

WEATHER FORECAST

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA | CHITTAGONG | SYLHET | RAJSHAHI | KHULNA | BARISAL | RANGPUR | COX'S BAZAR |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | H 23.1 L 11.5 | H 23.6 L 12.8 | H 23.8 L 13.3 | H 21.0 L 07.6 | H 23.5 L 08.2 | H 24.6 L 07.6 | H 19.5 L 08.8 | H 25.8 L 14.5 |

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, Met Office said. Mild to moderate cold wave, sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Sitakunda and Srimangal, may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:40pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

DHAKA NORTH CITY CORPORATION Mayor wants mandate boost for revamping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If given the responsibility to manage the storm drainage system, the two Dhaka city corporations would play a role in resolving the acute urban flooding and water logging in the capital, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Annisul Huq said yesterday.

The mayor has hardly anything to do practical in this regard, as it is the mandate of the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to maintain the storm drainage system, he said, while hosting an opinion sharing meeting with the chief executives of television stations at a city hotel.



The Dhaka district administration owns the city canals that are a vital part of the storm drainage system, but out of the total 43 canals in the city, a quarter to half of the width of 23 canals are either grabbed or clogged with solid wastes and delinked with lakes and rivers, he said.

Citing the World Bank recommendation, he said the storm drainage management should be handed over to city corporations.

Mentioning his helplessness as mayor in preventing an opulent Urs festival occupying Anwara Park at Farmgate, Annisul Huq said Rajuk owned the park and police and parliament authorities had already

ADVERSELY POSSESSED LAND SWAP Moulvibazar Adivasis set to lose cultivable land to India

Rights activists tell press, urge govt to find alternatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khasi and Garo communities will lose their livelihoods if 300 acres of cultivable land in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila is given to India as adverse possession, indigenous leaders and rights activists said yesterday.

They demanded that the government investigate and devise a plan so that the minorities could retain the land.

As part of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), Bangladesh will give

India 2,777 acres of adversely possessed land and get 2,267 acres in exchange. The land falls in the bordering areas of India's Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and West Bengal states.

The Pallathal area in Barlekha bordering Assam and Meghalaya consists of adversely possessed land, which includes 300 acres of homestead and cultivable land of Khasi and Garo people.

"We have been living along the border...for centuries and cultivating

betel leaf, lemon, banana and pineapple in the land beyond the border pillars of Bangladesh," said Lucas Bahadur, headman of Pallathal Punji (indigenous neighbourhood).

He said even when India built barbed wire fences in 1980s, the indigenous community's land was left alone, and Khasis were allowed to use about 300 acres of land between the pillars of Bangladesh and the barbed fence of India for cultivation.

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Habitual VoIP tax dodgers held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) claimed to have arrested three members of a syndicate on Sunday, which dodged Tk two crore in taxes each year for the last 10 years, operating illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) business.

The arrestees were Foyzullah Riad, Mokdesur Rahman and Saiful Islam, from the capital's Vatar area, said Maruf Ahmad, squad commander, Rab-2.

The arrestees were running the business from a distance

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'Attempted rape' of Garo woman triggers protest in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 200 Garo people yesterday afternoon took to the streets at Nordda Protati Sarani after a man allegedly attempted to rape a Garo woman in the capital's Uttara on Sunday morning.

The protesters under the banner of Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangstha left the place later after police assured them of justice.

Police also arrested the man, Shafiullah Dewan, a resident of Uttara, early yesterday following a case filed over the incident on Sunday afternoon.

Shafiullah followed the 23-year-old girl home from her workplace and forced himself on her seeing that none was inside, said Officer-in-Charge of Dakkhin Khan Police Station Syed Lutfar Rahman.

However, he fled the scene when the victim cried for help, the OC said adding that she works at a beauty parlour and lives with her

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Shahjahanpur Bagicha Khal's (canal) existence in the capital is threatened due to pollution and earth filling. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Urdu speakers of Dhaka seek accommodation on unused land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of Urdu-speaking people residing in Dhaka yesterday demanded that they be rehabilitated by being provided unused land at Baunia and Rupnagar area.

Engaged in professions only available in the city, they should not be moved to faraway places, said members of "Urdu Speaking People's Youth Rehabilitation Movement Bangladesh" at a discussion in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Reading out their demands, the platform President Md Sadakat Khan urged the government not to evict residents of "Bihari camps" in Dhaka before they were rehabilitated properly. "Please relieve us from the constant fear of eviction," he urged.

In the camps, families of 12-15 people live in 80 square feet rooms and take turns to sleep at night, he said. "We need to be rehabilitated to a place where our people can live with dignity," he said.

Gates Foundation pledges \$120m more for family planning

PORIMOL PALMA, from Bali, Indonesia

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-chair Melinda Gates yesterday announced increasing funds for family planning programmes by 25 percent over the next three years, providing an additional US \$120 million.

With the world taking up the new global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals: 2015-2030, other leaders called for higher investment, highlighting that every human life was valuable and none should be left behind.

Unintended pregnancy, early marriage, lack of reproductive and sexual education as well as services and contraceptive supplies are the major reasons behind maternal deaths, experts say.

"There is no time to lose, so let's start," Melinda said in a video message at the opening of the 4th International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) at Nusa Dua, Bali.

The US-based charity says every dollar spent on family planning can save governments up to US \$6 dollars, which can be spent on improving public services including healthcare, housing, water and sanitation.

However, over 220 million women in developing countries who do not want to get pregnant lack access to contraceptives and family planning information and services, according to an ICFP statement.

Less than 20 percent of women in Sub-Saharan Africa and barely one-

WHO SAYS

- 830 preventable pregnancy, childbirth deaths daily globally
- 99 percent of maternal deaths in developing countries

THE LANCET SAYS

- Maternal mortality about 194 per 100,000 live births in Bangladesh
- 83,100 stillbirths, 74,400 neonatal deaths last year

OFFICIAL BD DATA

- 65 percent girls married before 18
- 40 percent couples do not use contraceptives

third of women in South Asia use modern contraceptives.

In 2012, an estimated 80 million women in developing countries had an unintended pregnancy and at least one in four of them resorted to an unsafe abortion.

"Three years ago, the global community set an ambitious goal. More than that, we made a promise. A promise to 120 million women and girls that by 2020 they would have access to family planning services and contraceptives if they wanted it," stated Melinda.

"Since we made that promise, millions of unintended pregnancies have been avoided and thousands of lives saved. But the hard truth is that to keep it, we must do more and we

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Cabinet approves draft policy on migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the "Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016" with a view to ensuring and encouraging safe migration and protection of migrants and their families.

The draft policy has been formulated in line with the international laws on migration, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam told reporters at the Bangladesh Secretariat after a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said the existing short policy framed in 2006 had been elaborated with six policy directives that also included ensuring facilities and welfare of migrant workers, migration of female workers, associating migration with national development and proper planning for labour migration.

The draft policy has a particular chapter on female workers' migration and ensuring their safety, the cabinet secretary added.

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In order to ensure safe migration, the government, as per the policy, would take integrated and participatory programmes in consultation with various stakeholders including prospective female migrants, public and private organisations, trade unions, recruiting agencies, employers and international organisations, he added.

Alam said there were specific directives in the new policy for different ministries including those of finance, foreign affairs, home affairs, commerce, and civil aviation and tourism to ensure proper welfare, facilities and safety to migrants.

For example, the home ministry would take necessary steps to check human trafficking, he added.

The cabinet also approved the draft of a protocol on training and cooperation in the field of healthcare between the armed forces of Bangladesh and Turkey.

It also endorsed a proposal to ratify

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ধৈর্য্য যত, দূর তত!

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QUANDARY

(noun) a state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do in a difficult situation.

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