

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.0L 26.7	MYMENSINGH H 31.6L 26.8	CHITTAGONG H 32.2L 25.5	SYLHET H 31.2L 25.5	RAJSHAHI H 34.6L 26.8	RANGPUR H 32.0L 25.6	KHULNA H 31.2L 26.0	BARISAL H 30.8L 26.0	COX'S BAZAR H 30.5L 24.8
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A light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:30pm, reports IRI. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:35am. Met office said.

POLLUTION IN SAVAR TANNERY ESTATE

HC summons Chinese CETP firm reps

Representatives of a Chinese firm that constructed the effluent treatment plant in Savar tannery industrial area were summoned by the High Court yesterday to appear before it on August 22 and explain their pollution control plans for the area.

The court said if the representatives of the firm, Jiangsu Lingzhi Environmental Protection Co Ltd (ILEPCL), do not appear before it on the date, their conduct will be considered as tantamount to contempt of court.

The bench of Justice Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim issued the order following a petition filed recently by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

In its petition Bela said ILEPCL, according to its contract with Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), is supposed to run 24-hour waste treatment operations in the industrial area through the construction, implementation and operation of a central effluent treatment plant (CETP), a common chrome recovery unit, a sewage treatment plant, and a chloride and solid waste management system.

ILEPCL, however, is not running the CETP 24 hours. Moreover, the firm has been dumping untreated effluent into the Dhaleshwari river, Bela alleged.

The petitioner also said that the department of environment in a total of five reports prepared between December 2016 and April 2017 found that the tanneries in the Savar tannery industrial area have been emitting an excessive amount of pollutants into the Dhaleshwari river. As a result, the Dhaleshwari now runs the risk of getting as polluted as the river Buriganga.

The negligence of the authorities is clear in terms of the

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Rains multiply the dangers of travelling on the rooftop of trains, but nothing stops low-income people like this youth who live at a subsistence level, in which hunger beats everything else — even a threat to life. The photo was taken at Tejgaon in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SC VERDICT ON 16TH AMENDMENT

Pro-AL, BNP lawyers stage demos, counter-demos

Pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers staged demonstrations and counter-demonstrations at different bar premises across the country yesterday, for the second day, over the Supreme Court verdict in the 16th amendment case.

Pro-AL lawyers also held rallies and human chains under the banner of Bangabandhu Awami Aijibhi Parishad (BAAP) as part of their three-day protest programme demanding expunction of "unexpected, irrelevant and unconstitutional observations" made by the chief justice in the verdict.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Aijibi Forum (JAF), a platform of pro-BNP lawyers, held rallies at different bar associations including the Supreme Court Bar Association, demanding resignation and arrest of Law Commission Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque for "breaching code of conduct" by holding a press conference on the SC verdict.

They also protested the ministers' "provocative

comments" about the SC verdict and AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Sebaitur Kader's move to meet the chief justice at his residence on Sunday, both the lawyers' groups staged similar programmes across the country.

After meeting of BAAP on the SCBA premises yesterday afternoon, its member secretary Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said an ill attempt is being made to create judicial anarchy in the country through the SC verdict on the 16th amendment to the constitution.

The movement will continue until the "undemocratic", "irrelevant" and "unconstitutional" observations are expunged from the SC verdict, he said, adding that the attempt to scandalise the judiciary will not be tolerated.

Presided over by BAAP's Convener Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, the meeting was addressed by Hossain's Joint Convener Advocate

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Disobeying it means disrespecting charter

Says Dr Kamal

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said disobeying any Supreme Court verdict is tantamount to showing disrespect to the constitution.

"Articles 111 and 112 of the constitution stipulate that we must accept a Supreme Court verdict. Or else, it will be tantamount to disrespecting our constitution," he said.

The noted jurist, who was appointed as an amicus curiae by the apex court during the hearing on the 16th amendment to the constitution, was addressing a programme titled "Bangabandhu for Poor" organised by his party at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Noting that a Supreme Court judgement is the ultimate verdict, Dr Kamal said there is nothing to talk about it.

Although people played a historical role during the mass movement when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in jail in the Agartala Conspiracy Case, they have been misused after the country's independence, he lamented.

He also urged the country to build Bangladesh as per Bangabandhu's ideology.



AG office seeks copy of verdict

Staff Correspondent

The scrapped 16th amendment had empowered the parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct.

After receiving the certified copy, the government would be able to file a petition with the apex court seeking review of its verdict. Attorney General Mahbubul Alam told The Daily Star yesterday.

The top law officer of the state, however, said as yesterday, his office did not receive any instruction from the government to seek review of the SC judgement.

Law Minister Anisul Huq during a press meet on Sunday told reporters that a copy of the verdict upholding the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

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Mubith to sue two newspapers for defamation

Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister AMA Mubith yesterday said he would file defamation cases against five daily newspapers for publishing a false report about him.

Addressing a press conference at his secretariat office, he said the news reports were headlined "Mubith seeks family ticket from China".

Two defamation cases of Tk 100 crore would be filed against English daily The Asian Age and Bangla newspaper Amader Orthonet each, the minister said.

The Asian Age published the report yesterday and Amader Orthonet on August 13.

Mubith termed these reports "false and baseless".

"I have been a minister for nine years now, it is a stress. I always take my family members with me. Initially I never claimed any ticket for any one. Then I was told, as a minister I can take an assistant. Then I claimed one ticket. [For] my daughter...," he said.

"In the last nine years, I didn't take expenses from any party for travelling abroad. The government was also paid for my travel."

About his visit to China, Mubith said a UK-based firm was to organise the Eurozone summit conference 2017 in Beijing on August 21-22, focusing on China-Bangladesh relations.

The minister said he initially accepted the proposal from Eurozone and in July took a government approval for joining the conference.

Following the approval letter to the reporters, Mubith said he later enquired about the company through the Bangladesh embassy in Beijing. When he knew the Chinese government was not aware of any such conference, he dropped the travel plan, he said.

The approval letter showed that all expenses for the entourage of the finance minister including those of air tickets were to be borne by the Bangladesh government.

Mubith read out the news published in the two newspapers.

STAR



From left, pro-BNP lawyers form a human chain on the Hill Court premises yesterday, demanding, among others, removal of former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque as chairman of the Killer Mostaque and his cohort Ziaur Rahman from administration and a gazette notification on rules of discipline for lower court judges. Another human chain was organised in the same area by Pro-Awami League lawyers who are aggrieved by "irrelevant and unconstitutional observations" the Supreme Court made in its full verdict on scrapping the 16th amendment.



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'Neo JMB militant' Aslam remanded

Dhaka Court yesterday placed a key "Neo JMB militant" Aslam Hossain Rashed alias Rash, "arms trainer" of the Gulshan cash attacks, on a five-day remand in connection with a case filed over the Kalyanpur raid.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rahanul Ul Islam passed the order after he was produced in the court.

Ad Jahangir Alam, an inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) and the investigation officer (IO) of the case, prayed for 10-day remand.

In the yesterday's remand prayer, the IO claimed that Rashed had met the militants who were killed during the Kalyanpur raid on July 26 last year. He was also aware of the raid. So, he needs to be remanded to find out vital clues about the raid, the IO said.

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Mostaque, Zia also behind Bangabandhu killing: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Her allegation that Khandaker Mostaque and Ziaur Rahman had their part in the conspiracy to kill with the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people to remain alert about those who want to push the country backward.

"The killers executed the killing mission in a planned way and there was a big conspiracy behind that. Killer Mostaque and his cohort Ziaur Rahman were involved in that conspiracy as Mostaque declared himself president illegally and Zia army chief soon afterwards," she said.

"We want to take the country forward, but still there are some people who want to push it backward. The country's people will have to remain alert..."

The premier said.

She said Bangladeshis are organising a discussion organised by Awami League at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre marking Bangabandhu's 42nd death anniversary.

With the passage of time, she said, Ziaur Rahman grabbed power illegally and held three posts — president, chief martial law administrator and the army chief — simultaneously.

Hasina said Zia then promulgated the Indemnity Ordinance blocking the



paths for holding trial of the killers of Bangabandhu. He also rehabilitated them and appointed them in various Bangladeshes missions abroad. "Zia even freed the convicted war criminals."

She said Barrister Mainul Hossain then had formed a progressive political party with killers Huda and Shahtari while Zia had made Bangabandhu's killers prime minister, ministers and even his advisers. Ershad had sanctioned Huda and Khaleda Zia had opposed killers Rashid and Huda had made MPs through the controversial and voter-less February 15 election in

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