

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.5 L 26.6	CHITTAGONG H 32.1 L 26.3	SYLHET H 29.1 L 20.0	RAJSHAHI H 38.0 L 22.3	KHULNA H 37.0 L 24.4	BARISAL H 34.8 L 25.6	RANGPUR H 33.5 L 22.2	COX'S BAZAR H 32.2 L 27.0
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Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged. Mild heat wave sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna and Faridpur may spread. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.

SC upholds death penalty for JMB leader Masum

Scraps another JMB leader Amjad's acquittal; orders retrial

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death penalty of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader Masumur Rahman Masum in two cases filed for killing a litigant and injuring some others by carrying out a bomb attack at Lakshampur court in 2005.

The apex court also scrapped a portion of the High Court verdict that acquitted another JMB leader Amjad Ali of the same cases and ordered the lower court concerned to hold his retrial.

It also asked the jail authorities to transfer Amjad to the normal custody.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha delivered the verdict.

The SC dismissed Masum's appeal that challenged his part of the HC verdict, and disposed of the government's appeal against Amjad's acquittal.

Deputy Attorney General Sashanka Shekhar Sarkar told The Daily Star that the jail authorities could take steps for executing Masum after receiving verdict, if he did not take any further legal step. Masum can seek review and presidential mercy after the SC verdict, he added.

He, however, could not specifically say the name of the jail where Masum and Amjad are now serving.

The DAG said the SC ordered Amjad's retrial as the HC in its verdict observed that the trial court

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The recent nor'easter has put farmers of the Sylhet Haor areas in dire straits as most of the paddy fields are completely submerged, forcing them to cut half-ripe paddies out of desperation. The photo was taken yesterday from Kotalpur Kachli Haor of Fenchuganj upazila around 11:00am.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

PAHELA BAISHAKH CELEBRATIONS
No entry from 4:00pm
DMP issues order on Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan; Sammilita Sangskritik Jote reiterates protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Entry into Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Udyan marking Pahela Baishakh on April 14 will be prohibited from 4:00pm and the premises must be vacated by 5:00pm, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam yesterday.

The declaration comes three days after the government some major changes, banned wearing of masks and blowing of vuvuzelas during Bangla New Year-1423 celebrations.

Meanwhile, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote President Golam Kuddus reiterated the demand for withdrawing the restrictions, except that on vuvuzelas. "If we stop celebrating out of fear of subversive activities, it will be a triumph for the miscreants," he told The Daily Star.

He alleged that the government decisions were not taken "democratically as cultural activists, who are one of the celebration's stakeholders, were not consulted beforehand."

Talking to journalists at the DMP Media Centre, Monirul said there was no security threat on Pahela Baishakh and the measures were taken as a precaution to avoid "any untoward incident".

He also added that none wearing a mask would be allowed to participate in the "Mongol Shobhajatra", a

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Survey finds child domestic workers in hidden slavery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily total working hours for nearly 80 percent of child domestic workers (CDWs) are 14 to 18 hours, revealed a survey conducted on 1,230 CDWs in seven divisions of the country.

The long working hours often start as early as 5:00am and end at 1:00am, stated the report, based on data collected from Barisal, Bogra, Chittagong, Gazipur, Khulna, Munshiganj, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet cities, between November 2015 and January 2016.

Jointly funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation, Global March, educo, Terre des Hommes and World Vision, the report titled "Hidden Slavery Child Domestic Workers" was launched yesterday afternoon at the capital's Jatiya Press Club by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, a network for child rights organisations.

Of the total numbers of CDWs, 87.7 percent were girls

Average daily working hours 15.9

53.7% physically punished

25.9% incur injuries

17.6% sexually harassed

Average monthly salary Tk 1,267

Salary of three-fourth received by parents or guardians

and 12.3 boys, 42 percent were between the ages of 12 and 14, followed by 15-18 age groups, which was 38.2 percent. Moreover, 17.2 percent were in the 9-11 age groups and 1.7 percent of the children were aged between six and eight.

While 25.9 percent of CDWs reported that they faced some injuries when asked about physical punishment, 10.6 percent did not respond while 53.7 percent said they were punished.

In response to "whether anybody touched or expressed ill motive", 19.6 percent female CDWs said "yes" and the persons involved in the illicit behaviour were mostly guards (30.6 percent), visiting relatives (23.1 percent) and neighbours (21.8 percent).

One limitation of the study was that 40 percent of the respondents were interviewed in front of their employers.

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MONEY LAUNDERING CASE
HC to hear challenge to Tarique's acquittal on May 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed May 4 for hearing the appeal filed against a lower court judgment that acquitted BNP leader Tarique Rahman in a money laundering case.

It will also hold hearing the same day another appeal filed by Tarique's friend and business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun against the trial court verdict that has sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment in the same case.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Amir Hossain fixed the date following a prayer moved by the Anti Corruption Commission in the case involving Tk 20.41 crore, Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir told The Daily Star.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the office of chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka has informed the HC that the summons on Tarique in the case reached his London address, but he did not reply.

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GRAFT CASES
Khaleda unlikely to appear before court today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is unlikely to appear before a special court today for hearing the Zia Orphanage and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases filed by the Anti Corruption Commission, said Sanaulah Miah, one of her counsels.

On March 31, Abu Ahmed Jomadar of Dhaka Special Judge Court-3 asked her to appear before it today.

The counsel cited Khaleda's health reasons while talking to The Daily Star yesterday in this regard.

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রেডি পুটি

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