

WEATHER FORECAST

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA | MYMENSINGH | CHITTAGONG | SYLHET | RAJSHAHI | RANGPUR | KHULNA | BARISAL | COX'S BAZAR |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| H 30.0 L 23.5 | H 30.5 L 25.3 | H 32.4 L 23.0 | H 30.3 L 23.7 | H 33.2 L 25.4 | H 34.0 L 25.6 | H 33.0 L 23.8 | H 28.5 L 23.0 | H 32.4 L 24.0 | |

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty/squally wind and lightning flashes may occur at most places over Chittagong & Barisal and at many places over Dhaka & Khulna and at a few places over Rajshahi & Sylhet in next 24 hours, UNB reports quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:37pm and rises tomorrow at 5:13am.

HC declares 2 housing projects illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared illegal the Rimjhim Police Town and Italian City housing projects under Ruppang upazila in Narayanganj.

The court also ordered authorities concerned to bring the land to its original shape, which was changed for construction of the housing projects.

The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan delivered the verdict after hearing a petition challenging the legality of the projects.

The HC order came as the projects were being constructed on over 5,000 acres of land in violation of the Bangladesh Environment Protection Act, 1995, said Advocate Taimur Alam Khondaker.

The lawyer said following the HC directive, owners of the projects cannot carry on the construction work.

The authorities of Rimjhim Police Town and Italian City projects forcibly grabbed and filled up agricultural land. Numerous news reports were published in newspapers in this regard. Following the reports, locals communicated the matter to the department of environment (DoE) for taking appropriate steps.

However, DoE did not take any effective steps, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Amir Talukder said the DoE has submitted a report to the HC, saying that some of the lands of the projects were not purchased by the owners, but were illegally grabbed and filled with earth.

DEATH OF CTG SCHOOLGIRL Family demands probe into third party involvement

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Mohammed Amin -- father of Tasfia Amin, whose body was found on concrete blocks at embankment of the Karnaphuli in the city's Patenga Naval area on May 3 -- yesterday demanded investigation to determine if there was involvement of any third party in the incident.

Meanwhile, investigators are yet to receive the post-mortem report of Tasfia, 19 days after the reports of chemical analysis and vaginal swab were sent to forensic lab of Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Tasfia, a ninth-grader of Sunshine Grammar School and College in Chittagong, used to live with her parents in the city's OR Nizam Road area.

After the recovery of the body, her father filed a case accusing six persons including a 16-year old friend of hers, with Patenga Police Station on May 03.

Police had sought remand for the prime accused in the murder case on May 6.

But a court in Chittagong sent him to Tongi Kishore Unnayan Kendra (juvenile correction centre) in Gazipur and ordered the IO to quiz him there.

Addressing a press conference yesterday at Chittagong Press Club, Tasfia's father Mohammad Amin said his daughter was brutally "murdered" by a section of criminals.

"The fate of the murder case now depends on the viscera report.

I have sought assistance and cooperation from the administration so that the report is neutral and unbiased," said the father.

The investigators should look into whether any third party was involved with the death, he demanded.

Replying to a question, Amin claimed her aforementioned friend, the prime accused in the case, is responsible for the murder and he knows everything.

"[He] planned the murder, after calling my daughter out over the phone to meet."

NO VISIBLE HEADWAY IN PROBE

Talking to The Daily Star, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Jahedul Islam of Karnaphuli-Patenga Zone, said, "We are waiting for the post-mortem report to reach a conclusion whether it was murder."

"I have talked with CID officials where they said the viscera report will be sent by next week, as there are many important tests," said AC Jahed.

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NEWS IN brief

Khaleque's wife AL candidate in Bagerhat-3 by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has picked Habibun Nahar as its candidate for contesting Bagerhat-3 by-polls scheduled to be held on June 26.

The decision came yesterday from a meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Board. AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting at Gono Bhaban, said a party press release.

The seat has been vacant since the then lawmaker Talukder Abdul Khaleque resigned to contest Khulna City Corporation election as a mayoral candidate.

Former MP of Bagerhat-3 constituency, Habibun Nahar is also wife of Khaleque.

Golam Rasul's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Golam Rasul Mallik, a freedom fighter and former chief editor of now-defunct Eastern News Agency.

On the occasion, destitute feeding and Quran khwani will be held at his residence after Asr prayers, said a press release.

A pioneer in Journalism, Golam Rasul was elected chairman of Commonwealth Press Union's Bangladesh wing three times and was the first member of Bangladesh Press Institute.

War crimes convict dies at RMCH

UNB, Rajshahi

A war crimes convict of Chapainawabganj died at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital early yesterday.

Mahidur Rahman, 88, from Dadonchak village in Shibganj upazila, was in Rajshahi jail.

He was sentenced to jail till death in May, 2015 for crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

Halima Khatun, senior jail superintendent of Rajshahi Central Jail, said Mahidur, admitted to the hospital on April 28 over old age complications, died of heart attack around 1:00am.

Chhatra Union gets new committee

JU CORRESPONDENT

Nazir Amin Chowdhury Joy and Ariful Islam Anik have been made president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Chhatra Union at its Jahangirnagar University unit.

A 31-member committee was formed yesterday through the 27th council of the organisation held on JU campus, said a press release.



Left, A passenger hops off a bus on the Mayor Hanif flyover in Dhaka, right next to a sign that reads 'vehicle stoppage not allowed'. Just five days ago on this very flyover, Nazim Uddin, a senior executive of the advertisement department of English daily Dhaka Tribune, lost his life under the wheels of a speeding bus. Human chains, like one held in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, right, frequently demand exemplary punishment for reckless road behaviour, to little avail.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHAMAN

Effects of climate change Northwestern Bangladesh to see extreme weather conditions, study says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The northwestern part of Bangladesh is likely to experience more frequent extreme weather conditions like drought, flood, thunderstorm and cold wave in the coming years due to adverse impacts of climate change, a study finds.

The average increase in temperature especially in the region, will severely affect people's livelihoods and living, the study also said.

NETZ Bangladesh, a non-profit organisation registered in Germany and Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) jointly conducted the study in seven northwestern districts of Bangladesh.

The findings of the study were unveiled yesterday at a media dialogue organised by the two organisations at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

In future, there would be more severe droughts in summer and more devastating

floods in monsoon in the region, which will affect agriculture, food security and livelihoods of millions of people, said BCAS Fellow Dr Dwijen Mallik.

To minimise the impacts, the study recommended giving special attention to the poor and char dwellers, re-excavating rivers and canals, strengthening early warning system, re-building and repairing embankments, building modern flood shelters and cattle shelters, and adopting regional plans.

BCAS Executive Director Dr Atiq Rahman said Bangladesh northwestern region, a poverty-stricken area, has also been a climate hotspot.

"They need greater capacity and resources for adaptation and disaster management, but the current policy environment in the country does not support the poorest. It needs to be solved," he said.

NETZ Deputy Director Shahidul Islam also spoke at the programme.

DEATH OF RAJIB SC order on compensation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday deferred the date for passing an order on two petitions challenging the High Court order that directed BRTC and Sajan Paribahan to pay Tk 1 crore in compensation to the family of Rajib Hossain.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain fixed today for passing the order after hearing the petitions filed by the respondents.

Advocate ABM Bayezid appeared for BRTC and Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru represented Sajan Paribahan.

Rajib Hossain, a student of Government Titumir College, lost his right hand after it got stuck between two speeding buses competing to overtake each other in Bangla Motor area in Dhaka on April 3.

After two weeks in coma, Rajib died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on April 17.

On May 8, following a petition filed by SC lawyer Ruhul Quddus Kazal, the HC ordered the bus authorities to pay Tk 1 crore to Rajib's family.

EXTORTING MONEY BCL, supporters of ward councillor clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League and supporters of a pro-Awami League ward councillor clashed over "collecting extortion money" from traders on a Savar footpath on Sunday night.

At least 20 people from both groups were injured.

A motorcycle was burnt during the incident which occurred in Katlapur area. The injured were admitted to Savar Upazila Health Complex and local hospitals, said police.

According to locals, there has been a longstanding dispute between Atikur Rahman Atik, president of Savar Upazila BCL, and Abdus Sattar Miah, councillor of ward no-6 in Savar municipality, to establish dominance over the footpath hawkers.

Usually, the followers of the ward councillor regularly extort money from the traders and thus patronise them to run their businesses illegally.

The clash ensued as the other group hungered for the money, said locals.

Seeking anonymity, several hawkers said Sattar's supporters beat one of the followers of Atik when he demanded money from the traders in Ulaail area.

Later, Atik's supporters attacked their rivals when they went to Katlapur area, triggering the clash, they said.

The groups were equipped with sticks and firearms, said locals.

Sattar told The Daily Star that BCL activists attacked his supporters without any reason.

The ward councillor, however, denied his involvement in such extortion.

But, Savar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohshinul Kadir confirmed that the groups clashed over collecting extortion money.

Atik did not respond to repeated phone calls made by this correspondent.

HC stays teachers' recruitment process

At 7 depts of Begum Rokeya Univ, Rangpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for four months the process of recruiting teachers for seven departments of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR).

The departments are -- English, economics, political science, electronics and tele-communications, computer science and engineering and disaster management.

The court also issued a rule asking the university authorities and the government to explain in four weeks as to why they should not be directed to appoint teachers for the university as per recommendations made by its selection board.

The bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir issued the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Monjur Arif and Annas Ali, two candidates in teaching positions at the university.

They submitted the petition last week, saying that the university authorities issued a circular on February 12 last year for appointing teachers for 15 departments.

The university authorities held relevant tests and the selection board made recommendations for recruiting some qualified candidates, writ petitioners' lawyer Advocate Hasnat Quaiyum told The Daily Star.

He said the university authorities, however, published another circular on April 6 this year for recruiting teachers to some departments including the seven without completing the appointment process under last year's circular.

Initiating the new recruitment process without completing the previous one is illegal, he added.

Bogra banker sued for opening fake account

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A case was filed yesterday against Nur Mohammad, former manager of Sonali Bank (corporate branch) in Bogra, and eight others for opening a fake account.

Sharmin Akter, a lecturer of Sylhet Agricultural University, filed the case with Bogra Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court accusing eight persons including the banker and her former husband Zulfikar Ali.

Judge Md Shariful Islam, ordered the detectives to investigate the case.

According to the case, a fake bank account (savings account no 3424922) was opened in the name of Sharmin Akter by her former husband Zulfikar Ali on May 2016, with Bogra Sonali Bank (corporate branch).

Nur Mohammad and his colleagues helped her former husband to open the account using her details without her authorization, alleged Sharmin.

Meanwhile, several cheques from the account were submitted to different branches of Sonali bank in four districts by Zulfikar and his cohorts. They were all dishonoured.

Sharmin was later sued for dishonor of the cheques in those districts. The cases filed against her now demand that she pays Tk 59 lakhs.

Contacted, Abdul Hakim, the current manager of Sonali Bank (corporate branch) in Bogra said, "I don't know anything about this issue. I just joined the branch seven days ago."

However, this correspondent could not contact Nur Mohammad on this issue.

When will Chatkhil fire station start operation?

NURUL AMIN, Noakhali

Chatkhil residents are yet to get quick benefit from fire service as a new fire station in the upazila of Noakhali has stayed non-functional for around two years.

Locals have to depend on the firefighters from the district town, Begumganj, Choumohani and Sonaimuri upazilas and even from Ramganj upazila in Laxmipur.

Consequently, fire in most cases burns valuables, business establishments as well as dwellings before firefighters reach spots from the far-flung stations.

While talking to The Daily Star, locals expressed their anger and frustration over the issue.

Moktar Hossain, a sweetmeat trader at Chatkhil Bazar, said after returning from his shop he is so worried that he cannot get a sound sleep at home.

"A thought always strikes me that a fire might break out any time," he said. Fire caused huge losses at different times, he further said.

Expressing anger, Bazlur Rahman Liton, general secretary of Chatkhil Bazar Traders Association, said traders of Chatkhil may incur more loss in future if the authorities do not start operation of the fire station.

According to the office of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Noakhali, a fire broke out at Chatkhil Bazar on May 9, 2017. Another fire ensued at Chatkhil children's hospital on June 7 the same year.

Besides, Chatkhil Span Tower Market caught fire on February 2 this year, Narayan Board Bazar in Chatkhil on April 17 and Chatkhil Khilpara Bazar on April 21, said the office.

PHOTO: STAR

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Students demand justice for murdered Tripura girls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bangladesh Tripura Student Forum (BTSF) formed a human chain in Rangamati yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment for those behind the death of two teenage girls of the Tripura indigenous community earlier this week.

The human chain was held around 10:00am in front of Rangamati deputy commissioner's office, demanding punishment to the killers of the two friends, Suklota Tripura and Chobi Rani Tripura.

Indigenous women of Chittagong Hill Tracts are falling victim to crimes around the country, but are not getting justice, they said, terming it a 'culture of impunity'. They demanded proper investigation into the incident.

Suklota Tripura, 15, and her friend Chhobi Rani Tripura, 13, were found dead in Chhobi's house in Chittagong's Sitakunda district on May 18. Suklota's father Suman Tripura filed a case in this connection accusing four individuals.

The key accused in the case, Abul Hossen, confessed of the murders to police after he was arrested the next day. Abul had been stalking Suklota for a while and had made advances on her when she was visiting Chhobi. According to police, Abul and three of his cohorts strangled Suklota to death, and then killed Chhobi as she was a witness to the crime.

PHOTO: STAR