gazipur and Khulna city corporation polls, scheduled for May 15.

The decision came at a meeting of the alliance at AL president's Dhanmondi office with Presidium Member Mohammed Nasim in the chair. AL nominated Talukder Abdul Khaleque in Khulna and Jahangir Alam in Gazipur as mayoral candidates.

The meeting also decided that alliance partner Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

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Talk to people first

FROM PAGE 3 CNG and LNG -- should be fair and rational. And, the prices have to be fixed through a public hearing," he added.

Noted writer and columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the government has increased the gas price two times in a year. "Such an increase makes people suffer. It does not matter whether the increment was for commercial or household use."

Eminent architect Mobasher Hossain and Dhaka University Professor MM Akash also spoke.

5 lakh yaba pills

FROM PAGE 4 On information that a bus supervisor in collaboration with two passengers were smuggling yaba from Chittagong to Mymensingh, a team of Rab-2 conducted the drive in the area around 6:40am.

During the drive, they signaled a passenger bus of United Travel to stop. The supervisor and two passengers tried to flee away through a bus window but the law enforcers stopped them.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they were involved in the drug trade for a long time, the release added.



Environment and Forests Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud looks at a painting by artist Kamaluddin at Galleri Kaya in the capital's Uttara yesterday. Earlier, the minister inaugurated the first solo exhibition of the artist, which will continue till May 4.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Artist Kamaluddin's solo exhibit starts at Galleri Kaya

CITY DESK

The first solo exhibition of artist Kamaluddin was inaugurated at Galleri Kaya in the capital's Uttara yesterday.

The exhibition titled, "Introspection", will showcase a selection of 40 recent works done in oil on canvas and watercolor on paper, said a press release.

Environment and Forests Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud inaugurated the event. Art critic Moinuddin Khaled and artist Prof Jamal Ahmed were also present.

The event, organised by Galleri Kaya, will remain open every day from 11:00am to 7:30pm till May 4. Rajen Gain is the exhibition coordinator.

It is sponsored by ADN Group. The online partner is www.artitude.com.bd while online media partner bdnews24.com.

Int'l seminar on Abul Mansur

FROM PAGE 3 and Abul Mansur Ahmad's Satire".

Another article titled, "Contemporary East Bengal and Abul Mansur Ahmad's Literature", will be presented jointly by Dr Barendu Mandal of India's Jadavpur

University and Kolkata Press Club's President Snehasis Sur.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, the youngest son of Abul Mansur Ahmad, will also join the seminar.

Rashed, wife flee home

FROM PAGE 3

As they were business partners, the two had "a quarrel" over some issues after which both of them became "a little excited", he claimed.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the statement. It did not have Rony's signature.

When asked, Rashed said, "There are no business relations between Rony and me. He is doing all the things using his political identity."

After the clip went viral since on Thursday evening, Rony, in a statement posted on his Facebook page, said he had stepped down from his post.

HE HAS DONE IT BEFORE

This is not the first time Rony came to light for his actions. Earlier on March 31, a principal of a college was allegedly assaulted by him.

Jahed Khan, principal of Chattogram Biggan College, located at Chawk Bazar,

came under the attack as the BCL men, led by Rony, alleged that the principal was realising "extra money" as part of a development fee from the HSC examinees.

The incident came to light after the CCTV footage of the incident went viral on social media. It shows that the BCL men, led by Rony, pushed the principal into his office.

At one point, Rony also punched him in the head.

Apart from that, Rony is a charge-sheeted accused in an arms case filed with Hathazari Police Station on May 7, 2016.

He was arrested along with a 9mm pistol and 15 bullets from outside of an election centre.

SI Delwar Hossain, the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet before the court on June 19, 2016.