

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 32.8 L 27.1	MYMENSINGH H 32.0 L 27.2	CHITTAGONG H 33.0 L 25.5	SYLHET H 33.2 L 25.9	RAJSHAHI H 34.0 L 26.8	RANGPUR H 33.6 L 27.4	KHULNA H 33.0 L 27.2	BARISAL H 31.8 L 27.2	COX'S BAZAR H 31.7 L 25.0
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at a few places over Barisal, Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Rangpur divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka 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 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.

Faraaz Hossain Center launched at CRP

STAR REPORT

When Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain was a high school student at the American International School of Dhaka, he had to do certain hours of social work per year. He was then attached to the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in Savar.

"It was not just the social work that he had to do... He went well beyond that. He would dedicate his time for those who are here to help those in need," recalled Faraaz's elder brother Zairaif Ayaat Hossain.

Faraaz even approached Valerie Taylor, founder of the CRP, as he was inspired by her work and passion.

To honour his memories, Faraaz Hossain Foundation has established Faraaz Hossain Center at CRP with a vision to support people with special needs.

Three deans -- Dr Joseph Moon, Douglas A Hicks and Kevin Smyrl -- of Oxford College at Emory University in US, where Faraaz was a student, inaugurated the centre on the third floor of Rotary Bhaban at CRP yesterday.

Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, 20, along with his friends Tarishi Jain and Abinta Kabir, was dining at Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka on the fateful night of July 1, 2016.

During the attack, the militants, who mostly targeted foreign nationals, asked Faraaz to leave. Faraaz refused to leave his friends behind and was eventually killed along with his friends.

Faraaz, grandson of Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman and Shahnaz Rahman, received posthumous awards and recognitions from global and national organisations for his courage and sacrifice.

"We will try -- in whatever capacity we can -- from the Faraaz Hossain Foundation to continue the work," Zairaif said at the inaugural programme.

Dean Douglas A Hicks said as Faraaz's teachers, they are very proud to be associated with the legacy of Faraaz, which transcends borders.

"It takes courage to do what you do to see a better tomorrow for these beautiful children," Hicks said. These children will benefit from this centre, he added.

Dean Joseph Moon recalled the first time he met Faraaz when he was a first-year student at Oxford College. He was a very kind young man with strong ideals and insights, Moon added.

"We have learned over and over again the way Faraaz's life has inspired others," he said.

Maj Gen (retd) Shafiq-ul Islam, executive director of CRP, said Faraaz Hossain Center will help empower the marginalised patients.

Present at the programme among Faraaz's family members were Latifur Rahman, his grandfather and chairman of Transcom Group; his mother Simeen Hossain and grandmother Shahnaz Rahman.



From left, Binoy Das, secretary general of Faraaz Hossain Foundation; Arshad Haque, Faraaz's uncle; Maj Gen (retd) Shafiq-ul Islam, ED, CRP; Latifur Rahman, chairman, Transcom Group and Faraaz's grandfather; Zairaif Ayaat Hossain, Faraaz's brother; Douglas A Hicks, Joseph Moon, Kevin Smyrl, deans at Emory University; Simeen Rahman, Faraaz's mother; Shahnaz Rahman, Faraaz's grandmother; and Mikhail Haque, Faraaz's cousin, at the inauguration. Below, Guests visit the newly-opened centre, and special-needs children perform songs and dance at the opening ceremony.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



'A realm of unbridled robbery'

Speakers say govt turning country dependent on imported gas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To establish a "realm of unbridled robbery", the ruling party is gradually turning the country dependent on imported gas, though there is enough natural gas in the fields of the country, speakers yesterday said.

Saying that the dependency on liquid petroleum gas (LPG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) will further increase the living cost and benefit only some businessmen and ruling party men, they called upon people to create a mass movement for stopping patronisation of LPG and LNG.

They were speaking at a meeting, titled "Evaluation of Increase of Price of Gas and Power, Anti-National Master Plan and Dependency on LNG", at Dhaka's Mukti Bhaban.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, a central leader of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said, "I'm accusing the government for not exploring gas fields where enough natural gas is stored, and turning the sector into an import-based one to establish a realm of unbridled robbery."

"We'll have to save the sector from these plunderers," he said.

Ruhin alleged that the government is charging city dwellers higher prices against their household consumption. "We've analysed and found that people consume less gas for households than they are

charged. And if we add the persistent crisis of natural gas in the supply line, we'll see people are being charged double for household consumption," he added.

Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports, said, "To facilitate local and foreign companies, the government is promoting the use of LPG and LNG."

Due to the irregularities and corruption of the government in the energy sector, living cost will gradually go up, he said, suggesting that the government should explore the existing gas fields in the country to cope with the demands instead of relying on LPG and LNG.

Moshahida Sultana, Associate Professor at Department of Accounting and Information Systems, Dhaka University, gave a presentation on the overall gas sector.

She said the government shows daily deficiency of gas 100 cr ft. "But study shows the gas-based power plant alone wastes about 60 cr ft gas daily," she added.

Mentioning that the pressure of LPG is less than the gas supplied in pipeline, she said the price of LPG is several times higher than natural gas.

The ship carrying the first consignment of LNG anchored in the Bay of Bengal a few months ago and its supply to the national grid is supposed to begin soon.

Quader hopeful about relocating rail tracks from Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) in its next meeting will take a "positive decision" on relocating rail tracks from the capital to its outskirts, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told parliament yesterday.

"I will invite the rail minister, officials of Dhaka [north and south] city corporations, Rajuk and other stakeholders to DTCA's next meeting to discuss on this issue. I hope we will take a positive decision in this regard," Quader said in reply to a call attention notice.

Awami League MP AKM Rahmatullah (Dhaka-11) placed the notice under section 71 of the rules of procedure of parliament.

The treasury bench MP called upon the minister to build necessary parking spaces for vehicles and "stop-over car terminals" in a bid to reduce traffic congestion.

"There are no specific parking spots for CNG-run autorickshaws, taxis, buses and other modes of transport. The vehicles are haphazardly parked on roads, causing traffic congestions," he added.

He also suggested relocating rail tracks and building terminals for vehicles.

MINISTER CRITICISES JATRI KALYAN SAMITY

Pointing to Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity's recent claim that at least 339 people were killed in 277 road accidents in 13 days (June 11-23) during the Eid journeys this year,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Govt to launch justice audit system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government will launch a justice audit system to reduce the backlog of pending cases at courts across the country.

"The system will help us know the nature and position of the cases, and help us take steps for their quick disposal," he said.

The minister made the comment at a meeting with a delegation National Children's Task Force (NTCF), a national-level organisation for children, in the law ministry conference room.

He said the government is putting more importance to quickly dispose of the cases involving juveniles.

Prosecutors have been ordered to take necessary steps to settle such cases, he said.

The minister cited cases of killing Rajon and Rakib as examples of government steps leading to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Nat'l election schedule in late October Says EC secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election schedule for the next parliamentary polls will be announced in late October, Election Commission (EC) Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said yesterday.

The commission has given necessary directives to the authorities concerned to prepare voter list and CD of the voter list of all 300 constituencies before the parliamentary election.

"The election schedule is likely to be announced in late October," the EC secretary told journalists after holding a meeting with the election commissioners at the EC secretariat.

He also said the voter list will not be updated this time, as the latest update of voter list was completed in 2018. The next parliamentary election will be held on the basis of that voter list, he said.

But expatriates who turned 18 can become voter at any time, as it is a continuous process, he said.

The secretary said the commission has decided to observe Voter Day from March 1 next year.

Helal said the commission has decided to include Hijras as third gender in the voter list. Currently, members of the Hijra community are enlisted as either male or female.

"If anyone wants to enlist as third gender, we will do that," he said.

The EC secretary also said electronic voting machines (EVMs) will be used at 10 centres in the upcoming Barisal City Corporation election, and at two centres each in Rajshahi and Sylhet.

City corporation elections to Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal will be held on July 30.



Students of Bangla department, Dhaka University, form a human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla yesterday, demanding justice for Masud Rana, a student of the department who was attacked during the quota reform movement.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DU VC apologises for his remark, protest against BCL attacks continue

3 quota reform leaders remanded

STAR REPORT

Amid a huge outcry over his remark on quota reformists, Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman yesterday offered apology claiming that he did not label the protestors as "militants".

"I did not term the quota reformists 'militants'; rather I said their activities have similarities with that of some militant outfits. That does not mean I called them militants," he said.

The VC was briefing journalists at his office yesterday.

He also claimed that his speech was misrepresented in the media.

On Sunday, Prof Akhtaruzzaman compared the activities of quota reformists with that of Islamist militant outfits like Taliban and Al-Shabaab.

"I don't use Facebook but one of my colleagues showed me a recorded Facebook live video of the quota reformists... It was as if I was watching something similar to the provocative video messages of the Taliban, Al-Shabaab or Boko Haram had sent from secret places to incite violence," he said while talking to reporters

about the quota reform movement at his office on that day.

He also criticised the recent protests by female students at a DU dormitory at night.

HUMAN CHAIN AT APARAJEYO BANGLA

Meanwhile, students of Dhaka University's Bangla department, yesterday, formed a human chain on the campus demanding justice for attack on one of its students during the quota reform movement.

Nearly a hundred students lined up at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla, holding banners and placards condemning the attack on Masud Rana.

Speaking at the programme, Amzad Hossain, a third-year student of the department, said that attack on students on campus is unprecedented.

"Students of DU took part in the quota reform movement spontaneously but the VC is calling them 'militants'. Is Dhaka University producing militants then?" he questioned.

Another student, Farzana Kheya,

said, "A student was beaten like a dog at a place like Shaheed Minar. It cannot be tolerated. We will not sit in classrooms until the attackers of Masud are punished."

Masud Rana, a third-year student of the department, was beaten up by BCL men on July 2 on the Central Shaheed Minar premises as he went there to take part in the quota reform protest.

THREE QUOTA REFORM LEADERS REMANDED

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three leaders of quota reform movement on a two-day remand -- each in two cases filed in connection with the attacks on Dhaka University vice chancellor's residence and police, and vandalising vehicles on April 9.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdullah Al Masud passed the order after Bahauddin Faruqi, inspector of Detective Branch of police and also the investigation officer of the cases, produced the trio before the court with a 14-day remand prayer for each in two cases.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4