

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

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. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at

places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.5 degrees at Tangail. 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	33.0	26.2	76	69	Khulna	28.6	25.6	92	92
Chittagong	32.0	25.6	79	74	Barisal	29.0	25.0	85	87
Rajshahi	34.6	25.5	72	71	Sylhet	34.0	24.5	88	69
Rangpur	32.7	25.8	76	71	Cox's Bazar	31.6	24.5	66	72

NEWSINbrief

UNFPA signs MoU with BWCCI on reproductive health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Population Fund has signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday with Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a pilot project to increase women's knowledge on reproductive health and rights in Sunamganj, Sylhet and Moulvibazar. Under the MoU, UNFPA will provide \$450,000 (Tk 3.51 crore) to support the project of BWCCI, says a press release.

At the ceremony in BWCCI conference room in the capital, Arthur Erken, representative of UNFPA Bangladesh, and Sangita Ahmed, president of BWCCI, were present among others.

Man dies after falling from tree

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man died after falling from a mango tree in Banshkhali upazila of Chittagong yesterday. The deceased Moktar Ahmed, 45, was a night guard of Banshkhali Girls' High School. Quoting witnesses, Al Amin Sarwar, sub-inspector of Banshkhali Police Station, said Moktar climbed the tree to pick mangoes. Moktar slipped off the tree as it was wet and slippery due to rain.

CU monsoon vacation begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The month-long monsoon vacation at Chittagong University (CU) will begin Saturday. No class will be held till June 30, said a press release. The pre-scheduled examinations, however, will be held during the vacation.

Rashed Chowdhury new chairman of IUB Board of Trustees

CITY DESK

The Board of Trustees of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has announced Rashed Chowdhury as its chairman for a two-year term. Chowdhury is a founder trustee of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), the founding Trust of the IUB. He is also a member of the IUB syndicate. He obtained his post graduation degree in business management from Kingston University, England.

Dhaka Metropolitan (South) Jubo League gets new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League yesterday announced its 131-member Dhaka Metropolitan [South] unit committee with Ismail Chowdhury Samrat and Wahidul Alam Arif as president and general secretary. The other top office bearers are Mainuddin Rana, vice president; Rezaul Karim Reza and SM Zahid Siddiqui Tareque, joint secretary; Reazul Haque Khan Milky and Gazi Sarwar Hossain Babu, organising secretary; and Emdadul Haque Emda, office secretary. Jubo League Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury and General Secretary Harunur Rashid approved the committee.

Commuters wait miserably at Farmgate bus stand in the capital yesterday as police did not allow buses to stop there as a safety precaution ahead of today's hartal.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



DEMAND FOR ARREARS, PASSPORTS Bangladeshis end demo in KSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 2,000 Bangladeshi workers, who demonstrated demanding that their passports be released and arrears be paid in Jeddah of Saudi Arabia on Monday, joined their work after interventions of Bangladesh Consulate yesterday. Mokammel Hossain, labour counselor at the consulate in Jeddah, said they had talked to the workers and authorities of the company, Initial Saudi Group. "There were some labour problems. We intervened, and all of them joined work today morning," he said. Most of the workers have been working as cleaners in the Kingdom for six years. But their company has not renewed their residency permits (iqamas) in the last three to five years, nor allowed them to transfer their jobs to other companies, Shapan Sayed Ali, a protesting worker told the Arab News on Monday. Fearing that they would be repatriated without paying arrears, they wanted to get back their passports. Earlier on May 10, the government of Saudi Arabia announced amnesty, which allowed irregular foreign workers to legalise their status or return home without getting penalised. Bangladesh Consulate's Mokammel said the workers were trying to change jobs aimed at getting higher-salary jobs, taking advantage of the amnesty, which will end on July 3. "Actually, 1,200 of the workers have valid residency permits, and the company was renewing residency permits of the rest slowly. We asked the company to renew residency permits fast, and they agreed," he said.

Poet Quazi Rosy's deposition contradictory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The statement of poet Quazi Rosy regarding the involvement of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah in killing of Meherun Nesa, her mother and two brothers in 1971 is contradictory, Abdur Razzaq, a lawyer for Mollah, told the Supreme Court yesterday. He was placing arguments on the fourth day of the Appellate Division's hearing on Mollah's appeal seeking acquittal in the war crimes case. Earlier, Quazi Rosy made the statement as a prosecution witness before the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in the case against Quader Mollah. She told the ICT-2 that Abdul Quader Mollah and his accomplices had killed liberation poet Meherun Nesa, her family at their home in Mirpur during the war. Quazi Rosy, who was a close friend and a neighbour of Meherun Nesa, had said even though Meherun pleaded for life embracing the holy Quran, they slit throats of all of them. She stated that she had heard about the brutal killings from people on the evening of March 27, 1971, the day of the incident, and after the Liberation War she heard it from two non-Bangalee Biharies of Mirpur. Abdur Razzaq yesterday argued that Quazi Rosy made a hearsay statement before the tribunal which is not corroborated by the investigation officer of the case. Quazi Rosy stated before the tribunal that she told the investigation officer about the involvement of Quader Mollah in the killings but the investigation officer said that Rosy did not tell him, the counsel said. The ICT-2 on February 5 awarded life term imprisonment to Mollah. The apex court fixed today for further hearing on the case.

Municipalities lack decision making capacity: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adequate capacity building within the Savar municipality could have prevented the Rana Plaza tragedy, former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said at a conference yesterday. He said capacity building was inclusive of resource implementation for human resources development. Insufficient policies that cripple the local government institutions from making important urban planning decisions are another reason, he added. Zillur said even abundant resources could fail to be effective if the necessary policies were not in place allowing utilisation of funds to enhance the decision-making capability of the micro-governance bodies. Rana Plaza is an example of the Savar municipality's impaired decision-making capacity, where it only had the right to assess the layout plan but not the building's construction, said Shamim al Reza, secretary general of the Municipal Association of Bangladesh. As a result, the building had serious structural faults, he added. The nine-storey Rana Plaza crumbled on April 24, killing 1,129 people. The conference titled "National Budget and Local Government" alleged that financial constraints had contributed to poor human resources within the municipality, which led to the neglect of necessary monitoring activities. The experts said while the size of Annual Development Programme rose from Tk 55,000 crore to Tk 65,000 crore this fiscal year, the local government's claim on the money dropped to 2.01 percent from 2.44 percent in the previous year. Dr Rahman demanded that in cases where the implementation was executed by the local government bodies, the resources should be given to them as well instead of passing them through the bureaucracy. Dr Amirul Islam, professor at Jahangirnagar University, stated that the bureaucracy was the biggest bottleneck in the smooth flow of resources. The conference was organised by the Municipal Association of Bangladesh in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

The Daily Star

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