

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:35pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 20.8 degrees at Chaudanga. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded yesterday were:

Table with columns: Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening) for Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

TANGENTS BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Telling photo stories

We often argue about how western media sees Bangladesh. So how does someone who works deep inside western media view our country? Recently I met Dirk Claus who was on a short visit to Bangladesh. He is the Asia Photo Editor of Stern, a German magazine with a weekly circulation of 800,000 and I had a chance to talk with him.



Dirk Claus.

PHOTO: JEFF KENNEL

should be told in 10-12 photographs which must include an introduction and build up to hold the reader. To present all sides fairly, the photographer needs to spend time on the story, he said. What advice does he have for aspiring photojournalists? "Before taking up photojournalism, think carefully," Dirk cautioned. "It must be one of the hardest jobs in the world to make a living while staying honest to yourself. The photojournalism business is undergoing rapid change and you will fare best if you are prepared to work on different levels, for example, reportage, multimedia/video, portraiture," he said. I asked him about the way Bangladesh is portrayed in media, particularly western media.

What was Dirk's overall impression of Bangladesh? This was his second visit here and Dirk said that although it was a particularly bad time for the nation, he was surprised by what he saw and heard from Bangladeshis. "People are engaged about the future of the country in a positive way, and even when they are angry or sad they are thinking of a better future," he said, adding, "Bangladeshis are friendly and communicating in English is easy." Dirk has to propose and plan photo stories for Stern and execute them, often on short notice. I asked him about memorable events from his photographic career of two decades. "Two events stand out," he said. In 2001, he had become head of Stern's online photo department when 9/11 took place. Pulling together the right photographs to cover this event for Stern proved an intensely challenging task. More recently Dirk had to cover the Tsunami devastation in Japan. He organised teams of photographers many of whom were personally affected by the disasters, making it an emotionally demanding task. What makes a good photo story, I asked him. Dirk thought about this. "A localised story with a global connection or angle can be compelling. For example, a story about a global environmental issue, told in terms of a family or a village. The story

many countries over the years, not only Bangladesh also other Asian and African countries. It needs serious journalism with more time spent on the story and the courage to challenge the stereotypes but unfortunately in these times, where online news dominates the information market, this rarely happens. In general, the big media companies are not spending enough money in serious journalism as they are driven by turnover and readership numbers and people are more interested in 'soft' stories. Of course this applies to Asian media as well," Dirk summarized. "The duty of journalism is to uncover stories, and many of them are negative, but we should also show positive accomplishments and events in Bangladesh. One such story is on the surfers of Cox's Bazar by Bradley Hook in Tiger Tales magazine," he added.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a certificate to a winner of an online essay competition organised at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday marking the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. PHOTO: BSS

BNP, Hefajat tried to topple AL govt: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming BNP's ultimatum and Hefajate Islam's Dhaka blockade programme a plot to overthrow the government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said conspiracies were still being hatched and the government would face tougher ones in the future. "National and international conspiracies are there in this small country. Many have targeted Bangladesh as we have natural resources and won in the maritime boundary dispute with Myanmar. "We have a long, tough way ahead," she told a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee at her Gono Bhaban residence. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on May 4 gave the prime minister a 48-hour ultimatum to announce restora-

tion of the caretaker government system. Otherwise, the opposition would declare such programmes that the PM would have to "flee or quit", she said. The next day, Hefajat men staged a sit-in in the capital's Motijheel demanding implementation of their 13-point demand. Hasina, also the Awami League president, said Hefajat men were brought to Dhaka and children of madrasas were used in the programme. BNP's ultimatum was not successful as people were with the government, she said. She said her government, to ensure the country's development, wants continuation of democracy as it comprises accountability and transparency, prerequisites for the overall socio-economic development. This will benefit the people most,

which she wants, she said. Recalling her days after her father and most of her family were assassinated on August 15, 1975, Hasina said Ziaur Rahman, HM Ershad, Khaleda and Barrister Moimul Hossain tried to save the killers. But she brought the killers of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to book and paved the way to hold the trial of war criminals, she said. AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam and Bangladesh Chhatra League, Swachhasebak League and Jubo Mohila League leaders greeted Hasina with flowers marking her homecoming day. On May 17, 1981, Hasina returned home from India after about six years in exile following the August 15 assassination.

Govt to help open fair price shops for RMG workers Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government would provide assistance if garment makers set up fair price shops to sell essential commodities to apparel workers at discount prices. His comments came after Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, requested the government to introduce rationing system for 40 lakh garment workers, mostly of rural villages. Muhith spoke at a dialogue organised by NTV and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel. The minister said the agriculture sector would get Tk 9,000 crore as subsidies in the next budget and the power sector would receive the highest allocation. He said the public private partnership (PPP) system could not take off as expected as three years went by to formulate laws and regulations, and the government was mostly focused on large projects. "We have now come to realise that even smaller projects can be implemented through the PPP system," Muhith added. The minister said women entrepreneurs could only utilise less than Tk 20 crore out of Tk 100 crore allocated in the current budget. They would get Tk 80 crore in the next budget. He also mentioned that repairing and broadening existing roads would get priority in the upcoming fiscal year.



Mother of Shahidul breaks down in tears yesterday at the spot where her son was killed in the collapse of nine-storey Rana Plaza in Savar. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Six fruit traders hurt in Meherpur bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Koshiya

Six fruit traders were injured as criminals detonated bombs in their litchi orchard at Chougachha village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur early yesterday. The injured, Ilias Ali, Samim Hossain, Jahidul Islam, Selim Mia, Shariful Islam and Karibul Islam, leased the orchard from one Abdul Latif several months ago. The six with splinter injuries were admitted to Gangni Upazila Health Complex. According to police, a gang of some 12 masked people arrived at the litchi garden and hurled two bombs at a tent where the six were sleeping around 4:30am. Around three days before, an unknown gang phoned one of them and demanded Tk 2 lakh. When the trader refused to pay the money due to his incapability, the gang threatened that they would set off bombs in the garden. Gangi police recovered bomb splinters from the spot and said they were trying to catch the criminals.

Road crashes kill nine

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in the capital's Uttara and Keraniganj area yesterday, reports our staff correspondent. In Keraniganj, two people were killed and two others injured as a motorbike collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 10:45am, said locals. The dead are motorcyclist Mohammad Russel, 22, and his co-rider Russel Ahmed, 21. Another co-rider Faisal Ahmed, 22, and the CNG driver Samad Ali Howlader, 45, are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Keraniganj Model police recovered the auto-rickshaw from the spot but did not find the motorbike. Meanwhile in Uttara, two unidentified people died when a Gazipur-bound bus of Balaka Paribahan hit them while they were crossing a road at Jasimuddin intersection around 9:00am, said Uttara police. Police arrested the driver and seized the bus. Five people were killed in different road

accidents in two districts yesterday. A Gopalganj correspondent adds, three people were killed when a truck collided head-on with a pick-up van on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gopinathpur area of Gopalganj early yesterday. The dead are the truck driver Aminur Rahman, 42, his helper Selim Islam, 32, both of Sathkhira, and the van driver Mominal Islam, 40, of Natore. In Gandhiashur area, a driver of a battery-run easy bike died as the vehicle veered out of control, hit a standstill truck from behind and overturned on Gopalganj-Tekherhat road yesterday evening. The victim is Sadhan Biswas, 16, of the area. Police sent the dead bodies to Gopalganj sadar hospital morgue for autopsies. Our Sylhet correspondent adds, a youth died yesterday after being sandwiched between an auto-rickshaw and a truck on Kuarpur road in Sylhet city on Thursday. Prince Dey, 20, of Satal village in Companiganj upazila, passed HSC exam from Madan Mohan College recently.

8 arrested at airport with fake passports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested eight people at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital while they were trying to go abroad with fake documents yesterday. The arrestees are Md Alamgir Hossain, 25, Md Jasim Mia, 21, Md Khairul Islam, 25, Saiful Islam, 22, Md Al Amin Sarkar, 26, Md Aminul Islam, 28, Md Lal Mia, 36 and Md Nurul Islam. Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn) made the arrest at the departure lounge of the airport and seized fake passports and visas from their possession, said Jahed Pervez Chowdhury, assistant superintendent of police of APBn. Alamgir, Jasim, Khairul and Saiful were trying to catch a Mihin Lanka Airlines flight to Cambodia while the other were attempting to board a flight to Brunei, he added. A case has been filed with Airport Police Station in this connection.

Advertisement for 'The Daily Star Star Camps' featuring a woman and text: 'COMING OUT TOMORROW LINKING YOUNG MINDS. This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some interesting stories for the readers. The Spotlight is on the dilemma O and A Level students are having to face due to the recent political turmoil resulting in strikes every other day, delaying the exams. The Campus Trends this week is on a creative way of social networking through the means of photographs-Instagram. Sabhanaz Rashid Diya is back with her column-Extra Credit- where she speaks of journalists who aren't really fit for the job. The Star Chat is with theatre activist Sudip Chakraborty, where he shares stories from his childhood and talks about his inspirations and aspirations. Don't forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!' Includes a small image of a woman and the text 'EXAMS TO TAKE OR NOT?'.