

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.0 L 27.7	H 33.0 L 27.0	H 34.0 L 26.7	H 34.7 L 26.0	H 36.2 L 27.0	H 35.6 L 27.7	H 33.5 L 27.0	H 33.2 L 27.5	H 32.5 L 25.0

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet & Mymensingh and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna & Dhaka in next 24 hours, reports UNB quoting Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.

Registration of Rohingyas in Bangladesh completed

Home minister tells JS STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no unregistered Rohingya person in Bangladesh at present, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told parliament yesterday. In reply to lawmakers' queries, the minister informed the House that biometric registration of 11,18,576 Rohingyas, who were forced to enter Bangladesh due to persecution against them, has been completed. In a scripted answer, the minister also said a workstation is continuing its work in Cox's Bazar, to carry out biometric registration of newborn Rohingya children. In reply to another query, the minister told the House that a total of 1,596 death row convicts are currently in different jails.

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Students of the sociology department stage a sit-in after locking the main gate, inset, of Social Sciences Faculty Building of Dhaka University yesterday, demanding release of fellow student and quota reform leader Moshir Rahman. During the protest, they criticised the university administration's silence about Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL's) assault on general students taking part in the quota reform movement.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Digital Security Act likely to be passed in next JS session

Says law minister

BSS, Dhaka

The proposed Digital Security Act is likely to be passed in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad, said Law Minister Anisul Haq yesterday. "I would like to say clearly that the government... will not enact any law that can thwart freedom of speech and freedom of media mentioned in the constitution...", he said. The minister was talking to journalist leaders on the proposed law at the secretariat. He said the proposed act is now being scrutinised by the parliamentary standing committee. "We are holding talks with journalist leaders frequently to make the law people friendly. Journalist leaders have also taken part twice in the standing committee meeting." "We will discuss the recommendations made by them in the meeting and the committee will finalise the act based on the discussions. We may hold another meeting with journalists before floating the proposed act in the JS for passing," he added. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) Vice President Mozammel Babu were present, among others.

EUNIC Cluster launched in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Council, Alliance Française and Goethe-Institut in Bangladesh will work together under the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Cluster to promote cultural heritage of the country. The cluster was launched on Tuesday at Franco-German embassy in Dhaka, says a press release. EUNIC will work to facilitate access to buildings that are under control of different authorities, and are closed to the public. It will hold programmes at schools to raise awareness on cultural heritage. British Council's Country Director Barbara Wickham, AFD director Bruno Plasse and Goethe-Institut Director Kirsten Hackenbrock signed contracts at the launching ceremony. EU delegation Ambassador Rensje Teerink, French Ambassador Marie-Annick Bourdin, British High Commissioner Alison Blake and Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor were present.

A mother's desperation

Saleha Begum pleads to PM for Rashed's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As quota reform movement leader Rashed counts his days in a 10-day police remand, his hapless mother is trying to do whatever possible to release her son. Saleha Begum, 50, yesterday begged to the prime minister to release her only son. "Dear prime minister, you are a mother. I am too. I beg for my son's release. Please cancel his 10-day remand. Please withdraw the cases." A distressed Saleha struggled to hold back tears at a press conference in Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh, in Segunbagicha. "He took part in a logical movement. His movement was never anti-government. But a vested quarter turned this in a different way... We don't know he would pay such a price," a sobbing Saleha told journalists. "My son is a general student. He was not involved in any politics... My husband is a day-labourer and our family runs on his earnings," she added. Muhammad Rashed Khan, joint convener of quota reformists' platform Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, is an MBA (Banking and Insurance Department) student of Dhaka University. He was detained from the capital's Bhasantek on July 1, as law enforcers took a strong position against quota reform activists.



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QUOTA REFORM MOVEMENT DU professor threatens to call police on students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Dhaka University yesterday threatened to call police on students pressing for release of a friend, who is in police custody for involvement in the quota reform movement. Prof AKM Jamal Uddin, a teacher of the sociology department, threatened the students of his department when the students were demonstrating at around 9:30am. He took pictures of protesting students, threatened them "with consequences", and calling police if they do not stop boycotting classes, claimed students. "If I think you are barring my path, then I will call police. I will call the proctorial team. Now it's up to you," he said, according to an audio recording The Daily Star obtained. At that time, another teacher of the department, Prof Samina Luthfa took the students' side and requested Prof Jamal to allow students to carry out their programme of submitting an application to the proctor. "I will take my classes and I will take steps as per regularities, if you do not sit in my classes," Prof Jamal said, according to the students. Earlier, the students took position in front of the department after boycotting yesterday's scheduled classes. They also padlocked the gate of the department. "Boycotting classes cannot be the language of protest. It's not the university's duty to get a student released. You go to the High Court and get a lawyer for him. If you manage to do so then the department will bear the cost," Prof Jamal told the students. Some Chhatra League activists of DU's Surya Sen Hall handed Moshir, a quota reform movement leader, over to the law enforcers after beating him up on July 2. He was later shown arrested in the case filed over vandalising DU VC's residence. TEACHERS, STUDENTS DEMAND SAFE CAMPUS Meanwhile, a group of DU students yesterday formed a human chain in the Mokarram Bhaban area of the campus, demanding immediate release of the detained quota reformists, and a safe campus. Speaking at the programme, Fahmidul Haq, associate professor of mass communication and journalism department, claimed many students were supposed to join yesterday's programme but could not do so fearing further attack and harassment. "The administration is working as per government's direction. They are not even eager to bring the attackers under trial; instead they are busy in implementing

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No politics behind Khaleda's arrest

PM reaffirms in parliament; says it's a shame to embezzle orphans' money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said in parliament that despite being a woman and mother, BNP chief Khaleda Zia embezzled orphans' money, which is "shameful and a stigma" for country's women. While replying to lawmakers' queries, she also said Khaleda was not arrested due to political reasons; she is now in jail following conviction by the court after 10 years of legal battle in the case. "We didn't arrest her for political reasons. If we wanted to, we could do it in 2015 or 2014. She is in prison due to a court verdict," she said in reply to a question from Awami League lawmaker Nurjahan Begum (women's seat-42). The prime minister said there are many seasoned lawyers and barristers in BNP, but none of them could prove Khaleda Zia's innocence. She said BNP amended Section-7 of the party's charter just before the court's verdict against Khaleda Zia as BNP leaders knew that she is guilty. As per the section, anyone being convicted on corruption charge cannot hold the party's leadership position. Pointing to the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, the PM said, "It is a stigma for the country's women... How could a mother steal or misuse the money of an orphan? It is shameful for us, women." Hasina said her government always wants a democratic process to continue. About the election system, she said more than 6,000 elections -- local government polls and by-polls -- were held

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Govt violating Khaleda's visitation rights: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government is not allowing Khaleda Zia's relatives or party leaders to meet her at jail. Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, made the claim during a press briefing at the Nayapaltan headquarters of the party. June 30 was the last time when Khaleda's relatives were allowed to visit her at the prison set up on the former central jail premises in Old Dhaka. "Relatives and friends [BNP leaders] of Khaleda Zia have not been given permission to meet her in the last 11 days. Her relatives, lawyers and we could not meet her despite repeated attempts,"

Harnessing blue economy

Asian coast guards' meeting begins in Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday urged all Asian countries to work together for a safe maritime environment and development of blue economy. The minister said this while inaugurating the two-day "14th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (ACGAM)" as the chief guest at a hotel in Dhaka. "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first claimed the maritime boundary realising the need for establishing blue economy. At present, Bangladesh Coast Guard's role in building blue economy is really commendable," he said. The meeting is being conducted by Bangladesh Coast Guard for the first time. Rear Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury was present as a special guest. A total of 41 representatives from 18 Asian countries' coast guard maritime agencies are participating in the event.

Schoolboy drowns in Turag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seventh grader yesterday drowned in the Turag river in Dhaka. Rajon Mia, 14, son of Nazimuddin, went for a swim in the river after school, around 1:30pm, with three of his friends in sector 10 of Uttara, said Ashikur Rahman of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Tongi. Rajon failed to swim ashore when the four were caught in a sudden current in the river. Divers of fire service recovered the body around 2:45pm, Ashikur added.

HC rejects petition seeking Badal Farazi's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that sought its order on the government to release Badal Farazi, who was recently brought back to the country from India after he served in jail there for 10 years in a murder case. Badal Farazi cannot get release from jail following the HC order, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Masud Hasan Chowdhury Parag told The Daily Star. The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam passed the rejection order, considering that the petition was not placed before it properly. Earlier in the day, DAG Masud Hasan Chowdhury produced some documents before the HC, saying that the Indian court has convicted and sentenced Badal Farazi as a Bangladeshi national. Farazi was brought back home on condition that he will serve the rest of the sentence in the jail of Bangladesh and therefore, he cannot be released from jail, he said. Farazi, 28, who was serving a life sentence in Delhi's Tihar jail after being convicted in the murder case, was brought back to the country on July 6 under a bilateral treaty on "Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners" signed with India around eight years ago. After Badal was brought back he was sent to Dhaka Central Jail to let him serve the rest of his sentence there. Barrister Md Humayun Kabir Pallab, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the writ petition with the HC on July 8 seeking its directive on the government to release Badal from jail and to declare the government's decision to keep him detained illegal.

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