



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 28.5 L 22.0

MYMENSINGH H 29.0 L 21.2

CHITTAGONG H 29.5 L 24.8

SYLHET H 25.5 L 20.5

RAJSHAHI H 31.2 L 20.7

RANGPUR H 27.8 L 20.8

KHULNA H 30.7 L 22.5

BARISAL H 30.5 L 23.0

COX'S BAZAR H 30.0 L 25.0

Rain/thunder is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division. Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:26pm and rises tomorrow at 06:00am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

ENFORCING TRAFFIC RULES Quader seeks lawmakers' role

Transport owners and workers have to be more sincere while the lawmakers should work actively towards enforcing traffic rules in their constituencies to ensure road safety, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"If the transport owners had become sincere, we would not have seen so many unfit vehicles plying the city roads..." he said.

The minister said this at a discussion marking National Safe Roads Day.

The ministry's road transport and highways division and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) organised the programme in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The theme of the day was: drive carefully, return home safely. The day was observed for the first time in the country through organising different events.

The minister also called upon the drivers to drive carefully to ensure safety of the lives of the passengers as well as theirs. At the same time, all must obey traffic rules and pedestrians should cross the roads from the designated places for safety, he said.

Over the years, the government took several

NATIONAL SAFE
ROADS DAY



A man uses the foot-bridge in Bangla Motor intersection whereas many others still choose to cross the busy intersection amid traffic, apparently oblivious to their own safety. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

Pick non-political election observers CEC urges monitoring groups

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) KM Nurul Huda yesterday urged the representatives of the election monitoring organisations to be careful so that no one having political affiliation is appointed as observer.

"You will have to be careful so that no person linked to politics can be appointed as election observer," he said in his inaugural speech during a dialogue with election monitoring organisations at the Nirbachan Bhaban in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

Some 30 representatives of the organisations attended the dialogue with the CEC in the chair.

The CEC also urged the election observers to carry out their duties maintaining neutrality and impartiality.

He also asked the organisations to remain careful so that their monitoring activities do not hamper the vote-casting process.

Emerging from the meeting, election observer representatives told journalists that they proposed the commission to arrange training programmes for chiefs of the

Plea seeks HC order to remove 30 illegal structures from Turag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its directive upon the government to remove 30 structures constructed illegally on foreshore of the river Turag at different places in Gazipur.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) filed the petition with the HC, saying that a judicial probe has found that 30 organisations individually constructed the structures on the bank of the Turag although the HC had earlier directed to

Assess loss of wetland Rajuk chairman asks DAP consultants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Rajdhani Unnyan Kartipkha (Rajuk) at a meeting yesterday asked the consultants on Dhaka's detailed area plan (DAP) for a complete description of how many conservable wetlands and flood flow zones have so far been ruined.

"Delineate in details in the updated plan how many of conservable wetlands, river foreshores, flood flow zones, canals and agricultural lands in the capital are gone and how many is remaining in comparison with the existing plan," said Md Abdur Rahman.

Rajuk organised the consultation at its Motijheel head office to gather inputs of the professional groups in the ongoing process of updating the DAP.

The Rajuk chairman also asked the

consultants to compile a similar comparison of available civic amenities like playgrounds, parks and cultural centres and where those are necessary to create.

Rajuk embarked on updating the DAP in March 2015 and its project tenure ends this December.

According to an estimate of urban experts, more than 85 percent of conservable wetlands and flood zones have so far been filled up to make way for private housing and other "development".

Fazle Reza Suman, vice-president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said they could have made some meaningful contribution to updating the DAP had Rajuk shared all the new proposals and structural plan well ahead instead of approaching them sketchily. Dewan Shamsul Arif, representative of Institute of Architects Bangladesh,

echoed him.

Md Rafiqul Islam of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh said only a comprehensive involvement of the professionals could enrich the capital's master plan. The updated DAP must keep provisions for conserving Dhaka rivers, he stressed.

DAP project director Md Ashraf Islam, who took over nine months back, said he had been trying to involve as many stakeholders as possible in the process of updating the DAP, a crucial planning instrument for a planned Dhaka city.

With the existing DAP expiring its 15-year term in 2015 and leaving most of its recommendations on wetland and flood plain conservation unimplemented, Rajuk embarked on making yet another 20-year DAP in March 2015 for the period from 2016 to 2035.

6 GAIBANDHA ACCUSED War crimes tribunal rehears argument

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday reheard the closing argument in the case filed against six Gaibandha men including a former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the case proceedings until today after the prosecution completed arguments.

The tribunal kept the delivery of the verdict in waiting after closing the argument in the case on May 9, but it reached an impasse following the death of its then chairman Justice Anwarul Haque on July 13.

The tribunal on October 12 decided to hear the closing arguments again as the tribunal was reconstituted with a new chairman and two members.

The accused are Jamaat's ex-MP Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, Ruhul Amin alias Manju, Abu Muslim Md Ali, Abdul Latif, Najmul Huda and Abdur Rahim Mia. Abdul Latif is in jail now while the others are absconding.

Yesterday, Prosecutor Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon placed arguments citing testimonies of prosecution witnesses and other documents and claimed that the prosecution has proved all charges.

Defence Counsel Gazi MH Tamim, however, claimed that the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses were not credible and the prosecution has failed to prove the charges. The accused are facing three charges -- looting and killing of a Hindu man at Moujamali village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, killing of a Chhatra League leader, and killing of 13 chairmen and members of five unions in Sundarganj.



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No bar to catch hilsa from today

Barisal fishermen allege during 22-day ban they did not receive 20kg rice each as promised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Hilsa netting resumes today as a 22-day ban on catching the fish ended yesterday.

The directorate of fisheries imposed the restriction on October 1 to ensure safe spawning as well as proper breeding environment and also to keep the mother fish free from any disturbance, said Bimal Chandra Das, Barisal district fishery officer (hilsa).

Azizul Haque, assistant director of Barisal divisional fishery department, claimed that the ban against netting, marketing, and transportation of hilsa was observed successfully across the division.

However, fishermen alleged that they did not get government support as promised.

Israil Pandit, president of Bangladesh Khudra Matasyajibi Samity, said fishermen were supposed to receive 20kg rice each during the 22-day ban, but most of the fishermen did not get the support.

Anwar Hossain, secretary of the Samity, said fishermen suffered as they did not get the assistance in time.

On condition of anonymity, a district fishery official admitted that they could not reach out to all the fishermen as the decision to provide rice came late.

Tanpan Kumar Paul, Barisal district fishery officer, said fishermen in different upazilas will get the due rice allocation within a short time.

During the ban in the division, mobile courts conducted 1,890 drives, seized large amount of hilsa, fined fishermen Tk 13,25100 and destroyed 35.78 lakh metres of nets, according to the fisheries department.

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