



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.1 L 21.0

CHITTAGONG H 32.6 L 24.5

SYLHET H 31.7 L 23.4

RAJSHAHI H 34.5 L 21.5

KHULNA H 33.5 L 25.0

BARISAL H 30.7 L 25.8

RANGPUR H 32.0 L 23.5

COX'S BAZAR H 34.0 L 26.2

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:33pm and rises tomorrow at 05:17am. Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chuadanga and lowest 20.5 in Tangail.

Only whispers of past remain

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 ninth report of the series is published today.

DISAPPEARING DHAKA PARKS
BAKSHIBAZAR
 EST: 1984
 SIZE: 0.28 ACRES
 WARD: 63 (OLD)

HELEMUL ALAM

At the main entrance, a plaque reading "Shishu Park" or children's park will puzzle a stranger if she steps into that small strip of land. Instead of seeing children's rides, she will come across a few worn-out slides and iron poles without any swing attached to them; instead of finding a gaggle of kids, she will meet rickshaw-pullers chatting with each other or sharing a cigarette.

This scenario did not exist 15 years ago. It was truly a children's place back then.

Established in 1984 beside Girza Urdu Road, Bakshibazar Park faced the first onslaught in 2001-2002 when the Dhaka city corporation gave a portion of its land for construction of a three-



storey clinic under the urban healthcare project.

Gradually the open space fell to disuse for children.

Children have not been playing there for the last 10 years,

said Ramu Das, a cleaner of nearby Alia Madrasa. The park is ruined, he added.

The parkland has completely slid out of the general people's hands to the locally influential

people, who are now making money by letting the open space to be used as a parking lot for rickshaws and rickshaw-vans.

A rickshaw-van puller said that to avail the parking facility, each of

them gave Tk 350 monthly to some locally influential people from the ruling party. Without naming anyone, he said a man collected the fee on behalf of them.

Stressing the necessity of a park in every ward, a resident of the area who used to play in the park around 15 years ago said the authorities should take an initiative to recover the park from grabbers and ensure its use for which it is meant.

Khalid Ahmed, chief estate officer of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), said they already visited the spot and would go for a drive shortly to clear the place.

DSCC mayor-elect Sayeed Khokon said he would take necessary measures after observing the conditions of the city parks.



The presence of rickshaws and rickshaw-vans has been the main feature of Bakshibazar Park on Girza Urdu Road, while a few abandoned swing poles and slides are only reminiscent of a vibrant open playing space, which it was 15 years ago. A clinic, the building in off-white, has also occupied a portion of the park. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NEWS IN brief

China to invite Hasina to 'One Belt, One Road' forum

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China will invite leaders from Asian countries, including Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to a Forum on "One Belt, One Road" initiative to be held in the East Asian country later this year.

Wang Jiarui, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), disclosed this to a seven-member delegation of ruling-Awami League who called on him in Beijing yesterday.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Ashrafur Islam is leading the delegation, said a foreign ministry press release.

The Chinese leader stressed the need for further strengthening the relationship to promote pragmatic cooperation between the two countries.

Railway to get 270 new coaches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two hundred and seventy new coaches will be added to the fleet of Bangladesh Railway (BR) within six months to enhance its passenger carrying capacity, said Railways Minister Md Mazibul Hoque yesterday.

India is sponsoring 120 of the coaches while Asian Development Bank (ADB) is sponsoring the remaining 150, said the minister while visiting BR's workshop for carriages and wagons in Pahartali of Chittagong city yesterday.

11 Dubai-bound passengers detained at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong immigration police detained 11 Dubai-bound passengers from Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday on suspicion of traveling with fake visas.

The passengers of a Fly Dubai flight, which left the airport at 11:20am, were supposed to go to Libya through Dubai, said police.

Though they claimed to have visited Dubai several times but police suspected that they were being trafficked.

Police were verifying their visas.

Jaipur Foot's free prosthesis camp starts in capital today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-day Jaipur Foot Artificial Fitment Camp starts today at the capital's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) to provide on-the-spot artificial limb fitments to some 500 poor amputees for free.

Health Minister Md Nasim will attend the event as chief guest with Indian Deputy High Commissioner Sandeep Chakravarty as special guest.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, maker of the famous Jaipur Foot, is holding the camp, said an Indian High Commission press release.

Pakistan to fund training of 60 female SME entrepreneurs

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistani High Commission in Dhaka will provide funds for a three-week skill development training for 60 Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs involved in SME sector.

To this respect, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed yesterday between Pakistani High Commissioner Shuja Alam and Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (Midass), Bangladesh, said a Pakistani High Commission press release.

Midass will also organise SME Trade Fairs in Dhaka and other districts for providing the participants with a platform to sell their products.

Woman's body found in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from a trunk dumped into a ditch beside Dhaka-Tangail highway at Baroipara in Ashulia, outside the capital, yesterday.

Miscreants might have killed the woman, aged around 26, elsewhere and dumped the body there after stashing it into the trunk, said police.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

বাংলাদেশের আধুনিক ভাস্কর্যশিল্পের পথিকৃৎ নভেরা আহমেদের প্রয়াণে



নাগরিক স্মরণসভা

এবং

নবনির্মিত নভেরা প্রদর্শনী কক্ষ-এর শুভ উদ্বোধন

আপনার আমন্ত্রিত

মহাপরিচালক
বাংলা একাডেমি

১৩ মে ২০১৫/৩০ বৈশাখ ১৪২২ বুধবার ১১ বিকেল ৫:০০টা

স্থান: ড. মুহম্মদ এনামুল হক ভবন, বাংলা একাডেমি, ঢাকা

আয়োজনে: বাংলা একাডেমি

GD-1721

Create ministerial div for plain land

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for more budgetary allocations.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjeeb Drong said about 20 lakh plain land Adivasis had an allocation of Tk 16 crore in the last national budget. "So each plain land Adivasi person got 80 taka," he said.

He went on to explain that the size of the upcoming budget would be around three lakh crore taka. "Since Adivasis constitute over two percent of the total population, the allocation for them should be 6,000 crore taka.

"But the last budget had 755 crore for the hill tracts people and 16 crore for plain land Adivasis," he said.

Technical coordinator of the caucus Prof

Mesbah Kamal said compared to the allocation for general people, shares of both hill tracts and plain land Adivasis were discriminatory.

General Secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Rabindranath Saren said about Tk 44 crore had been allocated for the development of plain land Adivasis since the country's independence.

"I'm sure people have paid the state at least three or four times more than that amount in tax," he said.

State Minister for Social Welfare Promod Mankin, lawmakers Ushatan Talukdar, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Kazi Rosy and Director (rights) of Manusher Jonno Foundation Rina Roy also spoke.

HC judge declines to hear

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the petition before another bench.

Rana said following the bail petition another HC bench on April 20 issued a rule asking the government to explain why Falu should not be granted bail in the case filed with Badda Police Station on February 1 this year.

The petition was moved before yesterday's bench led by Justice Md Miftah Uddin Choudhury for its final hearing.

However, yet another HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Md Khasruzzaman yesterday granted ad-interim bail to Falu in another vandalism and arson case filed with Khilgaon Police Station on January 30 this year.

The bench also issued a rule upon the government to explain why Falu should not be granted regular bail in this case.

The bail will remain in force until disposal of the rule, said the HC.

Arrest 11 Jessore Razakar

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Sheikh Majibur Rahman, Abdul Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar, Kazi Oahidul Islam, Lutfar Moral, Abdul Khaleq Moral, Akram Hossain, Ozehar Moral, and Mushiar Rahman.

Police on November 29 last year arrested Sakhawat, 70, former MP of Jessore-6 (Keshabpur) constituency and now a Jatiya Party leader. He is now in jail.

The investigator said he had so far got five allegations against Sakhawat and names of the 11 suspects came up from the statements of witnesses.

Earlier, the three-member tribunal led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim had asked the prosecution to submit either formal charges or a progress report on May 17 into the investigation against Sakhawat, said Prosecutor Rezia.



Bangladesh Services Limited

(OWNER OF RUPOSHI BANGLA HOTEL)

1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice

Ruposhi Bangla Hotel owned by Bangladesh Services Limited is to be rebranded as Inter-Continental Dhaka Hotel. A full refurbishment of the existing buildings together with further building additions is to be undertaken in order to reposition this hotel in the Dhaka market.

Sealed tenders in two envelope systems are hereby invited by Bangladesh Services Limited from eligible tenderers for Package-3A (Kitchen & Laundry Equipment) at 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh:

Package No.	Name of the Works	Selling date of Tender Document	Closing date of Submission
Package-3A	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Kitchen and Laundry equipment and Associated Works under renovation project at 1, Minto Road, Dhaka-1000 from reputed, bonafide and eligible contractors.	From 14/05/2015	11/06/2015

The details of this Tender Notice may be seen at the www.bsl.gov.bd website. Eligible tenderers may submit their bid for Package-3A advertised for this project if they meet the requirements stipulated in the Tender Notice and Instructions to Tenderers. The Tender Document will be available at the office of the inProjects Ltd project office located at Ground floor, Building No. 2, BSL office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh.

(Md. Abul Monsur)
Secretary