

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.7 L 27.2	CHITTAGONG H 32.5 L 26.0	SYLHET H 34.5 L 26.8	RAJSHAHI H 35.3 L 27.1	KHULNA H 34.8 L 27.0	BARISAL H 33.7 L 26.3	RANGPUR H 32.5 L 25.0	COX'S BAZAR H 30.2 L 25.5
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Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Mymensingh. Moderately heavy falls is likely to occur at places over Rangpur, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna 6:00pm today. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 05:46am.

Dhaka to work with 53 countries on marine conservation

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will be working with 53 countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

The announcement came at the third "Our Ocean Conference", held from September 15 to 16 in Washington DC where the participating countries announced over 136 new initiatives on marine conservation and protection pledging more than \$5.24 billion, according to a US State Department press release.

"Bangladesh announced a cooperative effort among 53 countries in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)," the release said.

The participants reiterated their commitment to support the initiatives on marine conservation in different countries, including in Bangladesh focusing on the key ocean issues of marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, and climate-related impacts on the ocean. The US also announced that it would issue four grants totaling \$1 million to fund projects to reduce nutrient pollution in the Caribbean and marine debris in Southeast Asia.

Referring to the promoting sustainable fisheries initiative launched by Secretary John Kerry at "Our Ocean 2015" conference held in Chile, the state department said the initiative brought together 45 governments and organisations to share knowledge and better coordinate to combat illegal fishing around the world.

Bangladesh is one of the partner countries of the initiative.



Members of a mobile court of Sylhet District Administration continues the Biman Bandar area of Baishtila village yesterday as part of their drive to stop hill cutting, which intensifies unbaned in the area. The court also sealed the entrance to the hill and seized six excavators during the drive. This used to be a vast hilly area where some unscrupulous people have leveled off a huge portion by cutting hills, and created a passageway, inset, thorough which heavy machineries could move. The reckless hill cutting not only causes environmental degradation but also needs authorities' frequent intervention.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH NASIR

Dhaka lost city character

Say urban experts mainly blaming unplanned urbanisation

UNB, Dhaka

The capital has virtually lost its basic character as a city since shops and markets have sprung up everywhere for its unplanned expansion and development making it harder for the future planners to reshape it, said urban experts.

They observed that now anyone can set up any type of shop in the capital anywhere, including residential areas, on footpaths, lanes and by-lanes, alongside roads and in open spaces for lack of monitoring and enforcement of law, hampering public movement and causing traffic jams and creating public nuisance.

Prof Dr Sarwar Jahan of Urban

and Regional Planning at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and former chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Nazrul Islam and urban expert and architect Iqbal Habib came up with the remarks while talking to the news agency.

They said Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), responsible for making city development plans, approving building designs and regulating the unplanned shops and markets, is unable to perform its duty properly.

They also said Dhaka's Detailed Area Plan (DAP) should be followed to ensure a planned city

CAUSES

- Unplanned development
- Lack of proper monitoring
- Illegal occupation of footpaths, roads
- Lax implementation of law
- Authorities' indifference

SUGGESTIONS

- Ensuring capital's DAP
- Regulating unplanned shops
- Plot-wise demarcation
- Strict enforcement of law
- Planned urbanisation

instead of going for random evictions as there is plot-wise demarcation in the DAP about the type of

establishments to be set up in every city area.

"This is surprising how people are setting up shops and markets everywhere at their own sweet will when there are city authorities to control it," said Dr Sarwar Jahan.

He said the city authorities should work out plans for every residential area based on its number of population and their demands. "No one should be allowed to set up any shop and market without any approval from the city authorities."

Dr Sarwar said the city authorities can also designate some places of an area for markets and shops to ensure a planned urbanisation.

Prof Nazrul Islam said Dhaka city is one of the most unplanned cities in the world thanks to insincerity of Rajuk. He said many plans had been worked out since 1958 to build Dhaka as a planned city, but no plan has been implemented yet.

He said Rajuk could not implement the DAP though it was taken in the 90s. "Like municipalities, city corporations should have the authority to deal with the city issues. Most of the city corporations in the world have the authority to formulate their city development plans, implement those and enforce the law."

Prof Nazrul urged the government to promptly implement the

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HOLIDAYMAKERS RETURNING TO CAPITAL

Journey almost hassle-free except at Daulatdia, Mawa

STAR REPORT

The city dwellers have started returning to the hustle and bustle of Dhaka after celebrating Eid-ul-Azha with near and dear ones as workdays in the government offices resume today after the six-day official holidays.

Most of the travellers enjoyed hassle-free journeys more or less; except for the passengers of 21 districts of south and southwestern districts who faced unbearable sufferings at the Daulatdia and Mawa ferry ghats in Rajbari and Madaripur, reports our correspondents.

People at the Daulatdia ghat had to wait for 10 to 11 hours due to poor management in ferries services.

Many were seen leaving their direct service buses and reached the ferry ghat braving five to six kilometres tailback. After crossing the river either by a speedboat or a launch, travellers

rode another bus to reach their respective destinations in the capital, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

Thousands of people were seen stranded at the Daulatdia ghat for hours due to overflow of buses and disruption in ferry service due to damaged landing stations at the terminal, officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at the ghat, said.

"I reached the ghat around 2:00am and it's 1:00pm now. But we are yet to cross the ferry ghat," Shoyeb Ahmed, who works at a private company, told The Daily Star.

Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) of BIWTC at Daulatdia ghat, said three out of four landing stations at the terminal were in operation as river erosion damaged the rest.

"Out of the total 19 ferries, 14 are in operation and the rest are being

repaired," said Abdus Sattar, manager (marine) of BIWTC.

He also said as there was huge pressure of vehicles, gridlock was created at the ferry ghat and several hundred vehicles got stranded for hours to cross the Padma river since yesterday morning.

On Kawrakandi-Shimulia river route, several hundred passenger vehicles stretching around three kilometres were seen waiting since yesterday noon at the Kawrakandi ghat, reports a correspondent from Madaripur.

A BIWTC official at the ghat said around 200 speedboats, 87 launches and 17 ferries are in operation at present which are not sufficient to meet the huge flow of passengers.

Apart from this, passengers were seen entering the capital through Sadarghat launch terminal, Kamalapur Railway Station and different bus terminals

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City dwellers have started returning to the hustle and bustle of Dhaka after celebrating Eid-ul-Azha with near and dear ones. The photo was taken from the capital's Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Workers and employees of Tampaco Foils Ltd form a human chain in BSCIC area of Gazipur's Tongi yesterday, demanding their employment as parts of the four-storey factory building in Tongi collapsed following a devastating fire on September 10, killing dozens and injuring many more. They also sought withdrawal of the case filed against the factory owner and action against the Titas Gas authorities, who, what they say, are responsible for the disaster.

PHOTO: STAR

Joy to receive ICT award in New York tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka



Joy is going to receive "ICT for Development Award" in New York tomorrow.

Joy, the only son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been nominated for the award in recognition of his contributions to empowerment of the people of Bangladesh through the implementation of "Digital Bangladesh" initiative, said Awami League on its

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed

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Govt relaxes 3-wheeler ban time on highways

BSS, Ctg

The government has relaxed the ban on plying of CNG-run auto-rickshaws on highways for one more hour daily to facilitate refueling of the three-wheelers, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

Earlier, CNG-run auto-rickshaws were allowed to ply highways from 6:00am to 8:00am to reach CNG filling stations for refueling but from now on the auto-rickshaws can run on highways till 9:00am for refueling purpose, Obaidul Quader said.

However, the auto-rickshaws would not be allowed to carry passengers, except for carrying patients, during that time, Quader declared this in Chittagong city while exchanging views with the representatives of CNG-run auto-rickshaw owners and labour unions at local circuit house.

Chittagong District Administration organised the meeting. Quader said the government is determined to stop plying of three-wheelers on highways aiming to lessen road accidents and loss of lives and properties.

He claimed that the number of accidents on highways dropped last year due to this ban.

"All CNG-run auto-rickshaws will run in the port city under the new meter rules and fare chart and action will be taken against those who would fail to comply with the order," the minister added.

He said action will also be taken against the unregistered CNG-run auto-rickshaws and battery-run easy bikes running in the port city to ensure discipline on city routes and to save lives.

These vehicles ignore traffic rules and cause road accidents that claim hundreds of lives every year, he said, adding, "Most of the drivers of these unregistered vehicles do not have driving licences which increases risk on people's lives." These vehicles are still plying due to negligence and a lack of monitoring of the authorities concerned, he added.

City Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, Joint Secretary of Road Transport and Bridges Ministry Faruk Jalil, Deputy Director of BRTA Mohammad Shahidullah, and representatives from Sarak Paribahan and labour unions spoke among others.