

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 29.5 L 20.6	MYMENSINGH H 27.8 L 19.0	CHATTOGRAM H 30.2 L 20.3	SYLHET H 29.3 L 19.0	RAJSHAHI H 27.4 L 14.8	RANGPUR H 27.8 L 14.5	KHULNA H 29.0 L 21.2	BARISHAL H 29.3 L 20.7	COX'S BAZAR H 28.0 L 20.5
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Rain/thundershowers with gusty/squally wind may occur at one or two places over Chattogram division in the next 24 hours till 6pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04pm and rises tomorrow at 6:14am.

JUSTICE FOR TAQI

Noted citizens call for judicial intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As little progress has been made in Tanwir Muhammad Taqi murder case in past six years, seeking judicial intervention to the matter will be a timely step now, eminent citizens said at a roundtable yesterday.

Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha, a platform working to curb crimes in Narayanganj, organised the programme at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, marking the sixth anniversary of the sensational murder.

Though the investigation agency, Rab, prepared a charge-sheet of the case within a year, it is yet to submit it to the court, said a written paper provided by the organisers.

At the event, speakers said denial of justice in Taqi murder case and many other similar incidents indicate to the country's prevailing culture of impunity. They stressed on launching a campaign, involving people from all walks of life in this regard.

Journalist Mizanur Rahman Khan brought to the fore the issue of the Rab charge-sheet. Its copy was provided to the media during a press briefing at Rab headquarters on March 5, 2014.

Providing charge-sheet during a press briefing is not a common practice in the country's criminal justice system or in the state mechanism, said Mizanur, joint editor of Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Rab's disclosing of the charge-sheet such a way was significant, he said, adding that this issue could have been raised by the platform before the High Court, seeking its directives to this end.

Referring to a Supreme Court observation over the seven-murder case in Narayanganj, he said judicial intervention helped make its trial process and verdict possible.

Agreeing with Mizanur, cultural personality Kamal Lohani said civil society members could work together in seeking SC intervention.

The matter could be discussed with senior lawyers, he said, adding that what

Taqi Mancha was doing could be an inspiration to ensure citizen rights.

Oikya Nap President Pankaj Bhattacharya said over two dozens statements of eminent personalities, seeking justice, have been made public in past years. "Unfortunately, the state has taken the side of perpetrators," he alleged.

Taqi Mancha member secretary Halim Azad said they would soon take steps to seek judicial intervention as suggested by noted citizens.

Taqi's father and the platform's convener Rafiur Rabbi said incidents of killing continue to take place in Narayanganj.

He pointed finger at a family behind the killings and demanded punishment of the killers. The platform will work to this end, and also to ensure good governance, he added.

Daily Sangbad's (acting) Editor Khandaker Muniruzzaman said it is distressing that people have to arrange events such as discussions year after year to seek justice. Not just Taqi's family, families of Tonu, Mitu, Sagar-Runi and many others are suffering a similar fate, he said.

Prof Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Choudhury said, "The state is to be blamed for Taqi's murder because it neither could ensure security while he was alive nor ensure justice after his death."

Taqi's murder is not an isolated incident, he said. "It's time to bring a change in the country where youths like Taqi will feel safe."

Noted economist Prof Anu Muhammad said trials of many sensational murders have not been completed while demands for justice were also being hampered because of the "absolute power" of the government.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim said perpetrators killed Taqi to silence his father. He said it may take a long time to get justice; strength and belief will be needed to continue the demand.

Shujian Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder called for continuing demands for trial and justice for Taqi.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administers the oath to newly-elected DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam at her office in the capital yesterday.

A salute to women's fighting spirit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They came from all over the country and their stories were all unique, but they had one thing in common: theirs were stories of success achieved through immense struggle.

Leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo brought them together at the Chhayana auditorium yesterday so they could share their stories, at an event marking International Women's Day (today).

"My father taught me to dream big; to live with honour. But after I was married, I learnt that real world is not easy for a female... Today I am a doctor. I had to struggle a lot for this," said Dr Naznin Akter, who returned to school in tenth grade after she was divorced in 2009.

She has passed her MBBS recently.

Rahima Begum is another symbol of struggle to spread quality education among underprivileged children in Char Khatipur on Padma river, near the Bangladesh-India border.

For the last nine years, she, along with her several colleagues have been travelling by road and risky waterways to reach Alor Pathshala, operated by Prothom Alo Trust. Now, children in that char land have started to flourish their potentials.

The audience became emotional listening to the story of Sima Sarkar, who was listed in BBC's "100 Women 2018" for her struggle to take her disabled son

Feminism is misunderstood

Speakers tell Gender Fest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Feminism makes some men feel threatened because it's about equally sharing a space that they have occupied by themselves.

The concept of feminism evolved through centuries of movements by activists pressing for recognition of women's rights, but still it is misunderstood and misrepresented across all social and economic classes and religions, speakers said on the final day of Gender Fest 2019 organised by Dhaka University's Department of Women and Gender Studies.

The role of governments, academics and the media came up in the discussion, but speakers concluded that families have a bigger role in changing the scenario.

Women's movement for equal rights is not only confined to this part of the world. In a country like ours, women are fighting for their right to property while somewhere else it is equal pay or the right to abortion that is at the forefront, said Prof Kaberi Gayen, of mass communication and journalism department at DU.

Even at a prestigious institute like DU, teachers stigmatise issues of women's sexual health and the rights of sex workers, said Prof Reazul Huq, of development studies department. That only indicates how women are treated by the rest of the society, he added.

Feminism is not limited to recognising women's equal rights; different dimensions have been added over time integrating the rights of all oppressed human beings, including LGBT rights,

said Kaberi at the panel discussion on "What do we know about feminism".

"It is not a movement for women's freedom. Rather it is a movement for freedom of all humans," she added.

"There is a lack of effort from the patriarchal society to look through the gender perspective, to integrate women into every layer of it, to meet the needs of women," said Mahmuda Rahman Khan, senior programme development specialist at USAID.

"We may not be able to change the whole world but we can be proactive in changing our own behavior, and the mindset of those surrounding us. Change can happen in every little way," said Seuty Sabur, of economics and social sciences department of Brac University, encouraging students to initiate change in their institutions.

FREE TREATMENT TO POOR

Submit report on pvt hospitals: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought a report from the government on whether private hospitals are providing 10 per cent bed and treatment facilities to poor and helpless patients free of cost, as per relevant law.

It also issued a rule asking authorities to explain why they should not be directed to take steps to ensure it.

Health secretary and director general of directorate of health services have been asked to submit the report on May 8, while they alongside chairpersons of all private hospitals have been made respondents to the rule.

The report must specify which private hospitals are complying with the relevant provision of the Private Medical College Establishment and Operation Rules (Amendment), 2011, and which are not, Deputy Attorney Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the order and rule following a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

CCTV cameras along Naf to stop yaba influx

Home minister tells parliament

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said the government has planned to set up closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras along the borders of Naf River in south-eastern Cox's Bazar district, aiming to check the influx of contraband yaba pills from Myanmar.

"The Department of Narcotics Control is yet to set up CCTV cameras along the Naf river, but it has a plan to install CCTV cameras, drug detectors, scanner machines and other modern equipment there to prevent the smuggling of yaba pills from Myanmar," the home minister said while responding to a starred question placed by Jatiya Party lawmaker Md Mujibul Haque of Kishoreganj-3 in the House, with Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Besides, he said, the government has planned to procure speedboats to strengthen surveillance along the river so that yaba pills could not enter Bangladesh territory.

Asaduzzaman said building a drug-free Bangladesh is a big challenge for the government, but it has taken various steps to keep the country's young generation free from drugs.

"The government has taken zero-tolerance policy against drug and the policy will continue," he said, adding the Department of Narcotics Control, police, BGB, Rab and Bangladesh Coast Guard are working restlessly to implement the policy.

The home minister said an action plan is being implemented with an aim to remove drugs from society.

In 2018, members of law enforcement agencies filed 1,19,878 cases against 1,61,323 people, he said. "In 2018, they seized about 6.91 crore

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Elevator collapse at Dhaka court leaves 14 injured

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Fourteen people were injured after an elevator of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court collapsed yesterday.

The accident took place at around 10:10am.

People who were near the spot rushed to rescue those who were trapped inside the damaged lift -- which was set up in 1980, court sources said.

Fire fighters and locals rescued all the injured and took them to nearby Dhaka National Medical College and Hospital for primary treatment.

Later, 13 of the injured, including Advocate Ayub Ali Talukder, 58, Advocate Sultan Ahmed, 30, Advocate Sowad, 35, Advocate Kowsir Alam Mithu, 35, Advocate Al-Amin, 45, liftman Jahangir, 45, bench assistant Md Sumon, 23, and litigant Sujon Mina, 23, were transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Advocate



People gather around the collapsed lift following the accident.

Shamsun Nahar, 35, was admitted to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

Court Process Server Towhid Mia

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



India's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das presents her credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Fire at Nawabpur warehouse doused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two weeks after the devastating fire at a warehouse in Chawkbazar, a fire broke out yesterday at a tyre warehouse in Nawabpur area of Old Dhaka.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit on the fourth-floor of a six-storey building around 2:30pm and spread to the upper floor of the building.

Five firefighting units rushed to the spot and doused the blaze around 4:15pm, said Rasel Shikder, a duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters.

No casualty was reported, he said.

The old part of the city is highly susceptible to fire, and at least one fire incident on an average breaks out every day in the area, that houses numerous warehouses, many of them in residential buildings.

AL MP acquitted in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted Awami League lawmaker from Dhaka-5 constituency Habibur Rahman Mollah from a graft case as no evidence was found against him.

Judge Md Joynal Abedin passed the order as the prosecution failed to prove the charges after cross-examination of all 21 prosecution witnesses including the complainant of the case.

On May 29, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) served a notice on

Habibur, seeking his wealth statement.

Habibur submitted the statement on June 10 the same year.

ACC's findings suggested that Habibur concealed information about his wealth in the statement.

Subsequently, Deputy Director of ACC Syed Ahmed filed the case with Ramna Police Station on October 3, 2007, alleging that Habibur concealed information in his statement.

On April 20, 2008, ACC pressed charges against Habibur. The charges were framed against him on May 14 the same year.

আবুল মনসুর আহমদের 'আয়না'র ৯০ বছর (১৯২৯-২০১৯)



সভাপতি অনিসুজ্জামান, জাতীয় অধ্যাপক
মূল প্রবন্ধ সুমন সাজ্জাদ, গবেষক

আলোচক
ড. বিশ্বজিৎ ঘোষ, উপাচার্য, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
কুদরত-ই-হুদা, প্রাবন্ধিক
আশিক রেজা, গবেষক ও
মোজাফফর হোসেন, প্রাবন্ধিক।

অনুষ্ঠানে সবাইকে আমন্ত্রণ

বিকাল ৪ টা, শ্রদ্ধাবার, ৮ মার্চ ২০১৯
মুজাফফর আহমেদ চৌধুরী মিলনায়তন (সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ), ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।



আয়োজক
আবুল মনসুর আহমেদ
কৃত্তি পরিদ