

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 30.0 L 21.2	MYMENSINGH H 27.3 L 21.0	CHITTAGONG H 31.9 L 22.0	SYLHET H 27.3 L 22.0	RAJSHAHI H 34.5 L 27.4	RANGPUR H 27.4 L 23.5	KHULNA H 33.5 L 27.5	BARISAL H 31.5 L 25.0	COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 26.8
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Rain/thunder showers with temporary gusty wind and lightning flashes may occur at most places over Mymensingh & Sylhet, a few places over Rangpur, Dhaka & Chittagong & at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi & Barisal with moderately heavy to heavy falls and hails at isolated places over the country till 6:00pm today, UNB reports quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am. City/Town Temperatures in Celsius.

TCB starts low-price sale at 184 locations

CITY DESK

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) started selling essentials at lower prices at 184 locations across the country on Sunday.

The TCB launched the operation, with goods loaded on trucks, ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan to help low-income people deal with possible hike in the prices of daily commodities including chickpea, edible oil, sugar, pulse and date.

The prices are lower compared to those at the retail markets. Sugar is selling for Tk 55 per kg, soybean oil for Tk 85 a litre, chickpea for Tk 70 a kg, date for Tk 120 a kg, and pulse for Tk 55 a kg.

Of the total sale locations, 32 are in Dhaka city, 10 in Chittagong city and two each in every district headquarters, according to a press release.

The sale locations in the capital are Secretariat Gate, Jatiya Press Club, Kaptan Bazar, Victoria Park, Science Lab intersection, New Market-Nilkhet intersection, Shaymoli-Kalyanpur, Jigatola intersection, Khamarbari at Farmgate, Kalmilata Bazar, Rajanigandha Supermarket at Kachukhet, Agargaon Taltola and Election Commission Office, Rajjokhi Complex at Uttara, Mirpur-1 Mazar Road, Shantinagar Bazar, Malibagh Bazar, Basabo Bazar, Ideal School at Banasree, Bangladesh Bank Chattar, Mohakhali Kitchen Market, Shewrapara Bazar, Dainik Bangla intersection, Shahjahanpur Bazar, Fakirapool Bazar and Ideal Zone, Motijheel Balaka Chattar, Khilgaon Taltola Bazar, Rampura Bazar, Mirpur-10 Roundabout, Ashkona Hajj Camp at Uttara, Mohammadpur Townhall Kitchen Market, Dilkusha, and Madartek Nondipara Krishi Bank.



A queue before a TCB truck selling essentials near Jatiya Pres Club in the capital yesterday. Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has set up 184 such sale points across the country including 32 in the capital on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Go see if she is dead or alive'

Husband tells father-in-law before fleeing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A man allegedly strangled his wife to death following an argument at Fatullah in Narayanganj Sadar upazila early morning yesterday.

Family of the victim said Rafiqul Islam, the husband himself informed the matter to victim Razia Islam's father over cell phone.

Police recovered the body of Razia from her house at Tushardhara residential area in Fatullah yesterday. Razia and her husband Rafiqul lived in the rented flat.

Rafiqul has been on the run since the incident.

Abdul Aziz, father of Razia, said the couple had frequent quarrels.

According to Aziz, Rafiqul called him yesterday morning and said, "I have killed Razia and kept the body under the bed. Go and see whether she is dead or alive."

After he received the call, Aziz said he went to the couple's flat and found the door locked from outside. He took the key from the landlord, opened the door and found Razia's body under the bed wrapped in cloth. He then informed police.

Aziz said the marriage of Razia and Rafiqul Islam was arranged by the families.

Sub-inspector (SI) of Fatullah Model Police Station Raju Mondal said there were injury marks on different parts of Razia's body. It is primarily assumed that she was strangled to death. Police sent the body to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy. He said attempts are on to detain Rafiqul.

However, no case was filed in this connection until yesterday.

Acknowledge enforced disappearance

HRFB asks govt prior to Universal Periodic Review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh is set to attend the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on May 14, rights activists yesterday demanded that the state make a time-bound pledge before the UN to amend related laws to legally acknowledge enforced disappearance.

The state should also pledge to form an independent commission for holding credible investigations of rights violation against state agencies and ensure their due punishment, they said

at a press briefing.

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), an alliance of 20 leading rights and development organisations, arranged the press briefing at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, prior to departure of its five members for the UPR session in Geneva, Switzerland.

Initiated in 2008, UPR is a unique process of the United Nations that involves a periodic review of human rights records of all 193 member states in a four-year cycle.

During the second cycle in 2012-

2016, Bangladesh accepted 164 out of 196 recommendations without condition. It accepted 27 recommendations partially and rejected five others. Of the rejected recommendations, three were on repealing death sentence and two were on accepting same-sex relationship.

The first UPR cycle was in 2008-2011.

According to rights group Ain o Salish Kendra, a key HRFB member, 362 incidents of enforced disappearance have taken place in Bangladesh

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9 years on, SC guideline still unimplemented

Finds ActionAid Bangladesh study on sexual harassment at educational institutions and workplaces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court guideline, issued nine long years ago, on how to address sexual harassment at educational institutions and workplaces has gone largely unimplemented, according a recent research.

With a larger number of women pursuing education and entering job market over these years, their becoming sexually harassed at the educational institutions and workplaces has become a pressing issue.

The study, conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh, reveals that students, employees and authorities of the institutions and

organisations have little knowledge about the SC guideline.

As a result, the institutions and organisations did not consider to adopt a mechanism or policy to deal with complaints of sexual harassment and an effective procedure through which a victim can seek help.

The report on the study, conducted by Dhaka University law department Assistant Professor Taslima Yasmin, was launched at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

The study consists of semi-structured interviews of 21 respondents and structured interviews of 60 respondents from different

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UK promises £70 million fresh aid for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the looming cyclone and monsoon season, the UK yesterday pledged fresh humanitarian support for the Rohingyas taking shelter in Cox's Bazar.

The latest announcement of an additional £70 million in humanitarian aid will better protect hundreds of thousands of persecuted Rohingyas who fled neighbouring Myanmar, said a press release of the British High Commission in Dhaka.

Aside from the fresh support package of £70 million announced yesterday, the UK -- a leading donor country since the onset of the crisis on August 25 last year -- has so far contributed £129 million.

Conditions in the massive camps near the Myanmar border are likely to become more hazardous for lives of the Rohingyas after the rainy season begins in the coming weeks when the fragile and cramped makeshift shelters could get washed away, exposing the inhabitants to rapid contraction of fatal diseases.

Over 700,000 Rohingyas entered

Bangladesh fleeing military crackdown in Rakhine State of Myanmar and subsequently took shelter in makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar. Currently, approximately 1.1 million of the Rohingya population are living in Bangladesh including the fresh arrivals since 2017.

The UK aid is providing medication, sturdy shelters, food, clean water and support for women to give birth safely. It is also supporting a large vaccination campaign against cholera in and around the Cox's Bazar camps, benefiting almost a million people -- made up of both Rohingya families and Bangladeshis living near the camps, which is close in size to the population of Birmingham.

With the fresh announcement, the UK aid is expected to provide up to 200,000 people with necessary materials to strengthen their shelters; 300,000 people with food assistance and clean water; 30,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 120,000 under-fives with emergency

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FFS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

SC stays scrapping of retirement age extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for eight weeks a High Court verdict that scrapped the provision of public servant retirement law which enhanced the retirement age limit for the freedom fighter public servants from 59 years to 60 years.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

The 60 years as the retirement age limit for the freedom fighter public servants will remain in force following the SC's stay order until

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Formulate guidelines for airline fare

HC says
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to frame rules to fix prices of airline tickets, cancellation fees and other charges including fees for additional luggage on domestic flights.

In the rule, the court also asked the authorities to show cause as to why their failure to formulate guidelines should not be declared illegal.

Secretary to the civil aviation and tourism ministry; chief of the civil aviation authority, and chief executive officers of private airline companies -- US Bangla; Novoair; Regent Airways; GMG Airlines, and managing director of state-owned Biman Bangladesh Airlines have been made

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HC upholds death penalty for two

Family not happy with acquittal of two others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the death penalty of two persons for killing Ashikur Rahman Khan Apu, an A-level student, in the capital's Wari area in 2008.

The two condemned killers are Monjurul Abedin Russell and Nawshad Hossain Mollah alias Robin.

Apu was shot dead and his two brothers -- Arifur Rahman Khan Setu and Atikur Rahman Khan Bappy -- were injured in a gun attack in front of their house in Wari on May 23, 2008.

Yesterday, the HC, however, acquitted two accused who were sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial court in this case. The acquitted persons are Iftekhar Beg alias Jhalak and Mohammad Ali alias Munna.

The HC did not say anything about Mahbub Alam and Biplob Chandra Das, who were sentenced to life imprisonment by the lower court, as they are absconding and they did not move any appeal against

their sentences.

It means that the life imprisonment of Mahbub and Biplob will remain in force, said Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Moniruzzaman Rubel.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty delivered the verdict after hearing the death reference of the case and the appeals filed by the convicted accused challenging the lower court verdict on them.

DAG Moniruzzaman said the HC upheld the death penalty of Russell and Robin as they were directly involved in the killing and the allegations brought against them were proved beyond reasonable doubt.

The HC acquitted Jhalak and Munna as Apu's brother Setu and Bappy did not tell the investigation officer that Jhalak and Munna were involved in shooting Apu, he said.

DAG Moniruzzaman also said the government will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

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*For details, please see page 13