

Remove disparity in airfare

Haji Kalyan Parishad urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hajj Jatri Haji Kalyan Parishad yesterday urged the government to ensure equal rights of all hajj pilgrims by removing the disparity in airfare between the ballotee and the non-ballotee hajj pilgrims.

"Non-ballotee hajj pilgrims will have to pay extra Tk 11,000 for airfare although they will fly from the same place and by the same airlines" said Advocate Abdullah

Al Naser, president of the parishad at a press conference at the National Press Club.

He said the ballotee hajj pilgrims pay 870 dollars for airfare while the non-ballotee hajj pilgrims will have to pay 1,050 dollars for airfare.

Naser expressed the apprehension that the number of hajj pilgrims might decrease next year as only two airlines had been permitted to carry them. He called for allowing every airline to carry the

hajj pilgrims like previous years. Naser also urged the government not to allow any hajj agents to carry more than 500 hajj pilgrims so that they can be looked after properly.

He also suggested selling of air tickets through the real hajj agents so that the hajj pilgrims can easily get the ticket.

Hafez Abdur Rab, Manik Mia, Mufti Abdul Gani, Al Reza and Ashiqur Rahman were present at the press conference.

Modernisation of 22 dist court buildings in 2 yrs

BSS, Dhaka

Expansion and modernisation of 22 district court buildings including the ones over 40-year old would be completed by next two years, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said here yesterday.

Moudud told journalists at his secretariat office that the court buildings would either be expanded or built a new replacing the age-old ones under a Tk 228 crore project.

He said the project aimed at making the judicial system more efficient and modern, not only emphasises on modern court rooms, but also prioritises training for judges, computerisation and internet facilities in courts, air conditioning of court rooms and modern microphone system to address in courts.

"With the implementation of the project, the capacity of the court will go up, disposing of cases will be easier and thus the process of ensuring justice would be strengthened," Moudud said.

He said the government has been trying hard to offer a modern and most pro-people justice system to the nation. As part of it, he said, the government has taken sincere efforts to modernise the judiciary by implementing the Tk 228 crore project.

The World Bank will provide Tk 165 crore, Government of Bangladesh Tk 42 crore, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Tk 10 crore and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) Tk 10 crore for the project.

Under the project, he said courtrooms for the judges would be equipped with air conditioning system and microphones. Besides, extensive training for the judges would be organised both at home and abroad to improve their capacity in court management and court administration.

The Judicial and Administration Training Institute (JATI) would also be relocated from its present site and a new training complex having residential facilities would be built near the solicitor's office here, he said.

Apart from this, he said, two to four computers having internet access would soon be set up at a separate room of the Supreme Court so that the judges can get opportunities to know developments and references from others concerned.

The district courts included in the project for expansion and modernisation are: Gazipur, Loni, Thakurgaon, Bagerhat, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Brahmanbaria, Khulna, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet, Bogra, Pabna, Rajshahi, Bhola, Barisal, Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Moulvibazar and Gopalganj.

Moudud said two US consulting companies -- one for the project and one for government -- have already been appointed for the programme.



PHOTO STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina visited ailing ex-MP Kamal Ahmed Majumdar at Sikdar Medical Hospital in the city yesterday.



The Dhaka City liaison committee of the four-party alliance held a meeting at Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday with its convenor and city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines
ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 8914771-9, 8912700-9 CABLE: AIRBANGLA TLX: 642649 DABG BJ

Stores & Purchase Directorate
Ref: DACPF/Int'l tender/04/2002-03 Dt: 19-09-2002

International Tender

Sealed Tender is hereby invited for supply of following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines:

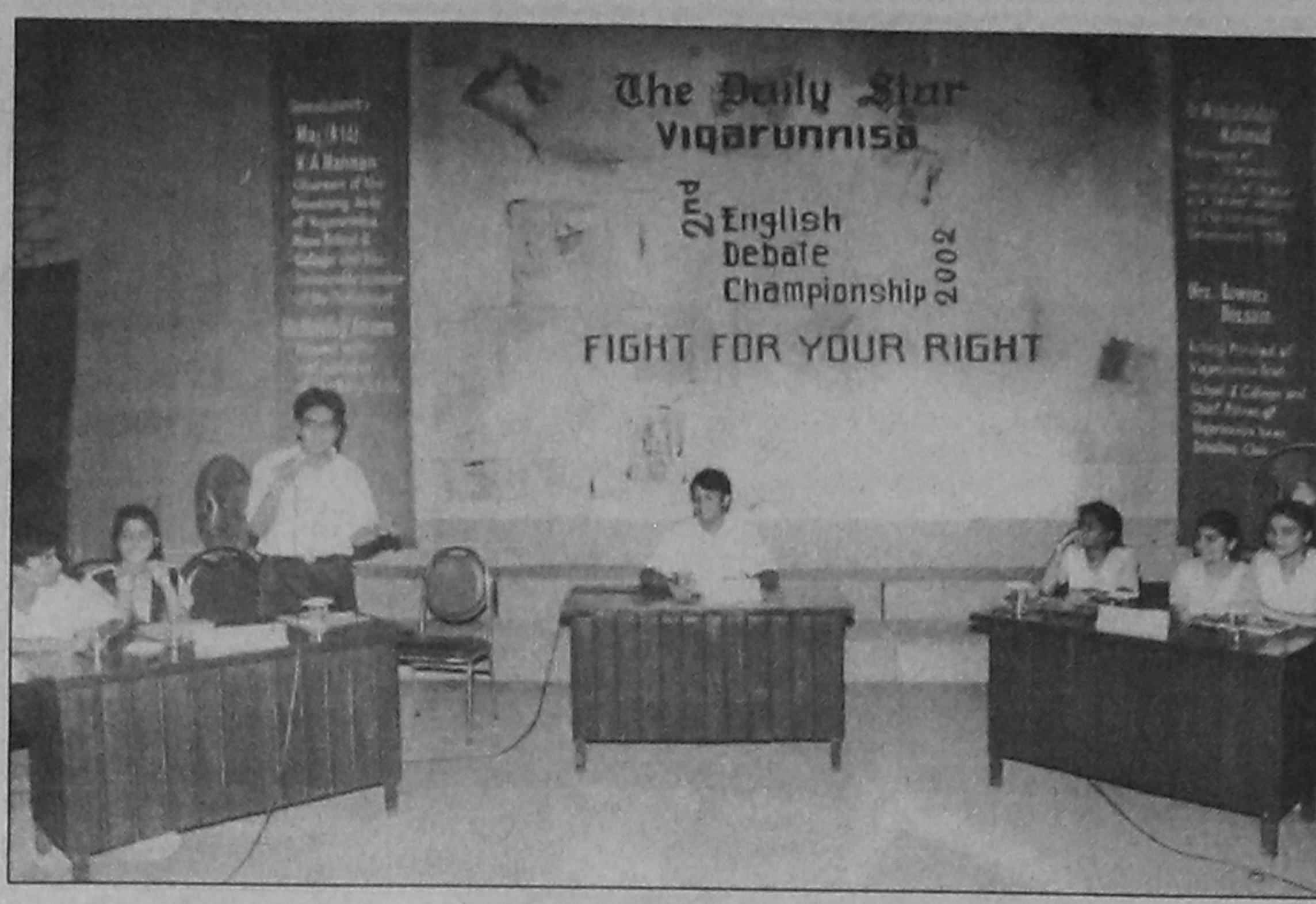
S/No	Tender Number	Description	Qty	Cost of Schedule
1.	DACPF/INT'L TENDER/04/2002-03	AIRCRAFT TOW TRACTOR BAGGAGE	10	BDT. 2500.00 or, USD-50.00
		GROUP-B AIRCRAFT FLUSH CART	01	

NB: SCHEDULE SHOULD BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY FOR EACH GROUP.

Tender schedule with details specification, terms & conditions will be available at the cost of USD. 50.00 or BDT. 2500.00 (BDT-Two five zero zero point zero zero) per set (Non-Refundable) from Assistant Manager Accounts Cash Unit, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka and Asstt. Manager Accounts Cash & Banking Balaka, Head Office, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka & Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-12 storied Govt. Office Building 1st floor, Room No., 205), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 as well as with Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Hongkong, Singapore, Tokyo, Dubai, London, Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels & Newyork on cash payment on all working days up to 04-11-2002. A formal application in company's letter head pad mentioning tender number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender documents.

Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the DY. GENERAL MANAGER, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka, Main Entrance, Biman Medical Centre, Security Counter (Ground floor), Farmgate, Dhaka and office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st-12 storied Govt. Office Building, 1st floor, Room No. 205), Segunbagicha, Dhaka latest by 1100 hrs Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) on 05-11-2002. In case of direct offer Foreign Manufacturer/Principal must submit their offer as per terms mentioned in the tender schedule. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 1400 hrs (BST) in the tender room, Biman Admin Building 1st floor Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender, increase or decrease the quantity of items without assigning any reason whatsoever.
GD-793 Dy. General Manager Purchase



The Radiant International School and the Vigarunnisa Debate Club confronted each other at 'The Daily Star Vigarunnisa 2nd English Debate Championship 2002' at the Vigarunnisa Noon School and College auditorium in the city yesterday.

Soil losing fertility due to use of chemical fertiliser

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is rapidly losing its soil fertility due to over dependence on chemical fertiliser threatening the country's food security, experts at a seminar said in the city yesterday.

The seminar was told that the excessive dependence on chemical fertiliser has brought down the existence of organic matters to less than 1.7 per cent compared to standard requirement of two in 62 per cent of the country's cultivable land in recent years.

The soil fertility could be restored only through the use of nutrient enriched bio-fertiliser along with the chemical inputs in a planned manner.

This was observed at the dissemination seminar on the "impact of use of compost and enriched compost on different types of soil to Bangladesh" organised by Waste Concern with the support from the government's Sustainable Environmental Management Programme (SEMP) and

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The workshop was told that the use of Nutrient Enriched Blended Compost (NEBC) along with chemical fertiliser has proved to have boosted cost benefit ratio of production through reducing the production cost and increasing the crop yields.

It was told that the cost benefit ratio of production of potato on per hector land is 2.13 per cent using NEBC along with chemical fertiliser while the ratio remained at 1.3 per cent on the same size of land dependent on chemical fertiliser alone.

In another research conducted by the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute it was found that the use of NEBC as well as compost produced from garbage along with chemical fertiliser increases organic matters, which are most essential for sustainable crop production.

The participants of the workshop agreed that both the compost produced by Waste Concern

and NEBC should be used for sustainable crop production as well as to improve the country's soil productivity.

They, however, cautioned that the use of compost had to be applied under a mixed approach and with proper planning to avert reduction of yields of high yielding varieties.

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute Director General Shahidul Islam spoke on the occasion as the chief guest while Environment Health Adviser of World Health Organisation (WHO) Han A Heijnen participated in the discussion as special guest.

Dr S M Imamul Haq, professor of department of Soil Water and Environment of Dhaka University and executive director of Nature Farming Hasibur Rahman presented papers in the workshop.

Executive director of Waste Concern A H Md Maqsood Sinha and director Ittekkhar Enayetullah made a presentation on the background of the research.

Pilferage at Ctg port: Five suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Five staff of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) were suspended yesterday for their alleged involvement in pilfering seized garments from the port's restricted area.

Port security force, however, recovered the pilfered goods during unloading from in front of a house at East Port Colony yesterday noon. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report in the evening.

Security sources said, customs department had seized some 105 roll imported garments and handed those to the port authority. The goods were kept at shed no-14 under custody of security department.

The burglars took the goods out of the shed at midnight on Friday, sources said.

Port security force, acting on a tip-off, raided the East Colony at around 12.30pm yesterday and recovered the garments-rolls from an abandoned mini truck near the house of port staff Kazi Mominul Islam Rinku.

The force also raided the house of Rinku but found none in the house, sources said. Port staff Shekhal Islam, allottee of the house, gave it to Rinku as sub-let. Shekhal, Rinku, two security

men and an electrician were suspended in this connection, sources said.

Meanwhile, the CPA formed a two-member committee to probe the matter.



A seminar on the experiences gained at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg was held at the seminar room of State University of Bangladesh in the city yesterday. Photo shows newly elected president of Bangladesh Economic Association Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed, who had attended the Johannesburg Summit, speaking at the seminar.

Kholamora launch mishap IO, 3 other PWs cross-examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four more prosecution witnesses, including Investigation Officer (IO) in a case filed under the Law and Order Disruption Crimes (Speedy Trial) Act against seven workers and leaders of Awami League of Keraniganj upazila, were cross-examined in a Speedy Trial Court, Dhaka yesterday.

After the cross-examination for about four hours by the defence lawyers, Magistrate Abu Abdullah adjourned the hearing till September 23.

The accused are -- Haji Abu Siddiq, President of Taranagar

Union Awami League, Kamal Hossain, President of BCL Shakta Union unit and AL workers Hamid, Shah Alam, Parvez Abdullah and Shahid. They were produced before the court yesterday.

In the case filed with Keraniganj thana, it has been alleged that a launch, Lucky, sank in the Kholamora launchghat under Keraniganj thana on July 31, this year. On receiving information, police of the thana led by officer-in-charge (OC) went there and found that another launch, Zakia, was burning. Later, they tried to douse the fire, but more than 150 people led by Hafizur Rahman, another accused in the case, prevented them.

Police arrested Hafiz from the spot and filed a case against him and 300 others with Keraniganj thana the same day.

One murdered at Satkania

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One youth was killed reportedly in a dispute over land at Satkania in the district yesterday morning.

Sources said the victim Lokman was killed allegedly by one Alamgir at Chowdhurypara of Sitakunda municipality area.

They said, an emnity began between Lokman and Alamgir over demarcation of a piece of land. The dispute was resolved in a village arbitration last night in favour of Lokman.

Alamgir attacked Lokman in the morning and managed to flee.

A case was filed in this connection.

Advocate Haji Nazrul Islam, Abul Kashem, Abdur Rahman Hawlader, Arshadul Haque, Md Anwar Hossain and Chaitanya Chandra Halder appeared in the court on behalf of the accused.

1096 bottles of phensidyl seized

BSS, Kushtia

A total of 1,096 bottles of phensidyl was seized by Daulatpur thana police from Allar Darga market in the district on Friday night.

DHAKA TODAY

Consultation workshop

The inaugural ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop on Water and Poverty, sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Asian Development Bank, will be held with Prime Minister Khaleida Zia as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.00am.

Training workshop

A five-day long training workshop, jointly organised by Tradecraft, Exchange, UK and Business Advisory Services Centre, will begin. Venue: BRAC Centre, Mohakhali.

Founding anniversary

A reception and cultural function on the occasion of the 9th founding anniversary of Katha Lalitkala Academy will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Central Kachi Kanchar Mela auditorium, Segunbagicha. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion

In observance of the 26th death anniversary of comrade Mao Zedong, Gongsangkritik Parishad will hold a discussion meeting. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Public meeting

Mohammadpur Thana Unit of Dhaka City BNP will hold a public meeting. Venue: By the side of Shyamoli Cinema Hall. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Meeting

An opinion sharing meeting of old students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be held. Venue: Institution of Engineers' auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Symposium

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country with moderately heavy fall at places during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Slight fall in day temperature is expected over the country. Met Offices said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 23.5 degree Celsius at Bhola.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55 pm today and rises at 5:48 am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.1	26.3	73	85
Chittagong	32.2	24.2	76	73
Rajshahi	33.2	24.0	85	82
Khulna	34.7	25.5	78	76
Barisal	33.5	24.5	88	92
Sylhet	36.0	26.4	80	73
Cox's Bazar	33.5	26.0	78	83