

RAIN LIKELY

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

Moderately heavy to 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 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 5:23am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rangamati. 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	31.8	26.5	95	72	Khulna	33.5	27.4	89	80
Chittagong	30.3	25.8	79	89	Barisal	31.8	27.0	79	76
Rajshahi	33.8	26.2	79	100	Sylhet	33.4	25.6	76	87
Rangpur	33.2	26.6	76	66	Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.5	94	78

NEWS IN brief

Shahidul promoted to secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Md Shahidul Haque was promoted to secretary to the foreign ministry on Thursday. Earlier, he had been serving as the acting secretary to the ministry since January 10 this year, said Shameem Ahsan, director general of the ministry. Shahidul, an officer of 1986 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs), had worked for the International Organization for Migration on lien from 2001 to 2012.

Fake fertiliser factory sealed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore
A task force sealed a factory, which used to produce fake fertiliser, at Shahbajpur village in Sadar upazila early yesterday. The team led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sohel Hasan recovered materials for making fake fertiliser and empty bags of Zinc fertiliser from the factory that only runs at night, said sources. The factory was sealed in the absence of the owner. A case was filed with Jessore Kotwali Police Station.

Fire breaks out at RMG factory

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
A fire broke out in a garment factory on Konabari Ambagh Road in Gazipur city early yesterday. The fire at MM Knitwear Factory, housed on the seventh floor of an eight-storey building, damaged valuables, including readymade garments and cartons, worth about Tk 35 lakh, said Gazipur fire officials. However, they could not ascertain the reason behind the fire immediately. Fire fighters doused the blaze after two hours' effort.

JCD man murdered in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla
An activist of Jatiyatabadi Chharta Dal was stabbed to death in Bataichhari Bazar area of Barura upazila on Thursday. Barura police said Mamunur Rashid, 22, was stabbed in his abdomen and chest allegedly by Jubo League activist Bablu Hossain Bappi over previous enmity. Police sent the body to Comilla Medical College morgue for an autopsy. M Shah Alam, former president of Chharta Dal upazila unit, said Bappi killed him as Mamun refused to give him extortion money. A murder case was filed.

2 smugglers held with 10 gold bars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole
Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members arrested two alleged smugglers with 10 gold bars, weighing 1.2 kg, in Putkhali bordering area in Benapole, Jessore yesterday. BGB officials said Mofijur Rahman, 21, and Alomgir Hossain, 23, were arrested during a raid in the area and handed over to Benapole Port police. The bars are worth about Tk 60 lakh, they added. A case was filed in this regard.

11 fishermen held in Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola
The Bhola district administration yesterday held 11 fishermen for illegally netting in the Meghna river near Bhasan Bhangar Char area at Tazumuddin upazila. They seized illegal Gundi Nets worth Tk 7 lakh and two trawlers from them. The arrestees are Nurunnobi, Joynal, Kuddus, Siraj, Julu, Awlad, Siddik, Mahabub, Selim, Naju and Babul.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED
Homage to Humayun at Nuhash Palli



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
People from all walks of life paid tributes to Humayun Ahmed and offered prayers at his grave at Nuhash Palli in Gazipur on the author's first anniversary of death yesterday. Meher Afroz Shaon, widow of Humayun, visited the grave with her father Mohammad Ali, mother Tahura Ali, two sons Nishad and Ninit, two sisters Sinjan and Senjuti, and several publishers. After offering munajat at 3:00pm, Shaon said, "He [Humayun] used to not observe sorrowful occasions. So, I'm not organising any programme on his death anniversary." Every year, Humayun held a milad at Nuhash Palli and another at Shaheed Smriti Bidyapith in Netrakona on the occasion of his father's death anniversary, she said. He used to personally say namaz for his father Fayzur Rahman Ahmed, she added. Shaon, however, said 450 kids from the orphanages around Nuhash Palli were invited, who recited the Quran for Humayun's departed soul. No other family members, including Humayun's mother Ayesha Fayz, did visit Nuhash Palli yesterday. Shaon said she had requested Ayesha to visit the grave. A best-selling writer, celebrated filmmaker and television drama director, Humayun died of colon cancer in a New York hospital on July 19 last year. He was 64. He was born in Netrakona in 1948 and educated at Dhaka University. He later joined the university as a lecturer of chemistry before becoming a fulltime writer.



People from all strata throng Nuhash Palli in Gazipur to pay respect to iconic writer Humayun Ahmed. PHOTO | STAR

Cop sustains own gun pellet injuries while chasing muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A police constable sustained shotgun pellet injuries as the pellets he fired bounced back to him after hitting a wheel of the muggers' car in the capital's Ramna early yesterday. Mahbub Hossain was admitted to Razarbagh Police Lines Hospital. Officer-in-Charge Mashuur Rahman of Ramna police said the muggers were fleeing after mugging a woman while she was crossing Shajibazar by a rickshaw. Hearing her cry for help, the constable on patrol fired the gunshot at the car and it hit the steel part of the wheel. Suman, Towhidul, and Uzzal were arrested from the car with some mugged goods.

SC SHORT VERDICT ON FATWA
Full text not released in 2-yr

ASHUTOSH SARKAR
About 26 months into announcing the short verdict on the legality of fatwa or Islamic religious edict, the Supreme Court is yet to release its full text, which is expected to give guidelines to stop abuses of fatwa and misinterpretations of the religion. The Appellate Division of the SC declared fatwa legal in "religious matters" on May 12, 2011, but it categorically said fatwa could not be used to punish anyone. Fatwa cannot be issued to violate or affect the rights or reputation or dignity of any person which are covered by the law of the land, it said in the short verdict. "No punishment, including physical violence and/or mental torture in any form, can be imposed or inflicted on anybody in pursuance of fatwa." After hearing two separate appeals, the apex court ruled that only "properly educated persons" might issue fatwa but not force anyone to accept it. Any coercion or undue influence in any form to force it on anyone is forbidden, it said categorically. Barrister Belayet Hossain, who moved one of the two appeals, said if the SC released the full text, the government would get guidelines and could take effective steps to stop the incidents of misuses of fatwa and misinterpretations of Islam. Belayet said the ministry of religious affairs could issue a circular or the parliament could pass a bill to this effect if the full text was available. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that the SC was taking time to release the full verdict as it involved some important issues. He, however, did not specify those issues. Mahbubey Alam said guidelines would be available to stop abuses of fatwa once the full text was in place. Mostly the poor women are falling victim to abuses of fatwa and misinterpretations of the religion, he said. He hoped that the SC in the verdict would specify the qualifications of fatwa issuers. On October 16 last year, the High Court issued a rule against an incident of imposing fatwa on a housewife named Asma Aktar at Mirsarai in Chittagong. In the rule, the HC asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to take action against those responsible for the fatwa incident. Media reports say Mahfuzul Haque, a union parishad member of Nayduaria, with his supporters at a village arbitration accused Asma of "adultery" and declared that she would be buried chest-deep in the ground and stoned as punishment. The arbitration was held on October 2 last year after Asma sued Mahfuzul and his aides in July the same year for sexually harassing her. The arbitration verdict, however, was not eventually executed.

Next Bangladesh dev forum meet unlikely under current govt

UNB, Dhaka
The next meeting of the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF), a platform for the government of Bangladesh for attracting development partners, is unlikely to be held during the tenure of the present government. "The government has almost decided not to go for the BDF meeting by this December," a high official at the finance ministry told the news agency. With just a few months left for the present AL-led grand alliance government to complete its term, holding such a high-profile meeting would not be effective because the development partners are looking forward to the upcoming elections and the possible new government where perspectives might change, the official said. He said there was an initiative from the government to hold the BDF meeting in April this year, but it could not be held due to deterioration of law and order situation at the time following the announcement of war crimes trial verdicts. Contacted, Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad told the news agency that this is not the right time to hold the BDF meeting as the general election is due in a few months' time and also there is a lack of interest from the development partners.

PM to open 53MW power plant in B'baria today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will arrive at Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria this morning. During her stay, Hasina will visit Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited (APSC) where she will inaugurate a new 53 megawatt power plant installed with the company's own fund, said Brahmanbaria deputy commissioner office sources. Later, she will unveil the foundation stones of five more power plants which will go to operation one after another by 2016. After that, she will deliver her speech at a meeting with officials and the local elite at a venue at the project site in APSC.

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