

RAIN LIKELY



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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.4 degrees at Srimangal.

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 | 33.8 | 26.0 | 69 | 76 | Khulna | 33.6 | 27.0 | 84 |
| Chittagong | 33.5 | 27.0 | 77 | 76 | Barisal | 32.0 | 27.3 | 84 |
| Rajshahi | 34.8 | 25.0 | 83 | 73 | Sylhet | 35.6 | 26.8 | 66 |
| Rangpur | 34.2 | 26.2 | 77 | 64 | Cox's Bazar | 34.5 | 27.0 | 73 |

NEWS IN brief

Court denies bail to New Wave MD in Rana Plaza collapse cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of Mahmudur Rahman Tapash, managing director of New Wave Buttons Ltd, in two cases filed over the collapse of Rana Plaza on April 24.

The court passed the order after Tapash's lawyers submitted bail petitions in the cases—one filed for the deaths of 1,132 people and another for violating building code. Tapash was arrested on April 27.

Schoolboy's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the floating body of a schoolboy from a ditch at Bhatara in the capital's Noyanagar yesterday morning.

Md Fahim, 11, was a class-II student and lived in East Noyanagar.

The deceased's cousin, Al-Amin, said Fahim went outside his residence to get drenched in the rain on Wednesday and did not return. Bhatara police said the body bore no injury mark and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Man found dead in Rajshahi hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man was found dead at a hotel in Seroil Bus Terminal area of Rajshahi city on Wednesday night.

The deceased Monirul Islam, 41, of Mirpur, was a supervisor of Rabbani Constructions, Dhaka.

Police recovered his body, with no injury marks, by breaking open the door of his room no. 122 at Hotel Heaven around 11:00pm, said Boalia police Sub-inspector Motiur Rahman. The reason behind the death could not be known immediately.

Govt pardons 387 convicted inmates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of upcoming Shab-e-Barat, the government has pardoned 387 convicted inmates; many of whom were serving life-term imprisonments for murders.

Some of them have already served at least 20 years and aged above 75 years, said a home ministry high official. The rest of them were convicted on charges of petty crimes, he added. "The list of pardoned inmates, including convicted women, was prepared considering their good manners, age and other things according to jail code," he said.

Ragib Ali new chairman of NSU Trust

CITY DESK

Ragib Ali was elected the chairman of the Board of Trustees of North South University (NSU) Trust at its 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday, said a press release.

He was also elected the chairman of the Board of Governors of the NSU Foundation at its 21st AGM on the same day.

Ragib, a founder life member of the NSU Trust, is also the chairman and the managing director of Sylhet Tea Co. Ltd; and founder vice chairman of Southeast Bank Limited.



Civic reception

Amra Noakhalibasi, Dhaka will accord a civic reception to the newly elected parliament Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury; Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Liberation War Museum will hold a discussion marking the sixth founding anniversary of Jalladkhana Baddhyobhumi Smritipith; Venue: the Smritipith premises, Avenue-1, Block-D, Mirpur Section-10; Time: 5:00pm.

Human chain

Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad will form a human chain demanding Tk 8,000 as the minimum monthly wage for an RMG worker; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Professor Anisuzzaman gets Sufia Kamal Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted academician and essayist Prof Anisuzzaman was awarded with this year's Sufia Kamal Award yesterday.

The esteemed award was given in a ceremony in the event of Sufia Kamal's 102nd birthday. The ceremony was held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Ayesha Khanam, chairperson of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, the women's rights organisation founded by poet Sufia Kamal, handed over the crest to Prof Dr Anisuzzaman.

The distinguished professor had also been awarded the Ekushey Padak in 1985.

Anisuzzaman said the misuse of religion and abuse of secularism is contrary to what Sufia Kamal had envisioned about the country.

Ayesha Khanam too spoke out against the intermingling of politics and religion.

"The society of Bangladesh is based on keeping the state apart from religion," she said.

Eminent folklorist Prof Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury presented a memorial speech in remembrance of the poet.

Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, also spoke at the event.

Govt to set up digitalised vehicle inspection centre Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will set up a new vehicle inspection centre with modern equipment in the capital's Mirpur to inspect fitness of vehicles in a digitalised way, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"Construction works of the modern inspection centre will start by the second week of July," he told reporters while supervising a mobile court's drive against unfit vehicles in the capital's Manik Miah Avenue.

Claiming that some corrupt officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) provide fitness certificate through underhand dealings with vehicle owners, the minister said such ill practices will come to an end when the digital inspection centre starts functioning.

According to the existing manual system, a BRTA inspector inspects fitness status of a vehicle. If the new system is introduced, fitness of vehicles will be checked in a computerised system.

"I have come here to observe the real situation of operating unfit vehicles. We have a meeting on June 25 where transport owners, workers and law enforcement agencies will attend. We will discuss the issue in the meeting," he said.

Schoolboy goes missing in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An eight-year-old boy went missing on Wednesday after he went to play in Chittagong city.

The missing boy is Mohammed Johny, a class-II student of National Primary School.

Johny's father, Md Sahabuddin, said he went to play with his friends near Askar Dighi, an water body covered with hyacinths, on Wednesday afternoon and did not return.

Manik, one of the playmates, said Johny alone was playing there when he started heading for home.

Johny's family fears that he might have drowned in Askar Dighi as his clothes were found on its banks.

A team from Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defence had searched for Johny in the water body till 5:00pm yesterday.

Officials of the fire station said they cannot continue the search as nothing can be seen under the water due to the hyacinths. The search would be resumed after the hyacinths are removed, they added.

RAJSHAHI CITY CORPORATION Bulbul assures Liton of continuing dev projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) mayor-elect Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul during a surprise meeting with the immediate past mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton yesterday assured of continuing the city's ongoing development projects.

The one-hour meeting took place in a businessman's office at Alupoty around 7:30pm. Bulbul, passing by an adjoining road, entered the office on hearing that Liton was there.

"We will not follow the contemporary political culture. For Rajshahi's development, we will stay together and take forward each other's good activities," Bulbul said.

Bulbul informed Bulbul about the ongoing projects and requested him not to stop those. "Development is a continuous process. I will continue the projects for people's interest," answered Bulbul. The duo also talked about RCC's under-construction multistoried commercial buildings, undertaking and getting projects approved by the government and implementing those, and curbing drug abuse.

DEFEAT IN BCC MAYORAL POLLS AL leaders refute Hiron's claims against Hasanat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Refuting Shawkat Hossain Hiron's allegations over his defeat in the June 15 Barisal City Corporation polls, Barisal district and its 10 upazila unit Awami League leaders yesterday said the defeat caused the mayoral candidate to become "mentally unstable".

Hiron, at a press conference on Tuesday night, accused Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Barisal district unit Awami League (AL) president, of "destroying his political career and sacrificing him" for the latter's "own interests".

Hasanat had campaigned against him through his family members and AL and Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders, leading to the defeat, added the Barisal city unit AL president.

Addressing a press conference in Barisal Press Club, the AL leaders said Hiron's statements went against the party discipline and would benefit only the opposition.

Hasanat, amid the death of his brother-in-law and alongside the district and central AL and 14-party alliance leaders, had campaigned "heart and soul" for Hiron, they added.

Use of religious sentiments in the opposition's propaganda and different national issues caused defeats of AL-backed mayor candidates in all four city corporation elections, they explained. The defeats were for AL as well but Hiron was taking it personally, resulting in the creation of factions within the party, they said. Gaurnadi upazila unit AL Secretary Harisur Rahman Haris read out a written statement.

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RUPCHANDA-STAR LIFESTYLE COOK-OFF Tanzeela Amin Aureen best amateur chef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanzeela Amin clinched the best amateur chef title in Rupchanda-Star Lifestyle Amateur Chef Cook-Off in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The academic administrator prepared the winning entry of rice and meatballs with tomato gravy beating four other finalists -- Raisa Tarannum Hashib (Dessert), Reema Islam (Main Course), Rokeya Begum (Regional Specialties) and Farhana Faruk Naz (Creative Cooking).

Farhana finished second and Rokeya took third place.

The final's judges are internationally recognised and awarded cooking specialists -- Kalpana Rahman, author of cookbook "Kalpana Rahman er Shera Recipe" and a cooking show host, and senior chef of Westin Dhaka Monir Hossain.

The five finalists were given Tk 1,000 to shop for ingredients and cook on the theme "Eid Specials".

Each of the cook-off's 25 contestants will have their recipes published in The Daily Star's Eid Recipe Booklet, to be available with The Daily Star Eid Fashion Magazine.

The top three finishers will be awarded prizes at a ceremony early next month.

Shajahan Khan slams civil society on GB restructure

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday criticised the civil society regarding restructuring of Grameen Bank.

"I do not understand what our civil society says and I do not know their language," the minister said while distributing donation cheques for mosques, temples and poverty-stricken people at the deputy commissioner's office in Madaripur.

The minister also said that the same civil society invented the minus-two theory during the caretaker government regime.

"If people make such comments contest in elections, I do not know how many votes they will get," he said, adding that a country is run by an elected government and not the civil society.

Youth killed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some unidentified miscreants killed a young man by slitting his throat at Shobaji Goli of Uttar Badda in the capital yesterday.

The victim was Mohammad Alauddin, 25, a tea stall vendor.

Badra Police Station Officer-in-Charge Iqbal Hossain said the body of Alauddin was found at his residence around 9:15pm.

Police could not ascertain the reason behind the killing.

Quoting a neighbour, police, however, said the neighbour heard the sounds of scuffles from Alauddin's room around 8:30pm.

BANGLADESH BANK ADARSHA HIGH SCHOOL Relocation demanded as building subsides