

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 35.4 | L 28.1

CHITTAGONG
H 33.0 | L 25.7

SYLHET
H 35.0 | L 25.6

RAJSHAHI
H 36.3 | L 27.6

KHULNA
H 35.8 | L 28.8

BARISAL
H 34.4 | L 27.3

RANGPUR
H 34.7 | L 27.6

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.0 | L 25.7

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barisal 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 6:07pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.



After The Daily Star published a series of reports between April and July on Dhaka city's threatened parks, the Dhaka South City Corporation recently recovered Tantibazar Park and fenced it, right. A few months ago trucks used to be parked inside it, left.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, AMRAN HOSSAIN

DSCC recovers Tantibazar Park after a decade

Local residents now look to initiatives for improvement, proper maintenance



HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka packed with traffic and concrete buildings. Through the passage of time, Tantibazar Park had faced quite some changes, from becoming a dumpster to a parking lot, and lost its real features. It was a retreat abuzz with chirping and whoops of children but it turned into a nuisance with time.

The Daily Star ran a story on Tantibazar Park in April.

Though the trucks were removed from inside the park, the owners are still using the land around it to park the vehicles.

Chief Estate Officer of DSCC Khalid Ahmed said, "Our first priority was to recover the park land, which we already did and now we will think how we can maintain it as a park."

Khalid said they will gradually go for freeing other parks under their jurisdiction but due to a lack of police members, drives against grabbers cannot be conducted regularly.



There are 54 parks in Dhaka city, but many are occupied or grabbed or threatened.

Yousuf Ali, a resident of Ray Saheb Bazar and a college student, said the authorities should take an immediate initiative to renovate the park and regu-

larly maintain it as this will be the only place in the area where people can breathe some fresh air.

"I played in this park in my childhood," said another, Md Shakil Ahmed. "But our children are deprived of the joy of playing outdoors which is necessary for their healthy growth."

RETURNEE MIGRANTS Social, economic reintegration policy necessary

UN Women, Migration Programme Brac workshop told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday emphasised formation of a policy for socially and economically reintegrating returnee Bangladeshi migrants.

A policy and services are needed that help equalise opportunities and benefits for women and men, UN Women Country Representative in Dhaka Christine Hunter said as the special guest.

The workshop, "Establishment of reintegration and referral services for returnee migrant workers", was jointly organised by UN Women and Migration Programme Brac at the latter's auditorium in the capital.

Mentioning that work opportunities and benefits differ for women and men around the world, Christine Hunter said women and men were experiencing different situations after migrating to destination countries.

Some migrants experience the good sides while some others experience abuse and exploitation, but the reintegration programme must include both groups, she added.

Addressing as chief guest, Hazrat Ali, additional secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said the government was preparing a database of returnee migrants as it was important for taking up any reintegration programme.

Four returnee women from Middle Eastern countries shared their experiences and said they were not getting sufficient financial support.

They demanded that the government and the development organisations provide financial support to help them become small entrepreneurs.

The UN Women and Migration Programme Brac started working on the returnee migrants under a project beginning October 2014, which will continue till the end of this month.

The project encompassed 364 men and 139 women returnees of eight upazilas in Dhaka, Manikganj and Faridpur. Of them, 48 were provided livelihood assistance and 35 capacity building training on small business development.

However, both organisations highlighted that the returnees do not get any support for social reintegration while the women often face social stigma and discrimination.

Sheepa Hafiza, director of gender justice and diversity, Migration Programme Brac, moderated the programme and Shafiqul Islam, director of Wage Earners' Welfare Board, also spoke.



C'wealth Secy Gen Kamalesh Sharma due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit to brief the government on preparations for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in Malta on November 27-29.

Diplomatic sources said Sharma will also invite Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to attend the meeting and also Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali to join the 14th Meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers in New York on September 24.

The foreign minister is scheduled to leave for New York on September 23 to attend the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, said a ministry official.

Hasina is also expected to leave for New York to join a high-level summit on sustainable development to be hosted by the United Nations on September 25-27.

Correction

In one of yesterday's reports headlined "Indo-Bangla army chiefs agree on need for exchange of stranded fishermen", we erroneously said "Indo-Bangla army chiefs" in the headline while Bangladesh Army Chief Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Huq actually met Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh. We regret the error.



Participants of the "Filmmaking and Television Journalism for Peace and Tolerance" special course with Independent University, Bangladesh Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman at an award giving ceremony on IUB's Bashundhara campus in Dhaka yesterday. A total of 23 people from Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, American International University-Bangladesh, and IUB participated in the four-month project organised by the University of California, San Diego, and IUB.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Road crashes curbed by 40pc in 6 years

Obaidul Quader tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of road accidents in the country has decreased by over 40 percent in last six years from 2009 to 2014, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told parliament while replying to lawmakers' queries yesterday.

Citing a report of Police Headquarters, the minister said, the number of road crashes were 3,381 in 2009, and it came down to 2,027 in 2014.

Saying that such accident is declining, Obaidul Quader said the position of Bangladesh was the 90th among 192 countries according to the World Bank's report of "Road Traffic Accidents Death Rate by Country".

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday informed the House that they had taken various security measures ahead of the upcoming Eid.

DU admission competition

FROM PAGE 4

(business studies faculty) exam, to be held on October 16, 43,857 students will vie for 1,170 seats (37 per seat).

Name, shame culprits

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman said, "Children are tortured at home. Family members find it normal to slap children. Corporeal punishment should be stopped."

He suggested massive social campaigns to stop repression on children.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Anisul Huq stressed quality education and proper enforcement of laws to ensure overall safety for children.

Secretary to Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Nasima Begum said it was not possible for the government alone to end violence against children.

Psychiatrist Dr Mohit Kamal said after being tortured, children did not disclose it out of fear. "Such hiding kills victims every day," he added.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy Chairman Selina Hossain moderated the discussion.

Speakers at the national convention to protect rights of children, organised by Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Samajtantrik Mohila Forum and Shishu Kishor Mela in

the capital's Jatiya Press Club, also demanded either a separate ministry or a directorate for children.

Prof Ajoy Roy said, "Anti-repression platforms have to be formed at the micro level to protect the rights of children."

Prof Gazi MA Jalil of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University urged including lessons on the rights of children in school curriculums.

Singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu urged immediate steps to stop the abuse domestic helps face which was commonplace. Children engaged in various inhumane works are the primary victims, he added.

Parents of children who faced abuse and were murdered demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

The organisers announced holding a convention and children-parents rally at district levels from October to December and submitting a memorandum to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in December.

Accept public univ teachers'

FROM PAGE 3

Referring to the eighth national payscale, he said many demanded "restoration of the

time scale and selection grade" to it. He hoped that the government will consider the demands.

DSCC yet to move against

FROM PAGE 3

Khokon on August 30 to know whether he would take any step to clear the road for the public. He suggested communicating with his private secretary, Kabir Mahmud.

Kabir said the mayor had seen the report and ordered taking action immediately.

Contacted again on Wednesday, Kabir said Chief Estate Officer Khalid Ahmed has been instructed to take steps. "We are now busy with leasing out cattle markets ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. But the matter is being considered," he added.

Sources in Nagar Bhaban said no step could be taken as those involved belonged to the ruling party and a section of city corporation officials.

The once widely used road, next to the west wall of Baldha Garden between Nawab Street and Hare Street, now has 44 shops on it. Some of the shops were rented out and some sold.

Documents state that Tasabbibor Hossain, son of Ward-41 AL president Abul Hossain, and local AL activist Shahidul Hasan jointly sought the allocation of 1,980 sqft area of the lane for setting up a market in early 2012, showing the place as "open and abandoned".

Late local AL lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu (Dhaka-6) had recommended the allocation.

Mass awareness must to end

FROM PAGE 4

Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, requested the mayor to involve the councillors in his efforts to bring positive changes.

President of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra Nasimun Ara Haque Minu emphasised changing the mindset and increasing respect towards women.

Shahnaz Huda, a law professor of Dhaka University (DU), said, "Insecurity is increasing because impunity is increasing."

Referring to the women's repression prevention cell in the Police Headquarters, Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Rockfar Sultana Khanam asked women to complain harassment.