

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.5 L 27.1

MYMENSINGH H 34.0 L 27.7

CHITTAGONG H 33.5 L 26.8

SYLHET H 33.8 L 26.2

RAJSHAHI H 36.4 L 27.4

RANGPUR H 34.8 L 27.6

KHULNA H 35.0 L 26.5

BARISAL H 35.6 L 26.1

COX'S BAZAR H 32.2 L 26.2

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind and lightning flashes may occur at many places over Rangpur division, a few places over Rangpur, Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka & Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:18am.

New books on Bangabandhu underway

14 volumes to be based on intelligence reports
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Publication of a series of books on the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- based on intelligence reports against him -- is now underway, said Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her party's special extended meeting at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

On Friday, the PM announced that March 2020 to March 2021 would be observed as "Mujib Borsho" [Mujib Year] across the country to mark the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation. "A number of books on

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the inauguration of newly constructed multi-storey buildings for public servants at Motijheel government colony yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

PM inaugurates residential buildings for public servants

Urges austerity in using electricity and water

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated newly constructed multi-storey buildings, with 988 flats, at Motijheel and Azimpur government colonies for public servants yesterday.

Speaking at separate programmes on the occasion of the inaugurations, the PM described various development projects of the government for public servants and asked them to serve people.

"Your salaries and wages are coming from taxpayers' money. You must perform your duty keeping that in mind," she said.

She urged all to exercise austerity in using electricity and water as the government provides these utilities at subsidised prices and recommended practising cleanliness in every step of life.

She asked all to switch lights, fans, ACs and other electrical appliances off when leaving a room in their office or home.

"If you do that the bills would be much

less. We've digitised everything; now no one can tamper with electricity bills," she said.

About the scarcity of water when the AL government came to power after the 2008 elections, Sheikh Hasina said her government built Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant 1 in 1996. Later, the AL government constructed Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant 2 and 3.

She also called upon all to practise cleanliness everywhere and regretted that people often overlook this.

The prime minister said development across the country is clearly visible because of the continuation of the government for two consecutive times.

"Our development is not limited to urban areas. Our aim is to ensure socio-economic development all the way down to the grassroots; we are working towards that direction," she said.

Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain presided over

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BCL threatened abduction on the eve of Rashed's arrest

Father tells the press

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists had threatened to abduct quota reform movement leader Muhammad Rashed Khan on the night before he was detained by police, his father Nabai Bishwas said yesterday.

He said the BCL president of Jhenidah district unit sent some activists to his house to collect his phone number on June 30, and BCL President Saifur Rahman Shohag called him up after that.

"What kind of a child you gave birth to? He is a black sheep. Keep

him away from the movement; otherwise he would be abducted," he quoted the BCL president as telling him.

Rashed's father revealed the incident through a press conference at the Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh (CRAB). The family organised it demanding immediate release of Rashed and other detained leaders and security for their family members.

At the conference, Nabai Bishwas also said he has the full audio record of the conversation and showed the phone number of the BCL president on the call list.

Rashed's mother Saleha Begum said her son did not commit any crime; he just led a protest on behalf of the youths.

"I sent him to Dhaka University by working at the houses of other people. I just want him to be released," she said, breaking down in tears.

Speaking on the occasion, Rashed's wife Rabeya Alam alleged that the law enforcers arrested him without any specific accusation and remanded him unethically.

She also said the law enforcers repeatedly refused to give them any information about Rashed though

they went to them several times.

Detectives arrested Rashed, a joint convener of the platform leading the quota reform movement, in Bhasantek area of the capital on July 1.

Another joint convener of the platform, Ataullah Ata, said at the programme that the quota reform activists are living in fear of torture and attack. "I am a resident student of DU but cannot stay in my hall as I might be attacked any moment," he said.

He also claimed that another joint convener, Mahfuz Khan, was

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From left, the winning team, of Pulak Das and Mashfique Khalid from Lie to Eye Agency, in Young Lions Competition Bangladesh-2018 poses with the judges Moasser Ahmed, country marketing manager, Coca-Cola Bangladesh Ltd; Mahzabin Ferdous, head of brand and corporate communication, IPDC Finance Ltd; and Md Tajdin Hassan, head of marketing, The Daily Star, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The winning team will represent Bangladesh in Spikes Asia, Singapore this year. The Daily Star and Bangladesh Brand Forum, in association with Cannes Lions, organised the contest.

PHOTO: STAR



A section of dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony at National Museum yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Unity is the key

'Sampritee Bangladesh' formed to foster non-communal spirit of Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of eminent citizens yesterday called for unity among all non-communal forces to establish a secular Bangladesh for which 30 lakh people had sacrificed their lives during the Liberation War in 1971.

There is a centuries-old heritage of communal harmony in this land but fanatics on many occasions have tried to destroy that, in many cases under the patronage of the state, they said.

So, non-communal forces have to forge unity to counter fanatic forces, they said at a programme organised to mark the formal immittance of "Sampritee Bangladesh" at the National Museum auditorium in Shahabagh, Dhaka.

"We have a heritage of communal harmony. We want to uphold harmony and the non-communal spirit of the Liberation War," Pijush Bandyopadhyay, convener of the

platform, said about its purpose.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to establish a secular Bangladesh, one of the pillars of the Liberation War, if we remain united," he said.

National Prof Anisuzzaman, in his video speech, said people of different castes and creeds have been living in this land for hundreds of years. There were divisions and conflicts, but there was also harmony.

He said following the Liberation War, secularism was made one of the fundamental principles of state policy, but after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975, communal forces got state patronisation.

As a result, ideology of the Liberation War and 1972's constitution was destroyed, but people took a stance and restored communal harmony, he said. He urged all to uphold communal harmony in the country.

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BANGLADESH BANK HEIST Hackers broke into bank's systems

Says CID forensic report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The heist of \$81 million from Bangladesh Bank's account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 2016 was conducted by hacking into the central bank's systems, according to a forensic report submitted to a Philippines court.

Bangladesh Police's Criminal Investigation Department submitted the report to the court on July 5 during the hearing of a case filed by Anti-Money Laundering Council of Philippines against Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation of the country for its role in the cyber heist, said Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of police of CID's Organised and Financial Crimes division.

A two-member team led by Rayhan Uddin Khan, additional superintendent of police (CID) and also the investigation officer in the Bangladesh Bank reserve heist case, submitted the forensic report, he said.

Two BB officials accompanied the team, said the central bank sources. The report will be used as evidence in the case, CID officials said.

On February 4, 2016, hackers broke into the BB's systems

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Empower women for better family planning coverage

Say speakers at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women empowerment should get priority to widen family planning coverage which would help bring the country's population growth under control, experts said at a roundtable yesterday.

If women are educated and employed, they will be able to play their role in taking family planning decisions. Subsequently, it will help them to ensure happy families and raise their children properly, they added.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo, in association with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Global Affairs Canada and RTM International, organised the roundtable at the newspaper's office in Dhaka on the occasion of World Population Day, July 11.

Speaking at the programme, Dhaka University's Population Science Professor Aminul Haque said family planning is a complete scheme for a family which covers all important facets -- from marriage to giving birth to children and raising them properly.

Prof Aminul urged the government to provide family planning support equally to all, and to give more emphasis on women and the disadvantaged who are lagging behind in this case.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Zahid Maleque, said family planning is a right for all people, especially for women.

"Around 20 to 22 lakh people are added to the country's population every year which is quite high. The government has no policy to go for negative population growth, but we want to achieve a static position through birth control," he said.

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