

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.01 L 27.1	H 32.41 L 26.1	H 34.21 L 23.0	H 39.21 L 24.8	H 37.51 L 26.4	H 35.71 L 26.5	H 36.31 L 23.7	H 29.51 L 25.8

Heat may continue to sweep over Kushtia, Khulna and Rajshahi Rangpur, Dinajpur, Syedpur, Dhaka, Tangail and Faridpur. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am.



PM for prisons as correction centres

Inaugurates new compound of Dhaka Central Jail

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina taking a look around the newly-constructed Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital, after inaugurating it yesterday.

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for developing the country's prisons as correction centres so that prisoners could leave their dark past and return to the normal life after serving their jail terms, reports UNB.

She was addressing a function marking the inauguration of the newly-constructed Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital.

"Prisons should not be places for confining prisoners. Instead, these should be centres of correction for the criminals," said Hasina.

The aim of establishing the new central jail with modern facilities for prisoners is to bring some improvement to the lives of criminals and remove sufferings of their families, she added.

Stressing the importance of creating income-oriented work facilities for prisoners on the jail compound, she said their income would have to be deposited so that on completion of jail terms, they could take the money and do something for their

HC verdict on biometric SIM registration tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Haq yesterday fixed tomorrow for delivering the verdict on a writ petition that challenged the legality of biometric data collection and fingerprints of people for registering mobile phone's Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards.

SM Anamul Haque, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the petition on March 9 alleging collecting such private information is unsafe for people.

Crucial issues missing in draft road transport act

Experts, stakeholders point out at workshop of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, World Health Organization Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts and stakeholders yesterday pointed out that many crucial issues, like speed limits, accident probes, safety and victims' compensation, and their related aspects have been missed out in a recently drafted "Bangladesh Road Transport Act-2016".

They suggested keeping in mind that the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal motor vehicle agreement would come into effect soon, while referencing the countries' transport laws when tailoring the act to the present age and time.

The observations included delineating all facets of road transport crimes to prevent the act's misuse, something Bangladesh Police and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) officials also mentioned.

The remarks came at a stakeholder

workshop organised by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and World Health Organization Dhaka in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association Secretary General Khandaker Enayet Ullah proposed keeping provisions holding all concerned, from road engineers to drivers, accountable for road accidents.

Osman Ali, general secretary, Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, said motorised vehicles were brought under the act but nothing was said about non-motorised ones and pedestrians.

"No provisions have been incorporated in the law to make public transport, traffic management, construction of motor vehicles and parts time-befitting," he said, adding that they

have reservations about 64 out of the act's 71 provisions.

Faruk Talukder Sohel, managing director, Shohagh Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd, mentioned of the necessity of science-based accident probes and of the absence of safety concerns related to highway users and to economic activities and construction of mills and factories by roads.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman, Poribesh Dachao Automolon, recommended adopting automated traffic enforcement systems to issue tickets, like that in developed countries.

DMP Joint Commissioner Imtiaz Ahmed objected to the leaving out of provisions over issuing on-the-spot fines, saying roughly 10 lakh people would need to be sent to courts annually for settling cases.

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Noboborsho brings new delight to govt staff

Shops see huge crowd on weekends

REZAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The celebration of this Pahela Baishakh would be more joyous for the government officials as they have received a festival bonus for the first time for the Bangla New Year.

The public servants started receiving the bonus, 20 percent of their basic salary, from last week after the government in its new pay scale introduced it for its 14 lakh officials and staff in addition to other festival bonuses. Besides, officials and employees of autonomous bodies and government-owned banks are also getting the benefits.

The incentive also puts a positive impact on the markets as the major shopping hubs in the capital witnessed a throng of shoppers during the last weekend, particularly on Friday.

Pahela Baishakh is considered as Bangalees' biggest festival as it brings people together in a festivity of cultural practices deeply rooted in secular ethos. The nation welcomes the first day of Bangla year amid traditional fanfare and festivity, celebrated with grandeur and colours, discarding all melancholies of the preceding year.

The entire country transforms into an effervescent carnival, with fairs, cultural programmes, festivals and processions in almost every village, town and city.

Abdul Khaleque, an employee of the cabinet division, said this Pahela Baishakh has brought greater happiness for him.

"It feels like Eid. We've received a bonus and there would be a three-day holiday also

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৩ বছরের PEACE OF MIND ওয়ারেন্টি

ডাল: গুলশান ২- ল্যান্ডমার্ক শপিং সেন্টার, ০২৭৭৭৭০২৭০, ০২৭৭৭৭০২৭৪ ধানমন্ডি- রোড ৭৭, ০২৭০২৫৮০৮৯ উত্তরা- গাউল্ডন আজম অ্যাডভান্সিড, সেন্টার ১৩, ০২৭৭৭৭০২৭৬, ০২৭৭৭৭০২৭৬ মোহাম্মদপুর- আজমল রোড, ০২৭৭৭৭০২৭৭, ০২৭৭৭৭০২৭৮ মিরপুর ২- দারুল সালাম রোড, ০২৭৮৭৬২০২৭৪, ০২৭৮৭৬২০২৭৫ পল্লীশ্রী: জেআইসি, ০২৭৩০০৭৬৭০২, ০২৭৩০০৭৬৭০২ সিটি: আশুখানা, ০২৭২২২২২২৩৬, ০২৭২২২২২২৩৬ ফুলবাড়ী: কেডিএ অ্যাডভান্সিড, ০২৭২২২২২২৩০, ০২৭২২২২২৩১ ফার্ম: আর এন রোড, ০২৭০২৫৮০৮০৮, ০২৭০২৫৮০৮০৮ রাজশাহী: সাহেব বাজার, ০২৭০২৫৮০৮০৮, ০২৭০২৫৮০৮০৮ এবং দেশজুড়ে ডিলার শেডসে

SC again scraps Maya's acquittal in graft case

Asks HC to rehear appeal for final disposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its earlier order of scrapping the High Court's acquittal of Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya in a corruption case that sentenced him to 13 years' imprisonment.

A four-member bench of the SC Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha came up with the order following Maya's review petition and asked the HC to dispose of his appeal.

The Anti Corruption Commission filed the case against him on June 13, 2007, on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 29 lakh and concealing information about it.

A special judge's court in Dhaka on February 14, 2008, convicted Maya and sentenced him to imprisonment, fined him Tk 5 crore and ordered confiscation of about Tk 6 crore of his ill-gotten wealth.

The HC on October 27, 2010, acquitted him of the charges, which the Appellate Division on June 14 last year scrapped and asked the HC to rehear his appeal for final disposal.

The SC yesterday rejected the petition as Maya's lawyer Abdul Baset Majumder said that his client will not move the petition, Khurshid Alam Khan, ACC's lawyer, told The Daily Star.

He said Maya's jail sentence is under challenge, as the SC has asked the HC to hold further hearing.

The HC will now finally decide whether the lower court had delivered the judgment on Maya rightly, he said, adding, Maya will remain on bail until the HC disposes of the appeal.

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