

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.0 L 16.1	H 27.5 L 15.6	H 23.5 L 14.0	H 26.4 L 13.2	H 29.0 L 16.8	H 26.6 L 14.8	H 22.7 L 11.0	H 27.0 L 15.2

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the region of Mymensingh and weather may remain mainly dry over the country till 6:00 pm today. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:44 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39 am.

KALYANPUR PORA SLUM SC upholds HC injunction on eviction of dwellers

Also asks HC to dispose of in four weeks its rule questioning legality of gov't move for eviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that issued an injunction on eviction of dwellers from Kalyanpur Pora slum in Dhaka.

The apex court also asked the HC to dispose of in four weeks its rule questioning the legality of the government move to evict the slum dwellers.

The HC bench led by Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury will hear and dispose of the rule, the SC said.

The four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after hearing a petition, seeking a stay on the HC order, filed by the government on January 24.

Following a petition filed by Ain o Salish Kendra, Coalition for Urban Poor, and two slum dwellers, the HC on January 21 issued the injunction restraining the government from evicting the residents of the slum in the land of Housing and Building Research Institute for next three months.

It also ordered the authorities concerned of the government not to harass or threaten the slum dwellers without specific allegation during this period.

While demolishing an illegal market and some shanties in the slum area on that day, protesters and police threw brick chips and chased each other.

After the SC passed the order yesterday, Dr Kamal Hossain, lawyer of the slum dwellers' writ petitioners, told reporters that following a writ petition filed by them the HC in December 2003 and in January 2004 directed the authorities

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The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) dismantling an access ramp built illegally in front of the Citibank office on the capital's Gulshan Avenue yesterday. It was part of the government organisation's continued drives to free footpaths and recover basement car parks from illegal occupation in Uttara, Gulshan and Dhanmondi.

Second phase of Rajuk drive against misuse of parking lots starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), out of three, in its second spell of drive yesterday reclaimed the basement car park spaces, used illegally for other purposes, at buildings along the Gulshan Avenue.

The mobile court for Gulshan fined the authorities of Swapno Departmental Store Tk 1 lakh and Banglalink corporate office Tk 3 lakh for occupying basement car park at their respective buildings with illegal establishments, said Executive Magistrate Md Abdul Hamid Mian, who led the drive.

The Rajuk team also dismantled a number of access ramps built obstructing footpaths and encroaching upon the road in front of the buildings on the avenue, said Hamid.

Two other teams for Uttara and Dhanmondi could not resume the drive due to various reasons, including Rajuk's public

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ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Govt resets target as prevalence still high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a large number of children still employed in domestic and economic activities, the government has extended the timeframe to 2021 for prevention and elimination of child labour.

Earlier, the government had committed the International Labour Organization (ILO) to eliminate child labour by 2015. Later the timeframe was extended to 2016.

Joint Secretary at Ministry Labour and Employment Abul Kashem

	2013	2003
Children engaged in hazardous work	12.5 lakh	13 lakh
Total number of child workers	17 lakh	32 lakh

SOURCE: BBS

Masud yesterday said, "Reality suggests that it won't be possible to eliminate child labour by this year."

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the total

number of child workers dropped from 32 lakh in 2003 to 17 lakh in 2013.

The official said, "If the ministries concerned work together, it will be possible to eliminate child labour."

He was addressing a discussion, "Child Friendly Police Station and Child Labour: Present Situation and Way Forward", organised jointly by Shapla Neer, World Vision Bangladesh, and the Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) at The Daily Star Centre.

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Law on cards to punish distortion of 1971 history

Law Minister Anisul Huq tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to formulate a law to punish those who would demean the country's Liberation War, Law Minister Anisul Huq told parliament yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, he said, "Although the government wants to pass the law within the quickest possible time, the draft is yet to be prepared."

The minister said the government also planned to bring an amendment to the existing International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973 to try the Jamaat-e-Islami as a terrorist organisation for committing war crimes during the war in 1971.

Anisul Huq said after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman, some irresponsible politicians had been in the habit of distorting the war history.

"Under the circumstances, if anybody gives false or misleading information or distorts the history of that time, it will be considered tantamount to demeaning the Liberation War," he said, adding that it would be deemed an offence in the law.

Responding to another question, the minister said those who had burnt people to death would be brought to book.

"The government is committed to trying those who have a link with such crimes. It is expected that the trial of those cases will be completed in a speedy manner," he said.

HOW MIGRANT WORKERS SPEND THEIR EARNINGS

Children's education, loan repayment top priorities

Reveals RMMRU survey report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi migrants spend around 10 to 25 percent of their earnings behind their children's education, with high-earning educated ones providing a large portion and illiterate and uneducated ones paying less, finds a RMMRU survey report.

Remittance ensures a minimum level of education, at least up to SSC, said Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder, a researcher of a Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) project.

"Most households use remittances to increase and stabilise access to basic amenities," he said while presenting

the report, "Gendered Practices of Remittance Use and Human Resource Development", at Dhaka University's (DU) Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan yesterday.

The report is based on in-depth interviews of 34 migrant households from five villages of Tangail district conducted between March and July last year under "Moving Out of Poverty Project", funded by UKAid.

Jalal said after repaying loans and ensuring everyday necessities, migrant households prioritised accumulating tangible property, especially land and houses, since these were of high economic and social value and acted as

insurance.

"They only invest remittances in property once the overseas job is secured and the volume of remittance is stable," said the assistant professor at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

Remittances are also used to cover marriage costs, including dowry, he said, adding that married male migrants coordinate with wives on using their earnings while guardians of unmarried ones, especially fathers, possess a greater autonomy on taking a decision, he found.

Female migrants send remittances

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Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader addresses Youth Conference organised by the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a hotel in Chittagong yesterday.

Raise tax to discourage tobacco use

Participants tell closing of South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an international summit yesterday stressed the need for increasing tax on tobacco items, with one participant demanding it be by 200 to 300 percent, to control and discourage tobacco consumption in Bangladesh.

They were addressing the closing of the two-day South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), jointly organised by Inter-Parliamentary Union, Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids in the city.

"If all of the extra revenue from raising cigarette excise was allocated to government health budgets, then public expenditure on health could increase four percent globally," said Nigar Nargis from American Cancer Society during her powerpoint presentation.

Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Rokhsana Kader said the government was running mobile courts throughout the year to control tobacco.

She said without controlling tobacco, it would not be possible to achieve the SDGs and that the Bangladesh government was taking all kinds of effective measures to control tobacco.

Bangladesh became a party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on February 27, 2005 and has a tobacco control law and rules, says a summit handout.

SUMMIT HANDOUT SAYS

WHO for tobacco excise tax raise equalling 70pc of retail price (In Bangladesh it is well below)

Over 95,000 deaths yearly from tobacco-related diseases in country

16pc of deaths of 30+ adults attributable to tobacco use

About 1.2m illnesses yearly related to tobacco consumption

Diseases include lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, coronary artery diseases and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

3pc of GDP lost in 2004 (Tk 51b spent on treating tobacco-related diseases)

Productivity loss Tk 59b from tobacco consumption

Over 41m adults now consume tobacco



Pedestrians have been victimised for occupation of almost half of the 400km footpaths by vendors in Chittagong city. The photo was taken near Bawa School yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

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