

WEATHER

FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.0 L 26.8	H 31.3 L 24.2	H 36.0 L 25.9	H 35.5 L 27.1	H 35.0 L 27.0	H 34.2 L 26.8	H 35.2 L 26.8	H 31.0 L 26.0

Light to moderate rain is likely in Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Rangpur divisions and at a few places in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am. Country's highest temperature 36.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Syedpur and lowest 24.2 in Chittagong.

Mufti Hannan tried to kill Hasina two times before Aug 21 attack

CID official tells court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Before carrying out the grenade attacks on Sheikh Hasina on August 21 in 2004, Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and his accomplices made attempts to kill her two times, a CID official told a Dhaka court yesterday.

The 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka killed 24 leaders and workers and injured over 300 others. Hasina narrowly escaped with ear injury.

Abdul Kahar Akond, special superintendent of police of the CID, who had completed an investigation into the incident, told the court that Hannan and his men had made attempts for two times to kill the then opposition leader and Awami League chief.

The first attempt was made in Sylhet and the other in Gopalganj.

Kahar said his investigation unearthed that Hannan and his accomplices plotted plans in Mohammadpur and Hawa Bhaban to kill Hasina and his party leaders.

Kahar prepared sketch maps of the residence on Mohammadpur Sat Gombuj Masjid Road and Hawa Bhaban in Gulshan in Dhaka on June 7, 2011.

In Mohammadpur, Tajuddin and several other Huji leaders held a meeting to kill Hasina and her top party leaders and Hannan and his accomplices held a conspiratorial meeting with Tarique Rahman in Hawa Bhaban.

The then Deputy Commissioner (South) Khan Sayeed Hassan intentionally did not make tight security on Bangabandhu Avenue and its adjacent areas on August 21, 2004 so that the perpetrators could carry out the grenade attacks easily, said the CID official.

The court yesterday recorded Akond's statement partially. The tribunal on September 24 recorded Akond's part statement. The rest will be recorded today.

224 witnesses have so far given their statements.



Illegal structures line a 22km stretch of the bank of the Karnaphuli River in Chittagong city. These grew up over the last 90 years since 1927. Six years after a rights group filed a writ petition, in 2010, the High Court last month gave an order, asking the district administration to evict the encroachers.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Karnaphuli up for encroachment since 1927

Over 2,000 individuals, entities illegally grabbed its bank, shows dist admin survey

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The last 90 years of Karnaphuli has been a history of encroachment. Since 1927, one illegal structure after another has grown up on its banks lining Chittagong city. Today the encroachers total more than two thousand.

Five years ago, rights group Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh brought the situation to the notice of the High Court and sought a remedy, by filing a writ petition.

The court then asked the Chittagong district administration to conduct a survey. Five years later, in June 2015, the survey revealed that there are 2,187 illegal occupants including individuals, business owners, slums, a container terminal, and six government entities.

Citing the Bangladesh Survey (BS) of 1985-1987, the survey report said there are 75 encroachers occupying 16.251

acres of land, while 2,112 other occupiers were identified in the Revisional Survey (RS) published in 1927-1928. The RS report did not specify the total amount of land occupied.

The areas where the river land was occupied are Bakalia, Patenga, Madrabari, Ghosail Danga, Monoharkhali, and Firingi Bazar.

According to the BS survey, in Bakalia area the encroachers are Bheramara Samabai Somity Slum and a former ward councillor, Peyar Mohammed. In Madrabari and Goshail Danga area, 2.211 acres was occupied by 24 business establishments including Karnaphuli Slipway and Dockyard, MS Euro Shipping, Abdur Nabi Dobash, Abdur Nur Chowdhury and AK Khan and Company. Three government establishments are occupying 11 acres of land -- the port jetty and tower of Chittagong Port

and Capital Dredging and Bank Protection project in Madrabari, Monoharkhali, and Firingi Bazar.

As per the Revisional Survey, 23.49 acres of the river land in Bakalia is occupied by 350 structures of Bastuhara Samabai Somity Slum. Besides, four individuals -- Abu Taher, Abdun Nur, Shamshul Alam, and Solaiman -- occupied three acres of land each in the area. In east Patenga area the report identified 1,741 individual occupiers, but did not mention the occupied areas. A container terminal, Incontrade Ltd, was built occupying three acres in east Patenga.

The government agencies that occupy the river land include Bangladesh Navy Canteen (1.3 acres), Bangladesh Air Force (10 acres), and Bangladesh Navy Boat Club (1.8 acres).

REMEDY

Last month the High Court gave an order to

evict them. In its judgement, the court asked the deputy commissioner (DC) to publish a circular in two local newspapers within seven days after receiving the full judgment asking owners of the illegal structures (apart from the six government structures) to relocate their 2,181 illegal structures. If the structures are not relocated in 90 days, the authorities will evict those, read the order.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Abdul Jalil said they were yet to get the full verdict.

He said that after receiving the full verdict, they would ask for funding to evict the occupants. "If the government gives us the money, we could proceed with the eviction."

The administration sees it as a big challenge because several crores of taka will be necessary to conduct the eviction drives, said Jalil.

1971 WAR CRIMES

Arrest warrant issued against Narail man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday issued an arrest warrant against a Narail man, now living in Jessore, in a case filed for allegedly committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Huque passed the order following a petition moved by prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman.

Chaman refrained from revealing the name to the media, explaining that it might prompt the accused to flee.

Chaman told the tribunal that the investigation officer in the case filed against Abdul Wahab, 70, and Omar Ali Sheikh, 60, of Narail Sadar upazila found evidence about the new accused.

Now, he needs to be arrested for the sake of a proper investigation, she said.

The investigation agency sources said the 67-year-old accused was a commander of a local Razakar camp in Narail Sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, the tribunal directed the prosecution to submit the investigation report, if there were any, on December 4 against five Netrakona men for allegedly committing similar crimes.

Yesterday was fixed for the submission but prosecutor Rana Dasgupta sought time and the tribunal granted it.

Of the accused, Azizur Rahman, 65, Ashak Ali, 82, and Md Shahnewaz, 88, of Durgapur upazila of Netrakona is now in jail while Ramjan Ali, 78, died of old age complications on Friday and the fifth accused, Khalilur Rahman, is still on the run.

The tribunal also sent Enayet Ullah Manju, 70, a war crimes accused from Atpara in Netrakona to jail after police produced him before it yesterday.

Police arrested Enayet on Sunday eight months after the tribunal issued an arrest warrant against three including him for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War.



A programme in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, showing all sorts of "repressions", construction of destructive projects including the proposed Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans, and "assaults" on the ongoing movement to protect the world's largest mangrove forest. The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports brought out the procession yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Control mosquitoes at households to check Zika

IEDCR urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) yesterday urged people to control mosquitoes at households as the Zika risk is on the rise in the country, while record dengue cases were reported this year.

At least 4,058 people were infected with dengue, while nine of them died till September 30 this year. This is the highest annual figure reported since 2003, according to IEDCR. Dengue and Zika viruses are transmitted by the same vector -- Aedes aegypti mosquito.

"The government is conducting surveillance, but change in people's behaviour at the households is critical to prevent dengue and Zika," IEDCR Director Prof Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora said at a discussion.

IEDCR organised the discussion on vector-borne diseases -- Zika, dengue and chikungunya -- with journalists in its

auditorium in the capital.

She said Aedes bred in clean stagnant water, and therefore people at households had to make sure that water was not stored in pot plants, and advised removing discarded tires or other pots from within and outside households.

Using mosquito curtains and spraying insecticides too can be effective in destroying mosquitoes, Sabrina Flora said.

She said IEDCR would shortly sit with the city corporation officials to devise plans on how they could play their roles in controlling mosquitoes, but individual level awareness was very important.

The WHO on September 30 urged 11 Asian countries, including Bangladesh, to take decisive action to prevent, detect and respond to the Zika virus.

Zika virus infection is a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of a pregnant woman and her unborn child, it said.

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Rampal to economically deprive Bangladesh

Pro-BNP professionals tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The coal-based Rampal power plant project will not only pose a threat to the Sundarbans but also economically deprive Bangladesh, pro-BNP professionals told a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

They demanded shifting the plant site elsewhere and reviewing the memorandum of understanding signed between Bangladesh Power Development Board and National Thermal Power Company of India as it seems to be one sided containing less benefits for Bangladesh.

The roundtable, "Rampal Power plant: Triple Jeopardy-Technical, Economic and Environment", was organised by the

Association of Engineers Bangladesh at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB).

Former IEB president ANH Akhter Hossain presented a keynote paper claiming that the project was putting in jeopardy the six percent the Sundarbans contributes to the national economy.

He said coal-based power plants were one of the largest polluters in the world, responsible for emission of greenhouse gases and environmental degradation.

The project's consultant proposed using the low oxides of nitrogen (NOx) burner technology to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions although it is of low efficiency when compared to selective catalytic reduction,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Dist administrators can contest polls

Cabinet okays bill

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved "The District Council (Amendment) Ordinance-2016" in the form of a law paving the way for the incumbent administrators to contest the district council polls subject to their resignation from their posts.

The approval was given at the regular meeting of the cabinet held at Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Briefing reporters, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam said the amended law will allow the district administrators to participate in district council elections subject to their resignation from their posts. He said the cabinet also okayed "The Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Ordinance-2016" in the form of a law. Alam said the cabinet gave a nod to the statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).

Earlier, the cabinet adopted two condolence motions -- one at the death of poet and writer Syed Shamsul Haque and another at the death of 39 people and injuries to 36 others at the Tampaco factory fire in Tongi of Gazipur.



This Durga Puja venue in Sylhet city's Machu Dighi themed on percussion instruments was developed by a man named Kalipad from Narail marking the celebrations of the Hindu community set to begin from September 7. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTI