

**WEATHER FORECAST**

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA           | CHITTAGONG      | SYLHET          | RAJSHAHI        | KHULNA          | BARISAL         | RANGPUR         | COX'S BAZAR     |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                          | H 34.2   L 24.6 | H 34.5   L 25.7 | H 31.4   L 23.2 | H 31.6   L 25.2 | H 35.0   L 24.5 | H 35.5   L 24.6 | H 32.8   L 23.5 | H 33.1   L 27.0 |

Rain is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna division till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.



## DEMANDING LAND COMMISSION FOR PLAIN LAND ETHNIC MINORITIES Govt's nonchalant attitude worsening land problems

*Rights advocates tell Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Kapaeeng Foundation press confce, demand more budgetary allocation for the communities*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government's nonchalant attitude towards forming a land commission is intensifying problems being faced by ethnic minority communities living in plain lands and increasing violence, said rights advocates yesterday.

Steps are yet to be taken following the government's pledge during the national elections of 2008 and 2014 to form the commission, said Jatiya Adivasi Parishad General Secretary Rabindranath Soren as per a press release.

He was addressing a press conference the parishad and Kapaeeng Foundation organised to "protest ongoing torture on the communities and grabbing of land and demanding increasing budgetary allocation for the communities" in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Rabindranath Soren demanded that 1842.3 acres of land in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila be returned to the communities. He alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched to drive out 15,000 people of the communities by declaring the Modhupur forest a reserved one.

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud demanded allocating Tk 400 crore in the 2016-17 budget, saying the present Tk 20 crore did little to serve their purpose.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha said Bangladesh was following the way Pakistan was leading repression and torture on its ethnic minority communities.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said it was disappointing that the administration has so far not taken any action against perpetrators who tortured people and raped women of the communities and grabbed their lands.

## DSCC to spruce up 19 parks, 12 playgrounds

**HELEMLU ALAM**

In the overcrowded Dhaka city, where free space is a blessing, 19 parks and 12 playgrounds will be spruced up to give children a place to run around and adults a retreat to relax.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has taken up the task as part of a Tk 1,202 crore project for development of roads, footpath, slaughterhouses, and other facilities in its area.

A total of Tk 76 crore will be spent on the parks and Tk 15 crore on the playgrounds, said officials.

Chief Engineer of DSCC Md Nurullah said they would appoint consultants to prepare designs of how the parks and playgrounds would look like after completion of the project. The consultants will take eight to nine months to finish their works, while the project is scheduled to be completed by 2018, he said.

DSCC will develop more parks, if necessary, he added.

During an investigation last year, The Daily Star found that at least 10 parks out of the 54 surviving ones in the entire Dhaka city were replaced with a community centre, a kitchen market, a mosque, a rickshaw garage or a truck parking lot, mostly by the city corporation itself, while some others were threatened.

According to experts, 93 parks are necessary in Dhaka city, one for each of the 93 wards. Before the city was split into two parts in 2011, DCC had 54 parks on its official list.

Urban expert Prof Nazrul Islam says every 10,000 city residents need an open space of four acres -- park or playground -- for healthy growth of children and prevention of diseases related to physical activities.

## WAR CRIME TRIALS

### Arrest warrant issued for five Gaibandha men Court shows another arrested; seeks probe report against five Netrakona suspects July 31

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday issued an arrest warrant against five persons from Gaibandha sadar upazila and showed another from the area arrested in a case over their alleged involvement in crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

In another similar case, the tribunal accepted prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman's petition seeking three more months and directed submitting on July 31 an investigation report, which was due yesterday, centring allegations against five Netrakona men.

Azizur Rahman, 65, Ashak Ali, 82, Md Shahnewaz, 88, and Ramjan Ali, 78, of Durgapur upazila of Netrakona are in jail while Azizur's brother Khalilur Rahman, 72, is on the run.

In the Gaibandha case, police could not arrest anyone till 10:15pm yesterday, the case's investigation officer, Helal Uddin, told The Daily Star.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrowardi issued the warrant in response to a petition filed by the prosecution.

In it, prosecutor Hrishikesh Saha said investigations began on October 12, 2015 and the investigation officer already found evidence over the "involvement" of the six in two mass killings, including one where seven freedom fighters had fallen victim.

A freedom fighter testifying in a war crimes case yesterday linked two alleged Shariatpur Razakars to killings of scores of people and rape of at least 13 women during the 1971 Liberation War.

From Dhanuka village under Palang Police Station, Abdul Aziz Sikder, 62, the case's first prosecution witness, told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he saw some of the incidents and heard the others from witnesses and victims.

Facing four charges, Sulaiman Mollah is now in jail and pleads not guilty while Edris Ali Sarder is on the run.

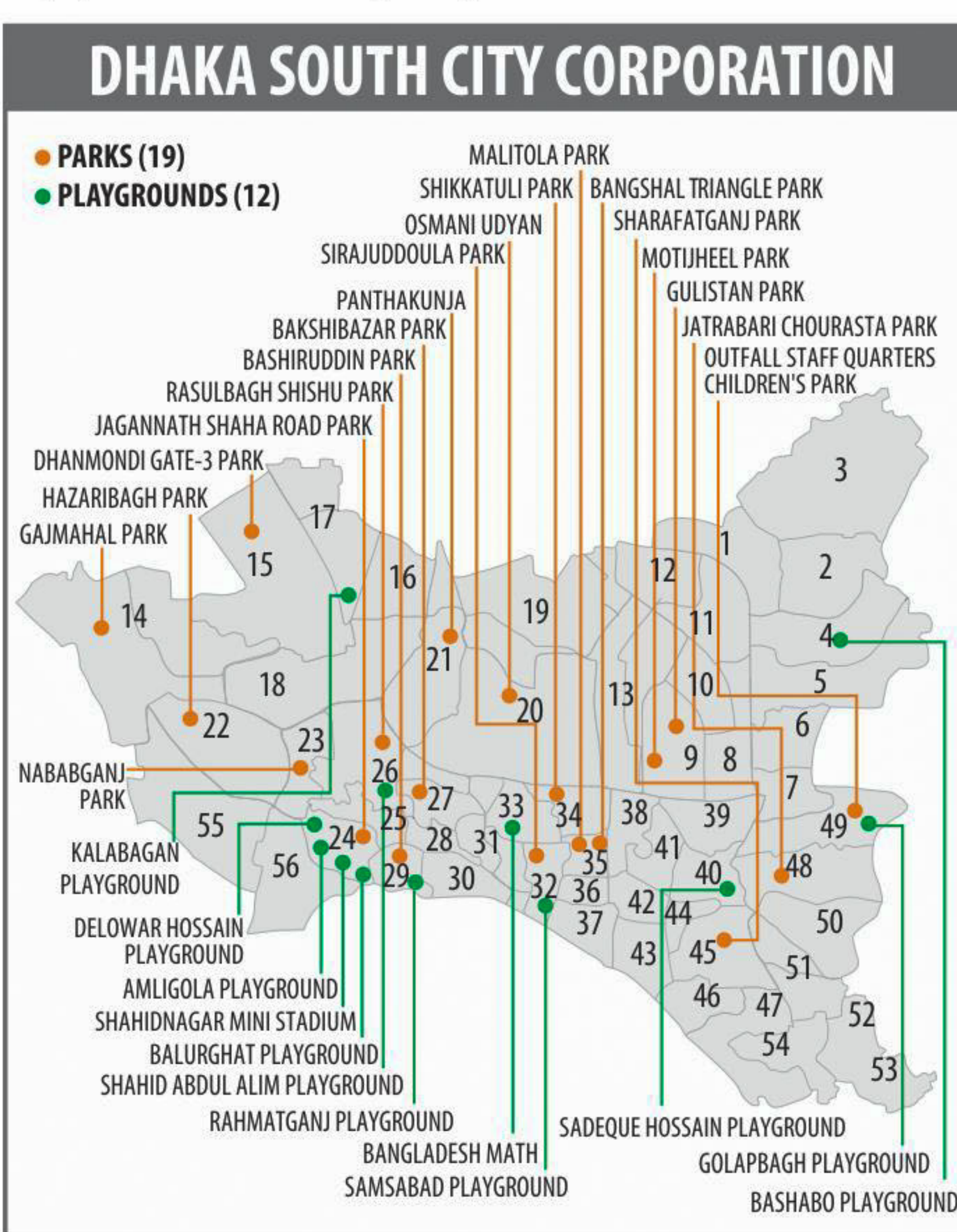
Aziz said while they were preparing to fight under one Sultan Mahmud Simon's leadership right after March 26, the accused formed Shanti Committee and Razakar Bahini taking assistance from local Jamaat-e-Islami and Muslim League men.

The accused and some others welcomed the Pakistani occupation army when the latter arrived in the local Angaria Bazar on May 22, said Aziz, commander of Palang Thana Muktijoddha Sangsad.

The Razakars and the army men vandalised shops and Aziz said to have followed the group as they left.

Some half a kilometre away, the group met one Abdul Samad Sikder whom the accused identified as a member of Mukti Bahini, he said, adding that one of the army men then shot Samad and he died on reaching his house.

The group went to the house of one Shambhu Karmakar in nearby Kashavog village and the accused identified him as a member of the Hindu community, following which one of the army men shot him dead, the witness said.



## Sec 54 to be amended after receipt of SC full verdict

*Says law minister adding judge to face departmental proceedings over wrongful imprisonment of Bhola man who is released from jail*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said departmental proceedings would be initiated against the judge concerned of a Bhola court, who had "wrongly" convicted a rape case accused 12 years ago.

The judge will be tried for failing in discharging duty, he told reporters after attending a programme at Judicial Administration Training Institute in the capital.

He distributed certificates among sub-registrars who completed a training course.

On May 25, the HC released the full verdict directing the government to pay Tk 50 lakh in compensation to Abdul Jalil of Char Fashion in Bhola, who was wrongly jailed for life for a rape that took place in 2001. At 15, Jalil was tried in a wrong court and under a wrong law.

The HC also scrapped the life sentence of Jalil, and ordered his immediate release if he is not accused in any other case.

On December 15 last year, the HC had delivered the short verdict, following a jail appeal by Jalil challenging the life sentence he was given by the lower court. Jalil has been released from prison, reported our Jhalakathi correspondent.

Replying to a question, Anisul Huq said after receiving the full text of the SC verdict, the government would amend Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) of 1898, under which police arrest a person on suspicion.

On May 24, the SC upheld a High Court verdict that put restriction on arrests on suspicion under Section 54 and outlined some recommendations for making changes to relevant provisions.

The law minister also said the government had taken steps to formulate a law for appointing judges to the HC, which would come into effect within the next year.

# Balmer Lawrie (UAE) LLC

**LEADING MANUFACTURERS OF HIGH QUALITY PRINTED TINPLATES AND COMPONENTS INCLUDING READY-TO-USE METAL CANS AND PAILS.**

- Leading manufacturers of tin cans in an unassembled condition.
- Can supply uncut printed tinfoil sheets in skid form and components duly packed in cartons or metal boxes.
- Has excellent and modern lithography printing line capable of printing high quality designs.
- Uses only best quality coatings, inks, varnishes and protective lacquers to achieve excellent printing output.
- Has a well equipped end-line where top and bottom of different type of cans are produced.

**We are also leading manufacturers of UN approved 210 Litres steel drums and blow moulding plastic cans.**

**For Enquiries Please Contact on the Below Address/ E-mail**  
**Balmer Lawrie (UAE) LLC**  
 P.O. Box 11818, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
 Tel: +971 4 3382476 Fax: +971 4 3381507  
 Email: bldubai@balmerlawrie.ae Web: www.balmerlawrie.ae