

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.0 L 21.0	H 32.5 L 21.5	H 32.1 L 19.8	H 34.2 L 19.4	H 33.0 L 19.8	H 32.7 L 18.6	H 31.5 L 19.5	H 33.0 L 22.2

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6pm today. Night and day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow at 6:17am. Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 16.1 degree in Sayerpur.



The mountain of earth seen in the left side is not the bank. It is an evidence of how people are pressing ahead with their plan to gradually fill the river and grab the land. This is not going on at some particular places but almost everywhere in the country where land scarcity is a major cause of conflict. The photo was taken in Shinnirtek area of the capital's Mirpur 1 Wednesday.

PHOTO: MD KAWSAR

Qatar agrees to hike salary for female migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gulf nation Qatar yesterday agreed to increase the monthly salary for the skilled Bangladeshi female migrant and domestic workers from Tk 19,350 to 25,800, said a press release of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

The decision was made at a joint-working group meeting between the senior officials concerned of the two countries at Probashi Kallyan Bhaban in the capital.

Begum Shamsun Nahar, acting secretary of the expatriates' welfare, led a nine-member team, while Mohammed Ahmed M Al Atiq Al Dossary, additional director of Qatar's General Directorate of Borders Passports and Expatriates Affairs, a five-member team in the meeting.

The two sides also decided to reduce the migration costs and introduce a hotline service for the Bangladeshi migrants in the meeting.

Earlier, the Qatar delegation paid a courtesy call on Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam at his ministry office. The minister requested them to give more employment opportunities and facilities for the Bangladeshi migrants.

The Gulf country has been recruiting construction and cleaning workers from Bangladesh. The authorities there are now keen to recruit salesmen, nurses, doctors, engineers and office employees from Bangladesh, according to the press release.

Nearly 400,000 Bangladeshi male workers and about 15,000 female workers are employed in the Gulf country. Of them, over 1.23 lakh male migrants and 8,642 female migrants found jobs in Qatar last year, according to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training.

Qatar is now the second largest destination for the Bangladeshi jobseekers after Oman.

Last month, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam visited Qatar when its Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani assured him of hiring more workers from Bangladesh and providing them skill training facilities.

Resident info collection by DMP challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its order on the government to stop collecting information about landlords and tenants by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Jotirmoy Barua in his petition also prayed to the HC to ask the authorities concerned to preserve those information which have already been collected and not to use these collected information until a specific law is formulated to this effect.

The lawyer also requested the court to issue a rule upon the authorities to explain why collection of information about landlords and tenants in DMP area should not be declared illegal.

He said there is no legal basis of collecting such information about tenants from their landlords, terming it a "violation" of

rights to privacy.

The information DMP collecting is very much personal and sensitive in nature and could be harmful if it is misused by any unscrupulous persons, he said in the petition.

Law secretary, home secretary, inspector general of police and DMP commissioner have been made respondents to the required rule.

The DMP on February 29 announced that it had been collecting "identification information" on landlords and tenants since November last year and asked all to provide the information by March 15.

It is part of an effort to create a central database of city dwellers and their service staff and the move is intended to curb crime and create a "sustainable security measure," said DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah at a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre recently.

Indian minister Swaraj calls for prompt action

ATTACKS ON MINORITIES

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has called for immediate actions against the perpetrators involved in recent attacks on minorities in Bangladesh.

She made the call while meeting Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali in India on March 2, said a press release of the external affairs ministry of India.

The ministers reviewed progress on bilateral initiatives since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June 2015.

In response to Swaraj's

WAR CRIMES IN MOULVIBAZAR Tribunal asks for probe report Apr 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prosecution to submit an investigation report, if any, on April 5 over the allegations of crimes committed by four Moulvibazar men during the Liberation War.

The tribunal fixed the date after Prosecutor Sheikh Mosfeq Kabir submitted a progress report on the investigation in the case and prayed for four weeks' time to submit the report.

The accused are Razakar suspects Akmal Ali Talukdar, 73, Abdun Nur Talukdar, 62, Anis Mia, 76, and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi, centre, unveiling "The Agartala Doctrine", the latest book by BBC veteran Subir Bhaumik, at Pathak Samabesh in the capital's Shahbagh on Wednesday. In the book, the writer, fourth from left, takes a leaf out of Agartala's historic relations with Bangladesh to propose a new national doctrine for the way India deals with its neighbours.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DEATH OF DU'S HAFIJUR 13 student bodies demand fair investigation

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two alliances of 13 student organisations yesterday demanded a fair probe into the recent death of a Dhaka University student and election to all student unions at universities and colleges.

Progressive Students' Alliance and Anti-Imperialist Students' Union brought out a procession on the DU campus where they also called upon the hall authorities to duly perform their duties of providing accommodation to students in a transparent manner.

Marketing fresher Hafijur Mollah died on February 2 from typhoid and pneumonia, contracted after being compelled to take up residence in a Salimullah Muslim Hall corridor, said his friends and family.

He was forced to keep standing for nearly four hours in freezing cold at night as part of a "guestroom duty" despite having a fever and cold, they added.

"Guestroom duty" is a regular session where BCL leaders gather the junior students, brief activists on political activities, and analyse their performances.

Addressing a rally at the Aparajeya Bangla, the alliance leaders demanded that the university authorities should hold election to all student unions including Dhaka University Central Union (DUCSU) to stop harassment of students at the guestrooms and ensure democratic environment at the educational institutions.

Progotishil Chhatra Jote also staged

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Khulna doctors go on 12hrs strike

Protesting assault on fellow by local 'AL leader'

UNB, Khulna

Doctors went on a 12-hour strike in the public and private hospitals, diagnostic centres and private chambers in Khulna yesterday, protesting an assault on a doctor allegedly by an Awami League leader in Terokhada Upazila Health Complex in the district.

Khulna unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Vice-President Sheikh Baharul Alam announced the strike from a human chain on

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

FOLLOW YOUR FOOD

Bengalis' love affair with chilies...

It is hard to think of a Bangladeshi dish without the presence of chilies either raw, powdered or in dried form. Chilies have always had a special place in the Bangladeshi cooking scene. It plays a vital role in making Bangladeshi food so spicy and tasty.

One cannot imagine Bangladeshi delicious food such as mashed potatoes, egg curries, lentil soup, fuchka, chotpoti or even piyajus without the smell and taste of chilies in it. Granted that not everyone is a fan of spicy food, chilies in Bangladeshi cuisine are used depending on how spicy one would like the dish to be. For the braver hearts, the mention of pickled chilies from Bombay or Naga chilies is all it takes to get their mouth to start watering. Seasoned cooks often suggest that for those who cannot tolerate the heat of chilies, it is best to use it in moderation or to remove the seeds from the inside and then use them while cooking.

The good news about chilies is that it is available throughout the year in many forms. This means that one does not have to wait for a certain season to experiment with. Bipul from Bogra has been a vegetable farmer for the last five years and also cultivates and supplies chilies to Shwapno.

Although the fiery spiciness is the first thing that comes to mind when the word chili is mentioned, many are unaware of the nutritional value of chilies. They are a great source of vitamins and minerals. Chilies contain Vitamin C, B6 and K1 that contribute to healing and immune function, energizing the body's metabolism rate, essential for blood clotting healthy bones and kidneys respectively. It also contains minerals such as potassium, manganese, iron and magnesium that all play vital roles in maintaining the electrolyte balance in the body.

Photo: Dolon Talukder

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