

Dhaka Day by Day

The Cheeky Little Visitor

by Fayza Haq

Who is this cheeky visitor who builds his nest on the window pelmet, the terrace ledge and even on the fan in winter? It is the bold brown sparrow full of guts and joie de vivre.

People in Dhaka keep parrots, love-birds, "mainas" and peahens as treasured pets. But they do not condescend to keep the simple, homely sparrow as a showpiece in gilded cages.

There are poems dedicated to the night-gale and the skylark, who belong to the same family, incidentally, as the sparrow. There are lines even to the raven. Bengali medium girls from primary school know of the rhyme "one for sorrow and two for joy..." about the "maina". But the sparrow goes unsung, although it is an integral part of the city existence.

This bird, along with the "doels", nightingales, crows and jackdaws help to keep the place clean by removing slugs, worms and dirt. I do not doubt that it wrecks the harvest on the fruit trees like the lichis and mangoes, but it certainly helps in scattering seeds and in distributing pollen, which is necessary for plant reproduction.

It is a relief that the cruel bird sellers along New Elephant Road do not string up sparrows, a dozen for a single pot of curry perhaps, as they do in case of the migratory winter ducks. I have known urechins fishing small fish at the Dhanmandi Lake and hanging them up for sale, and getting a good price for it, too. If the poor, harmless sparrow had been baited and sold in the same fashion, it would have been a pity indeed.

This homely bird, with its thick bill adapted for seed eating, thrives best in the neighbourhood of man, and is common throughout the temperate climate of Asia, N. America and Europe. Its pugnacious disposition, adaptability to urban areas and reproductive capacity fit

raises several broods a year) all contribute to the sparrow's success. The Dhaka bird, like all city birds, is sooty while the country cousin displays a noticeable pattern.

The male as a grey crown, black throat mark, white cheeks, a chestnut nape, brown upper parts, and a buff belly. The female and the young are dull brown above and dirty white below, with no distinctive headmarks.

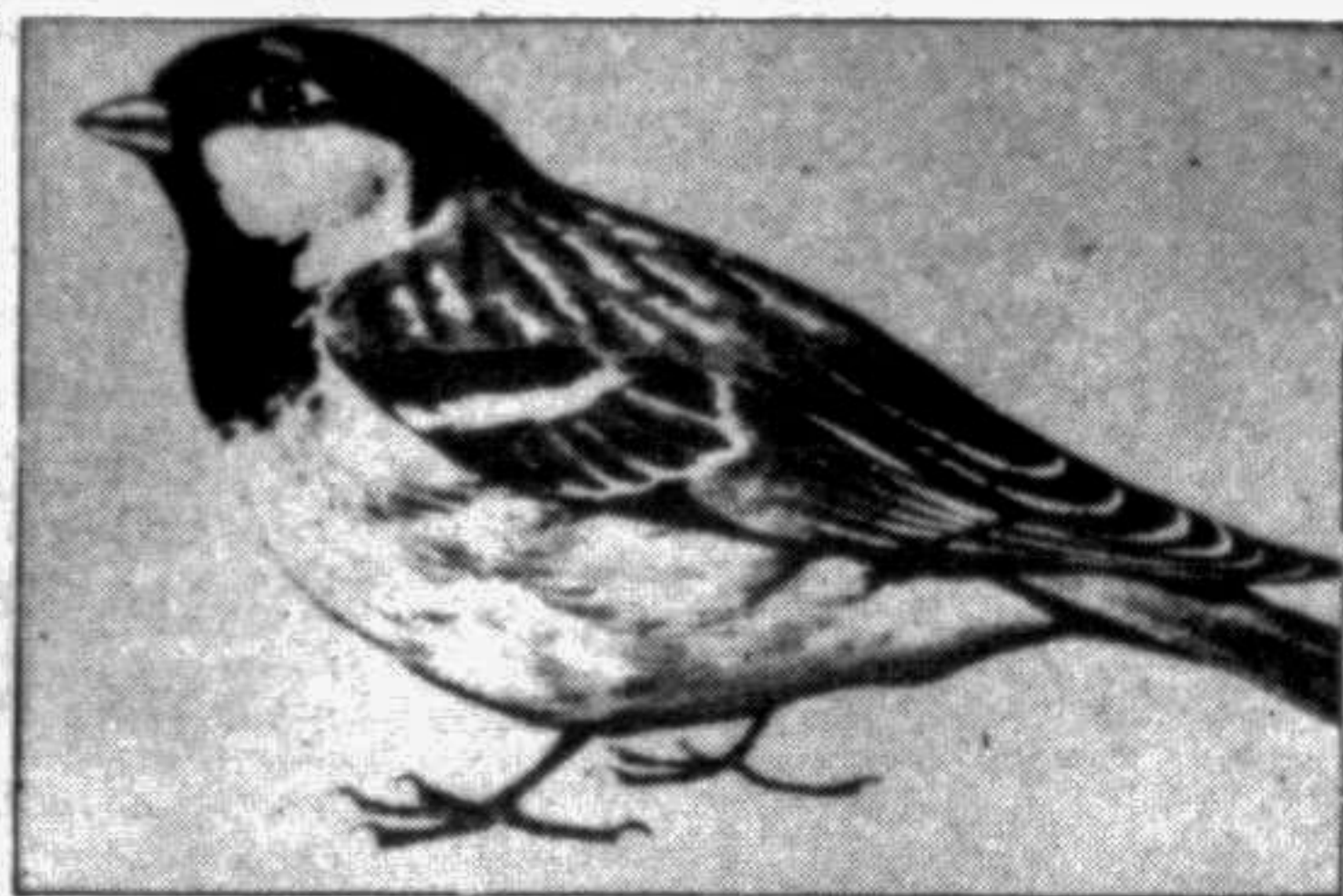
The sparrow's nest is an untidy tangle of grass, feathers, hair et, which may contain three to six whitish eggs flecked with grey. The Dhaka sparrow is a garrulous bird and spends much time hopping about on the ground feeding, all the while flicking its tail and uttering repetitive "ch-peeps". In some cases the sparrow has been known to take over the nests of other birds. It lays its eggs, and through-out the warm months produces brood after brood. Sometimes, if

there is an unreasonably pleasant warm spell in winter the male sparrow will court the female sparrow again, hopping about with his wings down and his tails spread out, chirping noisily.

Both male and female sparrows are attentive parents to the young birds when they hatch out.

Although Dhaka sparrow is an indigenous one, its cousins in UK, USA, Canada, and Australia are not. The millions in Australia today started from a handful of 50.

Sparrow abroad had become so mischievous that the English House of Commons and the Department of Agriculture in Washington in the nineteenth century declared them as "tramps" and "hoodlums". Although the unassuming Dhaka sparrow is ignored and dismissed, its cousin in Java, with its large, pink bill and black head, is kept with care in fancy containers.



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Trawler with CARE relief sinks

One of several trawlers carrying CARE supplies from Char Patia in the district of Noakhali to the severely affected island of Hatia sank Friday evening due to bad weather conditions. Two CARE personnel from a contingent of 10 were initially thought to have drowned but were later accounted for, says a Press release.

CARE is transporting food and other emergency assistance for 4,500 families on Hatia Island. Reports received Friday indicated that the cyclone had already claimed the lives of 12,000 people on the island, while a further 20,000 have lost their homes, crops and animals. By Thursday evening, 60 per cent of initial supplies had arrived but bad weather conditions had delayed sending the remainder until Friday evening.

Poor weather continues to hamper operations and transport is difficult to find.

A staff of CARE, an American international humanitarian organisation was missing till Saturday when a trawler carrying relief supplies sank near Hatia island Friday

evening, officials said. Ibrahim Ali Akhund, a CARE engineer based in Comilla, was missing in the disaster. The other staff members who were aboard the trawler were safe, he said.

PROGRAMME Music Institution's meeting

A meeting of the representatives of all music institutions of the country (vocal, instrumental and dance) will be held on May 10 at 3 pm at Shilpa Kala Academy conference room, a Bangladesh Sangeet Academy Sangsha press release said.

Get-together

The Association of Deutsche Welle Listeners Club Bangladesh, will organise a get-together of broadcasters, journalists and Radio Listeners in the city today (Sunday) at 5 pm to mark the 16th anniversary of the Bengali service of the club, a press release said.

Khaleda receives Tk 99 lakh

A sum of Taka 99,14,846 in cheque and cash was donated Saturday to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund by individuals and organisations, reports BSS.

Besides, relief materials including chira, gur, oral saline, water purifying tablets and clothes were also donated to the fund.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia received the cheques and cash at the Prime Minister's office at Sugandha.

Taka 2,04,24,040 was collected in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund during the last three days.

Those who donated Saturday included Islam Group of Companies-Taka 20 lakh, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives-Taka

7,29,149.57, Sonali Bank-Taka 11 lakh, Janata Bank-Taka eight lakh, Australian High Commission-Taka 6,92,100, Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation Taka 6,86,00, Agrani Bank-Taka five lakh, Islami Bank-Taka five lakh, Rupali Bank-Taka 3,50,000, Uttara Bank-Taka 2,03,229.52, City Bank-Taka 1,14,227, Foad Al-Khatib-Taka one lakh, Barrister Tamizul Huq-Taka 50,000 BRTC Truck Division-Taka 1,25,000, Civil Aviation Ministry-Taka 5,22,000, Bhatya Group of Industries, Taka one lakh, Guishan Club-Taka two lakh, Darshan Electronic-Taka one lakh and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank-Taka 68,000.

Woman dies

A mid-aged woman died on Saturday evening when three unidentified youngmen left her in Holy Family Hospital in critical condition.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A case has been registered with Ramna thana.



Sunday

5.00 Opening Recitation from Al-Quran
5.15 Recitation from the Bible
5.20 News in Bangla
5.30 Jhilmili: Children's programme
5.55 Cartoon: Abbat and Coastato
6.20 Sports programme
7.05 Rabindra Sangeet: Tagore songs
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Probaho
9.00 Drama Series: Oshin
10.00 News in English
10.25 Parliament Roundup
10.40 Rag Rang : Classical music
11.30 Khabar / The News
11.40 Closing

JCD DU unit executives

By DU Correspondent

Habibunnabi Sohel and Kazi Ali Akkas Nadim was elected President and General Secretary of Jatyatatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Dhaka University Unit respectively Saturday.

They were elected in a special council of the unit held at JCD's Dhanmondi office Saturday.

Shamsuddin Dulal was also elected Organising Secretary. The council was held to fill up three posts of the unit, those who will represent the unit in the JCD central conference scheduled to be held on May 7.

The unit, earlier, was functioning under a convening committee, which was formed in October last.

Sit-in demonstration

A group of students of Dhaka University held a sit-in demonstration at the office of the Vice Chancellor Saturday morning demanding shifting of honours and master degree examinations scheduled to be held from June of this year.

The students demanded the shifting as they said many students were affected in recent devastating cyclone in the coastal region.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah, however, ruled out any possibility of shifting of the examinations.

Lecture series

The two-day long fourth Poet Matur Rahman memorial lecture series of Dhaka University will begin from May 7 at the auditorium of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA).

The lecture will be delivered by Prof. Salahuddin Ahmad of the History Department.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Wakil Ahmed will preside over the function of first and second day respectively.

Nepalese envoy calls on VC

Dr. Mohon Prasad Lohani, Ambassador of Nepal met Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Saturday at his office.

Solo painting exhibition

By Staff Correspondent

A ten day solo painting exhibition of Husne Ara Laila will be held at the German Cultural Centre from Sunday.

Professor M Shamsul Huq, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh will be the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony. Professor M Innas Ali, President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences will be the special guest.

The exhibition will remain open to the public from 10 am to 7 pm everyday from May 6 through May 14, 1991.

PID centre at Sonargaon

A Press Information Department media centre has been set up at the Sonargaon Hotel on Saturday to provide professional facilities to media personnel covering the devastation caused by the recent cyclone, says a Press release.

The media centre will operate at the hotel's Nirala Room. Banquet rooms with modern audio-visual have been reserved for the purpose of press briefing and press conference.

BNP invites applications for by-election

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has invited applications for nomination of candidates for by-election in 10 constituencies to be held on June 11.

Interested candidates have been asked to collect application form from the Dhanmondi election office of the party by May 10.

One Biman flight a day between Dhaka-Ctg

Biman will operate one flight a day between Dhaka and Chittagong to maintain air link in view of re-opening of Chittagong Airport to limited operations, reports BSS.

According to a Biman Press release Saturday, the Biman flight for Chittagong BG-613 will leave Dhaka at 12-45 pm while flight for Dhaka BG-614 will leave Chittagong at 1-55 pm every day until further notice.

Moudud addresses discussion meet today

By Staff Correspondent

Former Vice President and now Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Moudud Ahmed will address a discussion meeting on historic May Day at 4 p.m. today at the Kristi and Kalyan Sanghad Bhavan at Shantinagar in city.

The meeting has been organised by Jatiya Samik Party. A Press release issued on Saturday said the discussion meeting will be presided over by the party chief Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar.

This is the first open discussion meeting that Moudud Ahmed will address since his release from detention.

DUJ demands arrest of Mayeedul Islam

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Union of Journalist (DUJ) at a meeting held in Jatiya Press Club on Saturday demanded immediate arrest of Dainik Desh's Editorial Board Chairman, AKM Meeedul Islam, Director, Anwarul Islam and Advisor, Taheruddin Thakur.

An Executive Committee meeting of the DUJ also expressed its deep concern over the government's indifference about arrest of the persons against whom case was filed earlier on charge of assaulting the leaders of Journalist community. DUJ President, Zahurul Huq chaired the meeting. It called upon the authorities to stop visit abroad of the members of Dainik Desh authorities and Bangladesh Observer owner Hamidul Huq Choudhury, who was convicted in a Labour Court.

The DUJ meeting also regretted that despite earlier assurance, the government did not take any initiatives to resolve the crisis now prevailing in Dainik Desh, Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Dinkal and Dainik Naba Abhijan. It decided to hold separate meeting of the DUJ units in this regard.

The meeting expressed profound shock over the deaths of Monday's cyclone that hit the coastal belt.

Penal Code Bill to increase harassment of people'

Parliament resumed its sitting Saturday morning with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, reports UNB.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafez moved the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1991 for consideration of the House.

Awami League members Sudhansu Shekhar Halder, Salahuddin Yusuf and Dharendra Debnath Shambu criticised the Bill saying that the enactment of the law would increase harassment on the people and impede rule of law.

Describing the Bill as illegal and unconstitutional, Haider said certain provisions of the Special Powers Act have been incorporated in the Bill.

Subuddin Yusuf said the law will give rise to repressive tendency by the administration. He criticised the gov-

ernment for bringing such a Bill when there has been widespread demand for repealing the Special Powers Act.

Dharendra Debnath Shambu said the Acting President promulgated the Ordinance at a particular time but it is not needed now in the changed circumstances. He said it might curtail the right to trade union guaranteed by Article 39 of the Constitution.

The debate on the Bill continued.

Earlier, Tofoel Ahmed (AL) drew the attention of the chair about an allegation that foreign missions in Dhaka were not properly briefed on the extent of devastation in the cyclone-hit areas and government's requirement to meet the situa-

tion.

Foreign Missions, therefore, could not report to their respective governments about the aid and assistance required for relief and rehabilitation works, he added.

He demanded a statement from the relevant ministry of the government in this regard. He also expressed his surprise that there was no item in today's orders of the day on the cyclone.

A number of Awami League MPs raised their voice to press the chair to discuss the post-cyclone situation by suspending other business of the day.

Deputy Leader of the House Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor twice to pacify the House with an assurance that a discussion would be held on this subject in the afternoon sitting.

Nine cyclones hit Bangladesh annually

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The Bay of Bengal produces seven to nine cyclones, severe or weak, in two cyclone seasons a year. Bangladesh faces the chance of being hit by two such cyclones a year. Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury, Director, Meteorological Department told The Daily Star on Thursday.

The Met Director, however, made it clear that there is no reason to believe that two cyclones are certain to hit Bangladesh every year. Chowdhury said scientists around the globe are yet to fathom the mystery of cyclone. They only know the necessary conditions' and can predict with a certain measure of accuracy the intensity and movement of a cyclonic system after it is formed.

He said cyclones are formed in the Bay of Bengal in the pre-monsoon months of April and May, and again in the post-monsoon months of October, November and

the first half of December. Two to three cyclones develop in the months of April and May, and five to six others in October, November and the first half of December.

On an average one cyclone is likely to hit Bangladesh in each of the two cyclone seasons, Chowdhury said.

He said the Bay of Bengal is one of the world's eight sea basins producing cyclones. On an average ten per cent of world's cyclones (called typhoons in the Pacific and hurricanes in the Atlantic) generate in the Bay of Bengal. The Bay cyclones, however, are 90 per cent more devastating than identical storms.

Chowdhury said that Monday's cyclone was more devastating than the great cyclone of November 12, 1970, that killed five lakh people. Monday's cyclone, however, had a much wider 'exposure' in so far as the population in the coastal areas has increased manifold over that of 1970.

Bangla Academy publishes 618 text-books so far

A five-day workshop in introduction of Bengali text books in higher studies began in Dhaka on Saturday under the joint auspices of Bangla Academy and the University Grants Commission, an academy press release said, reports BSS.

Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, Chairman of the Commission, attended the inaugural function as the chief guest while the academy's Director General, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid presided over it.

It was addressed by the Commission's Research and Publication Director, ANM Golam Mostafa and the Academy's Director of Text Book Department, Golam Mainuddin. At least 42 teachers from different universities attend the session on physical science.

Golam Matnuddin Khan said Bangla Academy published 618 text books and note books

during the last 19 years. "The academy will have to publish 320 books more in the coming four years," he said.

Chief guest Prof M Shamsul Haq said, the workshop was organised to solve the problems in introducing Bengali text books in the higher studies.

In his Presidential speech, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid said the workshop was organised to take up such plans for the first time after the independence. "We will determine in the workshop as to how best we can meet the need of the students with our limited resources," he said.

Obituary

Alhaj Mohammad Abdul Kader, Director of Phoenix Leather Complex Ltd, died of Cardiac arrest on Friday at the Suhrawardy Hospital. He was 60, says a press release.

BAU admission test June 6

MYMENSINGH, May 4: The Admission Test in first year classes of Bangladesh Agricultural University will be held on June 6, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a total of 6506 applications have been submitted for 540 seats in six faculties.

Publication ceremony

The publication and distribution ceremony of the book "Disaster preparedness for Bangladesh floods and other natural calamities" to be held on today (Sunday) at 5 p.m in Hotel Sonargaon.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present as the chief guest. Prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Choudhury, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs will attend the function as the special guest.

The author Prof. A.K.M. Kafiluddin is the founder Director of National Institute of Preventive for Social Medicine (NIPSOM).

Soviet Press Day reception cancelled

By Staff Correspondent

The Soviet Press Day reception which was scheduled today (Sunday) has been cancelled in view of the natural disaster that battered the southern parts of the country Monday.

According to earlier schedule, the reception by the First Secretary and head of the Press Department, USSR Embassy in Dhaka, was due to be held at Hotel Purbani today (Sunday) at 7 pm.

BIWTA advice

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Saturday advised all inland transport owners to be very cautious to ply their vessels on inland navigational routes till further notice, reports BSS.

A Press release of BIWTA Saturday said it was not immediately possible to ascertain the number of vessels that sank during the cyclone.

Many buoys and beacon lights were also displaced and damaged in the storm on different routes restoration works have been going on, the Press release added.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Planet of the --
- Mix
- Soak up
- Depression
- Comfort
- Hyson
- Alternative word
- Knitting wool
- Female deer
- Tautonic delfy
- Coin
- Novelties
- Leave out
- Roman tyrant
- Illuminated
- Farther above
- Nobly
- Grad-to-be
- Cubic meters
- Strike out
- As far as

42 Title

- Floats in air
- Period of time
- Army meal
- Goddess of discord
- Changed color of
- Short jacket
- Beatty ID
- Grande
- Spoken
- Down staircase
- Capuchin monkey
- Polish
- One opposed
- Poem
- Defeat
- Bard

4 Pigpen

- European finch
- Leather-maker
- Exists
- Crimson

9 Take unlawfully

- Fareo islands whirlwind
- Father
- Night noon
- The Dukas

21 Mixture

- Walked on
- Deal out
- Emphasis
- Expelled
- Gull-like bird
- In debt
- Paper measure
- Wild plum
- Pintail duck
- Berit
- Bers' legally
- Eagle's nest
- Painful spots
- Roman gods
- Sodium symbol
- Night bird
- Once around track
- Fruit seed
- Therefore
- Paid notice
- Maiden loved by Zeus
- Negative

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	A	G	W	H	E	T	S	A	P
S	O	M	E	H	E	A	R	E	L
M	U	T	W	O	R	T	O	T	E
U	S	E	E	L	M	P	A	T	
G	E	M	S	E	A	T	K	E	N
U	L	E	R	U	T	R	O	W	
P	A	Y	E	A	R	N	E	D	
E	G	O	L	E	I	A	R	M	
T	O	T	E	S	E	W	Y	A	R
T	O	O	D	A	M	D	I	E	
S	T	A	N	D	S	T	A	B	A
H	O	W	D	I	R	E	A	M	E
E	T	A	S	T	A	R	Y	E	S

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for 24 hours ending at 6 pm on Sunday says: Light to moderate rain/shower with a few moderately heavy falls accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division. Day temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Kalbarishakhi squall warning: North west westerly kalbarishakhi (tornado) squally speed 60.75 kilometer per hour or more likely to occur temporary at one or two places over the regions of Bogra, Rajshahi, Pabna, Tangail, Faridpur, Dhaka, Sylhet, Comilla and Potuakhali during next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Saturday.

The Sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.29 pm and rises on Monday at 5.21 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather likely to improve. Extended outlook for next five days: Rainfall activities likely.

Highest temperature on Saturday was 37.1 degrees Celsius recorded at Jessore. Lowest temperature of 19.4 degrees was recorded at Sirimangal.

Rain/thundershower occurred at most places over Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna divisions and at many places over Rajshahi division. Chief amount of rainfall recorded are: Comilla 6 cm, Sirimangal, Dhaka, Bogra, Sylhet and Barisal 3 cm each.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns and cities on Saturday were:

Towns/Cities	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.3	20.7
Rajshahi	36.0	22.6
Khulna	34.8	21.5
Rangpur	29.2	22.0
Dinajpur	30.0	22.0
Barisal	32.4	22.0
Jessore	37.1	21.8
Sylhet	23.8	19.6
Sirimangal	27.4	19.5

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