

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 31.4 L 18.5	CHITTAGONG H 32.5 L 20.5	SYLHET H 31.0 L 18.2	RAJSHAHI H 30.8 L 16.0	KHULNA H 31.4 L 18.0	BARISAL H 31.2 L 17.3	RANGPUR H 29.3 L 16.7	COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 22.0
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Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:19am.** Country's highest temperature 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 14.4 in Sreemangal.



Mangroves and other trees cover parts of the scenic Kattali sea beach thanks to a plantation programme that was initiated by the Forest Department three decades ago. Lying on the west of Chittagong city, Kattali has turned into a potential tourist spot now but the authorities concerned are not paying proper attention to the development of the area.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Basement car park spaces to be freed from occupancy

*Drives to start in a week*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Basement car park spaces at all the commercial and residential buildings would be freed from illegal occupancy to help resolve horrendous traffic problem particularly in the capital, the housing and public works ministry decided at a meeting yesterday.

According to a press release, a committee comprising of all the relevant authorities and led by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) in the capital and similar authorities in Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi each will launch drives within a week.

Access ramps built occupying footpaths and roads would also be removed during the eviction drives.

The meeting chaired by Housing Minister Mosharraf Hossain concluded that random on-street parking as a consequence of illegal occupancy of designated car park in the basements of buildings enormously contributes to traffic congestion.

Designated basement car parking spaces at different

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## Transformation makes Kattali tourism hotspot

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

From grazing land to a mangrove forest -- a part of the Kattali sea beach lying on the western fringe of Chittagong city has gone through this amazing transformation in the last three decades, making itself one of the prospective tourist hotspots.

Three decades ago, the Forest Department took up a plantation programme and turned a 5 sq km area from Faujdardhat to South Kattali into a scenic mangrove forest.

"In the early 1980s, the area was merely covered with green grass. Back then only cowboys would bring their cattle in the secluded area and fishermen would go fishing through the canals. The area has completely transformed into a forest just before our eyes," said Manzurul Alam, a farmer of Kattali.

The beach is situated beside Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Pahartali.

Because of the mangroves, which protect the sea shore from tidal waves, some local

tourists even call the forest the "Sundarbans of Chittagong".

At present, the forest has Kewra, Bain, Gewa, Sundari, Kakra, and Pashur trees, said Anwar Hossain, Kattali beat officer of Chittagong Coastal Reserve Forest (Sadar).

The Forest Department plans to gradually cover the remaining three-fourths of the coastline with trees, said RSM Munirul Islam, Chittagong divisional coastal forest officer.

Every day about a thousand people visit the forest while on weekends and holidays, the number increases manifold, according to operators of three parks -- Niribili Nirupama, Nijhum, and Shuktara -- which were set up under private initiatives to attract visitors.

But Kattali is yet to reach its true potential due to a lack of facilities and indifference of the authorities concerned.

When asked, Mesbah Uddin, deputy commissioner of Chittagong, said he sent a letter to the tourism ministry on September 21 for development of the area as a tourist spot.

## Man gets life term for raping girl in Dhaka

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for raping a six-year-old female child in April 2010 in the city's Pallabi.

It also fined Md Abu Bakkar Tk 50,000, in default to suffer six more months in jail. Judge Jayasri Samaddar of the Third Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression of Dhaka handed down the verdict in the presence of the convict.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of nine prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, the girl was violated by their guard Abu Bakkar at their residence around 6:00pm on April 5, 2010.

Later, her father filed a case against Abu Bakkar with Pallabi Police Station. Police pressed the charge against him on July 3 the same year.

On October 11, the court framed charge against him.

## NINE JESSORE WAR CRIMES ACCUSED Decision of charge framing Nov 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed November 24 to decide on framing charges against nine war crimes accused from Jessore, including a former BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker, for their alleged involvement in crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque fixed the date after the prosecution and defence counsels completed placing submissions in the charge hearing.

The accused are former lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain, Ibrahim Hossain, Sheikh Md Mujibur Rahman, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, another Aziz Sardar, Abdul Khaleq Morol, Billal Hossain and Lutfar Morol.

Shakhawat, Tufar and Billal are in jail while the rest on the run.

On July 26, the prosecution pressed five charges against 12 persons but the tribunal discharged three and took into

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## SUNDAY'S EXECUTIONS MPs praise govt, PM at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen treasury bench MPs were in high praise of the government on a point of order last night, hailing and congratulating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for executing two top war criminals early Sunday.

They lambasted some nations and organisations including the USA, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International for their "interference" in hanging Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

During the two-hour talks on the issue, they also slammed BNP founder late president Ziaur Rahman

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A faction of Gonojagoron Mancha led by Imran H Sarker brings out a procession in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday celebrating the hanging of war criminals Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed in the early hours.

PHOTO: STAR

## More intra-UN coordination, capacity must to attain SDGs

*Says UNFPA Asia, Pacific Regional Director Yoriko Yasukawa*



PORIMOL PALMA

The UN needs more coordination within its systems and to raise capacity to help countries achieve sustainable development goals (SDG), said the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) regional director for Asia and the Pacific.

"The countries are demanding that we work together to move forward this big agenda as a whole," Yoriko Yasukawa said in a recent interview with a few journalists at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka on Friday.

Appointed in August with over 30 years of experience with the

UN in sustainable development, defence and promotion of human rights, democratic governance and conflict prevention and resolution, she is visiting Bangladesh to attend the Partners in Population and Development meetings.

"The UN system is going to need to be much better. We need to raise the level of our technical and intellectual capacity to really help countries achieve the countries' priorities," she said.

Yoriko Yasukawa's observations coincide with the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to a

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## ACC amendment bill placed at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Anti-Corruption Commission (amendment) Bill, 2015" was placed in parliament last night aimed at relieving the anti-graft body of dealing with cheating and forgery cases.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, also in-charge of the Cabinet Division in Parliament, placed the bill.

As per the proposed amendment, the ACC will now investigate the bribery and corruption-related cases under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

However, the trial of government officials and bankers over cheating and forgery will be held under the ACC act.

Under the proposed amendment, all the cheating and forgery cases except those related to government property and the duties of government employees and bankers will be dealt by judicial magistrate courts.

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