

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.9 | L 26.6

CHITTAGONG
H 33.6 | L 24.8

SYLHET
H 34.0 | L 26.4

RAJSHAHI
H 36.3 | L 26.8

KHULNA
H 35.0 | L 27.0

BARISAL
H 34.0 | L 27.0

RANGPUR
H 34.0 | L 25.3

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.6 | L 25.5

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:05pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am. Country's highest temperature 36.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 24.6 in Rangamati.

Newspaper workers, employees demand 9th wage board

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers, and Bangladesh Newspaper Workers Federation yesterday hailed the government for approving the eighth national payscale with a salary hike and demanded formation of the ninth wage board for journalists, employees and workers in the newspaper industry.

The demand was made from a joint meeting of the two federations at the Bangladesh Sangbad Samiti (BSS) Employees Union's office in the capital to cope with the increased prices of essentials, said a press release. They strongly demanded a government notification announcing a 100 percent dearness allowance until implementation of the new wage board award.



Leaders of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Programme, and Bhalobashi Bangladesh in the capital's Shanir Akhra before starting a road march towards Narsingdi yesterday in a bid to create mass awareness about prevention of human trafficking to Malaysia.

PHOTO: STAR

Bring back all trafficked people stuck in Malaysia

Rights activists urge govt from Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Programme, Bhalobashi Bangladesh road march

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should bring back Bangladeshi victims of human trafficking safely from Malaysia and prosecute the traffickers, rights activists told street rallies in Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Narsingdi yesterday.

Without knowing the risks, fortune-seekers embark on sea voyages to Malaysia and suffer immensely as traffickers blackmail their families for ransom and sometimes kill them, they said.

Besides creating mass awareness about the dangers of illegal immigration, the government must facilitate the legal means of migration, they added.

The street rallies were part of a "road march" organised by Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Programme, and Bhalobashi Bangladesh to create awareness on human trafficking to Malaysia by boat.

Addressing the first rally at the capital's Shanir Akhra, Ain o Salish Kendra Acting Executive Director Noor Khan said Bangladesh was about to ink a deal with Malaysia about immigrants.

"The country's people are yet to know what will be in the agreement... As long as people are kept in the dark about the deal, they will continue falling prey to traffickers," he said.

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ENDING WATERLOGGING IN CAPITAL

Govt needs to be sincere about reclaiming canals, floodplains

Ruling party MP, experts tell The New Nation, Manik Mia Foundation discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, with the highest level of commitment, must immediately recover the surviving canals and floodplains that have been filled up to save the capital from waterlogging every time it rains during the monsoon, said experts and a ruling party lawmaker yesterday.

"There is no other way... reclamation...without compromise," the lawmaker, Sanjida Khanom,

from Shyampur, told a discussion on waterlogging and Dhaka's livability.

English daily The New Nation and Manik Mia Foundation jointly organised the discussion at the newspaper's Ramakrishna Mission head office in the capital.

Influential quarters with the blessings of successive governments have over the years grabbed the canals and wetlands through which rainwater is supposed to drain out to surrounding rivers, she said.

Lack of coordination among relevant government agencies is the foremost barrier to installing the drainage system, she said.

City life came to a grinding halt whenever it rained this year, the last time on September 1 with 42mm of monsoon rains.

Inundation will turn much worse unless the canals and flood flow zones are reclaimed, said Ranjit Kumar Paul, sub-divisional engineer of Bangladesh Water

Development Board (BWDB).

The Dhaka city corporation has turned natural canals into concrete box culverts, constricting the width from 150 to 20 feet, while powerful quarters have ruthlessly filled the canals, wetlands and river shores with earth, he said.

Rivers and canals have to be entrusted to a single authority instead of multiple ones and Dhaka Wasa and city corporations have to

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DEMAND FOR SEPARATE PAYSCALE

Public univ teachers to strike again today

Exams outside of protest; teachers will also respond to Muhith's comments

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of all 37 public universities will observe a daylong work stoppage today, demanding salaries with due dignity in the eighth national payscale or a separate wage structure.

"No classes will be held in any university but examinations will be outside of the programme," said Prof Dr ASM Maksud Kamal, secretary general of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association

(FBUTA), a platform of teachers of the 37 universities.

The teachers will also stage a sit-in on respective campuses from 11:00am to 1:00pm, he added.

Holding a press conference at 11:00am today at Dhaka University Club, they will respond to Finance Minister AMA Muhith's "misleading" comments about higher education institutions.

"Though the finance minister regretted

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Ensure democracy within, publicise dev plans

Speakers urge BNP's top policymakers at party discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from ensuring democratic practices within the party, BNP's top policymakers should inform people of the changes and developments it will bring to them once it comes to power, urged speakers, including different professionals, yesterday.

Private university students, with their "non-violent" movement against value added tax (VAT) on "tuition fees", have set an example for BNP, that there is no need to attack anyone or set vehicles on fire to materialise any just demand, they said.

BNP organised the discussion in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh marking the 7th anniversary of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia being "freed from jail".

"BNP has to change its existing strategy that they would take to the streets taking thousands of people with them and will ensure the government's fall," said former Jahangirnagar University vice-chancellor Prof Mustahidur Rahman.

"Instead, the party will have to tell people clearly what changes it would bring to ensure good governance and curb corruption...The movement will not be successful if the issue is only caretaker government," he added.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, a pro-BNP intellectual, said BNP would have to hold internal discussions on the level of democracy practiced inside the party.

Pointing to BNP's shortcomings, he

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Govt working for peaceful, prosperous future for children

Says Hasina while distributing prizes among child winners in essay, drawing competitions on Bangabandhu's birthday

BSS, Dhaka

The government wants to make Bangladesh such a country where every child would grow up as a worthy citizen and get a peaceful and prosperous life, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

She also hoped that today's children would be

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