

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.7 | L 25.6

MYMENSINGH H 31.7 | L 27.0

CHITTAGONG H 31.0 | L 26.0

SYLHET H 29.0 | L 26.3

RAJSHAHI H 31.7 | L 26.0

RANGPUR H 32.8 | L 26.8

KHULNA H 31.5 | L 26.5

BARISAL H 32.2 | L 26.4

COX'S BAZAR H 31.8 | L 25.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:24am.



Visitors look at displays at the exhibition on life and works of Tajuddin Ahmad, Bangladesh's first prime minister. Liberation War Museum holding the week-long exhibition marking Tajuddin's 93rd birthday on July 23.

PHOTO: STAR

Ensure WASH services at school level Speakers say at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday urged the government to allocate special funds for ensuring and maintaining toilets with menstruation hygiene management (MHM), as part of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) services at schools.

They also recommended ensuring availability of low-priced sanitary pads for girls at the school toilets.

The speakers made the recommendations during a roundtable on "Budget allocation addressing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at school level" at the premises of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

The programme was jointly organised by Development

Organisation of the Rural Poor (DOPR) and Menstrual Health Management Platform.

According to a baseline survey conducted on school girls in Netrokona under "Ritu Programme" last year in February, most of them complained of their school toilets lacking MHM services including running water, soaps and trash bins.

Among them, 89 percent said they had to use the toilets during menstruation and 32 percent said they avoided those toilets during menstruation.

Addressing the programme, State Minister for Finance MA Mannan said the sanitation projects being undertaken by development organisations in rural areas should

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Addressing gender-based violence during crisis

Bangladesh Women's Humanitarian Platform launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists yesterday said a concerted effort is required to end gender-based violence in the country and ensure wellbeing of women vulnerable to humanitarian crises.

They were speaking at the launch of Bangladesh Women's Humanitarian Platform (BWHP), a body comprising 40 organisations working all over the country.

The event, at Dhaka's Cirdap, was organised by Oxfam in Bangladesh.

Organisers said BWHP emerged in October 2017 through a workshop engaging different women's rights organisations.

Momotaj Khatun, a member of BWHP and executive director of

Ashroy Foundation, said that they will help build capacity of humanitarian responders to effectively address gender-based violence during crisis.

Speaking on the Rohingya women's plight, she said that the authorities should enhance family planning initiatives in the camps with increasing women-friendly healthcare centres there.

Mia Seppo, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh, said that violence against women and girls is common in Bangladesh.

Deeply rooted patriarchal social norms, traditional practices and a weak criminal justice system enable such violence, she said, referring to a study.

"Disasters don't discriminate but people do. Disasters reinforce, perpetuate and then increase gender inequality, making situation bad for women," she added.

Seppo welcomed the launch of BWHP and stressed that the UN will closely work with the platform to reduce gender-based violence in Bangladesh.

Nazmun Nahar, gender justice manager of Oxfam, said that BWHP aims to better understand humanitarian crises from a gender perspective, including the needs of and challenges for women and girls during disasters.

It will advocate for improved data on sexual violence and human trafficking, she said, while moderating the programme.

Rowshan Ara, project director of Nari Pokkho, among others, spoke at the event.

Julian Francis given honorary Bangladeshi citizenship

UNB, Dhaka

The government has honoured UK national Julian Francis with honorary citizenship of Bangladesh for his remarkable contribution to the country's Liberation War.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the citizenship certificate to him at a function at her official residence Ganobhaban yesterday afternoon.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the function.

The Prime Minister praised him for his work for the people of Bangladesh.

Julian Francis said that Bangladesh gained remarkable changes in socio-economic development during the tenure of the present government. There is no more famine in the northern region of Bangladesh, he added.

About receiving the honorary citizenship, the British national termed it "a great honour" for him.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan,

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'Can't stop the movement by arresting our leaders'

Quota reform activists tell govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Student leaders of the quota reform movement yesterday said they will continue their ongoing movement till the last drop of blood to realise their demand.

"How many leaders will you arrest? You [government] won't be able to stop the movement by arresting our leaders as new leaders are coming up," Reazul Islam Rihan, a quota reform movement leader of Jahangirnagar University, said.

He was speaking at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club, organised by Nagorik Oikko to express solidarity with quota reform movement activists.

Nagorik Oikko convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafullah Chowdhury, Dhaka University Prof Asif Nazrul, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan, energy expert BD Rahmatullah, Jatiya Party former MP

Ahsan Habib Linkon, among others, expressed solidarity with the quota reform movement at the programme.

Speaking at the programme, Rihan said it was a mistake on their part to believe that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will meet students' demand for the quota reform.

"We will not make such mistake anymore. We won't give you [PM] further chance to divert our movement," he said.

Rihan said that the government's use of law enforcement agencies and Chhatra League aims to intimidate and stop the movement. "We will continue our movement, conquering the intimidation," he said.

Kabir Hossain, another leader of the quota reform movement, said it takes three to four minutes to pass a bill in parliament. On the other hand, the government gave 90 working days to the committee led by Cabinet Secretary M Shafiqul Alam for submitting their report on reformation or cancellation

of the quota system in the civil service.

Mazi Mozammel, joint convener of the quota reform movement, said they don't want full abolition of the quota system. "Freedom fighters are the most respected people of the country and they will always remain so. We just want a rational reform in the existing quota system," he said.

He also called upon law enforcement agencies to reveal the names of those involved in the attack on Dhaka University vice-chancellor's residence.

"But don't oppress general students involved in the quota reform movement, labeling them as 'Jamaat-Shibir men,'" he added.

Manna in his speech called upon the quota reform activists to continue their movement so that the current "autocratic" government is forced to meet their demand.

He also said they were ready to provide any necessary advice and assistance to the student leaders.

Bangladeshi student wins bronze at Int'l Biology Olympiad



PHOTO: COLLECTED

UNB, Dhaka

Auddithio Nag, a Bangladeshi student, has won bronze medal at the 29th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Iran.

The award was announced and handed on Sunday, according to a press release.

Four Bangladeshi high school students participated at the Olympiad held from July 15 to 22.

The IBO, 2018 was organised by the Ministry of Education, Iran in partnership with the University of Tarbiat Modares.

More than 260 students from 60 countries joined the event.

According to the IBO official website, the first edition of the competition was held in Olomouc, the Czech Republic, in July 1990. Iran joined the competition in 1999.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Awardees with guests at the ceremony. The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University organised the programme at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium in DU yesterday.

ENTRY RESTRICTIONS AT DU

VC claims propaganda was spread about notice

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman yesterday alleged that propaganda was spread centering the notice the university had issued "barring entrance of outsiders" on the campus.

He made the claim while speaking as chief guest at an award-giving ceremony organised by Mass Communication and Journalism department, held at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of DU.

He said ill attempts were made to

spread propaganda to incite students and youths.

"I want to say one thing very clearly. Dhaka University cannot be a place for those who believe in militant and extremist ideologies, drug addicts and those against the spirit of Liberation War," said the VC.

"Many people are present here at this programme including former students and relatives of students. They were not barred at any gate. The university is always open for its former students. Cultural personalities and artists will be welcomed here, but the

university administration has to think about the drug addicts, militants or those who disrupt campus life by speeding on their motorbikes," he added.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman said there have been some restrictions at the entrances to the university for many days, but it's not meant to obstruct people.

Security guards are deployed there, and rooms need to be built for them to sit there, which will be the security check posts, he said.

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