

RAIN LIKELY

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.7 degrees at Cox's Bazar. 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	32.4	26.4	79	79	Khulna	34.0	27.2	79	83
Chittagong	31.4	26.2	86	86	Barisal	32.2	26.5	79	74
Rajshahi	36.3	26.6	81	72	Sylhet	33.5	26.5	83	94
Rangpur	32.0	27.5	75	78	Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.7	76	80

NEWS IN brief

Today's NU exams postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
All the examinations under National University (NU), scheduled to be held today, have been postponed due to unavoidable reasons, said a press release yesterday. The new schedule for the examinations will be disclosed later on NU website www.nuadmission.info while detailed information will be available on www.nubd.info, it added.

PM seeks Brunei's investment

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought Brunei's investment in various potential sectors like oil, gas, textiles, leather, fisheries, power generation, jute manufacturing and agro-based industries. She made the request when outgoing Ambassador of Brunei to Bangladesh Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Mohd Hussaini called on her at her office. Hasina mentioned that both Bangladesh and Brunei share a common perception and outlook in many regional and international issues.

SJBM demands ban on Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Following the International Crimes Tribunal's observation in the verdict against Ghulam Azam that Jamaat-e-Islami is a criminal organisation, Sampradayikota-Jangibad Birodhi Mancha (SJBM), a citizens' platform against militancy and communalism, yesterday demanded an immediate ban on the party and its all associate bodies. The platform in a statement urged all political, social and cultural organisations imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War to be vocal about the demand.

Youth stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A youth was stabbed to death allegedly by a gang of local criminals before his house at Monipur in the capital's Mirpur yesterday morning. The deceased was Kazi Zahirul Islam Babu, said police. Babu's brother Tajul Islam filed a case with Mirpur police accusing four named persons, including the gang leader Emdadul Haque alias Gondar, and around three unnamed ones. Tajul said Babu had gone out of home after receiving a phone call and was attacked right then. Babu was declared dead at Samorita Hospital.

28 rivers register water level rise, 39 register fall

BSS, Dhaka
Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) marked rise in water levels at 28 river stations while 39 other river stations recorded fall. Among the 73 monitored water level stations, five stations were registered steady, a bulletin issued by FFWC said yesterday. Rivers at all monitoring stations are flowing below danger level, the bulletin added. A total of 71mm rainfall was recorded at Barguna, 65mm at Sunamganj, 45mm at Loregarh, and 40mm at Khulna.

The youths of the Gonojagoron Mancha celebrate at the capital's Shahbagh intersection after a war crimes tribunal sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed to death yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Gonojagoron Mancha hails Mojaheed verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
It was the verdict the Gonojagoron Mancha youths had been waiting for with bated breath since morning. And a loud shout of "Joy Bangla" rippled through the crowd as soon as the news broke that Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed was sentenced to death for his wartime offences in 1971. The youths, however, did not bring out any celebratory procession yesterday as they did following the earlier war crimes verdicts. Their joy was somewhat overshadowed by their discontent over the verdict against ex-Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam, mastermind of the atrocities during the Liberation War, who was given a 90-year jail term. "The country has waited for this verdict for 42 years since its independence. We accept the verdict against Mojaheed but cannot enthuse. We are still reeling from the shock that the lighthouse of war crimes (Ghulam Azam) was not given the capital punishment," said Imran H Sarker, spokes-

person of the Gonojagoron Mancha, a platform of youths, which demands the death penalty for all war criminals. Having gathered in the morning at the capital's Shahbagh intersection, now popularly known as Projonmo Chattar, the protesters chanted slogans demanding the highest punishment for Mojaheed. Around 200 youths carrying national flags and placards brought out a procession around 11:00pm from Shahbagh to Kataban and Ruposhi Bangla Hotel intersection to protest the countrywide shutdown enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami. Following the verdict, the Gonojagoron Mancha in Chittagong, however, brought out a celebratory procession from the press club and paraded different streets of the port city. A war crimes tribunal gave the death penalty to Mojaheed, who led the infamous Al-Badr force in killing intellectuals of the land at the fag end of the Liberation War. Five out of seven charges against him have been proved beyond doubt.

TUESDAY'S HARTAL VIOLENCE 8 Jamaat-Shibir activists held, 40 sued in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
Police and Rapid Action Battalion arrested eight Jamaat-Shibir activists in Gazipur city on Tuesday and early yesterday in a case filed over the violence during Jamaat-enforced hartal on Tuesday. During the daylong shutdown, a nine-year-old girl Nadia Sultana, who was standing beside the road, was killed as a bus ran her over when pickets chased the vehicle at Gazipur Chawrasta, said witnesses. The bus driver was also injured when the vehicle was set alight. The arrested Shohel Rana, Asaduzzaman, and Mahmudul Hasan are Shibir men; and Abul Hasem Khan, Nasrullah, Jamal Uddin, his wife Nazmunahar, and Kamruzzaman are Jamaat activists. Of them, Hashem is the district ameer and Jamal is assistant secretary. On Tuesday night, police filed the case with Joydevpur Police Station accusing 40 people, including 20 named persons. At least 10 people were injured as the pro-hartal activists torched one more bus and vandalised five vehicles at the intersection in the city. Meanwhile, Rab arrested the five Jamaat activists early yesterday in an overnight drive at different spots in the city, said Ziaul Kabir, commander of Rab-1 (Shimultali) camp.

BOMB BLAST CASE Hearing on charge framing against Fakhru deferred again

Nine other BNP leaders get bail
COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday for the tenth time deferred the hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and 28 others in a bomb blast case. The hearing has been deferred until August 21. Meantime, the same court yesterday granted bail to nine BNP leaders, including Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, after they along with their lawyers appeared before it and submitted separate bail petitions in the case. In the petitions, lawyers said their clients had previously gotten bail from the High Court on different dates, adding that they did not violate any conditions of their bail. So they prayed for granting bail to their clients again on the previous conditions, lawyers said. Shabbagh police filed the case against the 29 people on charge of aiding and abetting the bombings inside the Secretariat during the opposition's hartal on April 29 last year. The court deferred the hearing yesterday as Fakhru is now abroad. Also seven lawmakers of BNP-led 18-party alliance could not appear before the court due to the ongoing parliament session and 12 others were also absent for different reasons.

Take advantage of Saudi amnesty

Khandker Mosharraf urges migrant workers
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday urged Bangladeshi workers who are living illegally in Saudi Arabia to take advantage of the general amnesty. "If anybody is found staying illegally in Saudi Arabia after the end of the amnesty on November 4, the person has to pay one lakh Saudi Riyal as fine and face one year imprisonment," he said at a press briefing. Saudi Arabia earlier declared general amnesty for foreign workers from May till July 4 so that they can correct their visa status. Later, the amnesty deadline was extended till November 4 following requests from foreign embassies. Mosharraf briefed journalists following his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. He said the Saudi government would consider recruiting more Bangladeshi workers after the amnesty deadline. Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan said more than 2.5 lakh Bangladeshis received the consular services. Earlier, talking about the slow pace of sending workers to Kuala Lumpur, the minister said, "Malaysia has halted recruiting from Bangladesh as the newly elected government there is yet to hold discussions with Bangladesh in this regard." Starting from April 25 this year, a total of 10,000 workers were scheduled to go to Malaysia in first phase but only 198 workers had been recruited.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion 11:00am.

Shilpita will organise a discussion on the occasion of the first death anniversary of renowned fiction writer Humayun Ahmed; Venue: Liberation War Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion 11:00am.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion on the spirit of Liberation War; Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh; Time: 11:00am.

Muggings plague Ctg city

Over 100 incidents take place each month
ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg
Frequent incidents of mugging are occurring in Chittagong city now-a-days, sometimes resulting in the death of victims, according to police and media reports. Over 100 muggings take place in the city every month as per unofficial estimates, said officials at different police stations. In police record, the figure however remains staggeringly low, as most victims shy away from filing cases to avoid hassles when the chance of remedy is very little. Chittagong Metropolitan Police statistics show that only four mugging cases were filed in the last two months—three in May and one in June—while at least three incidents were reported in the media in June alone. In those incidents, two victims were killed and the other injured. On June 18, a shop employee was stabbed to death by snatchers in Dampara. Only nine days later, a rickshaw-puller met the similar fate in Boropole area. Nayema Moni, a resident of Chandgaon area, said her eldest sister's purse was snatched in Muradpur on July 6 but she avoided filing any case, thinking that it would not bring any remedy but hassles including visiting court and collecting witnesses. The same response came from Shankar Das of Jamal Khan area, whose younger sister was mugged at Ashkar Digir Par three days later. President of Peshajibi Samannay Parishad, Chittagong Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said the people did not have confidence in police, so they avoided taking shelter of the law. Police said they arrested mugger routinely but they came out of jail after a few months. As mugging is a bailable offence, they got engaged in the crime again, they added. Atik Ahmed Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station, said Hashem, a gang leader, who was arrested some eight months ago, had got out on bail recently and started committing mugging again. Prof Serajul, however, said muggers re-engaged in the crime because they were not punished properly. Presently, at least 10 gangs commit mugging in the port city, said police. In the last two months, around 18 muggers got bail, said AG Mahmud, deputy jailor of Chittagong Central Jail. Of them, four gang leaders named Arif Mainuddin, Selim, Bhutto and Farhad face seven to 12 cases each, said Nezam Uddin, inspector of Kotwali Police Station. Banaj Kumar Majumder, an additional commissioner of CMP, said they were concerned about frequent muggings and had decided to increase patrols and raids during the Ramadan.

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