

**RAIN LIKELY**

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at the places, 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 5:20am.**

Country's highest temperature 33.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chudanga and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rangamat. 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	27.4	80	78	Khulna	31.5	25.5	88	90
Chittagong	31.2	26.0	73	92	Barisal	31.9	26.2	90	81
Rajshahi	33.0	26.7	82	92	Sylhet	31.8	24.9	73	77
Rangpur	31.8	26.8	83	74	Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.5	83	92



**SALE OF IFTAR ITEMS**  
*Chawkbazar legacy dates back centuries*

HELEMUL ALAM

Abdul Hye and his wife Sumaiya have heard many stories about the traditional, unique iftar delicacies of Chawkbazar but never tasted those before.

On his first visit to the Old Dhaka market yesterday, Abdul Hye said, "We have already bought salsa chicken and faluda and hope to buy some more."

The couple came from the capital's Banani. Another buyer, Abir Ahmed, a resident of Uttara, said, "For the past three decades, it has been one of our family traditions to sit for iftar with Chawkbazar dishes at least thrice in Ramadan. Otherwise, something would remain unsatisfied."

This is not only true for a few but for thousands of people of Dhaka city and elsewhere who want to savour Chawkbazar's culinary delights every Ramadan.

Neither this market and nor its tradition of selling iftar dishes is a recent phenomenon. Historically, Chawkbazar was founded 400 years ago. Locals believe that the practice of selling a variety of foodstuffs during Ramadan is as old as the market itself.

The iftar shops at Chawkbazar were set up near the three-storey "Shahi Mosque", which used to sell on a small scale in the early days, said Mohammad Sharif, whose family has been involved in this business for the last 78 years. He said a few shops would offer unique items like "baro baper polay khay" in the beginning.

Mohammad Shahabuddin Alim, who has been selling shahi jilapi for the last 42 years at Chawkbazar, said they sold items which were available during the Mughal period, including kebab, faluda, matha and doibora.

"Chawkbazar was one of the most famous business and social meeting centres of Dhaka in the Mughal period. Even after 400 years, it is still famous as before. It is one of Dhaka's old town markets and it formed in the place where other old markets once were," says the Wikipedia. It locates the beginning of the market around 1602.

There are over 100 shops at the market selling iftar dishes to thousands of customers every day. Almost every year, more and more food items are adding to the menu.

The items include Chawkbazar's signature iftar dish "boro baper polay khay", which is a mixture of chickpeas, finely chopped beef, potatoes, brains, flattened rice, egg, chicken, hot spices, and ghee. Other well-known dishes include roast chicken, roast mutton, kima roll, kima paratha, borhani, and a wide variety of kebabs.

This year, prices are about 10-15 percent higher compared to the previous year, which sellers said, might be the cause of a dip in sale on the first day of Ramadan on Thursday. They said their sales dropped by around 10 percent compared to the same day last year.



The first namaz-e-janaza of eminent jurist and constitution expert Dr Muhammad Zahir being held at Supreme Court premises in the capital around 3:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Dr M Zahir laid to rest**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid love and grief, people from all walks of life yesterday bade farewell to eminent jurist and constitution expert Dr Muhammad Zahir.

The prominent legal expert was laid to rest at the capital's Banani graveyard around 6:20pm.

Earlier, his body lay in state on the Supreme Court premises for around two hours from 1:00pm during which SC judges, former judges, lawyers, law officers, political leaders, educationists and Zahir's family members paid their last respects. His first namaz-e-janaza was held there at 3:00pm.

Former chief justices Tafazzul Islam, Mohammad Fazlul Karim and ABM Khairul Haque; eminent jurists Dr Kamal Hossain, Mahmudul Islam, M Amir-Ul Islam, and Rakanuddin Mahmud; Awami League leaders Tofail Ahmed, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, and Abdul Matin Khasru; BNP leaders Moudud Ahmed, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, AJ Mohammad Ali, and Mahbub Uddin Khokon; and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, among others, joined the janaza.

Zahir died of cancer at the age of 74 in a Thailand hospital on Thursday. His body was flown to Dhaka around 12:00pm. From there, the coffin was taken to the SC.

The kulhwani will be held at his residence in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today. Before his burial, his second janaza was held in Dhanmondi around 5:30pm.

Meanwhile, different political leaders and organisations expressed condolences over his death. In a message, Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury offered sympathy to his family. Dr Zahir will remain immemorial for his role in democratic movements and establishing constitutional rule, said Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

Zahir was a man of principle, always focusing on establishing independence of the judiciary and the rule of law, Dr Kamal Hossain told journalists on the SC premises.

Justice ABM Khairul Haque said Zahir was a teacher at Dhaka University in the 1960s. "When I was a student at Dhaka University in 1966, he taught us Islamic Jurisprudence. I have no idea whether anybody could have as vast knowledge on company laws as him."

Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed and BNP leader Moudud Ahmed said Dr Zahir used to express his opinions without hesitation during the moments of constitutional crisis.

**Workers' interest ignored in amendments to labour law**

Experts tell roundtable

UNB, Dhaka

The amendments to the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006, approved by the cabinet, conflicts with the International Labour Organization (ILO) standards and is unlikely to bring any benefit to the workers, observed legal experts and rights activists yesterday.

Addressing a roundtable, they demanded a review of the proposed amendments to the law and incorporate the provisions of the ILO conventions before placing it in parliament.

World Federation of Trade Unions, Bangladesh Committee organised the roundtable at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

WFTU (Bangladesh Committee) Convener Wazedul Islam Khan said

although the provision for allowing workers to form trade unions was included in the proposed amendment, the requirement for the participation of at least 30 percent of the workers in the trade union made it virtually impossible to implement it in larger factories.

"We propose that the provision of trade union must be based on slabs - 30 percent participation restriction can be maintained for factories with less than 5,000 workers. But for factories employing larger number of workers, the participation restriction must be reduced to 15-20 percent," he said.

Wazedul noted that, the government had not included any change in the provision on the compensation of deaths and injuries.

The amendment bill excluded the house rent from the definition of wages, he added.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, MP said, "It appears that the government is amending the law for foreign pressure, not in the interest of the workers. To me, the law (proposed amendment) doesn't reflect the interest of the workers," he said.

Moderated by Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, the roundtable was also addressed by former Justice Syed Amirul Islam, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust Executive Director Barrister Sarah Hossain and Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies Assistant Executive Director Sultan Uddin Ahmed.

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