

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.8 | L 29.0

CHITTAGONG H 33.9 | L 26.6

SYLHET H 34.6 | L 26.5

RAJSHAHI H 36.7 | L 27.3

KHULNA H 34.8 | L 28.5

BARISAL H 34.2 | L 28.4

RANGPUR H 34.8 | L 28.3

COX'S BAZAR H 33.0 | L 26.7

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am. Country's highest temperature 36.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 25.0 degree Celsius in Rangamati and Feni.



The family of Imrul Sarfaraz bringing the day's supply from a Wasa water tap on Bijoy Lane, half a kilometre from their neighbourhood, Hossain Shaheber Goli, in the capital's East Jafrabad yesterday. With the water level in the underground falling, the crisis is getting severer in Dhaka city day by day.

PHOTO: HELEMUL ALAM

East Jafrabad new victim of Dhaka water crisis

HELEMUL ALAM

In the family of Sarfaraz, there has been a recent addition in the list of everyday chores: fetching water for household use, from a neighbourhood half a kilometre away.

"My father, mother, and sister also fetch water," he said.

Imrul Sarfaraz lives in Hossain Shaheber Goli of East Jafrabad, a new victim of Dhaka city's burgeoning water crisis.

The family members go to different places to take baths.

"I go to a friend's house at Rayer Bazar, and my mother and sister to my grandmother's at Bashbari of Mohammadpur," said the Dhaka University student.

His father, Mofizul Islam, said they had been facing a shortage of water for the last one and a half months, but the supply stopped completely one week ago.

The situation is the same in Bijoy Lane, Natun Rasta, Babri Masjid Road, and Pabna

House Lane areas of East Jafrabad and parts of Rayer Bazar.

Parvin Akhtar of East Jafrabad has seen a rise in family expenditure. They have to spend Tk 500 every alternate day to buy a lorry full of water from the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

"Three out of the 10 tenants at my house have already notified that they want to move out due to the severe water crisis," she said.

Another resident of Hossain Shaheber Goli, Lal Chan Pal, does not have to buy water yet he needs an extra Tk 50 to Tk 100 daily -- the cost of carrying water from other areas.

"It is really very painful to deal with this water crisis. Please, do something for us so we can at least get water from an alternative source," said Sunil Chandra Pal, another resident.

Hossain Shaheber Goli gets a supply of 10 lorries every day, said Hamidul, a lorry driver.

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Housing Project Body formed to identify water bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a six-member committee to identify water bodies and water reservoirs within Eastern Housing Ltd's project in Aftabnagar and Banasree in Dhaka and measure their sizes.

The environment and forests ministry constituted the body on June 26 in line with a Supreme Court directive.

Following an appeal moved by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the apex court on May 20 asked the ministry to submit a report to it on the number and sizes within 45 days of forming the committee.

The committee members are Md Nurul Karim, SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Law enforcers involved must face trial one day: Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chief Khaleda Zia yesterday said the law enforcers involved in the incidents of forced disappearance and killings would not be spared, and they must be brought to justice one day.

"The Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) members and policemen who have involvement in this kind of incidents will never be forgiven," she told an iftar programme at a city hotel where she met families of 38 people who have been victims of forced disappearance and killings.

Now people hate the Awami League, said Khaleda. "Everybody is eagerly waiting to see the

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US Exim bank urged to refrain from financing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US and Bangladeshi environmental groups and activists yesterday jointly handed over a petition to the Export-Import Bank of the United States urging not to finance coal-based power plant projects in Bangladesh that threaten the Sundarbans.

The petition contained over 150,000 signatures, including those from Sierra Club, Friends of Earth, Rainforest Action Network, Center for Biological Diversity, Bangladesh Environmental Network, EcoSikh, Brown and Green: South Asian Americans for Climate Justice, and Environmental Movement Atlanta.

Informing of the petition, a press statement US-based Friends of Earth sent to The Daily Star noted that the bank was likely to finance Orion Group's power plant near the Sundarbans as early as this July.

"Once financing kicks in, construction for the projects could start a mere few days later," it read citing its concern. "For the U.S. Export-Import Bank to even consider using U.S. tax dollars to finance any overseas coal project is reckless and unnecessary," said John Coequet, Sierra Club's global climate policy director in the press release.

"...but to consider financing projects that will irreparably damage one of the world's most ecologically sensitive and valuable ecosystems is downright unconscionable," he said.

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Raushan sees deficit in socio-political norms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad yesterday told parliament that there was a deficit not only in the proposed national budget, but everywhere, including of socio-political ethics and political norms.

The former first lady also expressed grave concern over the Rooppur nuclear power plant, saying other countries started refraining from depending on nuclear power plants considering its harms.

"We all fall victim to political vendetta, we will have to come out from this situation. There is a deficit everywhere, including of education and morality," Raushan said participating in a discussion on the proposed budget for the 2016-17 fiscal.

The Jatiya Party senior co-chairman said social unrest cannot be stopped only by police. "So we all

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Monks of Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in the capital's Sabujbagh distributing iftar among the poor yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Buddhist monks spreading harmony offering iftar

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

If you visit the Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in the capital's Sabujbagh this month, especially in the evening, you will see a stream of people, forming long queues and awaiting patiently.

Usually queues and commotion go hand in hand, but there is a mystifying quietness here, except for the soothing chant that can be heard once in a while - satta sukhi hontu (May all beings be well).

The long lines, comprising poor people, are waiting to be served iftar.

Every day, the monks at the monastery arrange iftar for about 500 people.

This is not the first time they are distributing free iftar in Ramadan, they have been doing this for the last six years, said monastery chief Sanghanayak Suddhananda Mohathero.

"Both the Muslims and Buddhists fast in a different way as a part of their religion. So, I thought of doing something that will not only help people but also strengthen communal harmony," he said.

Although serving iftar began six years ago, he said that they had also cooked iftar for the Muslim people who had worked during the initial years of its establishment in 1960.

The monastery authority said they also allotted seats for different communities including Hindus and Christians in the Dharmarajika Anathalay [orphange centre] that was established in 1972.

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Farzana Chowdhury: Local SDG Pioneer for Women's Economic Security

Farzana Chowdhury ACII (UK), Managing Director and CEO of Green Delta Insurance has recently been recognized by the UN Global Compact as a Local SDG Pioneer during the "UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2016", held 22-23 June in New York. The pioneers were announced by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of United Nations in presence of UN Global Compact Executive Director Ms. Lise Kingo. Farzana Chowdhury, a Pioneer for women's economic security, was honoured for her efforts that align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on Gender Equality.

We, the Green Delta Family are proud of her glorious accomplishment!



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