

RAIN LIKELY



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

Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:28am.**

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degrees at Rangamati and 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	31.0	26.6	78	74	Khulna	30.5	25.5	100	100
Chittagong	31.2	25.0	92	83	Barisal	29.0	25.5	97	87
Rajshahi	32.6	26.5	83	85	Sylhet	33.5	25.7	80	89
Rangpur	32.8	27.0	73	69	Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.0	94	93

NEWSIN brief

2 additional judges appointed to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
President Abdul Hamid yesterday appointed two additional judges to the High Court for the next two years. The new judges are: Md Shahinur Islam, who is on the three-member judges' panel of International Crimes Tribunal-2, and Kashifa Hossain, a deputy attorney general. The law ministry issued a gazette notification on their appointments yesterday. The number of HC judges now stands at 92.

Deadline for changing subject, dept in NU degree (pass) course extended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
The time limit for application to change subjects and departments in degree (pass) course for 2012-13 session under National University have been extended to August 26. Earlier, the deadline for the application was by July 30, said a press release yesterday. Detailed information is available on www.nubd.info and www.nu.edu.bd.

Body of woman found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from a residential building at South Mugdha in the capital early yesterday. Masud Karim, officer-in-charge of Mugdha Police Station, suspects that the young woman was strangled as the body bore a black spot on the neck. The body, found on the staircase of the fourth floor, was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Violence inflicted on 422 women in July: Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad documented 422 instances of violence against women during July. Among them, 79 were raped while nine were killed after rape, the parishad found the report after monitoring 14 dailies, said a press release. At least 24 were killed for dowry, 41 killed themselves because of violence. Four became victims of acid throwing and nine were abducted. Besides, five girls fell victims to child marriage five other domestic helps faced violence in their workplaces.



Awareness raising campaign
LIFE, Arhron and United Nations Information Centre will organise an awareness raising campaign on safe roads. Venue: Gabtoli Bus Terminal; Time: 11:00am.
Roundtable
Shushashoner Janney Nagarik will hold a roundtable, "Reforms in electoral laws: Where are we?", Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.
Competition
An annual "azan, qirat and essay competition 2013" of Bangladesh Police will be held; Venue: Rajarbagh Police Lines Central Jame Mosque; Time: 1:30pm.



Repairmen work on a launch in Keraniganj on Tuesday. Around a hundred of such faulty passenger vessels are getting repaired and refurbished so that they can be sailed during the period of Eid rush. Inset, workers painting the ceiling of a launch.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Launches being repaired to sail with Eid travellers

PANKAJ KARMAKAR
With Eid-ul-Fitr around the corner, many private launch operators like every year are hectically repairing and refurbishing their faulty vessels to attract homebound passengers. Officials of the Department of Shipping (DoS), the regulatory body of the water transport sector, however, have expressed their firm determination to check plying of unfit vessels. "We have kept sharp vigilance so that unfit vessels cannot navigate. We are regularly checking and monitoring their fitness," said Mirza Saifur Rahman, ship surveyor of the DoS. The department has issued notices to over a dozen faulty launches to repair those in about last one month, said Rahman, adding that the launches, which received notices, included MV Bandhan, MV Asa-Jawa, MV Prince, and MV Glory. Around 800 registered passenger vessels are plying on the country's inland river routes, he said. Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association, a platform of private launch owners, said, "The vessels, which are undergoing repair, are not unfit. We are just giving those a facelift. No unfit vessel will ply." In the past, many accidents occurred because of unfit vessels. According to the Green Club of Bangladesh, a non-government organisation, at least 430 people died in water transport accidents last year. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) officials say around 8 lakh people leave the capital in the last seven days ahead of Eid through the Sadarghat Launch Terminal.

Building Regulatory Authority urgent Say leading engineers, architects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Building Regulatory Authority, made mandatory in Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) eight years ago, must be urgently formed to ensure building safety in the country, said leading engineers and architects at a discussion yesterday. Public Works Department (PWD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency organised the discussion on the Rana Plaza building collapse and role of professionals in ensuring building safety at the former's premises in the capital. To prevent overlapping of building approval authorities' decisions, the regulatory body must be made the sole authority to permit building construction after examining architectural, structural, foundational and electromechanical drawings, said a PWD executive engineer, Md Mafizur Rahman. Pointing out multiple safety lapses in Rana Plaza's construction, he said the regulatory body must issue an "occupancy certificate" based on clearance from the architect and structural, electromechanical and supervising engineers that the building is habitable. Moderating the discussion, noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said the regulatory body could authorise some competent local bodies, municipalities for instance, to control building construction approvals at local level. But those must be duly empowered with officials of the regulatory body and adequate technical personnel, he said. BNBC also has provisions making it mandatory to hold the architect and civil, supervising and foundation engineers accountable. But the government has not put those in place. Now four authorities -- Rajuk and Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi development authorities -- give building construction approval in the four divisional cities after examining only the architectural layout. In the rest of the country, there is no authority to control building construction. Dr Khondaker Showkat Hossain, secretary to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, said the entire budget for Housing and Building Research Institute was meant only for employees' salaries and allowances and had no allocation for research. State Minister for the ministry Abdul Mannan Khan said in most cases code and laws were flouted and low quality materials used only to satisfy the owner's greed but exposing both owners and occupants to potential dangers.

BNP welcomes Joy to politics Suggests practicing the healthy kind

UNB, Dhaka
Welcoming Prime Minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy in politics, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday suggested that he should pursue healthy politics. "Sajeeb Wazed Joy has returned home. We don't know how long he will stay in the country as he has got dual citizenship ... we won't oppose him if he wants to be in politics. But I want to tell him, you please, use decent language. Because people have started suspecting you after your first speech," he told a protest meeting. All Party Students' Unity (Apsu) of the 90's and Ducus arranged the programme at the Jatiya Press Club protesting "the indecent remarks" against BNP senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman by the prime minister and her son. Fakhrul said as per media reports Joy is going to start his political journey from today (Wednesday). "We're waiting to see how Joy starts his career as a politician." Criticising the prime minister's son for his comment that he has information about Awami League's return to power, the BNP leader wanted to know the source of his information. "From where did you get the information? Did you get it from Harvard University?" On July 23, Joy claimed he has information Awami League will return to power through the next general election. On Sunday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina defended her son's comment saying, "Joy said one thing: he said on the basis of a survey and a poll." Fakhrul said his party neither supported any illegal and unconstitutional government nor wanted to see such regime in power. Reiterating his party's position that it will not participate in the general election if it is held under a partisan government, the BNP spokesman urged the government to restore the caretaker government system to ensure free, fair and credible polls. The programme was chaired by BNP joint secretary general and former Ducus vice-president Amanullah Aman.



(From left) Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and daughter-in-law Kristine Wazed wave to the crowd during a public rally on Pirganj Pilot High School ground in Rangpur yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

The Daily Star

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Uttara Bank Limited

ATM BOOTH

24 Hours Banking

Mr. Iftekharul Islam, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Uttara Bank Limited inaugurated the ATM booth to provide day-night service on Wednesday (31-07-2013). Managing Director & CEO Mr. Shaikh Abdul Aziz and other high officials are also seen in the picture.

Allot govt houses following warrant of precedence: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday directed the government to allot the public residences to officials following the warrant of precedence of the republic. Delivering a verdict on three separate writ petitions, the court declared illegal government's decision to allocate house no 12 on the capital's Minto Road to the industries secretary in May, defying the applications of two HC judges for the same residence filed in December last year. The government has to allot official residences to HC judges before secretaries following the HC verdict, lawyer for the petitioners Aneek R Haque told The Daily Star. The status of HC judges is higher than that of secretaries on the warrant of precedence, he said. Five Supreme Court lawyers filed the petitions on May 20.

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