

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.01L 26.9	CHITTAGONG H 27.51L 25.6	SYLHET H 31.11L 25.5	RAJSHAHI H 29.41L 26.3	KHULNA H 29.01L 26.2	BARISAL H 28.31L 26.0	RANGPUR H 28.01L 25.6	COX'S BAZAR H 27.21L 25.0
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Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at most places over all the divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 05:13am.

Taqi's father gets 1 year jail for bounced cheques

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A Narayanjan court yesterday jailed Rafiur Rabbi, father of slain schoolboy Tanwir Muhammed Taqi, for one year in a case filed over dishonoured cheques. The court also fined Rafiur, a cultural activist, Tk 2.10 crore. Of the amount, he has to pay Tk 1.40 crore to the plaintiff while Tk 70 lakh to the government exchequer.

According to the prosecution, Rafiur gave two cheques for Tk 70 lakh to Jalal Uddin Ahmed, uncle-in-law of Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman, on February 8, 2012 but the cheques bounced. Later, Jalal filed the case with a court on April 25, 2012.

Awalad Hossain, lawyer of Rafiur, told The Daily Star that one Shamim Quadri bought 30 decimals of land from his client and later sold it to Jalal.

The lawyer said as the land mutation for Jalal was cancelled at the local land office, all the parties in a meeting agreed that Jalal would return the land to Rafiur taking Tk 70 lakh

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Customers buy iftar items from a stall in Geneva Camp in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday, the place known for different types of kebabs and chaaps it offers.

ACC favours AL people

Alleges BNP
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday termed the Anti-Corruption Commission a "graft-protection commission", and claimed it has been following a biased policy to save the ruling party.

Even though Disaster and Relief Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury was accused of corruption, the ACC decided not to investigate the case against him. On the other hand, it is running two graft cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to ruin her image, claimed BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon at a press conference at the party headquarters in Nayapaltan of the capital.

The ACC has decided not to investigate the case against Maya and had sent a letter to the Supreme Court in this regard on June 15, but the letter reached the court too late, according to a Prothom Alo report. The SC had already scrapped a High Court verdict that had acquitted Maya in the case for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 6.29 crore and concealing asset worth Tk 5.90 crore.

Maya may face 13 years of

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Japan to give \$23m for advanced meteorological radar systems

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to improve weather forecasting system in Bangladesh, Japan will provide US \$23 million to build next-generation meteorological radar systems in Dhaka and Rangpur.

Takeshi Matsunaga, chargé d' affaires of Japanese embassy, and Mohammad Mejbahuddin, senior secretary of Economic Relations Division, yesterday signed an agreement in this regard in the capital.

One of the radar systems, which will be constructed in Gazipur's

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Geneva Camp kebabs Dhaka iftar favourite

HELEMUL ALAM

Though it is not as big as other iftar markets in the capital, the iftar bazar at Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur has gained popularity with customers for its kebabs, and beef and mutton chaaps.

Around five shops in the area offer a variety of kebabs that bring in thousands of people from different areas of the city not only in Ramadan but throughout the year.

"We have been running our shops for the last 35 years. Initially we just sold different types of kebabs in front of Mohammadpur Government High School, but now we are running three kebab shops in the area," said wife of Mustakim,

owner of Mustakim Varieties Kebab and Soup Shop.

She said customers from all over Dhaka city come to their shops for kebabs.

Beef chaap, brain fry, gurma chaap and khiri kebab are some of the most popular items, she said.

She said they usually serve around 300 customers in their three shops at a time during Ramadan.

"We also deliver iftar boxes that cost 550 taka each," she said. Kebabs, potato chop, beguni chop, piaju and chaaps are some of the items of the iftar box.

Mentioning that they receive large orders of their iftar box, she said someone in Dhanmondi had ordered 1,000 boxes recently.

Some other items of the shop include chicken fry, kima, tikiya, doibora, jilapi and mutton roast.

Shamsul Alam, a resident of Japan Garden City, said he and his cousins frequent Mustakim's kebab shops for its kebabs and chaaps.

"The kebabs and beef chaaps of the market are very famous and delicious and for them I often have iftar at Kebabghar," said Alamgir Hossain, a resident of Minto Road.

Md Abdullah, a staff of Muslim Kebab and Soup Shop, said their beef chaaps, chicken fry, pigeon fry, cow brain fry and khiri kebabs are in high demand.

He said the customers come to their shop all year round for its chaaps.

BOALKHALI OIL SPILL Compensation for affected population demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Environmental activists in Chittagong city yesterday demanded compensation from Bangladesh Railway for the people dependent on the rivers Karnaphuli and Halda due to their pollution after an oil spill in the water bodies.

Due to the pollution, the people are at risk of health problems, they said.

A train carrying furnace oil derailed and three of its wagons fell into a canal when a bridge collapsed at Khitabchar of Boalkhali upazila on Friday.

The canal flows into the Karnaphuli, some 10 to 12 kilometres off the spot.

The demand was made at a rally followed by a human chain formed by Jalashoy and Jaladhar Rakkha Committee in front of Chittagong Press Club.

The bridge was declared risky about a decade ago but the BR authorities did not take any step to repair it, alleged Advocate Rehena Begum Ranu, president of the organisation.

Moreover, the railway authorities remained nonchalant even after two days of the incident, she said.

Rather the authorities discouraged locals to collect oil, said the speakers.

Meanwhile, the BR authorities yesterday fixed the railway line that was damaged in the bridge collapse.

However, the wagons plunged into the canal

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BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW Russia wants long-term lease

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russia wants to enter into a long-term lease agreement for the Bangladesh embassy premises in Moscow considering its historic value.

The Russian government said this in response to Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam's proposal to exchange land for the premises of the Bangladesh embassy.

During a meeting in Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Morgulov Igor Vladimirovich recognised the historic value of the property as Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had stayed at the present embassy residence (which is integral part of the Chancery premises) during his maiden visit to the then USSR in 1972.

The Russian minister conveyed that his government would be willing to enter into a long-term lease agreement for the present premises, as local laws do not allow handing over property within certain specified areas, including location of the embassy premises, on permanent basis to any foreign parties.

Shahriar Alam, who is now in Russia, had a meeting on Tuesday with the Russian deputy minister in which the two sides agreed to sign an agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders and to hold a meeting of the Foreign Secretary Level Consultations later this year.

The meeting discussed the proposed intergovernmental commission on political, economical, trade and science and technology cooperation between Bangladesh and Russia.

It also touched on the possibility of establishing direct Moscow-Dhaka air flights to encourage more people-to-people contact for enhanced business, trade and cultural exchanges.



Outgoing Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her parliament office in the capital yesterday. New Army Chief General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Huq is scheduled to take charge today.

PHOTO: PMO

NHRC plans to meet new army chief to discuss CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will hold a dialogue with the newly appointed army chief to establish trust among the stakeholders in Chittagong Hill Tracts, said its Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

NHRC is waiting for the army chief to take over the charge, Mizanur said at a national seminar on "Land Rights and Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh" jointly organised by NHRC and Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF) in YWCA auditorium of the capital's Mohammadpur.

In order to ensure indigenous peo-

ple's rights in Chittagong Hill Tracts, there is no alternative to implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, he added.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, convener of the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon talked for those people who are engaged in destructive politics in Bangladesh but he had never expressed any concern over the condition of indigenous people in the country.

"We will get strength, if he [Ban Ki-moon] talks against the right violation of indigenous people," said Badsha, mentioning that the state's judicial system also seems to be against the indigenous people as none has been

convicted yet in any indigenous woman rape case.

BIPF General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong urged that a law should be formulated to recognise the customary and ancestral land ownership system of indigenous people and abolish the system of leasing out their land, and a land commission be formulated for plain land indigenous people.

Rana Das Gupta, Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad general secretary; and Shamsul Huda, executive director of the Association for Land Reforms and Development, also spoke at the seminar chaired by Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Rabindranath Soren.

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