

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unth, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely

at places over the country, said Met Office. Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Rangamati, Chandpur, Maijdee Court, Feni, Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Khulna and it may continue. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am. Country's highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 24.6 degrees at Dinajpur. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius				Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius				Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:		Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.2	29.3		76	91	Khulna	36.8	28.4		76	97
Chittagong	34.5	26.6		78	73	Barisal	35.6	28.6		73	74
Rajshahi	36.0	26.4		86	100	Sylhet	35.5	25.3		88	70
Rangpur	32.0	25.6		80	83	Cox's Bazar	34.0	27.5		76	73



Much-needed rains bring respite yesterday after a scorching heat wave battered the capital for the last couple of days. The photo was taken in Shankar of Dhanmondi. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

2 cops suspended on bribery charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two police personnel were suspended and closed to Chittagong district police lines yesterday on the charge of taking bribe from two gold traders.

The suspended are Jainal Abedin, assistant sub-inspector; and Munshi Shah Alam, constable.

They were discharging duty at Jorarganj Police Outpost of Mirsarai Upazila in Chittagong, said Farid Uddin, additional superintendent of police, Chittagong district (north zone).

On Tuesday, Jorarganj Outpost Police detained two gold traders and a driver of a car, they were travelling in, with ten pieces of gold bars.

The detained are Bidhan Dhar, Bidasagar Dhar, and Pradip Dey, the driver.

After getting released from Jorarganj the police, the three men, instead of going to Dhaka, were returning to Chittagong. On their way, they were rearrested by Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The two trades admitted that they were detained by police in Jorarganj area on the way to Dhaka and was released on giving Tk 20 lakh to the police, said Tarek Ahmed, additional deputy commissioner of DB, CMP.

On complaint, Chittagong district police immediately suspended Jainal and Shah Alam and were investigating into the allegation against them, said Farid.

Meanwhile, a case was filed against the three with Akbar Shah Police Station in the city. They were produced before a Chittagong court yesterday and the court sent them to jail.

Police arrested the three with around 100 tolas of gold bars in City Gate area as they suspected the gold bars were imported illegally.

However, the arrestees claimed that they had legal documents of the gold.

Induction of city mayors-elect in 3-4 months

Says EC Shah Nawaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz yesterday said it would take around three or four months for the mayors-elect of four city corporations to take oath after completion of all the legal and administrative procedure.

"I hope, the newly elected mayors may take oath and charges in September or October as the tenure of existing administration of these city corporations are yet to be expired," he told reporters at his office in the Election Commission Secretariat.

According to law, the mayors are supposed to take oath within one month of issuing gazette of the election results.

Mayoral elections in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet cities were held on June 15. BNP-backed candidates won in all four cities.

COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Violence against women, children still critical issue

Observes ministerial meeting, adopts Dhaka Declaration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against women and children is a critical issue in most of the commonwealth countries, and it is affecting women's empowerment.

This was observed at the 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting that concluded with adoption of a 20-point "Dhaka Declaration" in the capital yesterday.

Delegations from 30 countries, including 17 women ministers, from all region of the commonwealth took part in the 3-day meeting.

The declaration called for the development of gender responsive policy and the collection of disaggregated data, including in financial institutions, for monitoring access to finance, and recognise the benefits of members of the commonwealth sharing good practices and developing support networks.

Taking into account that lack of access to finance is a major challenge for women entrepreneurs, it called for the commonwealth to explore innovative, inclusive and accessible financing mechanisms.

In the declaration, the commonwealth women ministers recommended that the context of the post-2015 framework should address gender inequality in social institutions, norms and practices.

The declaration also called for strengthening systems to increase representation of women in decision-making at all levels.

Under-representation of women leaders and decision-makers in politics, public service, corporate boards and in communities causing negative impact on democracy and development, the commonwealth ministers observed.

The ministers reaffirmed the importance of women's leadership for enterprise and emphasised women's holistic empowerment as a driver of economic growth, political stability, peace, social justice and inclusive sustainable development.

Revealing the declaration at a press conference at Sonargaon hotel, Bangladesh's State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki said women empowerment should get priority attention in the new global development agenda.

Motorbike registration suspended for a month in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government suspended registration of motorcycles for one month in the capital from yesterday, and it will conduct a month-long survey to figure out the number of illegal motorcycles in the city.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Director (Engineering) Saiful Haque said the date of launching the survey is yet to be finalised.

"We will form a committee and start the drive within the shortest possible time," he said.

The number of illegal and unregistered motorcycles has sharply increased in the capital and the riders ply their bikes haphazardly, and even on the footpaths causing sufferings to commuters, he added.

"We have taken the initiatives to check plying of illegal motorbikes, and to bring discipline in vehicular movement and to relief the commuters," Saiful said.

According to BRTA, a total of 2, 77,599 motorcycles are registered with the government.

On Tuesday, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said the government will take stern action against the owners of illegal motorcycles after the end of the survey.

Save Halda river

Urges Hossain Zillur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, yesterday urged the people to raise their voices to save the river Halda, the largest fish spawning ground in the country.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of a documentary film on the river titled "Halda: A Mysterious River" directed by Halda researcher Manzoorul Kibria. The documentary was screened at Chittagong Press Club.

The style of collecting spawn of indigenous fishes by local fishermen from the river is unique and it showcases the country's river-centric traditions and cultures, said Rahman.

Mentioning the four month ban on fishing in the Halda, Farah Kabir, ActionAid Bangladesh country director, said government should formulate policies to protect the environment of the river and livelihood of the fishermen.

Prof ANM Munir Ahmed of Chittagong University, among others, spoke at the programme.

Juta decides to return to academic activities

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) has decided to return to all academic activities today after over a month-long work abstention.

They, at a press conference yesterday, also declared JU Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain persona non grata on the campus for not suspending the studentship of a Bangladesh Chattr League, JU unit leader on charge of assaulting a teacher.

The teachers' association said no administration related activities, including senate, syndicate and academic council meetings, can be held under the incumbent VC.

JUTA president Prof Ajit Kumar Majumder said, "The VC has lost all rights to stay on the campus and we do not want him here." He further said that they will lay siege to the VC's office from today until he steps down.

On April 6, Razib Ahmed Rasel, general secretary of BCL, JU unit allegedly assaulted lecturer Nurul Haque.

Following the alleged assault, the teachers of the university carried out protest programmes on the campus demanding his suspension. However, Razib only received a warning of suspension for three months if he created further anarchy on the campus.

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