

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.6 L 26.4	CHITTAGONG H 33.5 L 26.1	SYLHET H 34.2 L 27.0	RAJSHAHI H 35.2 L 26.6	KHULNA H 33.7 L 26.5	BARISAL H 32.8 L 26.6	RANGPUR H 33.2 L 27.2	COX'S BAZAR H 31.7 L 26.0
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Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barisal, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in the next 24 hours. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 05:43am.

Eastern bypass: the same mistake again?

SIXTH REPORT on DHAKA CANALS

HELEMU ALAM

Though the eastern bypass is necessary for the residents of Dhaka city to save its areas from flood but like the western part, its planning is also not done considering the environmental aspect properly.

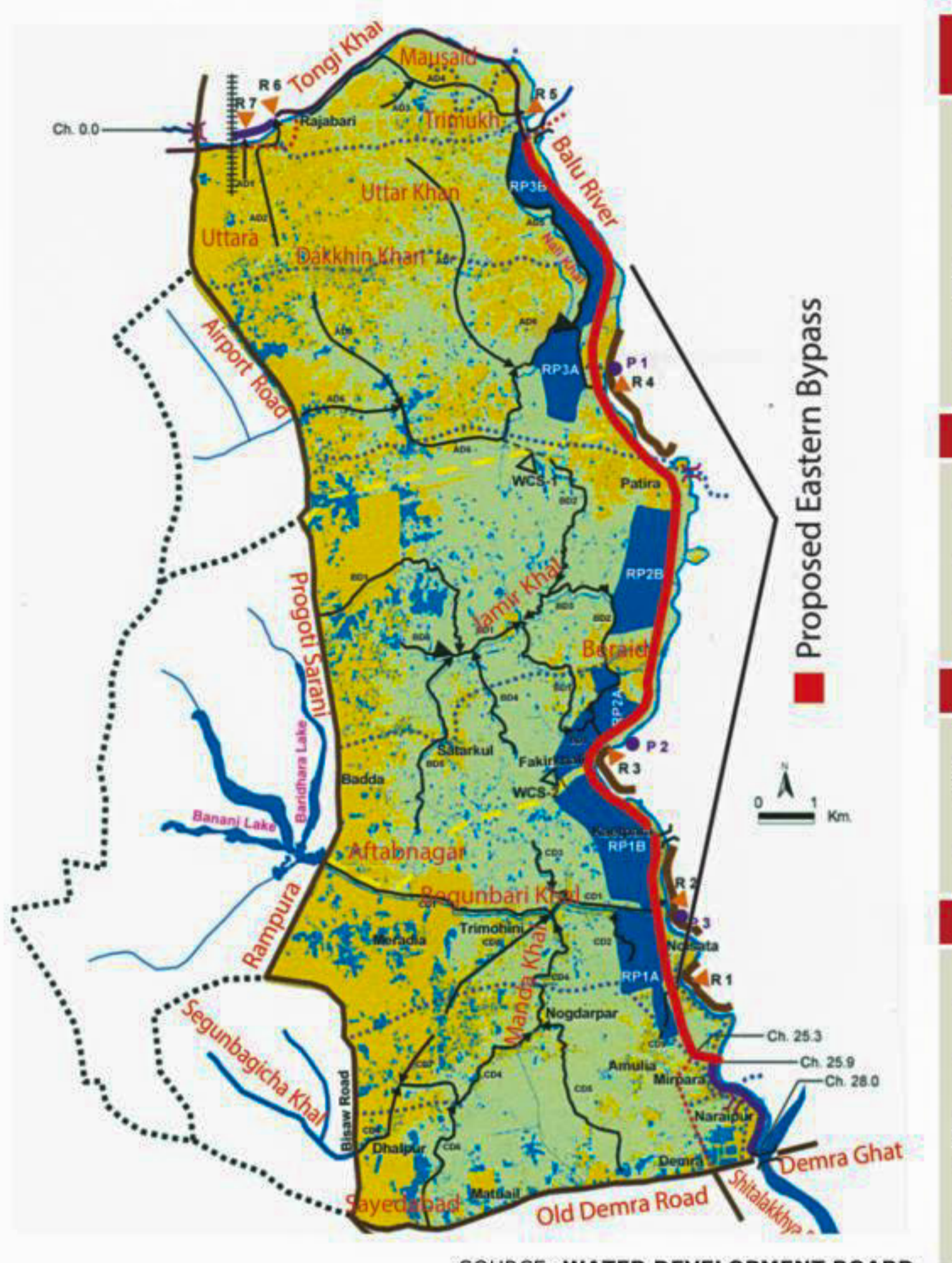
According to the Tk 11,277 crore Preliminary Development Project Proforma (PDPP) of Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Embankment-Cum-Eastern-Bypass Road Multipurpose Project, it did not keep any scope to maintain the waterway till the Balu or other rivers, though some canals at the eastern fringe are maintaining the waterways.

If the design of the project is not changed, like the western part, mouths of all the canals will be blocked, which still have links with the Balu and Shitalakhya rivers.

According to environmentalists and urban planning experts, during the bypass's construction work it is vital considering the environmental aspect and keeping provision of waterway for boats to row through the different canals and maintain a link with the rivers.

Prof Nazrul Islam, former professor of economics, Dhaka University, in an article published in The Daily Star, said that the eastern bypass should not be constructed as a cordon; instead, it should be constructed with adequate passages left for water to pass between the city and the river.

He said the embankments with adequate sluice gates can provide a way of retaining mon-



SOURCE: WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

EASTERN EMBANKMENT AT A GLANCE	
28.6km flood wall cum road	Benefited area 124 square km
Project cost Tk 11,277cr	
Improved road network from Demra ghat to Tongi Railway Bridge	
Flood protection	
CORDONED APPROACH	
De-links canals from rivers	Blocks natural drainage system
Affects bio-diversity	High maintenance
OPEN APPROACH	
Saves vast wet lands	Canals meet with rivers unhindered
Environment friendly	Cost effective
SUGGESTIONS	
Keeping canal mouths open	Provision of waterway for boats
Maintaining river links	Environment friendly open approach
Protecting water bodies	Creating retention pond areas

soon water in the city's canals for the dry months.

Abul Kamal Azad, chief engineer (central zone) of Bangladesh Water Development Board, said they did not keep any provision to keep the mouth of the canals open. He said there is still scope to change the plan as it has not been finalised yet.

The possibility of the eastern bypass being constructed in the form of an elevated road may also be explored, said Prof Nazrul.

Comprehensive cost-benefit analysis may actually show the latter to be a better option, he said.

Though the 136 square km areas of the western part are protected from flood but the 124 square km areas in eastern part of the city remained unprotected, for which the government is planning to construct the eastern bypass.

BWDB chief engineer said during the 1998 flood the subject

of flood protection came up in the discussion again and the multipurpose eastern project was undertaken based on a Jica and Halcrow study.

The project got the government's approval in 1999 with a cost of Tk 2,475 crore. An initiative was taken in 2001 to implement the project with the soil of the Balu river, which would come from dredging the river but it could not progress much due to soil problem.

Floods during 2002 to 2004 in the eastern part brought forth the issue again and the feasibility study was decided to be upgraded again, he said, adding, the Halcrow Group Ltd of the UK and its associates were given the charge to complete the upgrade in 2006.

He said they are now searching for donors for the project's implementation.

Ainun Nishat, professor emeritus of Brac University, and a water resources and climate change specialist, said the government is going to do the same mistake during the construction of the eastern bypass like the western part's flood protection embankment.

He said the eastern bypass should be evaluated in terms of environmental compliance, and suggested protecting all the water bodies of the eastern side during the construction and creating retention pond areas by purchasing sufficient land.

Nishat suggested reviving the Begunbari khal and coordinating waterway communication through it.

"We are objecting the project so that it is not constructed like the western side, which is a cordoned embankment," said architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribsh Andolon.

"If the eastern bypass is also built following the same method, then rain water will be blocked and the canals will dry up," he added.

Necessity of the bypass is there but the government should not build it as an embankment, he stressed.

"We are suggesting a 'viaduct' concept like the Hatirjheel project to keep the mouths of all the canals open," Iqbal said.

He said many development activities are going on centring

the eastern bypass as a master plan but these development work and housing projects will only be feasible if the eastern bypass is being constructed.

When ring roads are being constructed building cross dam, then canals lose its navigability, and flow of water through them stops, which eventually force the canals to become target of grabbers, Iqbal said.

Due to the delay of the bypass construction, people are continuing with their development works and housing projects filling the canals and water bodies in a rapid way as they are considering that a bypass or embankment will be constructed there, he said.

So the government should recover and protect the canals strictly and develop the eastern side of the capital in a hydro-ecological way, connecting the bypass with the canals, Iqbal added.

Contacted, Managing Director of Wasa Taqsem A Khan said there is a tendency to use the cordoned approach while thinking about flood management.

"With this approach, I always say authorities concerned first make the city a bucket then they tell to pump out the water from it, which is a wrong idea," he said.

If the government avoids constructing a "Bucket" like the western flood protection embankment then it would not be necessary to pump out water, Taqsem added.

The history of the embankment had come from 1954 or 56 when the East Pakistan had faced severe floods. Then the Pakistan government sought help from the US to protect their people from flood and a commission was sent to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and they submitted a set of recommendations.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Shishu Park to be removed from Shahbagh

Liberation War minister tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to remove the Shishu Park from Shahbagh and build a Liberation War memorial centre in that place, said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque yesterday.

"An international standard Liberation War memorial will be set up and fund has been sanctioned for this. The primary plan of the project has been approved and we will sit with the prime minister for her final approval," said Mozammel Haque.

The minister made the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BNP's demo tomorrow over removal of Zia's award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday came down heavily on the government's move to remove its founder Ziaur Rahman's Swadhinata Padak (Independence Award) from the National Museum and announced to hold a countrywide demonstration tomorrow to protest the "vindictive" move.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the programme at a press briefing at the party's Nayapalton headquarters in the capital.

The demonstration will be staged in all districts and cities.

Ctg city cattle market revenues up 59pc

Due to transparency in bidding, former and current mayors' active role

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Due to transparency in tender process, the revenue of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has increased over 59 percent within the four years since 2013 by leasing out eight cattle markets in the city.

The CCC leases out six makeshift cattle markets during Eid-ul-Azha and two permanent ones round the year. The corporation has earned around Tk 14.73 crore this year whereas it was Tk 11.66 crore in 2015; and Tk 11.81 crore and Tk 9.24

Year	Earnings (cr)	No of markets
2016	Tk 14.73	8
2015	Tk 11.66	8
2014	Tk 11.81	8
2013	Tk 9.24	8

crore in 2014 and 2013 respectively, said CCC sources.

They also said the CCC earned Tk 2.02 crore by leasing out six makeshift cattle markets in 2013, while it earned Tk 2.61 crore in 2014; Tk 2.75 in 2015 and Tk 3.84 in 2016.

The revenue has increased due to transparency in the tender process over the years and since the last two mayors ABM

Mohiuddin Chowdhury and M Manjur Alam and Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin played active roles to remove anomalies from it, said traders and CCC officials.

Nur Mohammad, a leaseholder of Steel Mill makeshift cattle market, said he was not involved with any political party and got lease of a cattle market through an open tender. "We paid Tk

91.51 lakh this year, which was Tk 60.51 lakh in 2015. The rate increased due to a high competition and a fair tender process," he said.

Abdus Sattar, leaseholder of Bibirhat cattle market, said they have got the lease at Tk 2.68 crore, which is around Tk 50 lakh higher than the last year. He also echoed Nur Mohammad when asked about the tender process.

Meanwhile, some leaseholders said since they had incurred losses in the previous years they did not take part in this year's tender.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Despite a train fast approaching, schoolgirls and pedestrians cross a level crossing, disregarding the barriers on the both sides, putting their lives in peril. The photo was taken in Haji Camp area opposite Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Let's free country from illiteracy

PM urges all concerned

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all concerned, including public representatives, teachers, students, student organisations, other organisation, public and private officials, to take initiatives so that Bangladesh could be declared an illiteracy-free country soon.

"It's my fervent call to you all... if every one of you takes a united initiative that no one will remain illiterate in your respective areas and make them literate, then we'll be able to declare Bangladesh an illiteracy-free country," she said.

The prime minister was addressing the opening ceremony of a function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, marking International Literacy Day 2016 with Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman Fizar in the chair.

A message of Unesco Director General Irina Bokova was read out at the programme.

This year, the global theme of the day is "Education for the 21st Century". Apart from the global theme, the day in Bangladesh is being celebrated with its own theme, "Reading the Past, Writing the Future".

The premier urged the teachers to build each and every child as an ideal citizen through instilling ethics and values into their minds and hearts.

She renewed her call for the people of all classes, including the well-off section, to arrange midday meals in those schools which remained out of the midday meal initiatives to check the dropout rates.



PM's 3-nation tour starts Sept 14

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for a three-nation tour to the UK, Canada and the United States for about two weeks on September 14.

She will have a one-day stopover in London on her way to Canada to attend the fifth Global Fund Replenishment Conference to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Montreal on September 16-17, hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The premier will then fly for New York on September 18 to attend the 71st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where a high level General Debate will open on September 20.

Hasina, who will address the debate on the SDGs, is expected to meet with world leaders on the sideline and take part in various events.

She is expected to return home on September 26.

WAR CRIMES EVIDENCE 3 Netrakona suspects 'found involved'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency yesterday said to have found evidence of three Netrakona men's alleged crimes including genocide, killing, abduction, torture, looting, arson and deportation in six incidents during



Hedaet Ullah Enayet Ullah Sohrab Fakir

the 1971 Liberation War. All from Kulshree village under Atpara Police Station, Hedaet Ullah Anju, 80, and his brother Enayet Ullah Manju, 70, are on the run while Sohrab Fakir, 88, is in a jail, said the agency's Coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan.

Including this one, the agency has so far completed investigations in 42 cases, he told journalists at its Dhanmondi office in

the capital.

Hedayet was a Jamaat-e-Islami leader while the others activists in 1971 and all three first joined local Peace Committees and later Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, he said.

Hedayet contested in the Pakistan Nation Election in 1970 with Jamaat ticket but was defeated. He and his brother are still involved with Jamaat.

The agency's Co-coordinator Sanaul Huq said the incidents included looting and torching of 20 to 30 houses in Madhuakhali village on May 29 and abduction and killing of Malek Talukder and Kala Chand Munshi of Mobarakpur village on August 23.

Another two were the abduction and killing of Helim Talukder of Madan village under Madan Police Station on August 30 and genocide at Sukhari village under Atpara on September 3 that left seven Hindus dead, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

FULL HC VERDICT ON SC JUDGE REMOVAL Third judge supports JS's re-empowerment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 16th amendment of the constitution that empowered the parliament to remove a Supreme Court judge for incapacity or misconducts has made the charter of the republic free from the black spot and reestablished the real independence of the judiciary, a High Court judge has observed in a part of its full verdict.

The part of the verdict delivered by Justice Md Ashraf Kamal, the junior judge of a three-member bench of the HC, which dealt with the case, was released yesterday.

Earlier on May 5, following a writ petition, majority of the HC bench had declared the 16th constitutional amendment illegal, unconstitutional and against the principles of the separation of state powers and the independence of the judiciary.

On August 11, two judges of the three-member HC bench, Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Haque, released their part of the full verdict declaring the constitution's 16th amendment illegal and unconstitutional.

Justice Md Ashraf Kamal had then disagreed with Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Haque, and declared the 16th amendment legal and constitutional.

The amendment brought to the constitution in 2014 abolished the chief justice-led Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), which was introduced in 1978.

Justice Ashraf Kamal said Article 96 regarding the provision of the SJC, had been illegally incorporated in the constitution under the unitary desire of "illegal" president Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1