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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

2nd Edition

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:13am.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.5 degrees at Cox's Bazar.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday Ra

1	emperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		I	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentag	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evenin
)haka	34.6	28.0	73	62	Khulna	35.0	23.0	74	78
hittagong	34.3	27.0	75	73	Barisal	33.5	27.8	75	70
Rajshahi	36.2	27.3	77	62	Sylhet	35.0	26.5	84	62
Rangpur	34.7	28.0	70	67	Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.5	71	80

Cases Against Fakhrul Hearing on charge framing deferred till August 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until August 14 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 25 others in connection with two cases filed against them under the speedy trial act.

The cases were filed with Paltan and Shahjahanpur Police Stations for creating anarchy and preventing police from discharging their duties on March 2.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan of the speedy trial court-6 passed the order after lawyers of Moudud Ahmed, Mirza Abbas and Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annee submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing. In a case filed with

Paltan Police Station, Fakhrul, Moudud and 24 others were accused, while in another case filed with Shahjahanpur Police Station, 23 others including Fakhrul and Moudud were accused.

Fakhrul, Amanullah Aman, Mirza Abbas and Moazzem Hossain Alal were present in the court during the hearing.

Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel, Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and 15 others have been absconding since the cases were filed against them.

On March 2, police filed 15 cases against several opposition leaders in connection with vandalism of vehicles, attacks on police and cocktail explosions during an agitation programme.

Five of these cases were filed against Fakhrul, and he was later included in the three other cases when the charge sheet was prepared.

On April 7, he was arrested after he appeared before a Dhaka court in connection with the eight cases filed for violence.

On May 6, Fakhrul was released on bail.



Hindu devotees bring out Sri Sri Jagannath Deb's Snan Jatra (procession) from Sri Sri Jagannath Jiu Thakur Mandir (temple) in Old Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Thursday's Truck Hijack

# 7 hijackers held

Bodies of driver, helper recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives in the capital on Saturday arrested seven hijackers, who killed a truck driver and his assistant after hijacking their iron rod-laden vehicle from Dhaka-Aricaha highway at Gabtoli early Thursday. The arrestees are Md Tazul Islam, Md Mannan Mollah, Md

Babul, Razib Khan, Ismail Bapary, Md Jahangir, and Moin Uddin. Yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint

Commissioner Monirul Islam told journalists at DMP Media Centre that several teams of Detective Branch of Police conducted drives at Shah Ali Mazar in Mirpur, Paschim Agargoan of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, and Balurmath in Savar.

Based on the arrestees' information, the DB recovered the decomposed bodies of the duo -- driver Abdul Majid and his assistant Saidul -- from Turag River at Balurghat, he said. They also seized the hijacked truck with the goods and

three other trucks used in the hijacking from Paschim Agargoan area, he added. Yesterday, the DB placed the arrestees before a Dhaka

court seeking a 10-day remand. The court granted a five-day remand for each. Quoting the arrestees, DB (West) Assistant Deputy Commissioner Mashiur Rahman, who led the drives, said a

gang of 20 hijackers intercepted the Kushtia-bound truck from Chittagong, which was carrying about 20 tonnes of iron rods, in Gabtali area around 1:30am on Thursday.

Later, the hijackers tied the hands and legs of the driver and his assistant with their lungis. After killing them, they dumped the bodies into the river, he said.

"They (thee hijackers) even gave offerings at Shah Ali Mazar at Mirpur seeking escape from their arrest," he added.

# Rain-fed agriculture becomes less viable livelihood option

Study says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite various government safety net programmes, households of the country's low income group are increasingly becoming vulnerable to food insecurity as rain-fed agriculture has become a less viable livelihood option, revealed a study.

Financially insolvent farmers whose livelihoods are highly sensitive to rainfall patterns are finding rainfall "too erratic" while irrigation too costly, it said. The findings of the study, "Rainfall, Food

Security and Human Mobility: Case Study Bangladesh", conducted by Centre for Global Change (CGC) and CARE Bangladesh, was revealed at Hotel Lakeshore in the capital yesterday. "Noticeable changes in rainfall patterns

include more extreme events, less floods, more droughts and dry spells during rainy seasons," said CGC Executive Director Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed.

mate change was affecting rural people, especially of the low income group, he said.

As a consequence of the food insecurity resulting from changing rainfall patterns, males of low and lower-middle income group were migrating to faraway districts to earn a living as farmhands, he said.

"Consequently women in the migrants' households pay a heavy toll, as they have to work harder to sustain their family's food security and undertake extra workload to pay off debts of their husbands," he added.

In the absence of the male, women and adolescent girl children often face sexual harassment, forcing the parents to get the child married off soon after puberty, affecting her reproductive health, he said.

One of the study's researchers Dr Selim Reza Hassan, country manager of Solidaridad Network Asia, said, "Kurigram has 16 rivers and the primary livelihood of the area used to be fishing. But now there are only a few fishermen -- an example of chal-The research was based on Kurigram lenges faced due to changing patterns of district, serving as an example of how cli-



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## Moudud wants gazette notifications in a week STAFF CORRESPONDENT

4 CITY CORPORATION POLLS RESULTS

BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed yesterday demanded in parliament issuance of gazette notifications on the results of the recently-held elections to four city corporations within a week and handover of charges to the elected mayors by administering their oaths. Taking floor on a point of order, he alleged that the gov-

through making delay in publishing gazette notifications on the results of the elections held on June 15. Refuting Moudud's allegations, Awami League MP Suranjit Sengupta said it was the full jurisdiction of the Election Commission when and how to publish gazette notifications on the election results. "When the Election Commission sends the gazette notifications, the respective ministry will arrange the oath-taking ceremonies of the

mayors," he added. In his speech, Moudud said they came to know that the charges would be handed over to the elected mayors in October when the tenure of the outgoing mayors was to expire. "If it is so, then who will run the four city corpora-

tions during that time?" Expressing his party's deep concern, Moudud said they learned that the government was planning to give deputy minister's status to the mayors instead of the existing state minister's status. "It would be injustice to people's mandate if the mayors are not given their due status."

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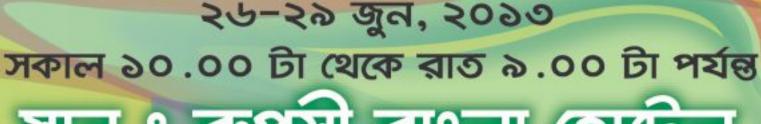
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