

RAIN LIKELY

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

likely at places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions, said Met Office. 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 5:15am.**

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Bogra and lowest 24.2 degrees at Hatiya. 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	29.2	26.3	93	80	Khulna	29.2	25.5	100	97
Chittagong	28.0	25.5	97	95	Barisal	28.8	26.0	94	95
Rajshahi	31.3	26.5	92	86	Sylhet	32.8	26.2	77	80
Rangpur	32.2	26.2	95	97	Cox's Bazar	29.2	24.8	97	87

NEWS IN brief

Division of Ctg into 2 dists sought

Speakers on Saturday urged the government to divide Chittagong into two districts for ensuring better administration. They also urged all to work for the development of Chittagong during the Annual General Meeting-2013 of Chattagram Samity held in the auditorium of the samity. The samity President Rejaul Haque Chowdhury Mustaq presided over the meeting while General Secretary Md Mohiul Islam Mohim presented the annual report. Md Abdul Mobarak, chairman of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka Trustee Board, was also present.

BOU approves Tk 225cr budget

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has approved a Tk 225.21 crore budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014. Of the total amount, Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) will provide Tk 27.4 crore as government grant, says a press release. Prof Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, treasurer (in-charge) of BOU, placed the budget at a meeting at the vice chancellor's office in the capital with VC Prof MA Mannan in the chair.

Health tech course to be 4-year long

A workshop on extending the three-year Health Technology and Services Course under Bangladesh Technical Education Board into a four-year course was held in the capital's Agargaon on Saturday. A new curriculum was proposed in the workshop which consists of laboratory, physiotherapy, pharmacy, patient care (nursing), radiology and imaging, dental, and integrated medicine courses.

LondonMet enrolling Bangladeshis

London Metropolitan University (LondonMet) is enrolling Bangladeshi students and has already offered partial scholarships to 20 Bangladeshi students who will be joining the university in September, said Mark Bickerton, visiting director of the international office of LondonMet, yesterday. He was addressing a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, says a press release. LondonMet Bangladesh Alumni Association General Secretary Tanzim Anwar and Joint General Secretary Ishrat Jahan and LondonMet local representative KM Mazharul Islam were present.

Prof Meshquat new NSU pro-VC

Prof ANM Meshquat Uddin has joined the North South University as the pro-vice chancellor. Prior to joining the NSU, Meshquat served the Southeast University as the pro-vice chancellor and acting vice chancellor, says a press release. He obtained his MBA degree from Indiana University, USA under a Fulbright scholarship and Ph.D from Cleveland State University, Ohio, USA.

Samad made APASWE board member

Dr Muhammad Samad, vice chancellor of University of Information Technology and Sciences, has been elected a board member of Asian-Pacific Association of Social Work Education. He is also a professor of the Institute of Social Work and Research, Dhaka University, says a press release. President, secretary, treasurer and other members of the eight-member board have been elected from among the educationists of New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Jasim president, Saddam GS of Duja

MM Jasim of the daily New Nation and Saddam Hossain of the Bangla daily Shokalerkhabor have been elected the president and general secretary of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) respectively for one year. The election was held at Duja office in TSC on the university campus on Saturday night. Other office bearers are: Vice-President Nazmus Sadat, of the Dainik Dinkal; Joint Secretary Galib Ashraf, of the Daily Independent; and Treasurer Maloy Dutta, of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.



A group of boys playing football blocking part of a road at Hatirjheel yesterday as the capital faces a severe shortage of open spaces and playing fields.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Papiya makes derogatory comments on Jahanara Imam

BNP lawmaker Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papiya made derogatory remarks in parliament yesterday on Shaheed Jananai Jahanara Imam who spearheaded the movement to bring the 1971 war criminals to justice. "She [Jahanara Imam] was loyal to Pakistan, and under her leadership Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee was formed," Papiya said, speaking on the passage of the budget. Ruling alliance MPs showed furious protests against her remarks on late Jahanara Imam, mother of Shafi Imam Rumi, a guerrilla war hero of the country's Liberation War. At one stage, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury switched off Papiya's microphone and requested her to speak in line with parliament's rules of procedure. "Please, speak on the relevant issue of budget," she said before turning on her microphone. During Jahanara Imam's anti-war criminal campaign, former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam was sentenced to death in a mock trial for his role in 1971.

DIGITISATION OF REGISTERED BIRTHS Not even half of target achieved by deadline

AKRAM HOSEN

Although the Local Government Division planned to digitise all manually registered births by June 30 this year, the process fell short of meeting even half of its target. The division under the LGRD and cooperatives ministry directed all the local government bodies to upload the information of 15 crore and 57 lakh registered births to the dedicated server, but only about 6 crore and 90 lakh have been digitised so far. "It could not be completed because of slow and unreliable internet, frequent power cuts in the rural areas, and above all, procrastination of the data entrants," said AKM Saiful Islam Chowdhury, project director of Birth and Death Registration Project and joint secretary to the LGD. That is the situation while the country observes National Birth Registration Day on Wednesday. Since birth registration is required to receive 16 essential services, including passport, driving licence, voter registration, land registration, marriage registration, the number of people queuing at the birth registers' offices has increased in recent years. However, data entrants across the country often found that they could not access the server of the online Birth Registration Information System (BRIS), while people swarmed the registration offices for certificates. The Bangladesh missions abroad also

complained of difficulties they faced when issuing machine-readable passports (MRPs) due to inconsistent server connectivity. Wishing anonymity, an official at the Bangladesh Embassy in Doha, Qatar, said, "The BRIS server has been extremely slow for a few months in a row this year, making it very difficult for daily enrolment." Bangladeshis living in the UAE sometimes travelled a long way from their workplace to get MRPs, but had to return empty handed, said sources in the birth registration project. Touhidul, an entrepreneur of Union Information Service Centre at Patia, Chittagong, said, "Although it is supposed to take no more than a few minutes, people have to wait for hours to get a BRIS-generated birth certificate in times when the server is down." The digitised information relating to birth registration can be easily accessed through the BRIS server and ensures different civil rights of people, said Saiful Islam. As a legal document, it can also ensure basic child rights and prevent child marriages, he added. The official said there were over 5,000 birth registration centres in the country, and most centres had more than one data entrant. The project would have neared its target, had each centre digitised 60 registered births every day for the last one year, he added. The digitisation of the birth registration began in 2009.

Woman found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a housewife was found hanging from the ceiling of her residence in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday. The deceased was Shahnaz Begum, 30, wife of Abdur Rab, owner of a restaurant. Police said one of the restaurant workers discovered the body of Shahnaz. Shahnaz was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. She was brought back to the residence but police again sent the body to DMCH for an autopsy. The victim's cousin, Sumon, believes her husband had a hand in Shahnaz's death. He claimed Abdur Rab used to torture her for dowry and they had filed a general diary in 2011 in this connection.

Bishwajit murder case sent to speedy tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A speedy trial tribunal will now deal with the case filed over the killing of Bishwajit Das in old part of the capital last year. Some BCL activists allegedly stabbed Bishwajit, 24, proprietor of Amantron Tailors in Shankharibazar area of Sutrapur, to death during a road blockade programme enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance on December 9 last year. The case was sent to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka from the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka yesterday as per a home ministry decision.

CASE AGAINST TARIQUE One more witness gives deposition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One more prosecution witness yesterday gave his deposition before a Dhaka court in a money laundering case filed against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his close friend Giasuddin Al Mamun. The witness, Omar Faruque Bhuiyan, former deputy general manager of Sonali Bank Ltd, is now a general manager of the bank in Mymensingh district. He told the court that on November 3, 2009 he supplied some documents of Mamun's bank account to the ACC official. The court recorded his statement and fixed July 14 for cross-examination by the defence lawyer. Earlier, nine prosecution witnesses, including the complainant and an FBI official, had given their statements before the court. Meantime, the same court rejected a bail petition of Mamun. Earlier on May 25, the court cleared the way for the Anti-Corruption Commission to seek the Interpol's help in arresting Tarique. The ACC had filed the case against Tarique and his business partner Mamun in October 2009, in connection with siphoning out of Tk20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

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Seminar
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment will organise a seminar on safe migration; Venue: Ballroom, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion
Nouka Samarthak Goshthi will hold a discussion protesting opposition leader Khaleda Zia's address in parliament; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 11:00am.

Daily Star Books

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