

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 33.4 L 25.8

CHITTAGONG
H 32.5 L 25.9

SYLHET
H 32.8 L 25.0

RAJSHAHI
H 34.4 L 25.3

KHULNA
H 34.0 L 24.5

BARISAL
H 31.6 L 24.8

RANGPUR
H 32.2 L 25.5

COX'S BAZAR
H 31.0 L 25.3

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 05:14am.

Less people floating

Cites BBS slum census saying sanitation improved; whole population's morbidity survey increase in communicable diseases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's floating population in 2014 was 50 percent less than what was in 1997, revealed a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) census report launched yesterday.

The initial population comprised 24,439 males and 7,642 females. Afterwards with Hijras included in the enumeration for the first time, the number of males, females and Hijras found last year were 12,509; 4,078 and 34 respectively.

Along with "Census of Slum Areas and Floating Population-2014", the draft of "Health and Morbidity Status Survey-2014" was also launched at a ceremony at Parishankhyan Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon.

The slum census, conducted from April 25 to May 2 of 2014, included all

city corporations, pourasavas, upazila sadars not announced as pourasavas and 17 unions near Dhaka's two city corporations.

The health and morbidity survey was conducted in June 2014 throughout Bangladesh using multi-purpose sample design of BBS and covering 37,500 households, 20,025 in rural areas and 17,475 in urban.

A key finding of the slum census was the improvement in dwellings and toilet facilities.

While the number of tin/Kutchha structures (bamboo stick walls with thatch roof) increased, Jhupris (make-shift low shacks) decreased.

In case of toilets, sanitary ones (water sealed) increased from 7.93 percent to 26.25 percent while hanging ones decreased from 53.80

CENSUS OF SLUM AREAS AND FLOATING POPULATION-2014		
	1997	2014
Total Number of Slums Countrywide	2,991	13,943
Slum Population	13,91,458	22,32,114
Floating Population	32,081	16,621
3 TOP REASONS FOR COMING TO SLUMS		
Seeking Jobs	39.53%	50.96%
Poverty	19.97%	28.76%
River Erosion	17.02%	7.04%
3 MAIN TYPES OF DWELLINGS		
All tin or Bamboo stick walls with thatch roof	28.33%	62.45%
Brick walls with tin roof	3.09%	26.43%
Makeshift low shacks	41.41%	6.20%

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Chinese companies express interest in building Dhaka-N'ganj metro rail

Also Mirsarai-Cox's Bazar expressway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Chinese companies have expressed interest in constructing two mega projects - metro rail and expressway -- in Bangladesh.

Officials of the companies showed interest in separate meetings with Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, who is visiting China, said a press release yesterday.

China Railway Sixth Group (SRSG) is keen to construct the 35km metro rail from Purbachal of Dhaka to Jhilmil residential area of Narayanganj.

China Harbor Engineering Company Ltd wants to construct a 160km expressway from Mirsarai of Chittagong to Cox's Bazar.

In responses, the minister suggested they submit official proposals in this regard.

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Adjust fuel oil prices with int'l market

Cut power tariffs, BNP urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday demanded that the government reduce power tariffs after adjusting fuel oil prices with the international market, where prices marked a sharp fall, and accordingly revise the deals with private electricity companies.

"When the government and the quick rental power companies signed the agreements, the prices of oil on the international market were higher than now. So it should revise the deals and re-fix the prices of power," BNP spokesman Asaduzzaman Ripon told a press conference at a Nayapaltan office.

Oil prices on the international market have been halved to about \$60 per barrel in the last one year, but the government has not adjusted the prices locally.

"There should be more transparency and accountability in the deals," said Ripon.

The party came up with the demands just a day before the parliament is set to pass the 2015-16 budget today.

Ripon also demanded the withdrawal of the 10 percent value added tax (VAT) proposed to be imposed on private universities and medical, engineering colleges.

He urged the government to increase the salaries of judges, teachers,

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MILKY MURDER CASE CID asked to submit probe report by Aug 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit a probe report in the Riazul Haque Khan Milky murder case by August 18.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tareq Mainul Islam Bhuiyan passed the order after Uttam Kumar, assistant superintendent of CID and also investigation office of the case, failed to submit any report on the investigation.

Milky, organising secretary of Awami Jubo League's Dhaka city (south) unit, was shot dead allegedly by SM Zahid Siddique Tarek alias "killer" Tareq, joint secretary of the party, in front of a Gulshan shopping mall on July 30, 2013.

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Ershad now wants electoral system overhauled

Unleashes barrage of criticism of govt in parliament; says last nat'l polls still being questioned; Raushan apologises to female MPs for his unparliamentary verbiage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday told parliament that an overhaul of the electoral system was a must to bury all controversies over polls once and for all.

"We can't deny that questions are still being raised regarding the January 5 national election," he said.

"In our country, the people enjoy democracy only on election day. But we want democracy on all 365 days," said the special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"No election of the country is above controversy... The people will vote for symbols like 'Boat', 'Plough' or others, not individuals. If we adopt this, we can get rid of all debates forever."

Ershad had announced that his party would quit the January 5 parliamentary election if it was not inclusive but the government forced his party to take part in the one-sided vote.

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