



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 36.0 L 26.6	H 36.0 L 28.0	H 35.7 L 26.4	H 36.5 L 27.1	H 36.9 L 26.7	H 36.5 L 25.4	H 35.2 L 26.8	H 34.8 L 26.8	H 33.7 L 25.8

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Feni, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sayedpur, Kushtia, and Bhola. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.

Set long-term plan for renewable energy sector

Urges opinion sharing meeting

UNB, Dhaka

Policy makers should formulate a long term policy with a plan for development of the renewable energy sector, urged speakers yesterday.

At an opinion exchange meeting on tax on solar modules and its impact on the government's energy programme, the speakers also suggested adopting a concrete policy where both local manufacturers and importers of solar modules could be encouraged to move forward the government's renewable energy programme.

Institute of Energy, University of Dhaka (IEUD), organised the meeting in Khandaker Mokarram Hossain Auditorium with IEUD Director Prof Saiful Haque in the chair.

Addressing the meeting, parliament member Nahim Razzak said the country still lacks coordination among the stakeholders working in renewable energy sector.

He said the momentum in the solar programme may be impeded due to the newly announced 10 percent duty on solar module imports.

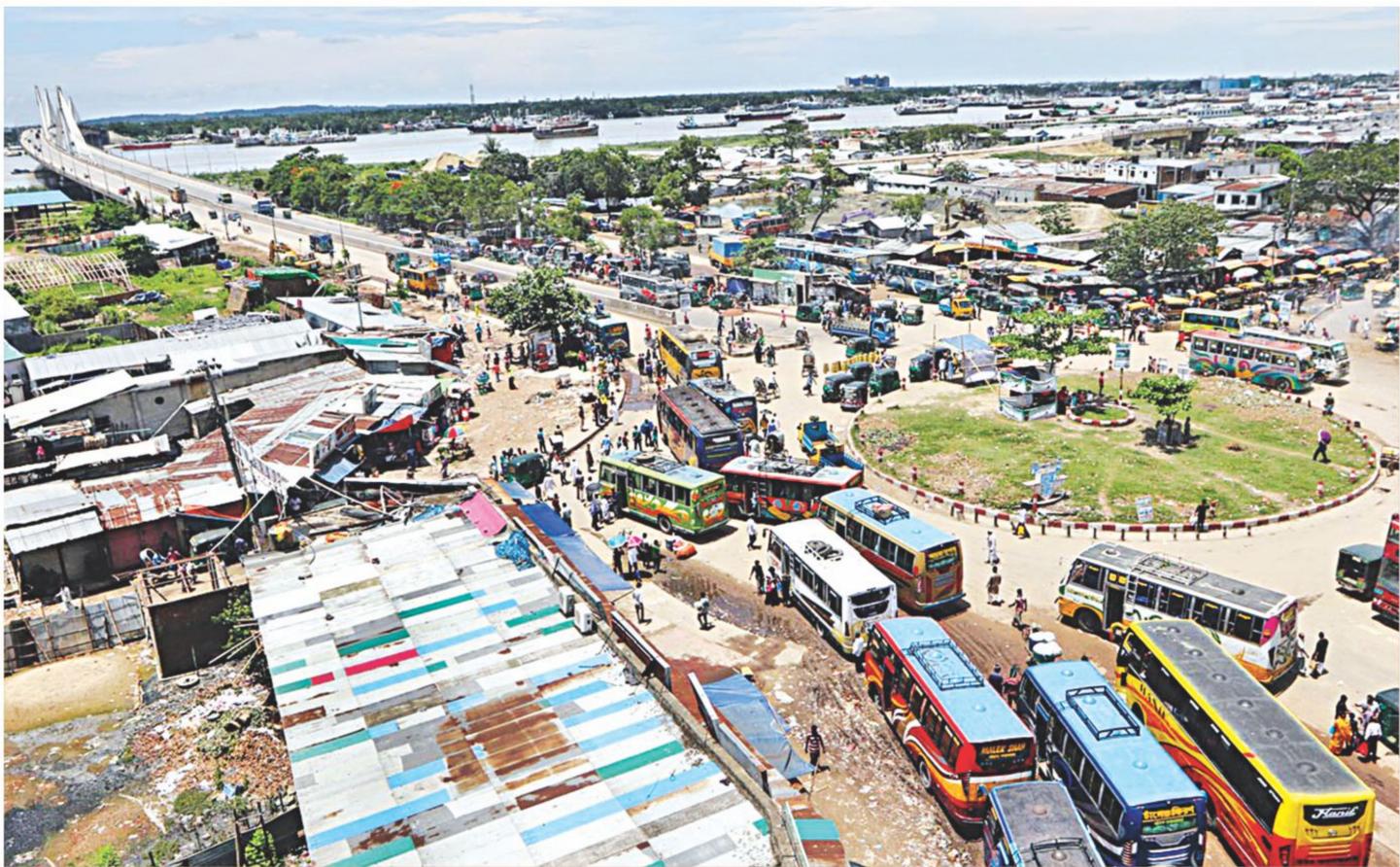
"The local manufacturers received incentives in capital investment, not for working capital. But they crucially need incentives for working capital. So, the financial structure should be restructured," he added.

Former chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Dr Mohammad Abdul Mazid said there should be a long term policy before announcing any change in duty structure of any product so that the stakeholders could take preparation to adjust with the change.

He said once the government imposes a duty on any product, it could not withdraw it anyway.

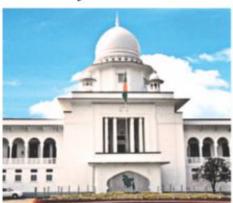
Because, it impacts the revenue collection plan.

However, supporting the imposition of 10 percent import duty on solar modules, President of Bangladesh Solar Module Manufacturers Association Munawar Moin said this would help flourish the local manufacturing industries.



An aerial view of the Bashiruzzaman Chatter in the port city's Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area. As the roundabout is constructed too close to the bridge, vehicles exiting it often fail to control their speed and as a result accidents occur. Also, traffic mismanagement reigns supreme in the area, adding to the commuters' woes. The photo was taken on Friday.

SC goes into vacation today



BSS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court is scheduled to go into a 21-day vacation, from today to July 1, leaving vacation benches and court of Chamber Judge to deal with the urgent matters at the High Court and Appellate Divisions.

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has constituted 12 vacation benches for the High Court Division and nominated Justice Hasan Foez Siddique as Chamber Judge to look into the urgent matters at the Appellate Division. According to a notice signed by Appellate Division Additional Registrar Arunava Chakraborty, Justice Siddique will hear cases at chamber court on June 13 and 20.

The Supreme Court will resume its regular operation on July 2.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A death trap for Ctg commuters

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Buses lie idle on one side of a road, while vehicles stop abruptly to take in passengers in front of the entrance to a bridge on the other side.

There are also roadside shops next to a foot-path in the area, which remains mostly occupied by vendors forcing pedestrians to walk on the roads.

A long queue of human-hauliers and three-wheelers occupy a large portion of the roadsides. Moreover, the area lacks a foot-over bridge.

Amid the chaos, people continue to get in or off the vehicles, or cross the roads to go to the other sides.

This has become a regular scenario in the port city's Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area, where accidents have become a common phenomenon due to traffic mismanagement and engineering fault of the roundabout known as Bashiruzzaman Chatter.

The latest accident occurred last month on a Wednesday morning when a schoolteacher was killed after being run over by a bus while crossing a road in the area.

According to Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association, over 25 accidents occurred last year on that spot.

Around 17 people were killed and over a hundred got injured in those accidents, said Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of the association.

According to experts, engineering fault and traffic mismanagement are responsible for the high frequency of accidents.

Town Planner Eng Subhash Barua said the roundabout was built too close to the bridge. As a result, vehicles exiting the bridge often cannot control their speed and consequently accidents take place.

He said the roundabout should have been built minimum 100 metre (300ft) away from the bridge. But it was built not more than six metre (20ft) away from the bridge.

He held traffic mismanagement responsible for the accidents. "Why do vehicles park there? Why passengers have to wait on the roads to board buses?" he asked. "It's unfortunate that we cannot manage a simple junction..."

Sagar Sen, a commuter, said, "There's no waiting place for passengers although thousands use the roads everyday. We are forced to stand on the roads while waiting for transports. Also, we have to cross those amid risk as there is no foot-over bridge."

Contacted, Abdullah Khan Badal, traffic inspector (Bakalia), said hundreds of vehicles of 19 routes board passengers from the spot making it difficult for traffic police to manage.

Abdus Sattar Rony, general secretary of South Chittagong Passengers' Welfare Association, said thousands of commuters from seven upazilas in southern Chittagong as well as Bandarban and Cox's Bazar use the roads every-

day. "We have been demanding for a foot-over bridge in the area along with a passenger shed for a long time," he said.

Zulfiqar Ahmed, executive engineer of roads and highways department, Chittagong, said the roundabout was inaugurated in September 2010 at the same time of the bridge.

When asked about the demand for a foot-over bridge, he said that no one "demanded" for a foot-over bridge in the area. "I have come to know about the necessity of one from you for the first time," he said.

He, however, admitted that accidents occur frequently in the area. "We will write to the ministry for building a foot-over bridge there after weighing the necessity."

Meanwhile, Town Planner Zarina Hossain said the roundabout was not constructed in a planned way. She also held traffic mismanagement responsible for making the spot an accident-prone area.

When asked, Abu Hena Mohammad Tareq Iqbal, superintendent engineer of Chittagong road circle, roads and highways department, admitted that there is an engineering fault in the construction of the roundabout near the bridge.

"We are planning to reconstruct the roundabout in the upcoming four-lane Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway project, which will start within the next 18 months," he said.

Demand for rule without election unjustified: Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

The demand for continuation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's rule without holding any election was unjustified, said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday.

She said her party wanted Hasina to contest the election under a non-party neutral government.

The BNP chief also said, "We all have to work with those who will be elected by people."

She made the comments while referring to an opposition MP's demand in the parliament.

Dropping a hint at waging a "peaceful street movement" after Eid-ul-Fitr for an election-time "supportive" government, she called upon people to get united for making it a success.

"We think we have to take to the streets after Eid-ul-Fitr uniting people with peaceful programmes against the government's repressive acts and misdeeds. If we can launch such a movement, the country's... people will also join it."

Khaleda came up with the remarks while speaking at an iftar programme arranged by National People's Party (NPP), a component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, at a hotel in the capital.

She said people would not allow anyone to hold any further election under Sheikh Hasina. "I urge all to get united as our 20-party alliance is united, and we'll ensure a credible election under a supportive government through peaceful programmes."

The BNP chief said people were going through immense sufferings as the prices of essentials continued to rise regularly amid the hike of power and gas tariffs.

Ten recipients with Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and British High Commissioner Alison Blake at the award ceremony of BYLC Alumni Awards in the capital's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre yesterday.



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Give Hasina

FROM PAGE 4 development of the country would become stagnant.

"So, for the sake of the country and people, Sheikh Hasina must remain in state power," he said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shafiqul Islam chaired the function, while Superintendent of Police Miraj Uddin Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Shamim Ahmed, LGED Executive Engineer Rabiul Islam, Upazila Awami League president Shawkat Hossain, and general secretary Khalilur Rahman, among others, addressed the function.

BYLC awards 10 emerging leaders

CITY DESK

Ten youth leaders received the BYLC Alumni Award yesterday for making contributions to their communities and professions.

The award ceremony, jointly hosted by Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) and BYLC Graduate Network (BGN), was held at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the capital.

The award recipients are Anjali Sarker and Munzurul Hasan in Social Impact category; Muminul Hoq and Anik Sinha in Professional Excellence; Syed Zainab Ahmed and Abdullah Jobair in Educational Excellence; Ovick Alam in Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Meem Noshin Nawal Khan in Media and Culture;

and Osama bin Noor and Makshudul AM Mondal for attaining global recognition through their platform Youth Opportunities.

Presenting the awards, Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, "It is inspiring to see the energy, idealism, and commitment to the public good in the young people who enroll in BYLC's leadership courses..."

"BYLC was founded with the conviction that youth leadership education can be a powerful force to creating a just, inclusive, and prosperous world," Ejaj Ahmad, founder and president of BYLC, said during his speech.

British High Commissioner Alison Blake, among others, was present at the event.

আপনার টেনারির স্বতঃস্ফূর্ত পানি প্রবাহের অনিবার্য হতিয়ার

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