

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.7 L 25.0	H 29.5 L 24.0	H 32.3 L 25.0	H 30.0 L 23.5	H 34.2 L 25.3	H 30.0 L 25.0	H 34.6 L 26.0	H 33.8 L 26.6	H 31.5 L 24.7

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions & at many places over Khulna, Barisal, and Chittagong divisions with moderate to very 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 06:04pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am.

Court inside a jail is 'absurd': Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said setting up a court inside a jail is "absurd" and "self-contradictory", as "jail is jail and court is court".

If anyone is aggrieved about setting up of a court inside jail, they can move to the High Court -- questioning its legality, he said, without mentioning BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia whose trial is being held at a court in old Dhaka Central Jail.

Dr Kamal, president of Gono Forum, made the comment while replying to questions at a views-exchange meeting in Dhaka.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) organised the programme at its auditorium, attended by its leaders, Supreme Court lawyers and reporters.

Dr Kamal said that Col Taher was tried at a court inside Dhaka Central Jail, which is not regarded as well-accepted by the public.

He also said that former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha will be recalled for what he had done.

"Those who have insulted him will be despised forever....One day, we will try the derogatory and unconstitutional acts," Dr Kamal said.

He said a level-playing field is needed for holding the next parliamentary election in a free and fair manner.

Replying to a query, Dr Kamal Hossain said that Jamaat-e-Islami will not be allowed to take part in the all-party unity during the

upcoming parliamentary election due to its anti-Liberation War role.

Asked about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment, saying that Dr Kamal Hossain left the country during transitional periods, he replied that he had fought a legal battle in 2007 in order to remove 1.40 crore false voters from the voter list.

"Then the Election Commission was reformed. We fought a legal battle in order to remove the then president Iajuddin Ahmed from the post of the chief adviser of the erstwhile caretaker government. A sedition case had been lodged against four of us. So, we did not leave the country," he said.

Kamal Hossain said the 2008 election would have not been held or the outcome of the election would have been different if the 1.40 crore false voters were not removed from the voter list.

"The present prime minister (Hasina), when she was the opposition leader of the parliament, had placed 23 conditions in 2007 for holding the national election in a free and fair manner," he said.

Dr Kamal hoped that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will support those conditions for holding a free and fair election now.

He said the constitution needs some amendments and a commission can be formed in that regard.

SCBA President Advocate Zainul Abedin and its Secretary Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Dhaka city has seen a sudden surge in the number of motorcycles recently, and with that, an increase in the frequency and cases of traffic rule violations. At Bangla Motor, motorcyclists heading in different directions clog the intersection yesterday. According to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), 219,337 motorcycles were registered in the country in the first seven months of 2018, and on average 1,035 are being added every day.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DIGITAL SECURITY BILL

TIB disappointed with finalised report by parliamentary body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed disappointment over finalising of a report by a parliamentary body on Digital Security Bill, 2018 without considering most of the recommendations from stakeholders and amending some sections that curb freedom of speech and independent journalism.

In a statement issued yesterday, it urged the government not to pass such a bill that goes against the principles of the constitution.

On Tuesday, the parliamentary

standing committee on post, telecom and ICT ministry finalised its report on the much-debated bill.

"The incident of finalising the report on the bill without changing the controversial sections and ignoring stakeholder's opinions is a matter of concern," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, the Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based graft watchdog.

The concerns voiced by journalists on sections 8, 28, 29 and 31 were ignored and it will create risks for them to discharge their professional duties, he said.

The sections deal with hurting religious values, disrupting public order,

circulating defamatory information, and disrupting law and order through publishing anything on website or electronic form.

The executive director also said the recommendation made by the committee on the controversial section 32 is also regrettable.

The committee recommended renaming the offence of "computer or digital spying" as "violating state secrecy" under section 32 and incorporating Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Iftekharuzzaman said the legal right to get information on corruption and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Each of you is now an Ilias Kanchan'

Nischa founder tells new members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Haste on roads is one of the main reasons of road crashes, said Ilias Kanchan, popular film star of yesteryears and founder of Nirapad Sarak Chai (We Demand Safe Roads) movement.

He was attending an orientation programme for new members of 'Nirapad Sarak Chai' (Nischa) at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DEROGATORY REMARKS ON FATHER OF THE NATION

Son-in-law of Bangabandhu's killer Rashid arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested the son-in-law of Sultana Shahriar Rashid, an executed killer of Bangabandhu, as he allegedly made derogatory remarks about the Father of the Nation and glorified his killers on Facebook.

Fuad Zaman was arrested from Hatirjheel area around 10:00pm on Wednesday, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star.

He was accused in a case filed with Dhanmondi Police Station on August 23 by Nazmul Hasan Piyash, a member of Ahsanullah Science and Technology University wing of Bangabandhu Engineers Council.

A Dhaka Court yesterday granted a three-day remand for him in the case filed under Information and Communication Technology Act.

Fuad took to Facebook around 7:15am on August 15 -- the anniversary of Bangabandhu's assassination and National Mourning Day -- when he wrote derogatory remarks on the gruesome killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and openly supported the killers.

His Facebook post is defamatory, derogatory and instigates anarchy in the society, the complainant wrote.

A police official said the accused in primary interrogation admitted that he wrote the derogatory remarks out of vengeance as his father-in-law was executed.



Defying traffic rules and risks, two rickshaw-pullers get their vehicles over the road divider as the median fence is missing. The photo was taken near Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DEATH OF DIA-RAJIB

Court accepts homicide charges against 6

Issues arrest warrants against 2 fugitives

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges of culpable homicide against the owners, drivers and assistants of two Jabal-E-Noor Paribahan buses that allegedly raced each other moments before one of them ploughed into a crowd killing two college students in the capital's Kurmitola on July 29.

After scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Kaisarul Islam accepted the charge sheet, and issued arrest warrants against two accused -- Kazi Asad and Jahangir Alam -- as they were shown fugitives in the charge sheet.

They directed officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station to submit a report by October 1 on execution of the arrest warrants.

Earlier on September 6, Inspector Kazi Shariful Islam of detective branch (DB) of police submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court in Dhaka against the six.

The six charged by police are bus drivers Masum Billah and Zobair Hossain Sumon, their assistants Enayet Hossain and Kazi Asad, and bus owners Shahadat Hossain and Jahangir Alam.

Of the rest of the accused, Masum, Sumon and Shahadat gave statements before magistrates admitting their guilt.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

DU 'Ga' unit admission test today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The first-year honours admission test of "Ga" unit under the business studies faculty for the 2018-19 academic session of Dhaka University will be held today.

The test will be held from 10:00am to 11:00am at 54 centres inside and outside the campus.

A total of 26,960 students applied against 1,250 seats of Ga (C) unit, said a DU press release.

The admission test of "Cha" unit (General Knowledge part) under the fine arts faculty will be held at 10:00am to 11:00am tomorrow.

On the other hand, the test of its drawing part will be held on September 22. As many as 25,144 aspirants will contest for 135 seats.

No electronic devices will be allowed in the exam halls. Seat plans are available on admission.eis.du.ac.bd.

Ministries among major electricity bill defaulters

Tk 1,434 crore due, says Nasrul Hamid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several government, semi-government and non-government bodies owe around Tk 1,434 crore to the power, energy and mineral resources ministry in electricity bills.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid disclosed the information while responding to lawmakers' queries at the parliament yesterday.

Of the total dues, different government offices owed Tk 668 crore while semi-government and non-government bodies owed Tk 766 crore, he said.

Nasrul Hamid also produced a list of 43 ministries and semi-government organisations that are major bill defaulters.

The food and disaster management ministry tops the list with outstanding bills of Tk 97 crore.

Of the others, housing and public works ministry owes Tk 95.30 crore, home ministry owes Tk 64.53 crore, religious affairs ministry Tk 57.32 crore, health and family welfare ministry Tk 46.96 crore, education ministry Tk 37.66 crore and defence ministry Tk 21.75 crore.

In a scripted answer, the state minister said to realise the outstanding bills, the ministry has taken various measures, which include holding regular meetings with the defaulters, sending demand orders to the secretaries of the ministries concerned, and disconnecting electricity lines.

The ministry was also conducting mobile courts to this end. Besides, pre-paid meter and SMS bill payment systems have also been introduced, he added.

Hasina main obstacle to free election: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the main barrier to holding the next general election in a free, fair and inclusive manner, BNP said yesterday.

"The only way of conducting a fair and inclusive election is resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She is the main obstacle....," BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said during a press conference at the party's Nayapalana central office.

Hasina has recently said she would extend her all-out assistance to the Election Commission to hold the election in a free, fair and credible manner.

Referring to the assurance, Rizvi said, "Prime minister's assistance means a blatant surrender of the Election Commission, and it's ludicrous."

Reiterating the party's demand of a non-party caretaker government overseeing the upcoming national polls, he described Hasina as an "extremely powerful" prime minister as the country's "judiciary and executive are under her control".

He also alleged that the government is desperate to keep BNP away from the election by implicating BNP men in politically motivated and false cases.

DUCSU POLLS

DU to hold talks with student bodies on Sunday

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities were contacting all active students' organisations of the campus to attend a discussion regarding Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election.

They have issued a letter signed by DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani in this regard addressing the presidents and general secretaries of the organisations.

The move came a day after a contempt of court petition was filed with the HC against the authorities for failure to comply with a directive over holding the polls.

The discussion will be held at the lounge beside the vice-chancellor office on

September 16, reads the letter.

Only presidents and general secretaries of central and university units of the organisations were invited at the discussion.

The discussion will be held centring the execution of long due Ducsu and hall union polls.

"We have already started updating the voter lists in every dormitory of the university," Prof Golam Rabbani said.

"We have sent letter to every active student body and would sit with them to discuss the overall situation of the election," he added.

The move taken by the DU authorities was welcomed by Bangladesh Chhatra League DU unit.

"We hope that all student organisations

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1