

RAIN LIKELY



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

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.
Country's highest temperature 36.4 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.8 degrees at Srimangal.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	26.5	65	66
Chittagong	32.0	26.4	83	76
Rajshahi	36.0	26.5	60	68
Rangpur	36.2	27.6	73	88

	Humidity in percentage	
	Morning	Evening
Khulna	33.5	26.2
Barisal	32.0	26.0
Sylhet	36.4	27.0
Cox's Bazar	29.5	24.5

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NEWS IN brief

Training on human rights for Rab begins in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day training on humanitarian principles and human rights law began in Rapid Action Battalion headquarters in the capital yesterday.
International Committee of the Red Cross and Rab training department jointly organised the programme, says a press release.
Fifty Rab officers are taking part in the training, which is covering different issues, including the use of force and firearms, arrest and detention, the code of conduct for law enforcement officials, and the international humanitarian law.

Sylhet gets 2 new BGB battalions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two new battalions of Border Guard Bangladesh have started functioning in Sylhet region raising the number to six, said Col Khairuzzaman, a deputy director general of the paramilitary force, yesterday.
The battalions started working temporarily from the existing headquarters, he said.
He was addressing a views exchange meeting with journalists in the multipurpose training centre in Sylhet city's Akhalia area.
The battalions will be set up at Chunarughat, Habiganj and at Beanibazar, Sylhet, he added.

Youth beaten to death in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A youth was killed and two others were injured as their rival group beat them over establishing supremacy at Sonabo village in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday.
The deceased was Shajahan, 30, son of Abul Kalam of the village.
The injured were Selim, 25, son of Jainuddin and his elder brother Billal Hossain, 28, of Sonabo.
Selim was taken to Sreepur Upazila Heath Complex. Police said they were looking into the incident.

Sayedee's son on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Shamim Sayedee, son of war crime convict Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, on one-day remand in a case filed for exploding bombs in the capital's Motijheel on November 5 last year.
The court passed the order after the investigation officer of the case produced him before it with a five-day remand prayer.
Police rearrested Shamim after his release on bail from Dhaka Central Jail on May 15.

Koica trains BOU teachers, staff

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A training course on ICT and e-learning for around 40 teachers and staff of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) concluded on the campus in Gazipur yesterday.
The training was imparted under a project, implemented by Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), for establishment of an ICT and web-based learning system in the university.
BOU Vice Chancellor Prof MA Mannan and Koica Head Office Auditor Kim Jae Hwan were present at the ceremony.

Book fair
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh will organise a two-day book fair marking the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore being accorded the Nobel Prize; Venue: its premises; Time: 10:00am.
Procession
Directorate General of Health

Services will hold a procession marking "Safe Motherhood Day"; Venue: from before Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 7:30am.
Awarding ceremony
Bangladesh Shishu Academy will present awards of a children's "seasonal contest"; Venue: its premises; Time: 3:00pm.



Some of the two species of Indian turtles, Black-Headed Munias and a Hill Myna rescued by the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Dhaka of Bangladesh Forest Department from different markets in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

52 turtles, 12 birds rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Dhaka of the Bangladesh Forest Department yesterday seized 52 turtles of two different Indian species and 12 birds from different markets in the capital. Those were intended to be sold illegally.
A team of Wildlife Crime Control Unit seized 50 Indian Roofed Turtles and two Indian Eyed Turtles during a drive in Khilgaon market, said a press release.
Later, they seized 11 Black-Headed Munias and one Hill Myna from Fakirapool and Rampura markets.
The turtles and birds were taken to the national turtle rehabilitation centre in Gazipur.
None was arrested but a case was filed in this connection, said Dhaka Divisional Wildlife Officer Md Sahab Uddin.

Cabinet okays changes to CHT land commission act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle amendments to a draft law aiming to resolve the longstanding land disputes in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).
The proposed "Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Dispute Resolution Commission (Amendment) Act-2013" recommends that the number of the commission's members be increased to five from existing three.
The five-member commission will be headed by a retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, while the Chittagong divisional commissioner will act as its member secretary. A representative of CHT Regional Parishad's chairman and two indigenous people or circle chiefs will also be in the commission.
As per the amendments, the lands in the CHT region which remain under illegal occupation and are being used for rehabilitation of the settlers in light of the 1997 CHT Peace Accord will come under the commission's jurisdiction, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after the meeting.

The amendments also propose to give priority to the local indigenous people while recruiting manpower in the commission and suggest that any dispute will be resolved on the basis of the majority opinion now. Earlier, the chairman had the authority to take any decision.
Bhuiyan said the government thought that the resolution of land disputes in the CHT would be more effective with the passing of the amended act. He said the cabinet had directed the line ministries to prepare regulations for making the law effective within three months.
The cabinet also gave final approval to the Village Court (Amendment) Act-2013, for making the use of jute and jute products for packaging of goods legally mandatory. It also approved proposals for ratifying the agreements on establishment of a "Saarc Seed Bank" and on avoiding double taxation with India.
The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, rebated Tk 11,90,149 telephone bill of eight deceased parliament members from the 1st to 8th parliaments.

QUADER MOLLAH'S APPEAL HEARING Sentence based on hearsay evidence

Counsel tells SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence lawyer yesterday told the Supreme Court that the International Crimes Tribunal-2 relied on hearsay evidence in sentencing Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah on charge of killing Bangla college student Pallab in 1971.
Two prosecution witnesses -- Syed Shahidul Haque Mama and Syed Abdul Kaiyum -- made the hearsay statements, which were not admissible since those were not corroborated by other relevant evidences, said Barrister Abdur Razzaq. He was placing arguments on the third day of the SC Appellate Division's hearing on Mollah's appeal seeking acquittal in the case.
The ICT-2 on February 5 awarded life term imprisonment to Mollah for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War after finding him guilty in five charges. For each of three charges, among the five, the tribunal gave 15 years' imprisonment to Mollah.
One of the three was: On Quader Mollah's instruction, one of his aides named Akhter killed Pallab, a student of Bangla College and an organiser of the Liberation War, on April 5, 1971. The six-member bench fixed today for further hearing.

HC wants bank statements of owners of Rana Plaza, five RMG factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Bangladesh Bank to submit to it in two weeks the last three months' bank statements of the owners of Rana Plaza and the five garment factories housed in the building.
The court sought the bank statements of the owners of Rana Plaza and five garment factories to examine how much money they had transacted in the last three months, Assistant Attorney General KM Masud Rumi told The Daily Star.
The HC passed the order during hearing on a rule it issued on April 25 upon the authorities concerned to explain why they had failed to take appropriate steps to protect the people at the building even after being informed of its vulnerability in the morning of April 24.
The factories, housed in Rana Plaza owned by Sohel Rana, are Ether Tex, Phantom Apparels, Phantom Tac, New Wave Bottoms, and New Wave Style.
On April 30, the HC directed the government to confiscate their movable and immovable property.
The collapse of Rana Plaza at Savar on the outskirts of Dhaka killed 1,129 people and injured many others.

Wendy R Sherman, US under secretary of state for political affairs, left, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME WFP failing to reach extremely poor students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has asserted that despite the global nature of its school feeding programmes, it cannot reach the extremely needy and poverty-stricken children.
WFP is working with the Bangladesh government and other partners to feed 3 million children every day, said a press release yesterday.
Initially the Bangladesh government covered 55,000 students but now it covers approximately 1.7 million school children, the press release added.
According to a report by the organisation, around 368 million children -- about 1 out of every 5 -- get a meal at school every day in 169 developing and developed countries. Global investment in these programmes is about US\$75 billion, most of which comes from government budgets.
Providing for the first time a global picture and analysis of school feeding programmes in well-off countries as well as in developing nations, and data on how governments use school meals as a "safety net" in times of crisis, The State of School Feeding Worldwide report was launched by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on May 24, 2013.

Hannan Shah accuses govt of 'killing' Hefajat activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah yesterday accused the government of "killing" Hefajat-e-Islam activists on May 6 after alluring them to hold a rally at the capital's Shapla Chattar.
He alleged that around 1,60,000 bullets were fired on the Hefajat activists to flush them out from the area between Shapla Chattar and Dainik Bangla intersection.
"Hefajat men had no plan to hold a rally at Shapla Chattar but pro-government people lured them to do so," said Hannan, adding that law enforcers conducted the drive in the dark of night after the electricity supply had been disconnected.
The opposition leader was addressing a roundtable discussion titled "Democracy: Media and one Mahmudur Rahman", jointly organised by Free Thinkers Forum and Daily Amar Desh Family.

OBSTETRIC FISTULA Gender inequities cause prevalence Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Obstetric fistula, a medical condition resulting from delayed and obstructed labour, is not only a healthcare related problem but also a human rights tragedy reflecting society's prevailing gender inequities, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.
Lack of training of birth attendants and of access to family planning programmes are also among the main factors leading to this condition, they said.
Women can protect themselves by not having babies before 20 years of age, having regular checkups during pregnancies, and seeing doctors within 12 hours in case of delayed delivery, they added.
The discussion was organised by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel marking the first-ever "International Day to End Obstetric Fistula". The day is observed on May 23.
"Obstetric fistula is a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged, obstructed

labour due to lack of timely and adequate medical care," said UNFPA Bangladesh Representative Arthur Erken.
A 2003 estimate of EngenderHealth, the government and UNFPA says around 71,000 Bangladeshi women are suffering from the injury, which often leaves the patient ashamed and ostracized both in her family and society, he said.
Health Secretary MM Neazuddin, addressing as chief guest, said 77 percent of childbirths in Bangladesh take place at home attended by traditional birth attendants and relatives.
Obstetric fistula can be prevented by ensuring the care women need during pregnancy and childbirth. "There can be no safe future without safe motherhood," he said.
Prof Ferdousi Islam, head of Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and Prof Khandoker Mohammad Shefayetullah, director general of Directorate General of Health Services, also spoke at the event.

4 JnU BCL men hurt in factional clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Jagannath University (JnU) unit were injured as two rival factions clashed yesterday.
The injured Aponuzzaman, Tuhin, Toki and Mohosin took treatment at the JnU medical center and local clinics.
Eyewitnesses said Toki and Tuhin, loyal to BCL JnU unit General Secretary Sirajul Islam's group, attacked some followers of BCL JnU unit President Shariful Islam on the campus around noon.
In turn, activists loyal to the president's group, with local arms, chased them. Police and the university authorities brought the situation under control around 45 minutes later.
JnU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman said the proctor was directed to report on the incident.
Meanwhile, BCL central executive committee suspended four BCL JnU unit activists in this connection.