

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.9 L 27.8	CHITTAGONG H 34.0 L 25.3	SYLHET H 29.0 L 23.2	RAJSHAHI H 36.5 L 26.8	KHULNA H 32.3 L 27.5	BARISAL H 32.3 L 26.2	RANGPUR H 32.0 L 26.4	COX'S BAZAR H 32.2 L 24.0
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Rain is likely to occur at most places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Khulna, Mymensingh an Dhaka divisions and at few places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:45pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.

PATENTING JUTE GENOMES Govt to spend over \$8m on legal fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to spend \$8.25 million on legal assistance over a span of 15 years to obtain patents on jute genomes decoded by Bangladeshi scientists.

The cabinet committee on purchase gave the approval of the expenditure in retrospect nearly six years into the government's embarking on a contact with US law firm, Foley Hoag, in 2010 to gain an exclusive right to the use of the intellectual property.

Bangladeshi scientists led by Maqsood Alam decoded the genomes of two types of jute plants in 2010 and 2013. The team also decoded the genome of a fungus harmful to more than 500 crops in 2012.

Right after the first success in jute genomics, the government appointed the foreign legal firm in December 2010 through direct purchase method instead of the open tender method.

After years of paper works, retrospective approval for the appointment of Foley Hoag for a 15-year period (2010-2025) at an expense of \$8.25 million has been given by the cabinet committee on economic affairs in March this year.

Yesterday's approval from the cabinet committee on purchase came in line with that long process.

Officials confirmed The Daily Star yesterday that Bangladesh rushed in retaining the foreign legal service for patenting taking into consideration the tremendous interests on obtaining jute genome patents by some other competing countries including a neighbouring one.

Applications have already been filed for seven out of 15 intended patents on the intellectual property and two of those are in the final stage of getting patented in 12 countries including the United States while three others are also at an advance stage and two more are at provisional stage. Preparations for filing the rest are underway, they said.

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JESSORE WAR CRIMES Closing arguments in case to begin July 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trial of the case against nine Jessore men including former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain is set to enter the final stage, as the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed July 12 to start recording the closing arguments of the case.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque fixed the date after defence counsels declined to produce the defence witness.

Earlier in the day, defence counsels completed cross-examination of Abdur Razzak Khan, the investigation officer and last prosecution witness.

After completion of the closing arguments, the court will keep the case waiting for verdict, as per the precedent set by the tribunal in previous cases.

All accused are from Keshobpur upazila. Apart from Shakhawat, now involved in Jatiya Party

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Veggie prices soar again in Ctg as Ramadan starts

Visit to four markets reveals; CDA starts monitoring, sentences three traders to jail, fines another four

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Prices of various vegetables, used for preparing iftar items, are being sold at a much higher rate at the retail markets in Chittagong city compared to the prices the traders buy it for from the wholesale markets, making it extremely difficult for the low-income and lower-middle class people to cope with the price hike.

Many shoppers were seen expressing their exasperation yesterday at the Kazir Dewry Kitchen Market, Karnaphuli Complex

ITEMS/KG	RETAIL	WHOLESALE
BRINJAL	Tk 60-70	Tk 20-30
CUCUMBER	Tk 40-50	Tk 15-20
TOMATO	Tk 50-60	Tk 34-40
GREEN CHILI	Tk 50-60	Tk 25-32
CARROT	Tk 50	Tk 30-40

subsidised prices for the low-income group during Ramadan.

But locals alleged that not everyone could go to the designated spots to buy the items and not to mention it was being sold within a specific timeframe. So, they had to go to these retail markets.

Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Mesbah Uddin on Wednesday at a views-exchange meeting with business leaders, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute and Consumers Association of Bangladesh, warned of taking stern actions if anyone tried to unbalance the market by hiking the prices of daily essentials during Ramadan.

But, "the vegetables prices are high at the wholesale market," claimed

Mohammad Sakhawat, a retailer at Kazir Dewry Kitchen Market.

Contacted, Omar Azam, proprietor of Mohammadi Arat (a vegetable warehouse) at Reazuddin Bazar, said there was enough supply of vegetables in the market and claimed that they have not increased the prices.

Meanwhile, CDA, CCCI and CAB started

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SC stays HC order to keep Mouchak Market closed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks the High Court order that asked the authorities concerned to keep the shops at Dhaka's Mouchak Market closed.

The apex court order came a day after the HC directed the authorities concerned to keep the shops closed after a certificate is received under the building code after the

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8th Death Anniversary

Today is the 8th death anniversary of our Maa, **Rezia Begum**. She was a freedom fighter, a writer & above all a loving mother.

The family members of late Rezia Begum have requested all her relatives, friends & well wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rumea, Jamee, Sadee Shopna, Mitu, Neetu

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নো ফ্রস্ট ফ্রিজ-এ ডিসকাউন্ট ও ফ্রি গিফট

৬ মাস পর্যন্ত ০% ইন্টারেস্ট সুবিধা

ওয়াশিং মেশিন-এ আকর্ষণীয় ডিসকাউন্ট

মাইক্রোওয়েভ ওভেন-এ ডিসকাউন্ট, ফ্রি কুকিং বুক আর গিফট

ফ্রিজ এবং ভোল্টেজ স্ট্যাবিলাইজার একসাথে কিনলে বিশেষ ডিসকাউন্ট

কিচেন অ্যাপ্লায়েন্স-এ ডিসকাউন্ট

* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য * সর্বোচ্চ ডিসকাউন্ট * সকল পণ্যের অফার ও মূল্য পরিবর্তনযোগ্য