

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 35.4°C 27.5°C MYMENSINGH 36.0°C 28.8°C CHITTAGONG 34.8°C 27.6°C SYLHET 37.0°C 28.1°C RAJSHAHI 36.2°C 27.5°C RANGPUR 36.2°C 27.7°C KHULNA 35.0°C 27.6°C BARISAL 34.2°C 27.0°C COX'S BAZAR 34.2°C 26.2°C

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.



This is Agrabad Access Road -- a major thoroughfare in Chittagong city. The road developed large potholes as it remains under tidal water almost all year round. The situation took a turn for the worse with torrential monsoon rain. The potholes gradually became larger and took shapes of craters. Many vehicles malfunction while trying to cross this portion of the waterlogged road every day. The photos were taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES, ACCESS TO ECONOMIC ASSETS Women face high levels of inequality: ADB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women face high levels of inequality in livelihood opportunities and access to economic assets in Bangladesh, says an evaluation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

According to ADB's Independent Evaluation Department, in rural Bangladesh, women own only 8 percent of productive assets, while women's participation in the workforce -- though improving thanks to the garment industry -- labour migration and microfinance programmes, remains low, at an estimated 34 percent.

The evaluation report raises the concern that these factors will heighten the risk of women to the effects of vulnerability to shocks. "Because of high levels of inequality in livelihood opportunities and economic assets, women have far less resilience

than men to various shocks, such as natural disasters, climate risks, and economic downturns," said the report's author, Hyun Son.

Poor women typically lack the resources to protect themselves in case of disasters or restore their lives back to pre-disaster levels. Better social safety nets are needed for Bangladesh's marginalised groups, particularly women, and this should be a priority area for development support," Son added.

Constructing new roads, expanding electricity grids, and improving water supply services do not automatically lead to better livelihood opportunities for women or other gender-equitable results, says the report, "Asian Development Bank Support for Gender and Development (2005-2015)".

The evaluation report was revealed yesterday at Sonargaon hotel in the capital. The report

assessed ADB's support for gender and development in its Bangladesh operations during 2005-2015.

It says infrastructure projects have significant potential to increase the economic empowerment of women in Bangladesh and contribute to the government's efforts to promote gender equality.

"Women need to be part of the decision-making in all phases of infrastructure projects, and giving them a voice in such crucial driver of economic growth will go a long way toward reducing Bangladesh's still high levels of gender inequality," said Marvin-Taylor Dornmont, director general of Independent Evaluation at ADB.

The evaluation found that significant strides have been made in reducing gender disparities in education and health in Bangladesh, where the status of women has generally improved over the last decade.

JUDGES' CODE OF CONDUCT Govt gets one more week to issue gazette

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has got around one-week time to issue a gazette notification on the rules of discipline and code of conduct for lower court judges, even though the Supreme Court had given a two-week ultimatum for issuing the notification 16 days ago.

The apex court was scheduled to hold hearing on this issue yesterday, but the court said it will not deal with the matter this week as Attorney General Mahbubey Alam sought two weeks on behalf of the government for issuing the gazette notification.

The apex court has earlier given time to the government for 20 times for issuing the gazette notification on the rules, SC sources said.

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Change in mindset can stop hazardous child labour Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Change in mindset and awareness among stakeholders including employers and parents can stop hazardous child labour, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

A five-year national strategy to abolish such child labour by 2016 has already failed and the government should immediately formulate a new plan, they said.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organised the discussion on "Elimination of Hazardous Child Labour in View of SDGs: Challenges and Way Forward" at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

The speakers said the children are getting involved in risky jobs mainly because of poverty, dropping out from schools, climate change and untimely marriage.

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Mohammad Nazmuzzaman Bhuiyan of Dhaka University said 3.5 million children aged between

5 and 17 are involved in different occupations in the country.

"Of them, 1.28 million are engaged in hazardous labour," he said, referring to National Child Labour Survey of 2013. He added the government should take steps to establish effective monitoring and evaluation system both for government agencies and other organisations.

Abdullah Al Mamun, programme co-ordinator of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said instead of seeking remedies, policymakers should seek preventive actions so that children do not get involved in risky jobs.

Lawmaker Jebunnesa Afroz said child labour can be stopped if all public representatives, from union parishad members to MPs, work in building awareness.

Instead of attending seminars and rallies, lawmakers have to go to remote areas and work, said lawmaker Nurul Islam Talukder.

Israfil Alam, member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Employment, said migration caused by climate change is one of the key reasons behind child labour.

Lawmakers Shamsul Alam Dudu, Kamrun Nahar Chowdhury, Quazi Rosy and Hosne Ara Lutfu Dalia, among others, spoke.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnu said the government is prompt in taking action against violation of labour law.

A 15-member technical committee will submit a report by the end of July while a draft copy of the bill will be ready by August, he said, adding that the government will also take a national action plan to abolish hazardous child labour by 2021.

BSAF Chairperson Emranul Huq Chowdhury stressed more budget allocation in this regard.



Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal in a march in Narayanganj before submitting a memorandum to the deputy commissioner yesterday, demanding an end to waterlogging inside Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment.

Allow BNP's Khokon to go for hajj: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government to allow BNP leader Khairul Kabir Khokon to go to Saudi Arabia for performing hajj and to re-enter the country.

The HC passed the order following a petition filed by Khokon, a joint secretary general of BNP, seeking the directive.

Sagir Hossain Leon, a lawyer for the petitioner, told The Daily Star that his client filed the petition apprehending that law enforcers may obstruct him to go abroad.

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Arafat Sunny gets bail in dowry case
COURT CORRESPONDENT

Cricketer Arafat Sunny yesterday got bail in a dowry case, in which he was indicted on Sunday and subsequently wanted for arrest.

The court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Zakir Hossain Tipu, which indicted Sunny, granted him bail after Sunny appeared before it seeking bail.

The ad-interim bail will be effective until the next hearing of the case on November 6.

On January 20, a woman claiming to be Sunny's wife filed the case.

In the case statement, she said Sunny demanded Tk 20 lakh from her as dowry after their marriage.

HC halts Sylhet church wall demolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a status quo on demolition of the boundary wall of a church in Nayasarak area of Sylhet.

The authorities concerned of the Sylhet City Corporation and government have been asked to maintain the status quo for the next three months on the possession, position and demolition of the wall of the church of Sylhet Presbyterian Synod Trust.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in four weeks why the action of SCC in demolition of the wall of the church and encroaching upon its land should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman passed the order and rule following a petition filed by Shankar Marak, secretary of the trust, challenging the legality of SCC's action.

Petitioner's lawyer Mustaque Ahmed Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the SCC has illegally demolished the boundary wall in the first week of June without acquiring its land and issuing any notice.

BANGABANDHU AUDITORIUM Still not finished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Construction of Bangabandhu Auditorium building is yet to be finished although it was scheduled to be completed by June 2016.

Barisal City Corporation (BCC) is entrusted with implementing the project that started in January 13, 2013, said BCC officials.

Momen Shikder, owner of Kohinur Enterprise and Momen Enterprise which got the tender, said only installation of lifts, doors, windows and some other works are remaining in the five-storey complex building.

BCC Superintendent Engineer MA Motaleb said the Tk 17.27 crore project was revised one year ago.

City Mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal said setting up an extra elevator and a wooden floor were

included in the revised project.

Besides, the design of the building was changed several times, causing such delays, he added.

Meantime, the project cost increased to Tk 24.89 crore, Motaleb said.

The mayor said now the revised project is awaiting approval from the Local Government Engineering Department.

They hope that the LGED would give nod within six months, he said.

Meanwhile, cultural activists expressed concern over the delay.

Presently, they have to hold cultural programmes in only Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city.

SM Iqbal, president of Barisal Sangskriti Sangathan Samonnaya Parishad, said they have been demanding such a modern auditorium for a long time.

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Note: Boarding schools are participating only at the Dhaka event.

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