Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions at many places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions till

2nd Edition

Heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions, Met Day and night temperature may fall by 1-2

degree Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at

t	Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree							
	Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest							
2	21.8 degrees at Sayedpur.							
	Highest and lowest temperature and humidity							
t	recorded yesterday were:							

6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am.

		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percei	
ree		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Eve
est	Dhaka	32.5	24.8	75	76	Khulna	33.5	26.0	83	7
	Chittagong	30.2	23.5	83	94	Barisal	31.2	26.0	80	8
ity	Rajshahi	34.0	25.4	86	67	Sylhet	33.5	24.2	81	6
1000	Rangpur	31.4	22.0	85	70	Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.0	81	9



Today's HSC exams shifted to May 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday rescheduled today's Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent exams for May 25 as a precautionary measure against the backdrop of cyclone Mahasen.

The rescheduled timing is 10:00am-1:00pm for morning exams and 2:00pm-5:00pm for afternoon exams, says an Inter-Education Board Coordination Sub-Committee handout.

Body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered an unidentified young woman's body, wrapped in polythene, from beside the capital's New Airport road, near Army Golf Club, yesterday.

Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said the woman was strangled. A murder case was filed.

Eden students demand justice for Putul murder STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 100 Eden Girls' College students formed a human chain for an hour before the college from 11:00am yesterday demanding justice over a student's murder. The programme caused huge traffic congestion in Azimpur and Nilkhet areas.

On May 13, Sharifa Sultana Putul, a third year history student, was allegedly murdered by her husband Shikdar Mahamudul Alam.

SC lawyer mugged in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals caught a mugger right after he and three others snatched Tk 1.19 lakh from a Supreme Court lawyer, Jahangir Kabir, in the capital's Topkhana

Road area yesterday noon. Police seized Tk 60,000 from the mugger, Harun. A case was filed with Shahbagh Police Station in this connection.



the coastal regions anytime. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PROTEST AGAINST EXTORTION

Dholai Khal traders block road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Motor parts and scrap traders in Dholai Khal area of Old Dhaka shut their shops and put blockade on Dholai Khal road for four hours yesterday protesting extortion by local criminals.

Talking to The Daily Star, many traders alleged that some local extortionists have been realising toll from them for the last three years.

Recently, the criminals have been demanding bigger amounts of money from them.

Yesterday around 9:00am, some traders found, when opening their business establishments, that locks of their shops were sealed with super glue and sand. Traders whose shops are housed in a market near the

Dholai Khal Sadeque Hossain Khoka Play Ground also found that some 18 to 20 shops were sealed in the same way. Later, some other shop owners gathered in the area, and

blockaded the road under Gandaria Police Station protesting the incident. The traders withdrew the blockade following assurance

of arresting the criminals by police officials. Talking to The Daily Star, many traders said the extortionists were involved in the incident of sealing locks.

Police also assured them of taking action against the criminals and strengthening police patrol in the area, they said. Gandaria Police Station Sub-inspector Jiarat Hossain said the locals held a boy in connection with the incident, and handed him over to the police.

A case was filed against three people, including one Nazrul Islam.

CYCLONE MAHASEN

Thousands evacuated in capital in Cox's Bazar

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT from Cox's Bazar

Thousands of people in five coastal upazilas of Cox's Bazar moved to cyclone shelters and higher places since yesterday afternoon as cyclone Mahasen, which was supposed to strike the coast this morning, reached within 600km of Bangladesh's shoreline and authorities raised the danger level to seven.

The district administration declared all two-storey government and nongovernment buildings, schools, madrasas, hospitals and colleges as cyclone centres.

After a meeting of the District Disaster Management Committee, Deputy Commissioner Md Ruhul Amin said they directed all upazila and union administrations and NGOs to evacuate people from the vulnerable areas within the daytime.

"If needed, the administration will force the people living in the risky areas to move out of their houses before the sunset to avoid casualties," the DC said, adding that the law enforcement agencies were asked to take steps in this regard.

He said there were reports that people did not want to leave their houses and properties even when their lives were at stake.

The DC said the authorities started asking people to evacuate from the morning.

Amin said a total of 534 emergency shelters had been prepared in the cyclone-prone district for the evacuees. Sufficient relief materials, including dry food, drinking water, saline and medicines, have already been stored in the shelters, he added.

The upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) of the district's eight upazilas will monitor the evacuation process in the five vulnerable upazilas, which include the sadar, Maheskhali, Kutubdia, Teknaf and Pekua. District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer

Md Abdul Mazid said the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief allotted 126 tonnes of rice and Tk 6.17 lakh. Around 6,000 rescuers from Red Crescent, Youth Red Crescent and Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) were engaged in evacuating people, he told The Daily Star. As the weather was seemingly normal

compared to the previous cyclone periods,

people in the coastal areas were dillydallying in relocating their families in the morning. They started making for safe places after authorities intensified the evacuation campaign at noon. People from coastal villages like Samitypara, Samitybazar, Naziartek,

Mostaikkyartek, Basinnyapara under the sadar upazila were seen heading for safe places and cyclone centres. Some headed out to the district headquarters and Ramu and Chakaria upazilas.

Sources and witnesses said hundreds of inhabitants of Kutubdia island started leaving the island on boats and trawlers after announcement of the cautionary signal.

Kutubdia UNO Firoz Ahmed said around 20,000 people from the vulnerable unions like Koyarbil, Lemsikhali, Uttar Dhurang and Ali Akbar Dail and Tabalarchar were

shifted to the cyclone centres by 5:00pm. Maheskhali UNO Anwarul Naser said the authorities relocated several thousand residents from different unions like Dhalghata, Kalarmarchar, Kutubjhoom and Matarbari of

Maheshkhali island to safe places. Meanwhile, Cox's Bazar Airport was declared shut around 4:00pm for an indefinite period following instructions from Dhaka.

Two factories fined | MANPOWER EXPORT STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined two factories Tk 26,000 in the capital's Jurain area for producing food items in unhygienic environment and selling those without the approval of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). The court comprising Dhaka district

administration, BSTI and police, led by Executive Magistrate Amitabh Parag Talukder, conducted the drive in Jurain rail gate area, says a press release.

During the raid on Madina Oil Mill, the court found husks of grains in the shop. It fined the factory Tk 21,000 and threw away 10 kilogrammes of ghee and honey each.

Later, the court fined Rabeya Flour Mill Tk 5,000 for using harmful colour in turmeric.

Baira urges govt to include private sector STAFF CORRESPONDENT the capital's expatriates' welfare and

The Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) yesterday urged the government to involve the private sector in exporting manpower. "The recruiting agencies are

contributing to the development of the country through sending people abroad but the government is now pushing the private sector aside," said M Shahjalal Mazumder, president of Baira. Mazumder was addressing a con-

sultation meeting styled "Review of the Overseas Employment Policy 2006: A stakeholder consultation" in

overseas employment ministry. International Labour Organization (ILO), Bangladesh

Chapter organised the programme. Mazumder said absence of the private sector was hampering man-

power export. However, Begum Shamsun Nahar, director general of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), said the gov-

ernment has been working with all stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability in this sector. She also emphasised the reduction of migration cost in sending

Bangladeshi workers abroad.



now at

Detectives arrest BNP lawmaker Barkatullah Bulu immediately after he attended a press conference at the party headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday.

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