WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
H 29.8 | L 27.3	H 29.2 | L 25.5	H 26.0 | L 24.8	H 30.8 | L 24.5	H 33.2 | L 27.5	H 31.2 | L 27.0	H 28.2 | L 25.3	H 29.5 | L 25.8

Day and night temperatures may fall 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am.** Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chandpur and lowest 24.4 in Bogra.

WHEN WELL INTENTIONED WARNINGS GO UNHEEDED

The photo on the left of Rayerbazar Khal in the capital, with a sludge of 5 to 10 feet deep, was taken on April 23 and published on April 25 in The Daily Star, way ahead of the monsoon, as a warning. But nobody paid any heed. And now rainwater is overflowing from the drainage canal inundating the adjacent neighbourhood, *right*.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mukti Brikkhya aims to plant 30 lakh trees countrywide by 2018

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mukti Brikkhya yesterday planted four saplings on the Nagar Bhaban premises in the capital as part of their initiative to plant one tree for each of the 30 lakh Liberation War martyrs and thereby pay them tribute.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon along with botanist Prof Dwijen Sharma planted the trees including mango, jackfruit, elephant apple and Medlar.

Mohammad Zahangir Alam, coordinator of Mukti Brikkhya, said they have already planted over 200 trees in 11 institutions, including Rangpur Radhaballabh Girls' High

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POWER, GAS TARIFF HIKE

Police obstruct protest march to ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday barred the leaders and activists of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) from laying siege to the power, energy and mineral resources ministry to protest the government's decision to hike gas and power tariff.

While the leaders and activists were going towards the ministry, the law enforcers blocked their way near gate no-5 of Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital.

The protesters, numbering around 150, then sat on the road there and held a protest rally.

They criticised the government for its decision to hike gas and power tariff and urged it to reduce the existing price.

Speakers said the companies generating power and distributing gas are already making profit.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, presidium member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said, "With the price hike money will pour into the companies from pockets of the common people."

The parties threatened to go for tougher programmes if the government does not meet their demand within eight days.

Khalequzzaman, general secretary of BSD, said increase of the price of power and gas is illogical and it is a move against the people.

"History shows that no one retained power for long by going against the people," he said, and suggested the government learn from the past.

Syed Abu Jafar Ahmed, general secretary of CPB, said if their demand was not met, they would observe a sit-in on September 8.

Retail customers will have to spend, on average, 2.93 percent more on electricity and Tk 200 more on gas stoves from September 1. Industries that use gas to produce electricity through generators will see gas tariff double -- Tk 8.36 from Tk 4.18 per cubic metre.

Leaders and activists of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal struggle with cops over a barricade that the latter put up near gate-5 of Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday to stop the former from reaching the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, to which the parties had announced they would lay a siege, protesting the government's recent decision to hike gas and power tariffs.

PHOTO: STAR

Don't use gas price hike as an excuse to increase transport fare

Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association yesterday urged the government not to increase public transport fare giving the gas price hike as an excuse.

Already a chaotic situation is prevailing in the public transport sector as bus operators usually charge more than the government-set fare, claimed Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of the association.

Besides, the government-set fare chart does not fit the quality of bus service in the capital. Most of the buses in the city are unfit, he said.

He was addressing a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club.

"In such a situation we

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SCBA demands re-election to Bar Council

Alleges unprecedented irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday demanded suspension of the results of recently held elections to Bangladesh Bar Council, and holding its re-election citing "unprecedented irregularities."

SCBA Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon urged the chief justice to appoint a judge to investigate the "unprecedented irregularities and unlawful activities" in the elections and take steps to prepare a correct voter-list for holding a re-election.

While addressing a briefing in the SCBA auditorium, he claimed a total of 1,342 SCBA lawyers could not cast votes and names of total 7,417 lawyers of Dhaka Bar Association were deleted from the voter list.

He claimed that many lawyers of different bars across the country could not cast their votes and if they had cast votes in a free and fair manner then pro-BNP lawyers' panel -- Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel -- would win all 14 posts in the Bar Council election.

As per unofficial results of the election held on August 26, pro-AL lawyers' panel --Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay Parishad --

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BNP accuses Inu of making false remarks about Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday once again lambasted Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu accusing him of making false statements against the BNP chairperson as well as her family members.

"When Hasanul Haq Inu feels his portfolio is in turmoil, he makes false statements about Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and their son Tarique Rahman to please Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other leaders of the 14-party alliance," said BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon.

He was addressing a press conference at the party's headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan after a coordination meeting on the party's 37th foundation anniversary to be observed today.

On Sunday at a discussion at Bangladesh Press Institute, Inu said when he looks at Khaleda, he finds

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Mohiuddin bemoans 'cheating' of Ctg residents

Centring deep-sea port, Asian Highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Referring to the decision to build a deep-sea port in Pairabond instead of the pre-declared Sonadia in Cox's Bazar, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former Chittagong City Corporation mayor, yesterday alleged that people of Chittagong have been deceived.

He also claimed that the authorities concerned have decided to shift the route of the proposed Asian Highway to Sylhet from Chittagong as well.

Speaking at a press conference, he demanded construction of a link road between Chittagong port and the proposed Asian Highway for development of the country.

Mohiuddin, also president of the city unit Awami League, said building a deep-sea port in Sonadia was an electoral pledge of the prime minister. To that end, a feasibility study at a huge cost was conducted, which gave the green signal to build the port in Sonadia. He claimed that several experts

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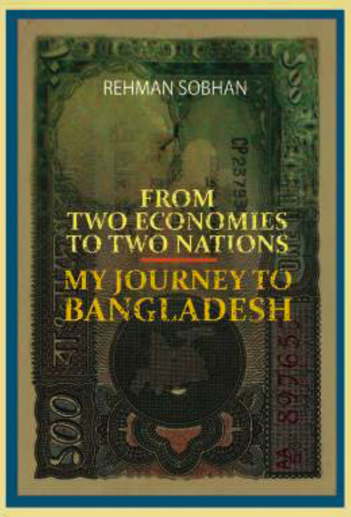

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