

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.2 | L 26.5

MYMENSINGH
H 34.2 | L 27.1

CHITTAGONG
H 32.0 | L 26.1

SYLHET
H 34.0 | L 25.5

RAJSHAHI
H 36.0 | L 26.8

RANGPUR
H 35.5 | L 27.0

KHULNA
H 34.7 | L 27.0

BARISAL
H 33.8 | L 24.7

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.0 | L 26.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind and lightning flashes may occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur & Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.



Long queues of people, many of whom waited since the previous night, at the Kamalapur Railway Station. Inset, an exhausted young woman holds up her prized ticket at Chittagong Railway Station.

PHOTO: STAR

The tenacity of hope

Crowds jostle for train tickets at Dhaka, Chittagong stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shihab Uddin wasted no time after finishing his sehri to rush to Kamalapur Railway Station to buy tickets for June 14.

Upon reaching the station, he could not believe his eyes as the queue of ticket-seekers had already spiraled.

Shihab, a private sector employee wishing to celebrate Eid with his family in Rajshahi, stood in one of the queues that stretched out on the main platform around 4:30am.

"I could only proceed 10 yards after standing for more than six hours. The way the line is moving, I am very sceptical about getting a ticket," a frustrated Shihab said around 11:30am.

Like Shihab, thousands of people were standing in queues for hours in sweltering heat as Kamalapur Railway Station saw a massive crowd yesterday. Many of them did not get their expected tickets.

"I have not seen such a huge crowd in recent years," Sitangshu Chakraborty, station manager of Kamalapur, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The railway authorities started selling advance tickets from June 1. It sold tickets for June 14 from 8:00am yesterday. Tickets were being sold at 26 counters, up from 23 last year, including two for women.

Sixty-five percent of the tickets were sold at the station and 25 percent online. Also, five percent each were reserved for VIPs and railway employees.

If Eid is celebrated on June 16, then June 14 (Thursday) is the last working day before the holiday. That is the reason why the station witnessed such massive crowds of tickets yesterday, railway officials said.

Besides, this year more people are opting for train journey speculating hassles due to bad road conditions.

Sitangshu Chakraborty said as many as 27,461 advance train tickets were up for sale at the station yesterday.

"Most of the ticket-seekers are getting tickets. With our limited resources, we are trying our best to serve people," he said.

However, many did not get their expected tickets, with complaints that tickets for AC cabins were sold out minutes after opening of the tickets counters.

The station manager said there was a scarcity of AC cabin tickets.

The authorities will sell advance tickets for June 15 today.

Return tickets for June 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 will be sold on June 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 respectively at Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Lalmonirhat train stations.

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PHOTO: ISPR

Masihuzzaman made new air force chief

UNB, Dhaka

Air Vice Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat will take over the command of the Bangladesh Air Force on June 12, according to a press release of Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

"Air Vice Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat, BBP, OSP, NDU, PSC, GD (P), has been promoted to the post of Air Marshal for three years as the Chief Officer of Bangladesh Air Force. This order will come into effect on June 12," the release added.

Last budget session of 10th parliament till July 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The last budget session of the 10th parliament that began yesterday, may continue till July 12.

The decision came at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of parliament held at Jatiya Sangsad with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The Speaker can extend or reduce the duration of the session, on her discretion.

During Ramadan, the session will start at 10:30am; after Ramadan, it will start at 3:00pm every day.

This will be the fifth budget session of the 10th parliament, and the last national budget of the current government, as the next parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held in December.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith will begin placing the Tk 468,200-crore mega budget at 12:30pm tomorrow for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In the process, Muhith will also set a rare example by placing the 10th consecutive budget of the current government.

Meanwhile, the supplementary budget will be passed on June 11 after discussions on June 10 and 11. The Finance Bill will be

cleared on June 27 while the budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year will be approved by the House on June 28.

The BAC meeting began with congratulating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for successfully launching Bangabandhu-1 Satellite and receiving an honorary DLitt from Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol.

OBITUARY MOTION

The House yesterday unanimously adopted obituary motion on a number of distinguished personalities, including a sitting MP, two former ministers, a former state minister, a former whip and four other former MPs.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury moved the obituary motion separately with brief resumes on those who died since prorogation of the 20th session of the 10th parliament.

The House expresses its grave shock at the death of AKM Mayeedul Islam, a Jatiya Party MP and also a former minister, who died on May 10, said the speaker.

The House also expressed deep condolence at the demise of the former cabinet members, former state minister, former whip, former MPs and assistant librarian of the Jatiya Sangsad.

To show respect to the departed soul of

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Keep up pressure on Myanmar

Reiterates PM on Rohingya crisis

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to the international community to continue pressure on Myanmar for the repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh.

She made the call when visiting President and CEO of International Rescue Committee (IRC) David Miliband met her at her Jatiya Sangsad office.

The premier said Myanmar will have to take back the Rohingyas and the international community needs to keep up the pressure, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told reporters after the meeting.

David Miliband, a British Labour Party politician, said his team arrived in Bangladesh to see the condition of Rohingyas.

Praising Bangladesh, he said opening the border to the Rohingyas is a significant humanitarian gesture and it is a good signal to the international community.

Miliband said they will continue their assistance and recruit 100 staff from Bangladesh.

He, however, suggested decongestion of Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with International Rescue Committee President and CEO David Miliband at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Both the premier and IRC president feared that the biggest problem for Rohingyas will be possible mudslide during the upcoming monsoon.

Hasina said the government is preparing a safe place in Noakhali's Bhasanchar to shift the Rohingyas there. She said the government is providing healthcare services to the displaced people.

She also said locals are suffering and the environment is being affected due to the influx.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and PM's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Md Nojibur Rahman were also present.



Green Bangla Coalition forms a human chain in front of National Museum at Shahbagh, marking World Environment Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Take earnest measures before it's too late

Speakers urge govt on World Environment Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development should not damage the environment, experts said yesterday, urging the government to devise deterrents and run awareness campaigns to stop pollution.

Some damages to environment are irreparable, they said at a symposium organised by Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN Members at the capital's Jatiya Press Club to mark the World Environment Day. IUCN, International Union for Conservation

of Nature, is the global authority on protecting the environment.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said tannery waste had destroyed the Buriganga river. Now the Dhaleshwari river is facing a similar threat after the shifting of tanneries to Savar.

"When Dhaka will be destroyed and abandoned, only then people will get their conscience back," Rizwana said.

Speaking as the chief guest,

Environment and Forests Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said, "We cannot shut down the unplanned industries overnight, considering the country's development. We can take measures to stop damages from those."

Brick kilns will be brought under strict laws to prevent air pollution, he said, adding that tree plantation in and outside homes would get priority to increase the country's green coverage.

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