

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.3 L 27.0	CHITTAGONG H 33.8 L 27.2	SYLHET H 35.5 L 24.4	RAJSHAHI H 38.5 L 25.6	KHULNA H 36.8 L 25.4	BARISAL H 36.0 L 25.7	RANGPUR H 34.0 L 24.7	COX'S BAZAR H 34.2 L 26.5
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Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29pm and rises tomorrow at 05:21am. Country's highest temperature 38.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 23.5 in Syedpur.

IMPUNITY MAKING CANAL GRABBERS IMPUDENT



The Daily Star published the photo on the left on April 2, reporting how grabbers were gradually encroaching upon the dying Nayanjuri Khal in Ashulia outside the capital. Although the local administration said at the time that they would "soon" recover the canal, the situation, right, in the last one month has gotten worse with unhindered progress of construction of concrete structures in the middle of it. The canal once flowed with an average width of 200-250 feet connecting the Bongshi and Turag rivers through Kaichabari, Baipail, Gazirchot, Zamgora, and Yearpur unions. The photo on the right was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

JnU finally expels BCL man for sexual assault on female teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jagannath University (JnU) authorities yesterday expelled Aroj Mian, a master's student of Islamic history and culture, for sexually assaulting a female teacher of the university.

Vice Chancellor Prof Mizanur Rahman made the decision moments after the university's anti-sexual harassment cell, which found Aroj guilty of assaulting the lecturer on April 26, submitted its probe report to the university authorities recommending that they take action against Aroj.

Aroj, an activist of JnU unit BCL, had been suspended earlier when the incident took place. The incident also sparked

Market gets priority over fresh air

DISAPPEARING DHAKA PARKS
KARWAN BAZAR
 EST: 1980s
 SIZE: 0.52 ACRES
 WARD: 39 (OLD)

How many parks does Dhaka city need? According to rules, it should be 92, one for each ward. But we have only 54, with several of them having ceased to exist and many threatened. At least 10 parks have been replaced with a community centre, kitchen market, mosque, rickshaw garage or truck parking lot, mostly by the city corporation itself. This is the picture when an urban expert, Prof Nazrul Islam, says every 10,000 city residents need an open space of four acres -- park or playground -- for healthy development of children and prevention of diseases related to physical activities. The Daily Star reports how and why we are squeezing our breathing spaces in our metropolis where 15 million people cram in. The fifth report of the series is published today.

HELEMUL ALAM

It would be hard to bring to mind that the widely known Karwan Bazar kitchen market was a children's park even only eight years ago, thanks to the Dhaka city corporation that allotted the parkland to a traders' association for establishing the market.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) handed over the park, which was demarcated in its master plan, to the city corporation in the 1980s to maintain it properly.

"We handed over the children's park for its proper maintenance but the corporation misused the park by allotting it to the traders for other purposes," said Emdadul Islam, immediate past chief engineer of Rajuk.

But the corporation allotted the parkland to "Karwan Bazar Khudra Kanchamal Arat Byabsayee Bohumukhi Samabaya Samity Limited" reportedly due to the influence of a BNP leader of the area who made a huge profit by selling the shops, said Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) sources. At least 104 shops were allotted on September 9, 2005, added the official.

Some traders at Karwan Bazar alleged that the BNP leader along with some other influential persons of the area sold each of the 104 shops for at least Tk 5 lakh.

This newspaper withholds the name of the BNP leader, as he was not available for contact.

The children's park had various rides, swings, and slides. Even local traders used the park to spend their leisure but now there is no open space in the area, said Amjad, a trader.

The park also enhanced the beauty of the area, said Anwar, another trader of Karwan Bazar.

Chief Executive Officer of DNCC BM Enamul Haque claimed that they are taking steps to protect the parks of their areas. The city corporation has a plan to shift the whole Karwan Bazar kitchen market to three other places -- Jatrabari, Mohakhali and Aminbazar -- and the process is under way.



DU VC rebuts Anu's remarks

DU CORRESPONDENT

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday protested the allegations that he denied any occurrence of molestation of females during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on the campus and involvement of any student of the university in the assault.

"I was saddened to hear the allegations," he said in a conversation with The Daily Star. "What Professor Anu Muhammad said against me yesterday is completely false."

"I never said that no assault occurred on Pahela Baishakh... I said if 10 percent of the news published in the media about sexual assault was true, then it would be very condemnable and embarrassing."

He added, "I said I didn't want to believe that any

HC drops Abbas' bail plea from hearing list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday dropped from its hearing list a bail petition of BNP leader Mirza Abbas in connection with a corruption case.

The HC bench passed the order as his lawyers for the third time prayed for deferring the hearing on the petition.

The HC bench was scheduled to hear the bail petition on April 21 and 27, and May 4.

On May 4, Abbas' lawyer Nitai Roy Chowdhury prayed to the bench for deferring the hearing saying that Abbas' filing lawyer AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and senior lawyer Khandaker Mahbub Hossain who will place the arguments are currently busy for the May 20

'INCITING RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE' HC clears way for trying MK Anwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to continue trial proceedings against BNP leader MK Anwar in a case filed for hurting religious sentiments in May 2013.

It summarily rejected a revision petition filed by the BNP standing committee member challenging the legality of a Dhaka court order that framed charge against him in the case on October 20 last year.

The HC passed the order after hearing arguments from Anwar's lawyer Ruhul Quddus Kazal and Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ullah.

According to the case statement, on May 6, 2013 Anwar allegedly told a press briefing at the party's Nayapalton

Biman to give discounts to deportees from Oman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Undocumented Bangladeshi migrants wishing to leave Oman under a general amnesty will be provided special airfare to facilitate their return home, Times of Oman reported yesterday.

The development comes as Oman began a three-month general amnesty beginning on May 3 that allows the undocumented workers to leave Oman without paying fines for violation of resident status rules in the Sultanate.

There may be around 40,000 to 50,000 undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers in Oman, Times of Oman added.

"For expatriates wishing to leave Oman under the government's amnesty programme, Biman Bangladesh will offer special fares to Dhaka," Showkat Hossain, country manager of Bangladesh Biman in Oman, told Times of Oman.

However, details need to be finalised, he said.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will also offer special fares to amnesty-seekers who wish to leave Oman.

"Discounted fares will only be offered after amnesty seekers have clearances from the government and the embassy," said Shahzad M Paracha, country manager, PIA, Muscat.

BCL keeps pressing for reinstatement of its expelled Buet leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday demanded that the Buet authorities immediately withdraw its order expelling the university's BCL president and general secretary.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) expelled president Shuvo Jyoti

'Shibir activists' chop off BCL man's fingers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Islami Chhatra Shibir activists severed four fingers of the right hand of a Bangladesh Chhatra League man in Sylhet city's Akhalia Noapara on Monday evening, claimed the victim.

Munna Qureshi, 24, is a member of Akhalia unit of BCL, said city unit senior vice president Ali Hossain.

Munna said he lost his fingers as the miscreants riding four motorbikes attacked him with knives.

With injuries also in the left leg and different parts of his body, Munna was admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Accusing unknown persons, Ali filed a case with Jalalabad Police Station of which Officer-in-Charge Akther Hossain said they were investigating the incident.

A Shibir leader of the city unit, seeking anonymity, however, said a faction of BCL actually attacked Munna.