

## CITY WATERLOGGING

## Encroachment on canals blamed

BSS, Dhaka

Encroachment of canals and poor solid waste management are behind the chronic waterlogging problem in urban areas, especially in the capital city during the monsoon.

This was stated by Dr Mujibur Rahman, a leading environment specialist and a professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) while talking to BSS here yesterday.

As per the record, only 26 out of total 43 canals now exist in the city, and their free flow of water is obstructed in different ways.

Prof Mujib said storm water drainage system in the city is not working properly due to encroachment of

canals both by public and private agencies, filling up of lakes by solid wastes, and clogging of drainage pipes and lines owing to lack of regular maintenance.

Launching of awareness campaign to discourage connection of domestic and industrial wastewater lines to storm drains is a must to get out of this problem, he added.

Prof Mujib laid emphasis on proper disposal of domestic and industrial sewage by re-excavating canals and stopping construction of box culverts.

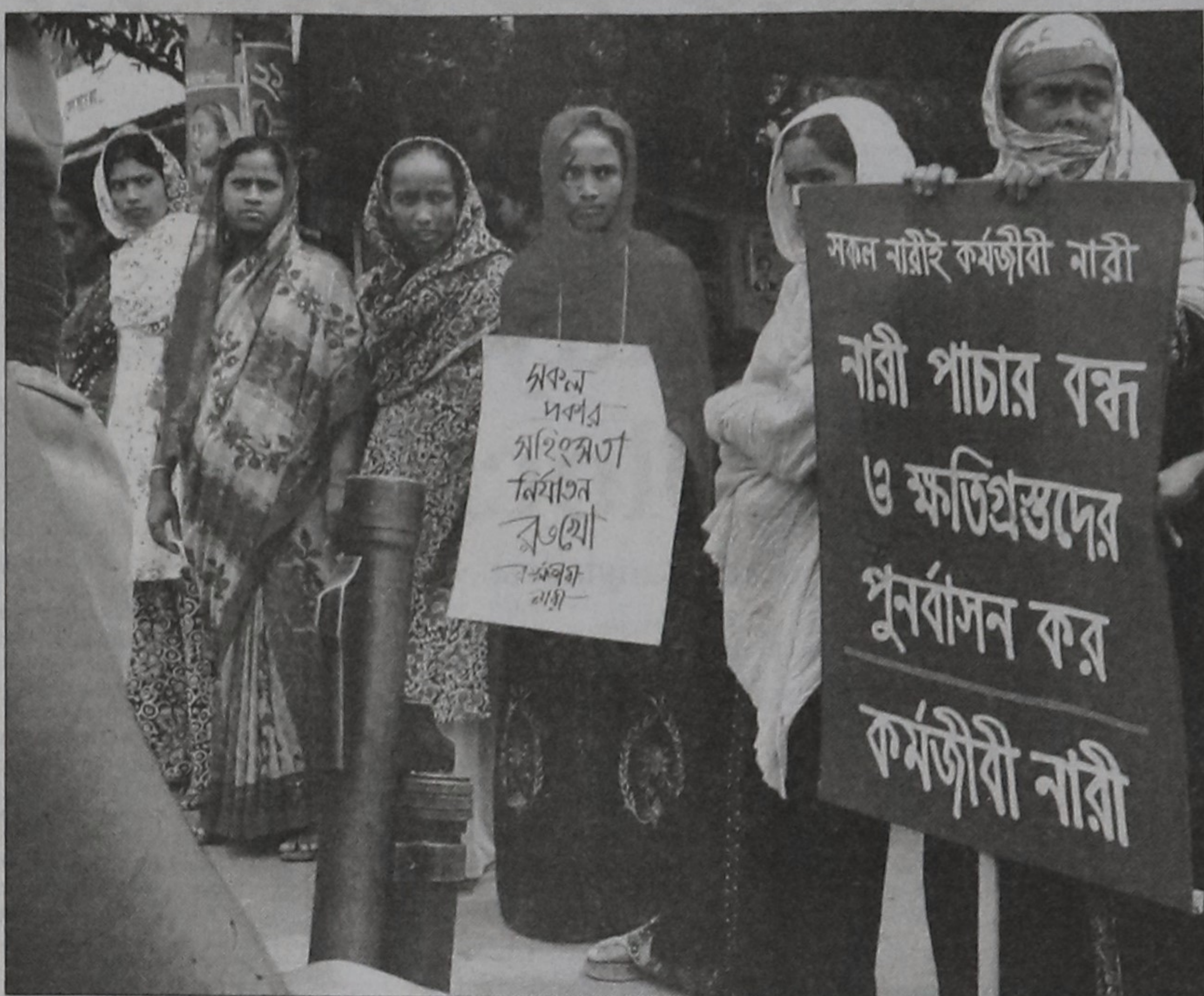
He called for awareness campaign involving elected public representatives, government officials and agencies, real estate developers and civil society members in favour of ensuring acquisition

of land for retention of ponds and construction of pump stations at specified locations.

Filling up of low land earmarked for retention of ponds, connection of domestic and industrial wastewater lines to storm drainage system and inadequate number of catch pits are also responsible for waterlogging, he added.

Prof Mujib said encroachment of Begunbari-Manda khal junction, conversion of Dholai khal into box culvert and clogging up of Segunbagicha box culvert due to poor maintenance are also responsible for waterlogging.

He said cooperation of law enforcers, elected local representatives, Dhaka Wasa and DCC is necessary for eviction of encroachers and re-excavation of canals.



Karmojibi Nari stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday on the occasion of the 14th Yasmin Day. (Story on Page 5)



Paribesh Bachao Andolon, Citizen Rights Movement, Nirapad Development Foundation, Prottyasha and WBB Trust form a human chain in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday with a call to take steps to ease traffic jam in the city. (Story on Page 5)

## 10 BCL men injured in DU factional clash

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ten activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in a factional clash at Kobi Jasim Uddin Hall in Dhaka University yesterday evening.

Of them, Sharif is critically injured and undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injuries.

Witnesses said followers of hall unit President Abdur Rahman Jibon and General Secretary Kazi Enayet locked in the clash with machetes, iron rods, wood sticks and other lethal weapons on the hall compound at around 8:15pm over establishing supremacy.

Hall sources said the clash ensued when a follower of Enayet was beaten by a group of BCL men loyal to Jibon on the hall compound after lunch.

During the hour-long clash, aggrieved BCL men also ransacked at least seven rooms.

The injured include Manwar, Mizan, Asad, Mamun, Biplob, Siraj and Afzal.

Chasing and counter-chasing between the factions created panic among the general students.

Later, police and university authorities brought the situation under control.

## SC upholds HC order to allow Sayedee to go abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) verdict that directed the government to allow Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee to go abroad.

The five-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, passed the order dismissing a government's petition for staying the HC verdict.

On July 24, members of law enforcement agencies intercepted him at Zia International Airport and prevented from going abroad.

Following a writ petition filed by Sayedee, the HC on August 12 delivered the verdict declaring the government action illegal and directed the authorities concerned to allow him to go abroad.

The government the same day filed a petition with the SC to stay the HC verdict.

**Bail granted**  
The HC yesterday granted anticipatory bail for six months to Sayedee in a case filed on charge of committing war crime.

The HC bench of Justice AFM Abdur Rahman and Justice SM Emdadul Hoque upon a bail petition filed by Sayedee, granted the bail and issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why he should not be granted regular bail in the case.

Sayedee appeared before the HC bench yesterday for bail in the case.

Malik Poshari of Pirojpur Sadar upazila filed the case against Sayedee on August 12 with Pirojpur Police Station on charge of committing war crime during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The plaintiff in the case said Sayedee and four others along with Pakistani occupation forces set fire to his house on May 8 in 1971 and looted valuables.

## BNP to observe first anniversary of release of Khaleda, Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its associate bodies will observe the first anniversary of the release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman from prison with rallies and discussions next month.

Khaleda and her son, who were arrested during the anti-corruption drive conducted by the immediate past caretaker government, were released on September 11 and September 3 last year respectively. Tarique has now been staying in London for treatment.

At a joint meeting at the party's central office at Naya Paltan yesterday, leaders of the party and its associate bodies decided to observe the day of their release and announced programmes.

A committee was also formed with Goyeshwer Chandra Roy and Rizvi

Ahmed as its convener and member secretary to make the programmes successful.

According to the party decision, BNP will hold a rally and a discussion on September 3 to observe 'Tarique release day'.

Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of the party, will also organise a discussion on September 4 to mark the release of Tarique.

To mark the anniversary of the release of Khaleda, BNP will arrange a rally on September 10 in the city and hold a discussion meeting on September 11.

Party's associate bodies will also arrange different programmes to observe the day.

Replying to a question, Goyeshwer told reporters that Tarique, who quit his party post before leaving the country, would not return before recovering fully.

## SC allows Moudud to operate account

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday allowed former BNP minister Moudud Ahmed to withdraw money from a foreign currency bank account that had been frozen earlier.

A five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin passed the order upon an application filed by Moudud seeking permission to operate the account.

Moudud told The Daily Star that he has US\$19,000 in his foreign currency account with the Prime Bank.

"Following the apex court order, I can withdraw the money from the bank for my treatment abroad," he said.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) had frozen his bank account on March 1, 2007 on suspicion of concealment of real income and tax evasion, he said.

Earlier, the High Court also directed the authorities to allow him to operate the account, but the Supreme Court had stayed the HC directive upon a government's stay petition, he said.

BAIL TO SIRAJ  
SC order on govt petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) will pass order today on the government's petition for turning down the High Court orders granting bail to former BNP minister Shahjahan Siraj and asking the authorities to release him from jail.

After concluding hearing on the petition, the five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin fixed the date for passing order.

Emerging from the court, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that the chamber judge's order staying the HC orders that granted the former minister bail and directed the government to release him from jail will continue until the SC passed the order on Tuesday (today).

The chamber judge of the Appellate Division on Sunday stayed for one day the HC order, directing the jail authorities to release Shahjahan Siraj from jail within an hour and produce him before the higher court.

The government, however, filed a petition with the SC in the afternoon the same day to stay the HC orders.

The HC on August 18 and 19 granted bail to Shahjahan Siraj in four cases.

Mahbubey Alam appeared for the government, while Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq argued for Shahjahan Siraj.

## Death anniversary of Ivy Rahman observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fifth death anniversary of Ivy Rahman, former women's affairs secretary of Awami League (AL) and wife of President Zillur Rahman, was observed yesterday.

On the occasion, Zillur, accompanied by his family members, offered Fateha at her grave at Banani in the city.

Leaders and workers of AL and its front organisations and family members also placed wreaths at her grave.

Ivy was seriously injured in a grenade attack on an AL rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city on August 21 in 2004, and succumbed to her injuries at Combined Military Hospital three days later.

Earlier, Zillur Rahman placed wreaths and offered Fateha at the graves of the family members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who were assassinated on August 15, 1975 and the graves of four national leaders killed at Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Special prayers were also offered at the Bangabhaban Jame Mosque.

## Swapan's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condoled the death of Shafiqul Ghani Swapan, former minister and chairman of Bangladesh National Awami Party.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rob and General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan expressed deep shock at the death of Shafiqul Ghani and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP-Bhasani) also expressed shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party, National Peoples Party, National Democratic Party, and National Democratic Alliance also condoled the death.

Swapan passed away at a city hospital on Sunday.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Nilphamari after Asr prayers on Thursday.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Syed Nahum Ali alias Ghutu, son of Language Movement veteran Syed Fazle Ali and journalist Syed Alfa Ali, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Alim Uddin Hafizia Madrasa and Orphanage at Nayanagar at Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers today.

## UK High Commission, IOM ponder increasing TB test capacity

METRO DESK

As a result of an unprecedented demand for TB examinations for visas for the United Kingdom from Bangladesh, especially for student visas, UK Border Agency (UKBA) at the British High Commission and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have looked at ways to increase the examination capacity of its Migration Health Assessment Clinics in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong in order to meet that demand.

IOM will increase the daily number of UKTB tests in the existing clinics in Bangladesh and open an additional clinical facility in Dhaka, says a press release.

IOM will be rescheduling UKTB test appointments to earlier dates in co-ordination with the British High Commission and will contact the relevant visa applicants.

However, IOM will not accept any individual requests for a reschedule of an appointment. Those requests should be made to the High Commission [Immigration.Enquiries@fco.gov.uk] as per current instructions and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Stuart Percival, head of Immigration Services at the British High Commission in Dhaka, said, "UKBA, IOM and Visa Facilitation Service (VFS) centre will continue to take all necessary steps to address the needs of UK visa applicants and to reduce whenever possible the waiting period. All applicants for visas for the UK, seeking to stay for a period in excess of 6 months will be able to make an appointment for a TB test."

Given the seasonal demand experienced now, the British High Commission has requested applicants to make an appointment only if he/she is currently in the actual process of applying for a UK visa. This will enable the High Commission to more easily process those applicants who need to travel to the UK at earlier dates.

FAKE BCS QUESTIONS  
Five frauds held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police yesterday arrested five members of a gang on charges of fraud as they supplied fake question papers of 29th BCS (Bangladesh Civil Service) preliminary exams to some candidates in exchange for money.

The arrestees were identified as Md Quel Hossain, 28, Md Ahsan Habib, 29, Mahmud Hasan alias Ranju, 28, Shipon Mridha, 28, and Md Saiful Islam, 28. Of them, Saiful is a masters student in statistics at Jagannath University and the others passed master's degree from the university, the police said.

They were arrested from Ramna, Jatrabari, Sayedabad and Pubali areas.

Their leader Mehedi Hasan, 26, was arrested on August 14 several hours before the exam began, Officer-in-Charge Bhuiyan Mahbub Hasan of Mohammadpur Police Station said.

Sub-inspector (S1) Shamsul Haque, who was

posing as a BCS exam candidate, caught Mehedi red-handed around 3:00am when Mehedi came to sell the fake questions to him at Asadgate.

Acting on Mehedi's information, the police arrested the five yesterday.

At the Mohammadpur Police Station, Saiful said Mehedi, who hails from Patuakhali, instigated them to be involved in the forgery.

As per the instructions of Mehedi, Saiful said, they went to TSC area on the Dhaka University campus with fake question papers in an envelope on the night of August 13 and handed over the envelope to a person after receiving Tk 40,000 from him.

The police said the gang generally used to deceive people on the night before the examination.

OC Mahbub said the police trapped and arrested Mehedi after receiving information from a person who was cheated by the gang last year.



## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or temporary showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions during next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely to occur at places over the country, Met Office said.

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:23pm today and rises at 6:38am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.6 degrees Celsius at Tangail.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.9	24.3	86	77
Chittagong	30.9	25.6	79	80
Rajshahi	32.8	25.0	88	76
Khulna	29.6	24.3	100	87
Barisal	31.5	25.0	89	73
Sylhet	34.8	26.1	73	76
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.5	74	89



Left Democratic Front stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding implementation of the Phulbari agreement.