

RAIN LIKELY



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

likely at places over the country, Met Office said.
Day temperature may fall slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:27am.

Country's highest temperature 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.9 degrees at Feri.
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	27.7	24.5	98	88	Khulna	30.5	26.6	100	100
Chittagong	27.4	25.0	97	96	Barisal	26.6	26.0	92	98
Rajshahi	31.8	25.4	94	95	Sylhet	32.4	25.7	87	83
Rangpur	31.4	26.2	93	83	Cox's Bazar	29.5	25.0	95	98

NEWS IN brief

40 houses gutted in Gazipur fire

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Around 40 houses were gutted in a fire at Boiragirchala village in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday afternoon. Arif Hossain, 30, and Alam Hossain, 30, were injured as they tried to douse the blaze. Gazipur Fire Station Officer Abu Zafar said the fire, which might have originated from an electric short circuit, had been extinguished by locals before fire fighters reached the spot.

'Criminal' shot in 'gunfight' with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was shot in a 'gunfight' with police in the capital's Jatrabari Saturday night. Liton, 30, was arrested and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with leg injuries. A Jatrabari police team in plainclothes raided a rickshaw garage on Abu Haji Road, says a press release. Later, among five criminals, Liton opened fire on the police, prompting them to fire back, injuring him. The other four fled. Police recovered a pistol from Liton's possession.

Man sent to jail for double murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court yesterday rejected bail prayer of an accused in a case filed against him for killing his two brothers. The court sent Abul Kalam Azad to jail after he surrendered before it. On July 22, Kalam allegedly stabbed his brothers Abu Sufian, 45, and Abu Morshed, 35, to death in their Sultanpur village home in Raozan of Chittagong over land dispute. Sufian's wife later filed a case with Raozan police.

Two hacked in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A gang of criminals hacked two employees of a shrimp export company near Rupsha Bridge in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna early yesterday. GM Liaquat Ali, 46, of Kalikapur in Koyra and Md Sakib Howlader, 25, of Khalishpur in the city work at Fresh Food Ltd at Elaipur in Rupsha upazila. Police and victims said the criminals travelling in a microbus attacked them with sharp weapons after halting their motorbike. The injured were admitted to Khulna Sadar Hospital.

Body found in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The body of an unidentified young man was found beside Kaliakoir-Dhamrai road in Mahrabaha area in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur yesterday. Locals discovered the body and informed police about it. Police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. The body bore injury marks in the head, said police sources. A case was filed in this connection.



Flooded Bakalia Government High School's building in Chittagong city with its students and staff wading through knee-deep water yesterday following heavy downpour that battered the city from around midnight on Saturday till yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

**DEATH THREAT FROM EXTORTIONISTS
A family lives in fear in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mason of South Matuail who takes subcontracts and his family are living in fear as extortionists are repeatedly threatening him with death to withdraw an attempted murder case he filed against them. Sultan Ahmed, 41, of Muslimnagar Zero Point, filed the case with Demra Police Station on July 12 against a local, Mohammad Shyamol, 30, and two unnamed persons for beating him severely after he denied giving them Tk one lakh. Police arrested Shyamol from Jatrabari area on Friday. The beating took place before Anwara Medical Hall at Matuail, where he was working, on July 7 after he denied, over phone, providing the money, Sultan told a press conference in the capital's Crime Reporters' Association yesterday. Shyamol first demanded Tk 10,000 four months ago and he had provided Tk 5,000 last month, added Sultan. Investigation Officer Enamul Haque of Demra Police Station claimed that Sultan had not informed him about the death threats.

Nutrition value of 381 foods published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nutritional value of 381 foods, which are regularly consumed by the people of Bangladesh, was published in a report yesterday by a group of experts under a project titled "Food Composition Table of Bangladesh". The list of the foods classified into 15 groups and having 87 different components was revealed in the report. Headed by Prof Nazma Shaheen of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science (INFS) of Dhaka University, nine international researchers worked in the report. The report was launched at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury senate building of DU. INFS and Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences jointly launched the report. In the report, the researchers also classified 20 'key foods' on the basis of their nutrient content. Speaking as the chief guest, Food Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said the report will be an essential tool for interventions in food security, nutrition and health.

Torrential downpour batters Ctg city

Low-lying areas go under water

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Many areas of Chittagong city went under knee- to waist-deep water due to incessant torrential downpour from around midnight on Saturday till 9:00am yesterday. The deluge caused waterlogging mainly in low-lying areas especially Bakalia, Chawkbazar, Agrabad, Haliashahar, Kapasgola, Chandgaon, Shulakbahar, Bahaddarhat and Probartak intersection. The disruption to roads and transport and everyday life and sufferings to residents continued till evening, when the water started to recede. Most motorised vehicles stayed garaged while a small number of rickshaws plied the waterlogged routes. Failing to get a ride, most commuters had to wade through filthy water overflowing from roadside drains. One Jannatul Ferdous, spotted at Kapasgola, told this correspondent that she had to walk nearly half a kilometre through dirty water to reach her coaching classes in Chawkbazar. Many residents and traders spent a sleepless night bailing water seeping into their homes. One of them, Nitai Das, a laundryman at DC Road area in West Bakalia, said the filthy water spoiled all his customers' clothes. The ground floors of Chawkbazar

Kitchen Market and Adhunik Chawk Super Market in Chawkbazar went under water, damaging goods and outfits. "We did not get any scope to save the clothes as torrential rain started from midnight when the market was closed," said Jahangir Alam, a shop-owner of the super market. "I invested Tk 20 lakh for the upcoming Eid season and most of my clothes have been ruined," he added. Subhash Barua, a town planner and vice-president of Forum for Plan Chattagram, said silt from the hills and the city's litter and debris were blocking the drains, which are now too narrow to support the rapid pace of urbanisation, causing the waterlogging. Absence of an adequate number of canals and filling up of water bodies with earth meant that the rainwater had nowhere to drain to, he said. Meanwhile, the downpour disrupted loading and unloading of bulk cargoes in Chittagong Port's outer anchorage, said port sources. Syed Farhad Uddin, secretary of Chittagong Port Authority, said 43 cargo vessels were anchored there. Chittagong divisional Met Office recorded 65.9mm rainfall in the last 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday. Assistant Met Officer Shahinul Islam said Chittagong Port was asked to hoist warning signal number 3.

Cabinet meeting shifted to PMO to cut traffic jam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shifted the weekly cabinet meeting, normally held at Bangladesh Secretariat's Cabinet Division, to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) considering people's sufferings from huge traffic jam during the month of Ramadan. Today's cabinet meeting will be held at the PMO at 10:00am. An official of the cabinet division told The Daily Star yesterday that the premier took the decision considering gridlock before Bangladesh Secretariat during the past few cabinet meetings. Of the two-way road, one is usually kept closed considering security of the VVIPs. Besides, when the prime minister comes out, one road is off-limits to vehicles and public movement, which multiplies the traffic jam and public sufferings.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Manabdhikar Forum Bangladesh will organise a seminar on human rights; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar
Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry will arrange a seminar on how to advance its projects; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre; Time: 4:30pm.

Roundtable
Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad will hold a roundtable discussion on the system to hold the upcoming general elections; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

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Jamaat declares fresh agitation programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday announced fresh agitation programmes across the country for today protesting the "government's conspiracy to execute the convicted Jamaat leaders as announced by the prime minister." Jamaat also threatened the government saying that it would be bound to enforce tougher programmes, including hartal, if the administration was "engaged in any conspiracy defying solemnity and religious environment of Ramadan." In a release, Jamaat Acting Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Khan said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had recently announced that execution of verdicts against convicted Jamaat leaders would start after the Eid. "By saying this, the prime minister has indirectly instructed the court to deliver verdicts against Jamaat leaders. And we all know that verdict against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah is pending at the Supreme Court," added the Jamaat release.

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