

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 28.2 L 13.2	MYMENSINGH H 26.6 L 13.0	CHATTOGRAM H 27.2 L 14.2	SYLHET H 28.5 L 14.4	RAJSHAHI H 26.4 L 8.4	RANGPUR H 26.4 L 12.2	KHULNA H 27.7 L 11.4	BARISHAL H 28.2 L 08.8	COX'S BAZAR H 29.0 L 15.2
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Light fog may occur at places over the country during early morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am.

Be a pro-people force

President asks police

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged police members to serve people with honesty and sincerity, being imbued with spirit of the Liberation War and thus gain their trust. "Anyone who comes to you to take service should not be harassed. You need to make sure they can avail of necessary services and suggestions. You must keep up efforts to become a service-oriented and people-friendly force by gaining people's trust. It's also their expectation." The president said this at an event, marking the Police Week 2019, at Bangabhaban.

"A key element of good governance... is proper enforcement of law. You must continue to play a responsible role to maintain security and establish a safe society," he said.

"Your main responsibilities are maintaining internal security, protecting people's lives, establishing the rule of law and preventing terrorism and crimes, upholding human rights and democratic values."

Hamid said a new trend of policing activities has started, combining police, people and technology to face present-day crimes. "So, in addition to community policing, innovative policing activities should be continued."

The president said crimes and criminals are no longer limited to geographical boundaries. Utilising technology, organised gangs are being involved in crimes across the globe. "It's very challenging to control and deal with such crimes. Despite this, the level of professionalism, skill and courage police members have shown to prevent organised crimes, terrorism, militancy and spread of drug addiction is really commendable. It has brought peace and relief in

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President Abdul Hamid with high officials of police at Bangabhaban yesterday, marking Police Week 2019.

PHOTO: PTI

Khairul Kabir's death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Khairul Kabir, the founder editor of the daily Sangbad and a banker. On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his home in Ghorashal of Narsingdi, said a press release.

His relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Kabir, who was the first chairman and managing director of Janata Bank, was a fellow of the American Bankers Association and the first lifetime member of Jatiya Press Club.



Four handed death penalty for killing six-year-old

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

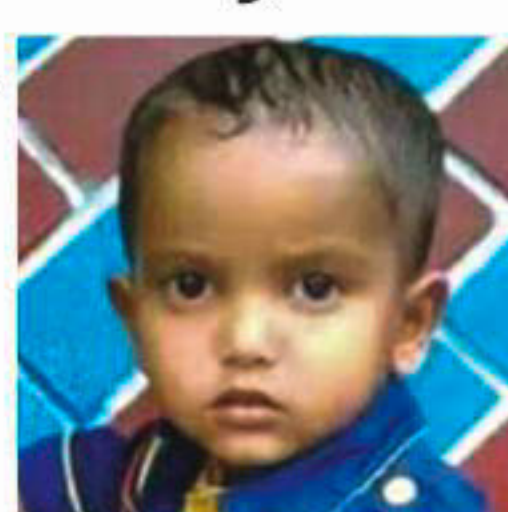
A Sylhet court yesterday handed down death penalty to four people for abducting and killing a six-year-old boy in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj in 2015. The court also fined each of the convicts Tk 20,000.

Among the convicts, Suyebr Rahman Sujon, 32, of Brahmanjulia village in the upazila, was arrested on April 8, 2015. At the time of arrest, Sujon was the Imam of a mosque in Batirkandi village and also secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami's Sayla Afzalabad union in the same upazila.

Other three convicts are Jayed Ahmed, 27, Amir of Jamaat's ward 7 unit at Sayla Afzalabad union; Rafiqur Rahman, 33, of Nowarai village; and Saleh Ahmed, 24, of Batirkandi village in the upazila.

Md Rezaul Karim, judge of Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal, delivered the verdict, said Kishor Kumar Kar, additional public prosecutor of the court.

The verdict was delivered in presence of three out of the four convicts. The fourth convict, Saleh Ahmed, is still on the run.



Emon

According to the case statement, the boy, Mostafizur Rahman Emon, a nursery student at Lafarge-Surma Community School, was abducted from in front of his house on March 27, 2015.

Emon's father Jahur Ali of Batirkandi village was an expatriate in Saudi Arabia. He later filed the case in this connection.

The abductors took the boy to an undisclosed location and demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom, in exchange for his release, by calling his family over cellphone. They, however, killed the child despite receiving the ransom payment.

Police caught up with the abductors by using cellphone tracking technology and arrested Sujon on April 8 the same year from Kadamtali Bus Terminal in Sylhet.

Sujon in his confessional statement before the court admitted to have murdered Emon. Police recovered the victim's body from Batirkandi Haor. His clothes and the weapons used in the murder were found hidden in the mosque where Sujon was the imam.

On November 21, 2016, Investigation Officer Monjur Morshed pressed a charge sheet against the four accused.

Two children, woman killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Two children and a woman were killed and two others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Natore, a seven-year-old girl was killed and her parents were injured as an auto-rickshaw carrying them overturned on Bilmaria-Lalpur road in Kosaipara area of Lalpur upazila.

Zakia Sultana, daughter of Alamgir Hossain from Mohorkaya village in the upazila, died on the spot, said police.

In Gopalganj, a boy was killed as a motorbike ran him over while he was crossing Dhaka-Khulna highway in Haridaspur area of Sadar upazila, said police.

The deceased -- Abir Hossain Sikder, 7, son of Kala Sikder from Haridaspur Adarsapara area -- was a class VI student of Haridaspur Government Primary School.

Police seized the motorbike but the rider fled.

In Gaibandha, a woman travelling on a motorbike, driven by her son, was killed as another motorcycle hit them from behind at Fakirer Bazar in Sadar upazila, said witnesses.

Luchi Begum, 38, wife of Liton Mia from Shilamoni village in Sundarganj upazila, was declared dead at Gaibandha Sadar Hospital.

Bagmara OC summoned for not recording case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A court in Rajshahi yesterday summoned the officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station to appear before it on February 14 for not recording a case over the sexual harassment of a female student.

Jubaida Rawshan Ara, judicial magistrate of Rajshahi cognisance court, issued the order and asked OC Nasim Ahmed to place his explanation before the court on the day, said court sources.

According to the order, the girl's father submitted a complaint with the police station on Sunday, accusing one Aminul Islam, a student of a polytechnic institute, for harassing his daughter.

Aminul wanted to develop a relationship with her. As she refused, he opened up a fake Facebook account in her name and kept on abusing her through various indecent posts.

Police did not record the father's case and instead, the law enforcers detained Aminul the same night, and staged arbitration between the father and him, according to the order.

Aminul was later released upon a bond where he promised not to engage in such act in future.

The court order said the officer-in-charge violated the police act by not recording the case and releasing the accused.

It is mandatory by law for the police to record the case and arrest the accused, it added.



Erection drive continues on Karnaphuli river banks. On the third day, 40 structures were demolished, bringing the total number of dismantled structures to 120.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'EMBEZZLING FUND' 16 pro-BNP lawyers face punitive action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Advocates' Bar Association has taken punitive actions against 16 pro-BNP lawyers for alleged embezzlement of around Tk 1.28 crore from its benevolent fund.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the association's office on Monday, said its general secretary Ekramul Haque.

According to it, memberships of three lawyers -- former general secretary Jamshed Ali, Mainul Ahsan and Aftabur Rahman -- were suspended for three years.

Memberships of six -- Shamsul Haque, Munshi Abul Kalam Azad, Abdur Razzak Sarker, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mahbubur Rahman, and Adib Imam -- was cancelled for six months.

Seven others -- former presidents Abul Kashem and Mozammel Haque, former fund chairman Ershad Ali, former joint secretary Parvez Tawfiq Zahedi, Habibur Rahman, Sanwar Kabir, and Jane Alam -- would be able to work as lawyers, but cannot enjoy fund

benefits until the money is returned.

Ekramul said a recent scrutiny found that the lawyers were involved in embezzling the money between 2010 and 2016. "The decision was taken after their explanations were found unsatisfactory."

He said 40 percent of the association's earnings from sales of various court-related fees, documents and other items are added to the fund and the money is deposited to different banks.

The scrutiny found that interests of the deposited money and in some cases, the funds were misappropriated.

Contacted, former general secretary Jamshed Ali said actions taken against them were "unjustified and politically motivated".

"It's a ploy to stop us from taking part in the association election," he alleged. He claimed that the scrutiny was not accurate. "They showed that the fund was embezzled, though it was deducted by the banks as value added tax," he claimed.

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Diaz's mother faints seeing photo of accused

CU CORRESPONDENT

The mother of murdered central Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Diaz Irfan Chowdhury fell unconscious seeing a photo of the man accused of her son's murder case in a magazine yesterday on Chittagong University (CU) campus.

Jobaida Sarwar, elder sister of Diaz, claimed that her mother Jaheda Amin Chowdhury went to the university's central playground around noon to attend the annual sports competition of third-grade employees.

She said the organisers union published a magazine on the occasion, where they published a photo of former CU BCL President Mohammad Alamgir Tipu along with a felicitation message from him.

Tipu is an accused in Diaz's murder case.

"Seeing Tipu's portrait on the magazine, my mother got angry

and protested, triggering an altercation with third-grade employee union president Anwar Hossain. He also misbehaved with my mother," said Jobaida.

"My mother started crying and fell unconscious at one point," she said. Later, some employees took her to CU medical centre, Jobaida added.

Anwar could not be contacted over phone despite repeated attempts.

On November 20, 2016, the body of Diaz, then assistant secretary of BCL central committee, was found hanging from the ceiling of his room near CU, Dhaka Medical College Hospital determined in an autopsy that he was strangled.

On November 24, Diaz's mother lodged a murder case with a Chattogram court, against around 20 people, including then CU assistant proctor Anwar Hossain and then CU unit BCL President Tipu.

Tension at CU over BCL infighting

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chase and counter-chase took place between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL)-affiliated youths yesterday afternoon over establishing supremacy on Chittagong University (CU) campus, causing panic among general students.

The two groups, Choose Friends with Care (CFC) and Sixty Nine, are based around the shuttle train that runs to and from Chattogram city and CU. The groups armed themselves with sharp weapons and took position at Shah Amanat and Shahjalal Hall respectively at around 4 pm, said police.

They engaged in multiple chases and counter-chases and pelted brickbats and stones. However, no one was injured, said Inspector Md Akhteruzzaman, in-charge of CU Police Outpost.

Police fired three tear gas canisters to disperse BCL men and brought the situation under control, he added.

On Tuesday night, two BCL activists were injured in a clash between the two rival groups over beating one of their members in the city's Sholoshohor Station. Three rounds of gunshots were heard during the clash, he added.

A tense situation prevailed in the campus at the time of filing this report.



Visitors look at photographs at Sylhet Agricultural University's three-day National Photography Exhibition. Over a hundred photographs were selected for the exhibition through a nationwide competition.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR