

RUMOUR OF CHILD-LIFTING IN CTG

Mob kills old woman

30 injured as they clash with cops, attack police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly beggar woman was killed and three other people were injured in separate incidents of mob beating in the city on Saturday night and yesterday following a rumour of child-lifting.

Chittagong SP ZA Morshed told The Daily Star that five suspected child-lifters have also been killed in such incidents in the district since August 01.

Sources said the rumour is that child-lifters are taking away children for collecting cut off heads for the newly built third Karnaphuli Bridge.

As panic gripped the people following the rumour, police yesterday requested all mosque authorities start miking from mosques, and the law enforcers held meetings with local ward councillors to aware people.

Officer in-charge (OC) Rezaul Karim of the police said some people suddenly started beating the unidentified woman, when she was begging at Bandartila 50, around 9.00pm on Saturday following a rumour that she had five cut off heads in her bag.

In another incident, a group of muggers took away Tk 5,000 and mobile phone set from a trader Khalil Uddin Razu at Bohodharhat Intersection around 9:15pm on Saturday. Later, the criminals started shouting termed Khalil "child-lifter." Hundreds of people joined them and beat Khalil.

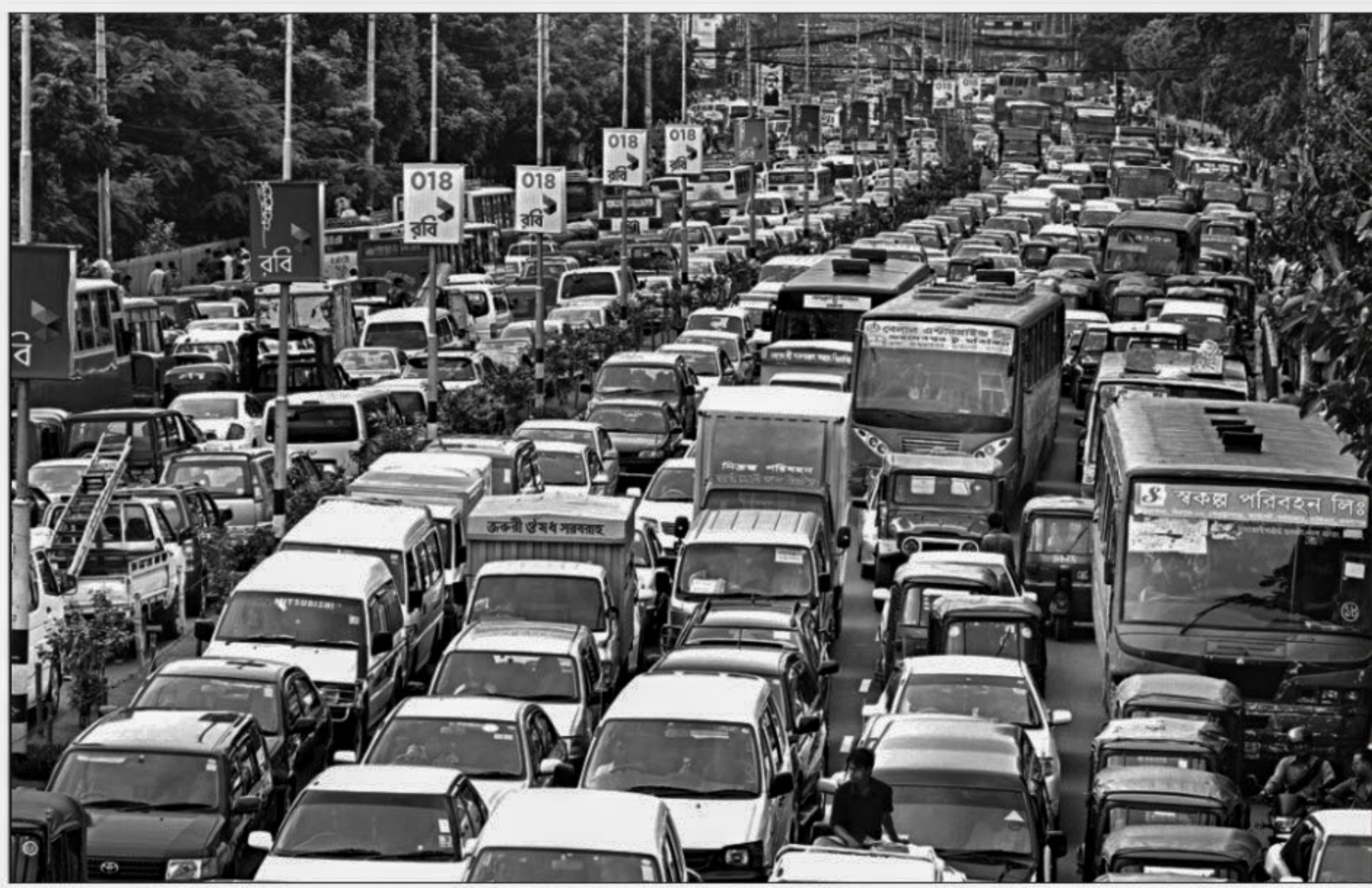
When police rushed there, the mob barred them resulting in a clash that left 30 people, including cops injured. They also blocked the intersection and attacked Chandgaon Police Station and damaged a police vehicle, police said.

A group of people went to the police station early yesterday saying that Khalil had five cut off head and those have been kept at the police station, said OC Omar Faruk.

Five people were arrested and a case was filed in this connection accusing the arrestees and two thousand unidentified persons, he said.

Yet in another incident, people also beat up Mohammad Ali, 19, at Rajkhalia under Bakolia Police Station on Saturday night suspecting him as a child-lifter. Later, police rescued him.

Around 12.00noon yesterday, a rickshaw-puller was also beaten up by locals at the city's Chhotopole as his passenger Selina Akter, a resident of CDA Residential area, asked him to catch Miraj as the boy fled her house in the morning.



Traffic jam from Bangla Motor to Farmgate in the city at is now a regular feature causing sufferings to passengers as well as pedestrians. But the authorities concerned remain indifferent to the problem. The photo was taken yesterday noon.

Netherlands keen to help in water management

UNB, Dhaka

The Netherlands wants to help Bangladesh in water management as well as attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Netherlands Ambassador to Dhaka Alphons Hennekens said this when he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

Water management has emerged as one of the major challenges for Bangladesh in recent years, as the country is exposed to serious threats from climate change.

Some studies said the sea level will rise by at least three metres due to global warming within 2050, sending the existing coastal embankments underwater if they are not raised by 4-6 metres.

Hennekens told the prime minister of his government's willingness to assist Bangladesh in the fields of poverty alleviation and primary education.

Besides, he said his government is eager to help develop the shipbuilding

industry in Bangladesh.

Hasina emphasised safeguarding the environment and the people from the hazardous aspects of the shipbuilding industry.

She said the Netherlands can be benefited by importing small and medium-sized ships from Bangladesh. She thanked the Netherlands for being a dependable development partner in supporting socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

She lauded Dutch support for Bangladesh as well as the LDCs in general as it is the fifth largest destination for Bangladeshi exports within the European Union.

Hasina also urged Ambassador Hennekens to get his country to import more of Bangladesh's ceramics, pharmaceuticals, leather goods and computers software.

As the envoy hailed the PM for her 'Vision 2021' initiative to turn Bangladesh into a modern, digitalised country, the issue of a previous agreement between

Bangladesh and Dutch company 'Tulip Computers' came up for discussion.

During the previous Awami League tenure, Tulip Computers started a project in Bangladesh, coordinated by the Dutch Ministry of Development Aid. The aim was to train 7,700 teachers in IT. Tulip Computers was to provide 11,000 computers and additional hardware, as well as the courses for the teachers.

The Dutch government would pay half the project cost, estimated to be about \$10m. But "ridiculously", the next BNP-Jamaat government had stopped the project, solely for the reason that the name of the Dutch company resembled the name of Tulip Siddique, daughter of Sheikh Rehana, the prime minister said.

"However, we have taken steps again to implement the project as we are pledge-bound to create a digital and modern Bangladesh," Hasina said.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim and Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman were present.

Rajuk boss to face contempt of court charge Aug 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed Chairman of Rajuk Nurul Huda and its two officials to appear before it on August 26 in connection with a contempt of court petition filed against them.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also issued a rule asking them to explain on the day why they should not be punished for committing contempt of court by not complying with its order.

The bench came up with the order following the contempt of court petition filed by one Mizanur Rahman, a construction contractor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Two other contemnors are Rajuk's director Khizir Ahmed and deputy director Khalilur Rahman.

Following a writ petition, the HC on February 28 this year directed the Rajuk officials to take decision within 20 days whether they will provide relevant papers to petitioner Mizanur Rahman for constructing a 22-storey building of DCC. Since they did not take any decision as per the HC order, Mizanur on August 18 filed the contempt of court petition with this court.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder represented the government.

TAX EVASION CASE Mir Kashem granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for six months to Jamaat-Islami leader Mir Kashem Ali in a tax evasion case filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

An HC bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Fazlur Rahman yesterday granted bail to the Jamaat leader after hearing his petition seeking bail in the case.

The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain why he should not be granted regular bail in this case.

On August 19, a Dhaka court issued an arrest warrant against Mir Kashem Ali after NBR Tax Commissioner Moniruzzaman filed the case against him with the Senior Special Judges' Court of Dhaka.

Mir Kashem yesterday appeared before the bench for bail. Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioner.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Shafigul Gani Swapan, a former minister and chairman of Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP), says a press release.

On the occasion, NAP will organise discussion, doa mahfil and Iftar party today, while his family will hold a doa and Iftar mahfil on August 27. All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Govt to expand list of foreign friends of 1971

Bss, Dhaka

A national committee constituted to name distinguished foreigners to be honoured for their 1971 supports presented a draft search list before its third meeting yesterday chaired by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

"The list is expected to be finalised by September this year," said Dipu Moni at the meeting in her office. She added that the government decided to confer them with the honour in Dhaka coinciding with 40th Independence Day on March 26 next year.

Officials said a sub-committee tasked to prepare the list proposed names of 108 foreigners while a member of the main national committee named another 134 people from India and Pakistan alone.

The foreign minister, heading the committee, said inputs were being taken from different sources to prepare the final list. She said, "Though we have already prepared a draft of the awardees but it is difficult to say at this moment what the size of the list could be."

But the meeting sources said the final list was expected to contain nearly 500 names as newer searches revealed that high profile people across the world extended their supports for the 1971 Liberation War.

The source added that the studies found people like Victoria Ocampo, the great Argentinean, known for her love for Rabindranath Tagore, campaigned in her country for our liberation in 1971 at the age of 90.

A member of the committee also said initial searches found nearly 35 Pakistanis who dared to stand for the cause of Bangalis braving their exposure to torture, imprisonment and manhunt.

Officials earlier said late Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi would be conferred with a special honour for her "immense" support for Bangladesh's 1971 Independence. Former US senator Ted Kennedy, French author and politician Andre Malraux were the two other prominent figures in the initial list suggested for the award.

Liberation War Affairs Secretary Uzzal Bikash Dutta said the foreigner would be divided in different categories like foreign statesmen, politicians, diplomats, soldiers, artists, writers, journalists, rights activists and groups and media like BBC and All India Radio for the honour.

Bangladesh is to invite the recipients or their relatives to receive the awards in Dhaka.

"The objective of the award is to express our acknowledgement... to prove we are a grateful nation," Dutta said.

4 realtors asked to submit report to Rajuk on projects

UNB, Dhaka

Public Works and Housing Ministry yesterday asked four major real-estate developers to submit report to Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhya (Rajuk) within next two weeks on compliance of conditions laid on their respective housing projects.

The projects are Bashundhara Housing Project (1st phase) of East West Development (Pvt) Limited, BBDL Notundhara Housing Project (1st phase), Sharnali Housing Project (1st phase) of Shwadesh Properties Ltd and Green Model Housing Project of Amin Mohammad Land Developments Ltd.

A meeting of the Land Development Committee with State Minister for Public Works and Housing Abdul Mannan Khan in the chair issued the directive after reviewing the housing projects.

The meeting, however, gave conditional approval to two housing projects of Eastern Housing Limited.

The projects are amended and extended areas of both Banasri New Town Housing and Pallabi 2nd phase Goran Chatbari Housing Project.

The Eastern Housing Authority was asked to submit a report on its projects in three months to the next meeting of the committee about the compliance of the conditions imposed on it.

HC scraps jail sentence of Manju

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday overturned Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju's conviction in a corruption case, on grounds of lack of evidence.

Manju was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in the case on May 18, 2008 by a special judge's court and was out on bail.

An HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Zahur Hoque passed the order following an appeal filed by Manju challenging the lower court's verdict.

Manju was sued for allegedly taking Tk 1 crore in bribe from Amin Ahmed Bhuiyan, owner of Al-Amin Construction Ltd.

On August 10 this year, the HC acquitted Manju in another corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission. He was sentenced to 13 years in jail in connection with that case during the last caretaker government.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Principal M Wazhiullah Bhuiyan, a sponsor director & former chairman of NCC Bank Ltd, passed away in Singapore on Saturday due to cancer at the age of 60, says a press release.

He was a freedom fighter & founder chairman of Wazhico Group, Chittagong and founder director of Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industries.

He left behind his wife, one son and five daughters.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at NCC Bank Head Office in Dhaka yesterday. His second namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dampara Jamiatul Falah Zame Mosque in Chittagong today at 10:00am.

He will be buried at family graveyard after third namaz-e-janaza at GM Hat Haji Monir Ahamad College ground on the same day at 3:30pm. All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia attends an iftar party organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal at a city community centre yesterday.

Hearing on tribunal act today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday adjourned till today the hearing on the writ petition challenging the First Amendment to the Constitution and some sections of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 under which the war crimes trial is being held.

An HC bench of Justice MA Wahab Miah and Justice Quazi Reza-ul Hoque fixed today for further hearing.

Two assistant secretaries general of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla jointly filed the writ petition on August 16.

The petition sought direction from the HC to stop proceedings of the International Crimes Tribunal and trial against them.

The International Crimes Tribunal is holding the trial of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the Liberation War. The trial will be held under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, amended last year.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioners, while Attorney General Mahbub Alam was present for the government.

Miscreants cut tele cables in Nilkhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 3,200 telephones under Nilkhet Telephone Exchange have gone out of order as unknown miscreants cut the underground cables and tried to steal, says a press release of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL).

Repairing work is underway and the telephones will be in order within one or two days.

A general diary was filed with Labagh Police Station in this connection.

The teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges and madrasas will be able to draw their government portion of salaries until August 25.

The teachers and employees, who did not receive their salary on August 19, 2010, will be able to receive the salary by the extended time, a government handout said yesterday.

The exhibition is aimed at creating social awareness on climate change and disaster, said the speakers while addressing the function.

Eminent writer Selina Hossain attended the function as the special guest while Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman chaired the session.

Former health secretary Mohammad Ali and Head of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) unit of Concern Universal Jessica Chaix spoke on the occasion. The exhibition concludes today.

Time for drawing salary extended

BSS, Dhaka

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Photo exhibition on climate change

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Ahsania Mission yesterday organised a two-day photo exhibition on 'Bangladesh: Climate Change and Disaster' at DRIK gallery in the city.

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WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:37am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and Mongla and lowest 25.2 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

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	31.7	26.2	82	76
Chittagong	31.6	26.5	89	78
Rajshahi	31.0	27.5	87	86
Khulna	35.0	27.2	75	81
Barisal	34.2	26.5	84	87
Sylhet	31.2	26.0	89	96
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.2	73	80