

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

Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are and rises tomorrow at 5:26am.

2nd Edition

also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may fall slightly over

the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm

Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimangal and lowest 24.6 degrees at Kutubdia.

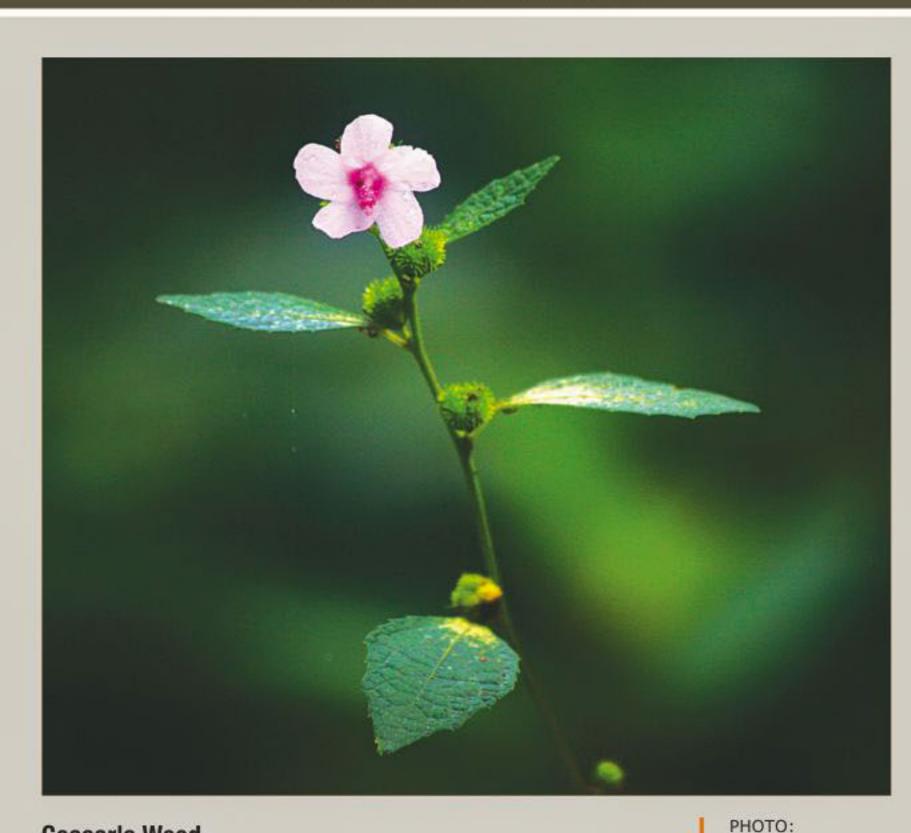
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		া	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percenta	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Eveni
haka	30.0	26.6	92	83	Khulna	31.0	27.0	90	98
nittagong	29.2	25.6	97	89	Barisal	28.6	26.5	90	96
ajshahi	32.2	27.0	85	74	Sylhet	33.7	26.4	76	89
angpur	32.4	27.5	71	87	Cox's Bazar	29.5	25.0	98	93

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Ceasar's Weed.

IHTISHAM KABIR

A Shifting Friendship

hrough the course of civilization, people and plants have enjoyed a complex relationship with each other. Sometimes this relationship has changed in unexpected ways.

Take, for example, the plant called Caesar's weed (urena lobata.) It is common in our countryside, growing three to five feet tall with an erect bearing and hairy leaves. Its small flower, jongli ghagra phul, is pretty in an unassuming way. Today we might not look at it twice, but the plant was once prized in some places. For example, it was imported into Florida and grown as a cash crop. Why? Caesar's weed yields a fibre very similar to jute, creamy and lustrous in appearance.

But over time, the fibre stopped being profitable in Florida. So it fell out of favour. And because it spreads aggressively, it is now classified there as a "noxious weed."

By the way, it is not named after the Roman emperor, but for the original meaning of the word "Caesar" - hairy. Today the plant is grown commercially in Brazil and Congo for its fibre.

The sonalu (cassia fistula) tree in spring and early summer is a pretty sight. Its yellow flowers grow in long chains, looking graceful in a way that only tropical flowers can. If you look at a sonalu flower from underneath it looks like a chandelier. Its flower is the reason it is grown in many places.

But in the past, the sonalu was prized for a different reason. As a medicinal tree it was known for its efficacy in treating flatulence and as a laxative/purgative. So much so, that its nickname was "Purging Cassia."

We have a weed called dadmordon (cassia alata) that grows wild, particularly on the banks of ponds and

CITY DESK

swamps. The yellow flowers resemble candlesticks. Dadmordon may look useless, but once it was called Herpetica because of its effectiveness in treating skin diseases, specially herpes and ringworm.

Dadmordon has another interesting characteristic. A certain species of caterpillar likes to feast on its leaves. In order to fight against it, dadmordon produces a sweet nectar - but not inside its flowers, rather at the base of its leaves. This nectar attracts ants which attack the caterpillars.

Another tree with a changing relationship with people is the apple tree. The American folk hero Johnny Appleseed (1774-1845) is credited with planting hundreds of thousands of apple trees in American frontier states. Many think that his groves of apple trees brought sweet, crunchy apples to those settling this frontier(Ohio, Indiana and Illinois back

There is only one problem with this story. Apple trees growing directly from seed almost always produce very sour, inedible apples. If you want an apple tree to bear sweet fruits, you must graft

Why, then, did Appleseed become such a hero planting seeds of trees whose apples no one could eat? Michael Pollan explains in his book The Botany of Desire. The juice of sour apples was fermented into "hard" cider with alcoholic content. Johnny Appleseed was celebrated for ensuring the future supply of fire-water to the pioneers!

Commercialization of the apple selective breeding, mass production and marketing - came much later.

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Families of Rana Plaza missing get no help "Our mother provided blood to get

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ZYMA ISLAM

Though the injured, handicapped, survivors and families of the deceased garment workers of the Rana Plaza collapse are slowly getting compensation, donations and the victims' arrears, families of the missing are getting none.

Take the case of the family of sewing machine operator Taslima Khatun. Employed in a garment factory

housed on the third floor of the ninestorey Rana Plaza, the 19-year-old went missing following the collapse on April 24, which claimed 1,132 lives.

This caused the world of her dependants living in Rajbari district to come crashing down. Her five family members include a rickshaw-puller father too ill to work regularly, a housewife mother, a fifth-grader brother and a widowed sisterin-law with a three-year-old son. "She used to send us Tk 3,000, and

sometimes a thousand or two more,"

a DNA match, but we have not gotten the results yet. We do not know when we will be getting them," said Taslima's elder sister Aklima Khatun. Against this backdrop, Taslima's

family has not received the Tk 20,000 compensation given from the Deputy Commissioner's Office to families of those whose bodies were found. Moreover, many families of the missing informed that they have been left out

from the Prime Minister's Office as long as the body can be shown as proof. Those receiving treatment at different healthcare institutions have also

philanthropists.

from the compensation being provided

"Some of the injured patients admitted to my hospital were given up to Tk 7 or 8 lakh from various places,' said Dr Abdul Awal Rizvi, director of Kamrul Hasan Mollah estimated the 16 with his wife and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation.



Begum, 22, also went missing on that fateful day. She now lives off the mercy of her neighbours in Majidpur. "My husband died seven years back

and Saleha was my only support. I badly need assistance now," said Zayeda. Similar is the tale of a garment

worker, Zohura Begum, residing in Majidpur. Though she made it out alive from beneath the rubble, she could not find her husband, Motiur Rahman, 26, who also worked there. Still reeling from the trauma, Zohura is now unable to work. "I can

not stay inside any high-rise building now due to a fear that it might collapse. I took up a job recently but had to quit been provided monetary support by it," Zohura told The Daily Star recently. "I have spent all of my savings and I

need the compensation to survive till I get better," she said.

number of missing victims at 329, as per lists drawn up on May 14, after



(From left) Zohura Begum, Zayeda Begum and Aklima Khatun hold pictures of their husband, daughter and sister respectively who went missing in the April 24 Rana Plaza collapse.

the father, Ayub Sheikh, told The Daily In the search for Taslima, Ayub Star recently.

With no proof of her employment and of Taslima being related to them, the family is ineligible for any compensation, Talima's arrears for one month and her overtime payments.

The family waits for a DNA match confirming that they are related to Taslima, presumably one among the unidentified bodies recovered from the site.

Sheikh has had to spend quite a considerable amount of money and has been living with Aklima in Savar's Majidpur, right behind Rana Plaza. A housewife with a day labourer

husband and a four-and-a-half year old daughter, Aklima is now struggling to support her father's family. The condition of a 65-year-old

widow, Zayeda Begum, is even worse. Her garment worker daughter, Saleha rescue operations were declared over. "However the number of unidentified bodies stands at 301," he said.

STAR

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Atiqul Islam said the arrears of the victims cannot be handed over to the families until a biological association was established via DNA tests.

"A lot of false claims to the money may appear, and we want to make sure the money goes to the right person," he said.

BNP smells conspiracy STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JOY HOPES AL'S RETURN

The main opposition BNP yesterday said they found a conspiracy in the recent speech of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy in which he hoped that the ruling Awami League (AL) would return to power.

BNP also protested Joy's

Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman had tried to kill Hasina. **BNP Joint Secretary** General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi expressed the party's reac-

allegation that BNP

tion over the speech at a press briefing at BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital. Joy, who lives in the US,

Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Savar | came to the country on July daughter. Attending an iftar organ-

> ised by Jubo League on Tuesday in the capital, Joy stated that his hopes were based on an internal survey of AL he had conducted. While making the murder allegation, he had also

said, "He (Tarique) was also involved in the August 21 grenade attack." Rizvi claimed that Joy's hopes were "based on information of a blueprint

of election engineering and monopoly polls". He said Joy's allegation against Tarique over the grenade attack was totally baseless and false and that the attack was a part of an

international conspiracy to put the then ruling BNP "in an awkward situation". "We feel that this speech was in tune with the cruel

politics of Awami League," he said.

voting rights".

Khaleda leaves

for KSA today

Missing college boy found dead in Shitalakkhya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The body of a college student was found floating in the Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj yesterday, two days after he had gone missing.

The victim Rakibul Islam Aloy, 17, son of Nazrul Islam, was an HSC second year student of Notre Dame College.

Siddhirganj police Officer-in-Charge Abdul Matin, quoting family members, said Aloy went out of his Kotalerbagh residence on July 24 night and since then he had been missing.

Seeing the body in the river near Kanchpur bridge, locals informed police.

A mobile phone set was recovered from the victim's pocket and there was no injury marks in the body, said Matin.

Police suspect that Aloy might have committed suicide by jumping into the river as he had send massages to his friends and relatives to pardon him after going missing.



People crowd a counter at the capital's Kalyanpur bus station for advance tickets. The city dwellers planning to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr outside Dhaka started thronging the ticket counters as soon as the advance sale began yesterday. The photo was taken around 7:00am. PHOTO: STAR

Rizvi said if Joy had the capability to understand recent surveys of dailies, he would not have made "such mockery of people's

Umrah

to perform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zi is scheduled to

leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia today to perform Umrah.

"The chairperson will leave the capital for Mecca at 7:10pm," said her Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel.

She will stay there for about 10 days of Ramadan, he said, adding that the former prime minister is expected to return home on August 6.

The BNP chief will stay in Saudi Arabia as a royal guest just like every year, Sohel said. During the visit,

Khaleda will be accompanied by several others including her younger brother Shamim Eskander and his wife, said a source at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mohammad Shahed Ali (Bacchu), a writer and businessman, died of a heart attack on July 21. He was 54.

member of the management of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. His body will arrive in Dhaka from the UK tomorrow and his namaz-e-janaza will be held in Airport Mosque the same day.

He was also a former

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a journalist of

The Daily Star and gold medalist student of Dhaka University. Novera Deepita Memorial

Trust has organised several programmes, including offering prayers, a milad mahfil and "Novera Deepita Memorial Scholarship giving ceremony, says a press release.

The trust will also publish a book on Novera.

7 killed in road accidents

Seven people were killed in road accidents in Dhaka Chittagong, Comilla and Chuadanga on Thursday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, taxicab driver Rezaul

Karim, 28, died as a bus ran him over in the capital's Mirpur yesterday afternoon. Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports Mohammed Tanzid, 8, died instantly when a bus hit him in Bahadderhat area near Khatibbari Mosque under

Chandgaon Police Station yesterday. Angry mob vandalised the bus and set it on fire. They also gave the bus driver a good beating.

Locals also vandalised a vehicle of fire service when it rushed to the spot to extinguish the fire. In another accident, Mohammed Shafi, 55, was killed when a motor cycle hit him while he was crossing the road

at Boropol intersection in Halishahar area yesterday.

Yet another accident, CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Md Nuruzzaman, 40, of Gaibandha, died after a bus hit his vehicle from behind in Dewanhat bridge area of the city yesterday. A correspondent from Comilla adds, Manik Mia, 30, was

killed as a Dhaka-bound truck collided with a pick-up on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Kaichoti area in Chouddagram upazila yesterday.

Meanwhile, Sanjoy Debnath, 18, son of Khogonda Debnath, died when a bus ran him over while he was crossing the highway in Chouddagram Government College area yesterday.

A Chuadanga correspondent reports, a schoolboy was killed as motorbike knocked him down from behind on Alamdanga-Chuadanga road in front of Chuadanga Poura Degree College in sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The deceased identified as Jillur Rahman, 12, son of Ainal Haque Poramanik, was a class V student of a poura registered primary school in the upazila. He died at a hospital.

Boy dies as parapet falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eight-year-old boy was killed and two other children were injured when a part of a parapet of a three-storey building collapsed on them in the capital's Uttar Badda yesterday. The deceased was Modabbir Hossain Sabbir, a class-I student of Wonder Dream International School.

Modabbir was playing with his sister Samia Sultana and friend Tariqul Islam on a roof of a one-storey building when the parapet of the adjacent new building partially collapsed on them, said Badda police.

where doctors declared him dead. Samia and Tariqul are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Modabbir was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

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