

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
DHAKA H 31.6 L 21.5	H 34.4 L 20.7	H 33.8 L 28.0	H 32.2 L 27.0	H 29.7 L 23.7	H 35.0 L 28.5
CHITTAGONG H 33.6 L 25.2	SYLHET H 30.7 L 25.0				

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 05:17am.

Still there but shrinking fast

DISAPPEARING DHAKA PARKS

SAYEDABAD
EST: 1980s
SIZE: 1.2 ACRES
WARD: 84 (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 eighth report of the series is published today.

HELEMUL ALAM

Jatrabari Park, which once measured 1.2 acres, has shrunk by two-thirds to less than 0.4 acres, as different organisations including the Dhaka city corporation have occupied the parkland over the years for other purposes.

The park was established in the 1980s, now adjacent to Shaheed Zia Girls School and College and Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover.

The DCC, responsible for maintaining every park in the capital, constructed a road to Demra grabbing a portion of the parkland around 15 years back and later a public toilet there, said locals.

A high school and college and a clinic were built in the 1990s on

the parkland, while construction of several other illegal structures including makeshift shops and an office room of community police followed, they said.

Recently a tin-roof office was built by local Awami League which still holds a signboard reading "Main office of Awami League and its front organisations of Dhaka-5 constituency".

Rickshaw-vans and mobile food shops are also using a portion of the existing parkland as a parking lot, making the place very dirty.

Around three years ago, the construction workers of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover used the park as a temporary accommodation facility, and about one year back it was handed over to the DSCC, said a DSCC



official.

But Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) instead of renovating the park tried to set up a garbage transfer station there, said Iqbal Hossain, a resident of Uttar Jatrabari.

The station, under Urban Primary Health Care Project, was supposed to be inaugurated by the local lawmaker in July 2014 but locals halted the initiative through demonstrations.

Mir Osman Gani of Uttar Jatrabari said, "A park in a locality is not a luxury but rather a necessity. My doctor advised me to walk for an hour every day

but I don't find any suitable place. Parks are becoming extinct and footpaths are under hawkers' occupation. Where shall we go?"

The locals used to organise congregations during Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha, the two biggest religious festivals of Muslims, on the parkland but for the last four years, there has been no Eidgah in the area.

Residents of Dhalpur, Mir Hajirbagh, and Uttar Jatrabari, who used the park for daily exercise and social activities, said the surviving land could be protected and turned into a great park if the new mayor wanted.

DSCC Mayor-elect Sayeed Khokan said they will take necessary steps after visiting the park.



This is what remains of Jatrabari Park after its two-thirds were lost to different structures over the time, sometimes under the auspices of its custodian Dhaka city corporation. At present, an Awami League office stands right on the parkland, while rickshaws, rickshaw-vans and mobile food shops use it as a parking space. The photo was taken this week.

Apex Footwear

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suggestion and went back to work after a while.

"But after some time she started feeling the pain again and quickly went to the toilet, where she gave birth to a five-month old undeveloped foetus," reads the statement.

As per the statement, the company immediately informed Hamida's relatives about the incident and took her to Kaliakoir's Modern Hospital where duty doctors treated her.

"Before this incident she never told the factory authority about her pregnancy," reads the statement.

The statement claimed that based on wrong facts and without getting details of the incident, newspapers published reports stating Hamida gave birth to a baby inside the toilet after being denied maternity leave, which was not true.

The statement further added that Hamida had been working at the company since 2013 and last year she availed maternity leave as per the labour law and gave birth to a child.

"She also took four days' sick leave last September but since then she has not applied for any sick or maternity leave," mentioned the statement.

Prosecution claims they belittled court's

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Zafrullah Chowdhury and Shahidul Alam gave earlier, said they had no intention to "hurt the tribunal".

She said they did not question the sentence's justification but opined on the decision's impact on the scope of freedom of speech. Earlier lawyers of 12 alleged contemnners gave similar arguments.

Tureen referred to the section of the statement which reads, "The sentencing of David Bergman is nothing but a continuation of curbing of all forms of freedom of expression and differences of opinion about the International Crimes Tribunal".

"Such allegation against this honourable tribunal is utterly false, malicious, ill-motivated and baseless," said Tureen, adding that the alleged contemnners cannot lower the tribunal's prestige or authority even in the "garb of criticising judgments".

Tureen said there has been an "unholy organised domestic and international attempt" since the tribunal's inception to question its judicial process and Bergman's criticism in his articles, in other words, has simply endorsed such an "organised ill and futile endeavour".

"The impugned statement has failed to serve any interest except for serving the interest of the unholy organized domestic and international quarter involved in baseless criticism of the (International Crimes [Tribunals] Act) 1973 law and the judicial process under the same," said Tureen.

STATEMENT IN BANGLA

Yesterday, Shireen placed the Prothom Alo report, saying they all gave their consent reading a statement, written in Bangla and sent by Hana Shams Ahmed, another signatory.

Justice Hassan said following the court's order, the Prothom Alo editor submitted an unsigned copy of the statement written in English. Asked, Hana said she sent two statements, one in Bangla and the other in English, to Prothom Alo.

Hana, however, did not disown the one in English.

Tureen said the statement submitted by Prothom Alo was also published in the Daily Observer, New Age and The Independent.

The tribunal then asked Shireen and Hana to submit today the statement written in Bangla, apparently finding some discrepancies between the statement in English and the Prothom Alo report.

Morning rain cools

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roads.

Several districts also experienced rain as nor'westers swept through Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Dhaka, and Faridpur, Kamrul Hasan, an on-duty meteorologist at Dhaka Met office, told The Daily Star.

There was 7mm of rain in the capital between 6:00am to 9:00am, he said, while the rain with gusts of up to 80km/hr hit the southern parts of the country including Chittagong, Comilla and Noakhali yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a gas supply line ruptured around 9:30 beneath Top Collection Lane in Purana Paltan, said Masud Munshi, duty officer of Paltan Police Station.

It, however, did not cause any damage, he said, adding that technicians from Titas Gas along with fire fighters and local police fixed the leak.

A fire official also confirmed there was no damage.

SC wants draft code of conduct for lower court judges by June 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the law ministry to prepare a draft of the code of conduct for lower court judges and submit it by June 14.

During hearing the Masdar Hossain case, known as the separation of the judiciary case, it also fixed June 14 for further order. Attorney General Mahubey Alam yesterday submitted a draft of the disciplinary rules for the lower court judges before the apex court.

Gonoshastha Kendra sends medical team to quake hit Nepal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Gonoshastha Kendra, an NGO, in Ashulia yesterday sent a medical team and medicines for the earthquake victims in Nepal by donating one day's salary.

One victim's wife doesn't trust DB's

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dropped though their involvement in the killings was found during the investigation, Sakhawat added.

Earlier on April 8, detectives submitted the charge sheet against 35 naming local Awami League leader Nur Hossain as the prime accused.

Of the charge-sheeted accused, 25 were

members of Rapid Action Battalion, including ex-top officials Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Arif Hossain and SM Masud Rana.

In April last year, seven people, including Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker, were abducted and their bodies were later recovered from the Shitalakkhya river.

13 development NGOs get Australian

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commissioner's residence on May 3, said a press release yesterday.

The 13 NGOs are: ActionAid Bangladesh, The Glencoe Foundation, Bangladesh Apiculture Institute (BIA), Australian Safe Communities Foundation (ASCF) in collaboration with the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), UCEP-Bangladesh, Samannita Unnayan Seba Sangathan, Atmabiswas, Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal, Japan Association of Drainage and Environment, Light House and Society for Lowest Urban Mass.

Establishment of human rights of indigenous people, reducing the level of rights violation and abuse towards the sexual minorities in Bangladesh, and child poisoning prevention in rural communities are some of the projects receiving DAP assistance.

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