

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 33.4 | L 25.0

CHITTAGONG
H 30.5 | L 25.8

SYLHET
H 28.5 | L 22.4

RAJSHAHI
H 32.4 | L 23.5

KHULNA
H 34.8 | L 26.0

BARISAL
H 33.8 | L 26.0

RANGPUR
H 31.8 | L 20.4

COX'S BAZAR
H 30.5 | L 25.0

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over the regions of Dhaka, Chittagong & Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions with heavy rain at isolated places till 6:00pm today. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:16pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Mongla and lowest 20.4 degree in Rangpur.

DU students keep demanding justice for Sujan murder in poll violence
Block Shahbagh intersection again
DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University yesterday staged a demonstration with lit torches at the capital's Shahbagh intersection, protesting the murder of their fellow Sujan Mridha, a third year student of the university's marketing department, in a "police firing" during the second phase of Union Parishad polls in Madaripur's Dhurail on Thursday. Over 500 agitated students took to the busiest intersection in the afternoon and kept it blocked for around half an hour, which wrought a huge traffic congestion in the area.

Before marching towards the intersection, the protesters also brought out a procession on the university campus.

They announced to hold a human chain at 11:00am today at the intersection to press home their four-point demand including fair probe and trial of the murder, giving exemplary punishment to the perpetrators, and apology from the police for denial of their involvement in the killing and spreading lies.

The family sources and witnesses said police shot Sujan to death when he went to a polling centre to watch voting and cast his ballot as his grandfather was a candidate in the elections.

Sarwar Hossain, superintendent of police in the district, however, denied the allegation, saying that neither police nor Border



Students of Dhaka University staging a demonstration and chanting slogans at the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday, protesting the murder of their fellow Sujan Mridha during the post-UP poll violence in Madaripur's Dhurail on Thursday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

HAZARIBAGH TANNERY RELOCATION

Stick to April 10 deadline

Poribesh Bachao Andolon urges govt; tanners call it unrealistic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday urged the government to remain firm in its stance about relocation of the tanneries from the capital's Hazaribagh to Savar by the new deadline, April 10.

"The government must cancel the plots (given in Savar) of tanneries that will fail to relocate within that time. They must disconnect the gas, electricity and water supply lines of the factories in Hazaribagh after the deadline," said Md Abdus Sobhan, general secretary of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba).

He was speaking at a press conference on "Relocation of the tanneries: Prevailing circumstances and things to do" at Poba office in the capital yesterday.

He said the tanneries in Hazaribagh had been polluting the Buriganga for the last 65 years by

thousands of litres of untreated and toxic liquid waste, which posed a serious risk to human and animal health.

Poba members, who visited the site on Sunday, observed that if the tannery owners wanted to relocate, they would have done so by now.

Following a High Court verdict in 2001, steps were taken to shift 155 companies to a leather-estate in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

The government took up the project to build the infrastructure of the estate including roads, water, electricity and gas supply lines, and a common effluent treatment plant (CETP).

By 2013, plots were allotted, and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), the government agency, which is implementing the tannery estate project, has approved the lay-out plan of 152 industrial units

out of the 155 in the Savar site.

"However, in the last three years only one company has completed the full set-up to start production," said Sobhan, adding that another 56 had built factory buildings, but only 28 were in the process of installing leather tanning drums, an essential part of the tanning process.

Refuting tannery owners' allegation that they did not have utility connections, Sobhan said the main gas and water pipeline was installed by the government.

He said the owners were responsible for connecting their factories to the main supply pipeline, and for electricity connections, they needed to have own sub-stations.

Similarly, the tannery owners also need to install waste screening structures inside their own industrial unit before sending the

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EU wants to deport 80,000 Bangladeshi illegal immigrants

Dhaka presses for regularisation, pointing out that they contribute to economies, not all went there in non-formal ways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) yesterday sought measures for repatriating 80,000 illegal Bangladeshi migrants while Bangladesh urged for scopes to regularise them considering their contributions to economies and the fact that not all went there illegally, some became irregular for expired visas and none were involved in any criminal activity.

A six-member EU delegation led by Christian Leffler, deputy secretary general, Global and Economic Issues, European External Action Service, made the call during talks with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on arriving yesterday morning on a three-day visit, says meeting sources.

Amidst growing concern over illegal migration, the first-ever EU-Bangladesh Migration Dialogue is scheduled to be held at state guesthouse Padma today in the morning with Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque leading the Bangladesh side in discussing "all aspects of migration management".

Asaduzzaman sought help in sending back over five lakh Myanmar nationals, or Rohingyas, and stranded Pakistanis, and the list of nationals without legal papers, pointing out that repatriation is a lengthy process, said meeting sources.

In an earlier meeting with Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam at the capital's Probashi Kalyan Bhaban, the delegation urged preventing illegal migration and exploring legal channels.

"They informed us that several thousand Bangladeshis are staying in some countries especially the UK, Italy, Germany and Greece illegally," a senior ministry official told The Daily Star.

The ministry officials said the EU team assured providing assistance to streamline migration to check illegal migration.

"They informed us that they want to assist to reintegrate our returnee migrants. They also assured us of exploring opportunities for legal migration," said Additional Secretary Javed Ahmed.

In line with commitments undertaken under the 2001 Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development, the 7th EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission was held in Dhaka on November 11, 2015.

Both sides had agreed on a number of concrete steps, including developing dialogue on all aspects of migration management, foreign ministry officials said.

As the chair of the ninth Global Forum for Migration and Development, Bangladesh has recently convened the first of its planned thematic workshop on "Migration-Connectivity-Business" in Bangkok.

The other delegation members from Brussels are Maria Castillo Fernandez, Raffaella Iodice, Dana Spinant Emmanuel Cabau and Silvena Pesta.

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Pierre Mayaudon, Frederic Madurand and Mario Ronconi of the EU delegation to Bangladesh will join the visiting team at the dialogue.



Agitated RMG workers of Benetex garments factory block the Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday by setting fire to logs and tyres, demanding two months' due salaries, resulting in huge tailbacks on both sides of the highway.

20 hurt as RMG workers clash with cops over arrears

Block Dhaka-Sylhet highway for 2 hours creating 10km tailback; vandalise vehicles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 20 people including police were injured during a clash yesterday between police and garments workers at Rugganj of Narayanganj.

The garments workers blocked the busy Dhaka-Sylhet highway for two hours from noon, demanding their two months' due salaries.

Police charged baton and used 10 rounds of tear shells to disperse the agitated workers, who vandalised 10 to 12 vehicles during the clash and threw bricks at cops, said witnesses.

Around 10km long tailback was created on both sides of the highway. There are around 1,500 garments workers in the export oriented garments factory Benetex (Harvest

Rich), but the authority did not pay their two months' salaries, said police and witnesses.

Local lawmaker Golam Dastagir Gazi came to the spot around 2:30pm and assured the workers of getting their salaries by April 10, which helped bring the situation under control, said police.

The factory's worker Monir Hossain, who also became wounded during the clash, said they are facing huge financial crisis. Previously the owners assured them of giving their salaries on Monday, which they did not, he said.

Selim Ahmed, administrative manager of Benetex garments, said the salary of February was supposed to be paid on April 10 and they assured it few days back. But eight to 10 workers around 9:30am suddenly started

chanting slogans saying that they want it now.

At one stage they went to the street where many outsiders joined them, he said.

Selim said their gas connection was cut off in mid-February due to gas bill arrears. They had to pay that bill first, adding that the salary of February would be paid on April 10 and on the same day they would announce the date of payment of salary of March.

Md Mahmudul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rugganj Police Station said the workers brought out a procession last Sunday also and blocked the highway. The situation came under control once they got the assurance of getting their salaries by April 10, he said.

PHOTO: STAR

SC acquits Manju of graft charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that acquitted Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju of charges in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission on July 25, 2007.

A Special Judge's Court on June 10, 2008 sentenced Manju, also chairman of Jatiya Party (JP-Manju), to seven years of imprisonment in the case filed on charge of taking Tk 75 lakh from a Chinese construction company in 2000 when he was the communications minister.

Following an appeal filed by Manju, the HC on August 23, 2010 overturned the trial court judgment and acquitted him of the charges.

Yesterday, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, dismissed a leave-to-appeal petition filed by the ACC challenging the HC judgment, Manju's lawyer Ahsanul Karim told The Daily Star.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the apex court dismissed his client's appeal, as it was filed 1,225 days after the HC delivered the verdict.

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SOHEL MURDER CASE IN CTG

Prime suspect still at large

Family demands case transfer to DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A week has gone by since Nasim Ahmed Sohel, an MBA student of Premier University, Chittagong was stabbed to death on the campus, but police were yet to arrest Md Ibrahim Sohan, the prime suspect.

Family members alleged that police were not "cordial" in this regard and demanded the case be transferred to detective branch or criminal investigation department.

Sohel was stabbed to death on March 29 allegedly by his rival faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists over a farewell and fresher's reception ceremony.

His father, Abu Taher, filed a case with Chawkbazar Police Station mentioning

names of 13 people including Sohan, an MBA student of the same university, and some 20 to 25 unidentified people.

Police arrested five students in this connection, said Aziz Ahmed officer-in-charge of the police station.

"We have identified the criminals from the university CCTV footage...Sohan is our prime suspect," said Sukhendra Chandra Sarkar, inspector (investigation).

But, expressing frustration, Abu Taher told The Daily Star, "I don't know whether there is any pressure from any influential quarter on police...Sohan was seen stabbing my son and I believe he is still in the city."

"I demand the case be transferred to

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Mango lovers can start celebrating; summer has arrived early this year. Even though there are still 10-12 days left, abundance of mangoes could be seen on trees already due to conducive climatic conditions, which have helped large-scale flowering of the mango trees and smooth growth of the succulent and delicious summer fruit. The photo was taken in North Temuhni of Lakshmipur on Sunday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

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