

WEATHER

T O D A Y

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and lowest of 23.4 degrees at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:45pm today and rises at 5:51 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	32.6	25.6	68	78
Chittagong	35.4	25.4	73	79
Rajshahi	35.0	25.4	81	89
Khulna	33.5	26.5	65	73
Barisal	33.6	26.1	79	84
Sylhet	34.2	23.9	73	67
Cox's Bazar	--	26.8	73	--



Resource Integration Centre took out a procession in the city yesterday to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons.

Mothers awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a unique function in the city on Wednesday, 25 mothers were awarded for the commendable role that they played in rearing their children who became worthy citizens of the country in later life.

The award, named as 'Ratnagarva Ma', was given to the mothers by Grand Azad Hotel.

The recipients were Begum Rahima Khatun, Monwara Jalil, Roushan Ara, Zobeda Bar Chowdhury, Jahan Farida Moni, Shayesta Akhter, Begum Jahanara, Begum Azufa Khatun, Nasrin Noyeem, Mamataz Begum, Hosneara Kamal, Rahima Noor, Begum Farida Zaman, Saleha Khanom, Saleha Chowdhury, Dilara Khanom, Fatema Begum, Arfaner Nesa, Begum Maniza Khanom, Nurunnahar Begum, Jahanara Begum, Nurjahan Haq, Razia Khatun, Mariyum Begum and Begum Halima Ahmed.

Each mother was given a crest and a certificate.

The organisers also honoured two other mothers with special award. They were Begum Tayaba Majumdar, mother of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and Begum Mafruha Chowdhury (posthumous), mother of Shabnam Mushtari, an exponent of Nazrul song.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dilara Khanom, mother of Taleya Rehman, executive director of Democracywatch said, "I am very happy to receive the award. I also thank the organisers for awarding me."

Hosneara Kamal, wife of former chief justice Justice Mostafa Kamal, said, "I become shocked when I come to know that our issues have gone to ashtray as I think all children are my sons and daughters."

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan attended function as chief guest while State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon, poet Al Mahmud and noted journalist Golam Sarwar as special guests.

Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of Azad Group of Companies, said mother is the greatest gift of God in the world.

He announced that the children of 25 mothers are entitled to buy any items of Azad products at 50 percent concession.

Shudhangshu Sekhar Halder cremated

UNB, Bagerhat

Former lawmaker and Awami League leader Shudhangshu Sekhar Halder, who died of cancer at Birdem Hospital in Dhaka on Wednesday night, was cremated at his village in Morelganj with state honour yesterday.

AL leaders from Bagerhat, Khulna and Pirojpur, including AL President Sheikh Hasina's representative Habibur Rahman, attended the funeral ceremony at a crematorium near Suhasini Secondary School, named after Halder's mother.

Upazila Nirbahi officer, officer-in-charge of local police station and freedom fighters were also present.

The body of Halder was brought from Pirojpur yesterday morning to Shailakhali village in Morelganj and kept on the Suhasini School premises where villagers and party activists paid their last respects to the late leader.

A senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, Halder was one of the organisers of the War of Liberation in 1971 and was elected member of parliament from Pirojpur-1 constituency in 1979 and 1991.

250 low vision units needed for 7.5 lakh patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 250 low vision units comprising at least one ophthalmologist, one paramedic and one counselor are needed for serving 7.5 lakh patients across the country.

This was stated at a workshop on 'Low Vision' organised by Islamia Eye Hospital in the city on Thursday.

"The country has only four low vision centres, two in Dhaka and one each in Chittagong and Sirajganj. These centres are quite insufficient for the treatment of so many low vision patients," said Dr Sayedul Haque, assistant professor of the National Institute of Ophthalmology Hospital.

He said there are only six trained ophthalmologists, nine paramedics and four counsellors in the country to treat the low vision patients.

"Lack of trained personnel, logistic support, low vision centre and awareness are the main obstacles to serve the low vision patients," said Dr Sayedul Haque.

Presided over by Director General of Islamia Eye Hospital Prof Khan M A Manzur, the workshop was also addressed by Chairman of Ophthalmology Department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof Salehuddin and Advisor of Islamia Eye Hospital Zahida Ispahani.

2 killed in road accidents on Barisal-Dhaka highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least two people were killed and 45 others injured in two separate road accidents at Takerhut and Rahamatpur on Barisal-Dhaka highway yesterday.

Police said one accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger coach of Hanif Paribahan fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a tree at a place between Rajoir and Takerhut under Madaripur district at 10:30am.

Two passengers died on the spot while 22 others were injured seriously.

The body of the dead, a mother and her child, were sent to Madaripur Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The injured were admitted to Madaripur and Rajoir hospitals.

In another accident, at least 23 people were injured when a Dhaka-bound passenger coach of R M Paribahan fell into a roadside ditch after the driver lost control of the vehicle near the Palli Bidyut Samity office at Rahamatpur under Babuganj upazila of Barisal district at 12.00 noon.

The injured were rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Of them, the condition of one Sohag, 22, and Sajib, 20, were reported critical.