



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.0 L 24.0

CHITTAGONG H 33.6 L 26.6

SYLHET H 33.6 L 21.6

RAJSHAHI H 35.2 L 23.8

KHULNA H 36.0 L 27.0

BARISAL H 34.8 L 26.5

RANGPUR H 33.0 L 23.2

COX'S BAZAR H 33.2 L 26.5

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 05:18am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 20.5 in Sreemangal.

Free trash bags for all holdings, streetlight fixing in 20 days

Declares new DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon

With councillors verbally expressing extending their support, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday announced providing for free garbage bags to each of DSCC's 1.43 lakh holdings and in 20 days fixing its streetlights. "The dwellers can keep waste in the bags and then send those to designated places," he told a reception DSCC organised in the capital's Mohanagar Natya Mancha.

He also asked councillors to repair the streetlights before the holy Shab-e-Barat night.

"About 80 percent of the streetlights of DSCC are out of order...so do the work quickly," he told them.

The mayor said the DSCC fund was empty and its debts amounted to Tk 250 crore, which would shortly rise by another Tk 80 crore, which was spent for development works.

He hoped resolving the crisis after meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as

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Sampans or traditional boats of Chittagong set out en masse traversing the Karnaphuli river yesterday as part of Karnaphuli Sampan Majhi Kolyan Samiti and Chattragram Anchalik Sangskritik Academy's campaign to raise awareness on stopping pollution of the river and encroachment.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Law drafted for SC judge removal route

Law Minister Anisul Huq aims to place bill in upcoming budget session

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The law ministry has prepared the draft of a law, determining specific rules for removal of Supreme Court judges on grounds of incapacity and misbehaviour.

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on May 3 that the draft will "soon" be sent to the Supreme Court judges through Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha for their consent.

"After getting opinions from judges, a discussion

will be held among legal experts on this issue, and then it will be finalised to be placed as a bill in parliament," he said.

The law minister said he has a target to place the bill in the upcoming budget session of parliament for its passage.

He refused to disclose contents of the draft.

Replying to a question, Anisul Huq said the parliament can remove a Supreme Court judge for incapacity and misbehaviour at this moment

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3 YEARS INTO MARITIME VICTORY

Resources yet to be explored

UNB, Dhaka

Over three years past the much celebrated verdict of a United Nations court in Hamburg, allocating approximately 1,11,631 square kilometres of sea area to Bangladesh in a dispute with Myanmar, there has still been no exploration of the bounty of natural resources the country gained from its new waters.

The same applies to the significantly smaller area in the Bay of Bengal that Bangladesh gained from a verdict in a similar case against India at the same court in 2014.

Now a proposal to set up a Maritime Commission is gaining currency among experts, who say that a lack of coordination among a string of government bodies is restricting the exploration of natural

resources in the Bay of Bengal.

"Although three years have elapsed since demarcation of the maritime boundary with Myanmar, progress in exploring the marine resources in the area remains very slow for a lack of coordination among the government organisations," Abdus Sobhan, executive general secretary of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba), told the news agency.

Since none of the government bodies concerned are interested in delegating powers, the newly gained marine resources of Bangladesh remain firmly in the grip of the foreign ministry, which fought and won the case for Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Navy, according to Sobhan.

"It is no more a responsibility of the foreign ministry. Their duty was only to

settle the maritime disputes with India and Myanmar at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and bring the verdict in favour of the country, and that they have successfully done," he added.

The job was done in two parts in fact - the first on March 14, 2012, when the maritime boundary of Bangladesh with Myanmar was settled by an ITLOS verdict.

Then in July 2014, Bangladesh gained some 19,467 square kilometres of maritime space (of the total 25,602 square kilometres of disputed area) from an ITLOS verdict in its case against India.

Prof M Maruf Hossain of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries of Chittagong University regretted that Bangladesh has no mentionable achievement in its exploration

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Roads and footpaths on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital turned into parking spaces, causing traffic congestion and forcing pedestrians right onto the path of oncoming vehicles. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Cops 'assault' JU teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police allegedly assaulted a teacher of Jahangirnagar University in presence of his parents in House Building area of the capital last night.

Rakib Ahmed, an assistant professor of journalism and media studies, was going to the airport railway station with his parents to board a Sylhet-bound train around 10:05pm.

As the train was scheduled to leave the station at 10:20, the driver and Rakib requested the on-duty traffic sergeant to allow them to move promptly but the sergeant hurled abusive words when Rakib identified himself as a university teacher, he said.

"When I protested, the sergeant along with two

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Garment workers protest random termination

Demand reopening of factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

About a thousand workers of two garment factories in Ashulia demonstrated in Savar Bus Stand area yesterday pressing home their five-point demand, including reopening a factory and ending random terminations of workers.

Workers of NRN Knitting and Garments Ltd and Natural Sweater Village Ltd-2 under the banner of "Garment Workers Trade Union Centre" formed a human chain on the Dhaka-Aricha highway and then brought out a procession from the Rana Plaza collapse site to Pakiza crossing.

The workers of NRN Knitting and Garments Ltd said after the recent earthquakes, they had demonstrated demanding the authorities examine the building their factory is housed in to find out whether it was fit.

Afterwards, the factory management fired two workers, they claimed, adding when they protested the termination of their co-workers, the management again terminated 27 workers on May 3.

Md Sarwar Hosen, production manager, admitted that

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More train coaches on cards for Eid

Says railways minister

BSS, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Railway is contemplating to add more coaches to it to ensure better services during the Eid-ul-Fitr festival scheduled for July, said Railways Minister Md Mazibul Hoque yesterday.

The authorities concerned have taken pragmatic steps in this regard, he told journalists while inspecting the repair works of trains at Parbotipur and Syedpur workshops in the district.

He said all the officers and employees were working round the clock.

Local lawmaker Whip Shawkat Chowdhury, and acting secretary of the ministry Feroz Salah Uddin, among others, accompanied the minister.

Bumper Haribhanga mango harvest likely in Rangpur

BSS, Rangpur

The fibreless, fleshy and delicious variety of mango, Haribhanga, which has become popular at home and abroad, is likely to see bumper production this year, experts both farmers and experts.

Horticulture Specialist of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Khondker Md Mesbahul Islam said they are hopeful about the production if the climatic condition continues to remain favourable during the plucking in the next two months.

Frequent rainfalls till last April have helped for the better growth of the tender fruits which would result in better production, he hoped.

According to the DAE sources, commercial cultivation of Haribhanga mango has already become popular among farmers and rural people by making them self-reliant in the district.

This season, over 6,200 farmers and locals have cultivated the mangoes on over 5,700 hectares of land comprising 4,200 small, medium and big orchards and homesteads in the district after earning Tk 147 crore for 21,000 tonnes of mango last year.

Farmers are expected to produce around 22,000 tonnes of Haribhanga mango as its cultivation has been expanded across Rangpur division.

The mango is mostly being cultivated in Podaganj, Khoragach Purbopara, Khoragach Paschimpara, Ruposhi, Zarullapur, Rangtipara,

Bangaon, Chaker Pather, Paikarerhat, Rukniganj, Siraj, Tekani, Moyenpur, Kadamtola, Lalpukur, Shukurerhat, Sikarpur, Fulchowki, Tilakpara, Kashimpur, Ucha Balua, Matherhat and other villages in Mithapukur upazila.

Haribhanga is also being cultivated in Kutubpur, Arunnesa, Nataram, Rustamabad, Nagerhat, Chowpothirhat, Kanchabari, Gopalpur, Baroghoria, Airamri, and Mandalpara under Badarganj upazila, Kantabari, Palichora, and Ramjiban under Sadar upazila and many other villages under Pirganj upazila.

According to market sources, the farmers will begin plucking the mangoes from the second week of June and

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MEERA BENJAMIN

Foreword by Barbara Ehrenreich

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