

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.1 L 27.0	H 34.6 L 27.6	H 30.8 L 21.8	H 37.2 L 26.0	H 37.5 L 28.8	H 35.7 L 28.0	H 31.2 L 20.8	H 33.8 L 27.2

Mild heat wave may continue to sweep over Khulna division and the regions of Madaripur, Rajshahi, Pabna and Patuakhali. Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11 am. Country's highest temperature 37.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 20.5 in Mymensingh.

# Eviction from DCC footpaths July 1

*Small-scale drives at Gulistan, Farmgate on June 1, 12*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Two city corporations of Dhaka will conduct small-scale eviction drives on footpaths at Gulistan and Farmgate on June 1 and 12 to reduce traffic congestion and ease movement of pedestrians, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader announced yesterday.

He said they would first hold meetings with those occupying footpaths and then launch citywide eviction drives on July 1.

The decision came at a meeting of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), chaired by the minister at Nagar Bhaban.

Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Annisul Haq told The Daily Star that they would not free the footpaths overnight but rather gradually.

Arrangements will be made to rehabilitate the evicted hawkers, he said.

He said the main goal was to curb traffic congestion.

The mayor also said the corporation would pull down all illegal billboards soon.

Speaking on waste management, Annisul Haq sought a list of empty lands of different departments including railway, Local Government Division, and Roads and Highway Department so that the lands could be used as parks, playgrounds or garbage transfer stations after their reclamation from grabbers.

The minister asked the authorities concerned to provide the lists of the lands to two mayors by the next 15 days.

Narayanganj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and lawmaker Shagufta Yasmin also spoke.

# SEVEN ARSON CASES Rizvi, Dudu sent back to jail

*Bail, remand prayers rejected*

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected remand and bail petitions in seven separate arson cases against BNP leaders Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and Shamsuzzaman Dudu and sent them back to jail.

However, the court allowed police to interrogate the BNP leaders at the jail gate within May 31.

Police sought a 60-day remand for Dudu in six cases, and a 27-day remand for Rizvi in three cases.

All the cases were filed this January for damaging, torching vehicles and throwing petrol bombs on buses during the non-stop blockade and hartal enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Metropolitan Magistrate M Imdadul Haque passed the order yesterday.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court adjourned till July 2 the hearing of charge framing against BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 45 others in a case filed for torching a bus in front of the Prime Minister's Office on April 29, 2012.

# Movement to prevent suicides launched

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Muhammad bin Alim, a potential asset and a valuable life to the country and his family, would have turned 15 yesterday had he not ended his life on September 15 last year.

Brighter Tomorrow, a social movement to prevent suicide, was launched on Alim's birthday to save life, the most valuable thing on earth, from untimely and unwanted endings, said Joyshree Zaman, mother of Alim and Chirasee Zaman, who also committed suicide with her brother.

"I do not want another person to go through the pain I am going through," said Zaman.

"We want to campaign against suicide and make people aware of the causes and ways to prevent it," she told The Daily Star.

The movement would also provide counselling and support for families which have suffered from suicides.

At the launching programme held at

Jatiya Press Club, psychiatrist Helal Uddin Ahmed said on average 28 people commit suicide every day in Bangladesh.

Based on World Health Organization (WHO) data, the suicide rate in Bangladesh is 7.8 per 100,000 deaths, he said, adding that Guyana has the highest suicide rate in the world.

"The suicide rate among Bangladeshi males is 6.8 and among females is 8.7," he said and mentioned domestic torture and marriage complications as some major reasons of suicide.

The doctor also mentioned hasty urbanisation, loss of moral values and the growing idea of individualistic and self-centric society as causes of suicide.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, the chief guest of the programme, said the upcoming broadcast law would be able to control the content of the media so that it does not encourage acts of suicide.

# SC tells Bar Council to hold polls on Aug 13 with updated voter list

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the Bangladesh Bar Council authorities to hold its election on August 13 after updating the voter list.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam, who is the ex-officio chairman of the bar council, and its Secretary Altaf Hossain have been asked to publish the list by July 12.

The apex court passed the order after disposing of three appeals filed challenging an High Court order that halted the polls scheduled to be held on May 27.

Following two writ petitions filed by Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond, the HC on May 21 stayed the election for three months and also issued two rules questioning the procedures of the election.

Later, the bar council authorities and six lawyers submitted the three appeals before the SC seeking a stay on the HC order.

Yesterday, the SC also asked the HC to dispose of its rules in eight weeks.



Members of the Hindu community take a holy dip or perform Ganga Snan, a symbolic gesture of washing away sins, in the Pagla river, a tributary of the Padma, from the Ganga Ghat, adjoining Ganga Ashram and a cremation ground, south of the Kansat bazar in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila yesterday. The local community leaders say the ritual is held during "Ganga Doshhara Tithi" of Jaishttha and Ashar of the Bangla calendar.

# Complainant recants his allegations against Ctg Mayor Nasir

*Says the case was filed with influence of then BNP govt*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The complainant of an attempted murder case yesterday told a Chittagong court that he had no allegation against accused AJM Nasir Uddin, the then Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader, and now mayor of the city, saying that the case was filed by the influence of then BNP government.

The complainant, Sufian Siddique, another then BCL leader, who was attacked at an Awami League rally in the city's Laldighi Maidan on January 24, 1993, also told the court that he did not find Nasir during the attack, said court sources. The then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina was also present at the rally.

The four other witnesses also gave their testimonies before the court, which fixed June 8 for further hearing on the case filed by Sufian accusing 18 people, including Nasir.

On April 1 this year, Nasir got bail from the court.

# WAR CRIMINAL QUASEM'S APPEAL SC gives defence, state 4 weeks for statements

*Prosecution starts closing arguments at tribunal against Patuakhali's Forkan*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court yesterday gave the defence and state counsels four more weeks' time to submit separate concise statements on convicted war criminal Mir Quasem Ali's appeal against his death sentence.

Meanwhile, the prosecution started placing closing arguments at the International Crimes Tribunal in the case against Forkan Mallik, an alleged Razakar of Patuakhali's Mirzaganj upazila facing five charges including murder and rape.

**QUASEM'S APPEAL**

The SC also said the appeal would be considered ready for hearing if the statements, containing points on which the counsels would place arguments, were not submitted within the deadline.

On April 22, the SC had directed the defence and state to submit the statements by May 20 and 27 respectively.

On May 26, the Jamaat-e-Islami leader submitted a petition through his lawyer Joyanal Abedin seeking the time and stating of his senior counsel's personal difficulties.

A four-member Appellate Division

bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after hearing Quasem's petition.

International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Quasem to death on November 2 after finding him guilty in 10 of 14 war crimes charges. On November 30, Quasem submitted the appeal seeking acquittal.

**FORKAN'S CASE**

Prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal placed arguments on the first charge citing testimonies of four prosecution witnesses. The charge is over the killing of three people in the upazila on August 12, 1971.

Terming the witnesses as "natural and eyewitnesses", Badal said they saw the killing, either whole or part, and gave elaborate descriptions.

"Their testimonies should be taken into cognisance," said Badal. He, however, could not give specific answers to some of the judges' queries.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned proceedings until Sunday, when the prosecution will resume their submissions.

# Alleged rapist held, remanded

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influential resident of Shilok Minagazir Tila, and reportedly became pregnant.

On May 8, Rangunia police detained Shah Alam after the victim's mother filed a complaint with them. However, they later released Shah Alam and detained the victim's brother.

When the incident was published in a

daily, a Supreme Court lawyer filed a petition with the HC seeking its order to summon the Rangunia police officials, including the OC, for filing a fabricated case.

Later on May 25, the HC directed police to arrest Shah Alam.

The victim's brother is now at the juvenile correction centre in Gazipur.

# HC to decide about court in mid-June

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CMM court of Dhaka in one case. One charge sheet involves killing and causing injuries and the other blasting firebombs.

On May 20, another DB official Zahidul Islam pressed charges against Khaleda and 37 others for creating sub-

versive activities by throwing petrol bombs on a passenger bus.

The investigation officers appealed to the court to drop charges against 31 people named in the FIR, including BNP leaders Rafiqul Islam Mia and Selima Rahman, as their involvement was not proved.

# Tofail cautions BCL against infiltrators

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Claiming that none could tarnish the reputation of Bangladesh Chhatra League in the past, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday urged its leadership to remain alert against infiltrators who could harm its image.

He was addressing the council of BCL's Dhaka city (north) unit at the Kalabagan ground, where BCL President HM Badiuzzaman Sohag said the unit's new committee would be announced tomorrow.

Sohag handed over Tk 2.45 lakh, collected from the sale of nomination forms to 82 president and general secretary aspirants of the unit, to Nepali Students' Forum in Dhaka for the earthquake victims of the Himalayan country.

# Obituary

**CITY DESK**

Mirza Abdus Samad died due to old-age complications early yesterday.

Born in Jalpaiguri of West Bengal in 1927, he was the youngest son of Khan Bahadur Abdus Sattar and was influenced by the anti-British movement in the 1940s when he was a student.

Later, he became the general secretary of the then East Pakistan Provincial Communist Party.

He was married to the late writer Laila Samad and is survived by his only daughter Lita Samad.

His quikhwani will be held at his Gulshan residence on Sunday after Maghrib prayers.

# Shafiqur president, Quamrul gen secy of Jatiya

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Ahmed, Hasan Arefin and Shamsul Haq Durrani.

A senior member of JPC Elahi Newaz Khan Shaju announced the names of the committee. Senior journalist M Shahjahan Mian chaired the meeting that elected the committee for 2015-2016.

In addition, the meeting in a resolution decided to set up a mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the club premises. In another resolution, it was proposed that a white paper will be published on the irregularities and corruption of JPC's past committees.

Another resolution proposed amend-

ments to the club's constitution, for raising the number of members from existing 1,000 to 1,500 in the course of time.

Prime minister's information adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury criticised the activities of the past, saying the club had been turned into a party platform. "From now on, it will not be so, as there has been a general consensus among the club members to keep this institution free from political influence," he said.

Echoing him, Amanullah Kabir said the "consensus committee" would solve the problems, created by the past committees.

Khondoker Monirul Alam, a former

president of the club, said the club's environment was polluted in 2002 after a large number of members were included through persuasion, ultimately creating a crisis.

He thanked all members for extending their cooperation towards overcoming the crisis peacefully.

Earlier, the participants of the meeting observed a one-minute silence in honour of the club's members who died recently -- life members Hasanuzzaman Khan and ABM Musa, senior members Alhaj Zahirul Haq, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Monwar Ahmed, Mir Mohiuddin Shohan, Azizur Rahim Piu, and Saiful Islam Talukdar.

# SSC, equivalent exams results tomorrow

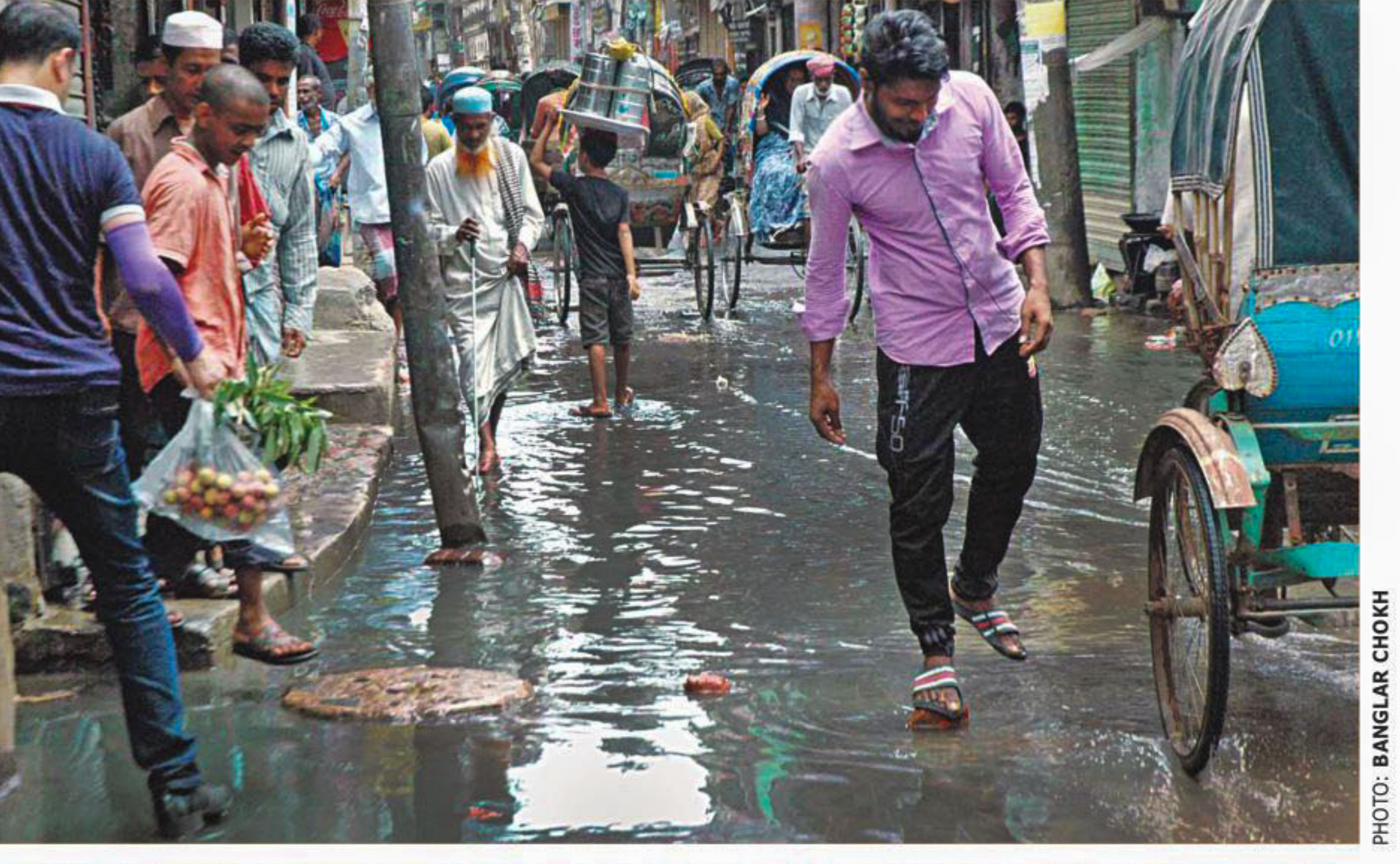
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available on [www.educationboardresults.gov.bd](http://www.educationboardresults.gov.bd)

Around 14.79 lakh students under

the 10 education boards appeared for this year's SSC and equivalent exams that began on February 6 instead of February 2 due to the countrywide

blockade and hartals by the BNP-led 20-party alliance. The authorities had to arrange all examinations on the weekends because of the hartals.



Raw sewage spews out from sewers onto the road in Ekrampur intersection area in Old Dhaka's Sutrapur causing suffering to the residents, while the authorities concerned remain nonchalant. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOJK