

RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00pm today.
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, said Met Office.
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:16am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathkira and Chuadanga and lowest 21.3 degrees at Sylhet.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	32.8	22.8	88	72	Khulna	34.5	24.4	75	83
Chittagong	29.2	23.5	96	79	Barisal	32.2	24.5	69	76
Rajshahi	34.7	22.4	85	71	Sylhet	32.1	21.3	87	65
Rangpur	31.8	22.2	76	66	Cox's Bazar	29.0	26.0	92	87



A man blows a balloon using combustible gas from a cylinder endangering people's lives. The photo was taken at Rabindra Sarobar in the capital's Dhanmondi on Friday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

CHT LAND COMMISSION ACT Left parties want amendments

Leaders from ten left parties have demanded amendments to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act, 2001, in line with Chittagong Regional Council's suggestion.

The leaders at a roundtable discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday said these suggestions were crucial to maintain the CHT peace accord signed in 1997.

An inter-ministerial meeting held on last July 30, 2012 took into consideration the 13 amendment proposals by the council, they said.

Though Law Minister Shafique Ahmed had said that the proposed amendments to the act, would be placed for passing in the following parliamentary session, till date even the meeting minutes were not prepared.

Another meeting, chaired by Shafique was held on April 9, 2013, in absence of the council.

The speakers feared that the decisions made at the meeting on April 9 would disregard the council's suggestions and override the decision made at July 30, 2012 meeting.

Members of Workers Party of Bangladesh, Gonorantri Party, Gono Oikyo, Sammyobadi Dal, Gonoazadi League, BASD, Gonosanghati Samity, Communist Kendra, Gonorantri Mazdur Party, and NAP were present.

Shibir President Delwar on 10-day remand

A Dhaka court placed Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir President Delwar Hossain on a 10-day remand following his implication in four cases filed over hartal violence.

Of the cases, three were filed with Motijheel Police Station in November 2012 and the other with Paltan Police Station in January 2013.

The court passed the order yesterday after investigation officers of the cases produced Delwar with a 28-day remand prayer before the court.

He was earlier remanded for 45 days in different cases filed with separate police stations for hartal violence. He was arrested on March 31 in the capital's Shyamoli.

DAMAGED EMBANKMENT IN CTG Locals worried as Mahasen approaches

ARUN BIKASH DEY, PRABIR BARUA
CHOWDHURY and MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

With the cyclone Mahasen likely to hit the country's coastal areas tonight or tomorrow, Chittagong people fear if the damaged city embankment would save them from flooding.

The 21.7km embankment from Patenga Naval area to Fauzdarhat area was built in 1992-1996 to save Chittagong city following the devastating 1991 cyclone.

Locals said the 6-7 metres high structure (from sea level) had eroded in different places so hugely that it would not withstand any 1991-like disaster.

They said one lakh people might get affected if the floodbank was destroyed.

Abul Bashar, a resident of Khejurtala area, said the embankment had eroded in five places only between the sea beach and Khejurtala.

He alleged that it was not repaired in the last two years though the authorities, Water Development Board (WDB), were repeatedly urged to do it.

Executive Engineer of WDB, Chittagong Ashraf Jamal said they stopped doing major repair works as the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) would undertake a project to strengthen the embankment and construct a ring road over it this year.

He said, "I can assure that no water will enter the city, destroying the embankment."

Hasan Bin Shams, executive engineer of the CDA, said the organisation had undertaken a project worth Tk 1,704 to strengthen the embankment and build a ring road. The project's planning committee will meet today, he said.



PHOTO: BSS
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives donations from different groups and individuals at her office yesterday for the Savar building collapse victims.

RAILWAYGATE SCANDAL Court stays release order of Faruq's bank accounts

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday stayed its May 9 order regarding release of frozen bank accounts of Omar Faruq Talukder, the sacked assistant personal secretary of former railways minister Suranjit Sengupta.

Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order following an appeal submitted by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Earlier on May 9, the same court ordered releasing the frozen bank accounts of different banks where Omar Faruq deposited over Tk 70 lakh.

On October 25 last year, Bangladesh Bank directed the banks concerned to freeze the bank accounts of Omar Faruq where he deposited Tk 70 lakh on different dates.

On April 9 last year, members of Border Guard Bangladesh detained Omar Faruq Talukder, the then railway general manager Yusuf Ali Mridha and Divisional Commandant Enamul Huq after a car carrying them entered the BCB Headquarters at about 11:30pm.

Later on August 14, the ACC filed case against Faruq, a key figure in the railwaygate scandal, on charge of amassing wealth of Tk 1.47 crore through illegal means.

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