

RAIN LIKELY



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:38pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.

Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 22.2 degrees at Chittagong.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.2	24.0	94	85	Khulna	32.0	27.3	86	92
Chittagong	29.8	22.2	92	86	Barisal	29.7	25.4	88	98
Rajshahi	30.2	26.0	83	81	Sylhet	28.7	25.0	97	91
Rangpur	32.5	25.8	81	92	Cox's Bazar	33.0	22.5	76	87

NEWSINbrief

French envoy to arrive on Monday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



French Ambassador at-Large for Human Rights Francois Zimeray will arrive in Dhaka on Monday on a two-day visit to discuss the human rights issues in Bangladesh.
During the visit, Zimeray will hold talks with different ministers, civil society representatives, media, labour leaders and other stakeholders.
He will also hold a press conference about the issue and outcome of his two-day visit at 4:30pm on May 28 at Alliance Française in the capital.

Dhaka City (North) Jubo League committee announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League yesterday announced its 130-member Dhaka City (North) unit committee with Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil and Ismail Hossain as president and general secretary respectively.
The other top office bearers include Zakir Hossain Babul, vice president; Tasvirul Haque Anu, joint secretary; and Jahangir Rahman, organising secretary.
Jubo League Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury and General Secretary Harunur Rashid approved the committee.

Prof Golam Samdani new GUB VC

CITY DESK



Prof Md Golam Samdani Fakir has been appointed as the vice-chancellor of Green University of Bangladesh (GUB).
President Abdul Hamid, chancellor of the university, recruited him for the next four years. Samdani joined on May 16, says a press release.
Prior to the appointment, he had been the acting pro-VC of Brac University since December 2012.
Earlier, he was a visiting professor of SIT Graduate Institute, Brattleboro, Vermont, USA from 2006 to 2009.

Four held for robbery in Sandwip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Police yesterday arrested four robbers for looting 18.6 tolas of gold jewellery from a shop at Sandwip upazila in Chittagong on Tuesday.
Mahfuzur Rahman Jultu, Md Ali, Md Mamun, and Nowshad fled from police after robbing the shop.
"Panna Jewellery", in Sandwip Bazar area, said police, adding that they were arrested at different places in the upazila. However, Sandwip police did not find any arm or jewellery in their possession.

Lions Clubs International elects new executives



Shamsuzzaman Quddus Halim
METRO DESK

Mohammed Shamsuzzaman PMJF has been elected district governor of Lions Clubs International, District 315A1 Bangladesh for the year 2013-2014.
He has been elected at the 18th annual district convention at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital recently, says a press release.
Miah Mohd Quddus FCA MJF has become the first vice-district governor while Dr MA Halim Patwary PMJF the second vice-district governor.

Seminar on Bangladesh in Brussels May 29

Dipu Moni to deliver keynote speech
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) will hold a seminar on "The Current Situation in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges" on May 29 in Brussels, Belgium.
Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will deliver a keynote speech at the seminar. She will also interact with the participants through a question-answer session there.
On May 27-29, she will be travelling to Brussels for lobbying top EU leadership to retain the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) facility to Bangladesh.
From Bangladesh's perspective, the seminar is important as it is going to take place after the recent Rana Plaza collapse that killed 1,127 garment workers, said officials.

As the EU is Bangladesh's one of the main trading and development partners, the foreign minister might face a lot of questions from the EU civil society members, human rights activists and others at the seminar, they said.
EIAS Vice Chairman Dick Gupwell will give welcome speech. South Asian Democratic Forum Executive Director Paulo Casaca will also speak there.
According to EIAS, Bangladesh has made some remarkable efforts in addressing poverty reduction, women empowerment and in addressing the challenges of climate change and disaster management.



Buddhist devotees offer prayers at Kamalapur Dharmarajik Buddha Bihar in the capital yesterday marking Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community.

PHOTO: STAR

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT Govt to float tender by June: Obaidul Quader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Padma

The government will float tender by the end of June this year to select bidders for constructing the Padma bridge, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.
As the government is firmly committed to constructing the bridge, works of several related projects are underway, he said.
Quader was talking to journalists after visiting the dilapidated Shahzadpur-Enayetpur and Shahzadpur-Koizuri roads in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj.
On June 29 last year, the World Bank cancelled its \$1.2 billion funding for the project, saying it had proof of a "corruption conspiracy" involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and some individuals.

On September 21 last year, the global lender decided to revive the loan after Bangladesh agreed to the bank's terms and conditions.
But the government in January this year withdrew its request to the WB for the bridge loan.
Dhaka communicated the decision to the global lender, a day after the WB president in Washington said the financing for the project would not go ahead unless certain conditions were met.

Navy gets US coast guard ship

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States yesterday handed over a coast guard cutter ship to the Bangladesh Navy at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California to enhance the capability of Bangladesh navy and coast guard in securing the country's maritime resources.
Cutter Jarvis, a 378-foot high endurance vessel, which had served the US since August 4, 1972, was renamed "BNS Somudro Joy". It will sail for Bangladesh later this year.
Jarvis was transferred as an Excess Defense Articles (EDA) with a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case with Bangladesh, says an American Center release.

BGMEA moves to save Hatirjheel building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has made a legal move to protect the BGMEA building, which was declared illegal by the High Court more than two years back.
BGMEA on Tuesday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking its permission for moving an appeal before it against the HC verdict that also ordered the government to demolish the building in the capital's Hatirjheel.
Contacted, BGMEA's lawyer, Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, said it has been stated in the leave-to-appeal petition that the HC verdict was incorrect as it declared the BGMEA building illegal although there was authorised approval for its construction.

The HC on April 3, 2011 had announced the verdict after holding hearing on a suo moto rule it had issued earlier over the legality of the building.
The full text of the HC judgement, released on March 19 this year, observed that the high-rise stood in the Hatirjheel project like a cancerous growth, and it would swamp the whole city unless it was removed forthwith.
It also ordered the government to demolish the building within 90 days and use the land in the public interest and directed BGMEA to refund money within 12 months to buyers who bought flats in the 15-storey building.

Savar rescuers call for victims' rehab

DU CORRESPONDENT

Savar rescuers yesterday urged the country's people to assist the victims in getting rehabilitated, finding employment and overcoming the trauma in the same spirit with which they rushed in for their rescue in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza collapse on April 24.
They were addressing a reception programme hosted by Friends for Humanity, a non-government organisation, at TSC Cafeteria of Dhaka University.
A total of 35 volunteer rescuers were awarded crests and certificates in recognition to their contributions in saving the lives of people trapped in the ruins of Rana Plaza.
The participants held a minute of silence in memories of those who died in the country's worst-ever industrial disaster and also for the two rescuers--Mohammad Ezazuddin Kaikobad and Omar Faroque Babu--who lost their lives after saving many lives in the rescue mission.
Rescuers pulled alive 2,438 people from the rubble and recovered 1,115 bodies. The total death toll stands at 1,127, with 12 people having died in hospitals.
A rescuer, Monwar Hossen Tusher, who studies in class IX, said, "I went to the spot at around 10:00pm on the day [April 24] and could not keep myself from joining the rescuers after hearing the screams and desperate call of the trapped people for help."
Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the Savar incident was a result of people's hunger for maximising profits.

Harijans want quotas at educational instts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad yesterday urged the government to preserve quotas at all government educational institutions for meritorious Harijan students.
They also demanded that a bill be passed in the current Jatiya Sangsad session to end all sorts of discrimination and ensure human rights of the people of poor and deprived communities.
They were speaking at a programme organised on the occasion of the parishad's tri-annual national council and general meeting at Dhakeswari Temple premises in the capital.
In association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad and Friends Association for Integrated Revolution (FAIR), a local NGO, jointly organised the event.

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das inaugurated the programme.
Addressing the event, Nirmal Chandra said the parishad was formed to secure status and human rights of Harijans 17 years back.
With support from the government, National Human Rights Commission has taken an initiative for drafting an anti-discrimination act to ensure rights of the marginalised people, said MJF Programme Manager Khandaker Rezwanaul Karim.
The parishad's leaders Babu Krishna Lal and Baiju Lal Sardar also spoke at the programme.

7 Days to go

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