

HEAVY RAINFALLS  
LIKELY



WEATHER  
TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius

was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The highest and lowest temperatures 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	26.3	79	83	Khulna	31.8	24.8	98	94
Chittagong	30.3	26.0	83	80	Barisal	30.2	25.8	95	77
Rajshahi	32.8	25.8	92	92	Sylhet	30.0	25.2	94	88
Rangpur	33.0	26.4	83	79	Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.5	74	77



Lush green paddy fields cover what was once tobacco plantations in Remakri area by the Sangu river in Bandarban's Thanchi upazila. The small huts in the background that were used to store tobacco leaves will soon be filled with grain. Indigenous communities believe that as reliance on tobacco cultivation dwindles, the soil will slowly regain its fertility and they will be able to directly survive on their harvest throughout the year. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Kidnapped boy rescued after 3 days from Joydevpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-year-old boy, kidnapped a day before Eid, was rescued after three days on Sunday night from Joydevpur intersec-tion in Gazipur by Rapid Action Battalion.

Asaduzzaman Noor, a madrasa student, was kidnapped around 8:00pm on August 8 from a tailoring shop near his house at Modhya Ouchpara in Tongi, Gazipur.

Khokon Mia, 30, owner of the shop Three Star Tailors; and his two associates – Shah Jamal Hasan, 35, and Mukul Mia, 25 – were arrested by Rab for planning the kidnap, said Kismat Hayat, Rab-1 commanding officer, at a press briefing yesterday at the battalion's office in the capital's Uttara.

At the briefing, Noor's mother Safia Akhter said her son had gone to the shop of Khokon who was a friend of Noor's father. But Noor was not there when she went to look for him around 10:00pm.

By 10:30pm when she could not find Noor anywhere, she received a phone call and a man demanded Tk 50 lakh if she wished to see her son, Safia added.

Hayat said two groups were involved in the kidnap. The planners were encouraged to commit the crime by the actual kidnappers Babu, Sumon and a woman, whose name could not be known yet, he said adding that Sumon was the shop staff Hasan's relative.

"They convinced Khokon, who was aware of the finan-cial wellbeing of Noor's father Mohammad Elam Mia, to kidnap Noor," said Hayat.

Hayat said they arrested the planners from Gazipur yester-day at 8:30pm. The child was rescued two and a half hours later.

## BISHWAJIT MURDER CASE Two policemen give statements

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more prosecution witnesses (PWs) gave their statements before a Dhaka court yesterday in Bishwajit Das murder case.

The witnesses, Sub-inspector Arafatul Haque Khan and Constable Kamal Hossain, are posted at Sutrapur Police Station.

SI Arafat told the court that around 8:15pm on December 9 last year, he recorded the murder case as a regular one.

As per the direction of the then officer-in-charge of Sutrapur police, he did it after getting the complaint from SI Jalal Uddin, Arafat added.

Kamal told the court that around 12:45pm on the day, he went to Mitford Hospital and found Bishwajit's body on a stretcher.

After post-mortem, Kamal hander over the body to his (Bishwajit) family the same day, he said.

Judge ABM Nizamul Haque of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 fixed August 19 for the next hearing.

Eight, out of 21 accused, now in jail custody, were pro-duced before the court yesterday, while 13 have been absconding.

Earlier, six witnesses gave their statements on different dates.

Some Bangladesh Chhatra League activists allegedly stabbed Bishwajit, 24, owner of Amantron Tailors, to death in the capital during a road-blockade programme enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance on December 9 last year.

## BGMEA BUILDING DEMOLITION ORDER OF HC Govt appeal against SC stay order likely next month

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government may take legal steps next month for withdrawal of a Supreme Court stay order on a High Court verdict passed over 28 months ago declaring illegal the BGMEA building and direct-ing that it be demolished.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam recently told The Daily Star that a prayer will be moved after the SC reopens on September 15, following its ongoing vacation, to hear a BGMEA petition filed in May seeking permission to appeal against the HC verdict.

"We will place arguments for upholding the High Court verdict by rejecting the leave-to-appeal petition filed by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)," he said.

Counsel for BGMEA, Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq, told The Daily Star that he would not take any move for hearing the leave-to-appeal peti-tion, since his client had already got the stay order. He, however, said he would place argu-ments for turning down the HC verdict, if the

matter comes up for hearing.

The HC on April 3, 2011 announced the verdict after holding a hearing on a suo moto (of its own) rule it had issued earlier over legal-ity of the building's construction. A few days later, the SC's Appellate Division passed the stay order, now still in force.

The full text of the HC judgement, released on March 19, observed that the BGMEA build-ing stood in Hatirjheel project "like a cancer-ous growth" and structures like these would swamp the whole city unless the building was removed forthwith.

It also ordered the government to demolish the building within 90 days and use the land in the interest of the public and directed BGMEA to provide refunds within 12 months to peo-ple who bought flats in the 15-storey build-ing.

Different rights and environmental organisations have been demanding demoli-tion or relocation of the structure. They say the building is contaminating the water and pollut-ing the environment of Begunbari canal.

## Attempt made to loot Agrani Bank in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A heist attempt was made at a branch of state-run Agrani Bank in the capital during the Eid holidays, said police on Sunday.

Visiting the two-storey Nababganj branch of the bank in Lalbagh on Sunday, The Daily Star found a rectangular hole, about 11 inches wide and 15 inches high, on the wall of the bank vault.

Kazi Matiar Rahman, second officer of the branch, was the first to discover the hole when he went to work after the three-day Eid holidays on Sunday.

Miscreants had entered the building through an iron-bar enforced ventilation duct on the first floor and then climbed down the stairs and broke a portion of a wall to get inside the vault. But they could not open the cash locker inside, said Nurul Muttakin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Lalbagh Police Station.

The Agrani Bank official confirmed that nothing had been stolen except for a monitor from the first floor. A peon was supposed to guard the branch dur-ing the holidays but he could not as he was sick.

The bank does not have any armed security person-nel or close-circuit cameras, said the OC.



## Abdul Baaquie passes away

CITY DESK

Wing Commander (retd) Muhammad Abdul Baaquie passed away on Saturday. He was 95.

He was a gold medalist from Aligarh University and had an illustrious career as an air force officer. He was also the first chair-man of Philips Bangladesh.

Baaquie was the founder of a madrasa at his village home in Faridabad of Brahmanbaria and served for many years in a leader-ship position of the DOHS (Banani) mosque.

He left behind his sons Nehal Fazley Baaquie and Belal Ehsan Baaquie and a daughter Yasmeen Jilani Rosul and a host of rela-tives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

## Obituary

CITY DESK



5. He was 89.

In his banking career, he worked for National Bank of Pakistan and Sonali Bank.

Faizul left behind his two sons Zaidul Kabir and Reazul Kabir, a daughter Rizwana Kabir and grand-children. He was buried at his family graveyard in Ghorashal.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Today is the 10th death anni-versary of Maj Gen (retd) Dr Anis Waiz, former principal of Bangladesh Medical College and fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (UK).

He left behind his three children, six grandchildren and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

All have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Ctg city streets serene with holidaymakers yet to return

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Chittagong city still wore a deserted look yesterday with most of the holidaymakers who enjoyed Eid-ul-Fitr with their near and dear ones yet to return to the port city.

The city roads were almost bare with unusual serenity although the govern-ment holiday ended on Saturday.

Only a few public transports plied the streets and had to wait more than usual to get enough passengers to make a trip.

Nurul Alam, driver of a three-wheeler human hauler, said he was able to make two trips from Chawkbazar to Sholoshohor Number-2 Gate from the morning till 11:30am whereas in regular days he makes 10.

People who celebrated Eid in the city expressed relief at the emptiness. "I had a pleasant 15 minute ride from Halishahar to Probortak intersection by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw," said Aminul Islam, a private service holder.

On a regular weekday, it takes nearly half an hour, he added.

Apart from some government officials and private service holders, many profes-sionals are yet to return to their workplaces.

Many employees had taken an extended leave in advance against the backdrop of Jamaat-e-Islami's 48-hour countrywide hartal call from today, said official sources.

Presence of customers at banks and other financial institutions was also very nominal.

Nurus Safa, Chittagong regional man-ager of Standard Bank, said their branches were almost empty with a small number of clients coming in for small trans-actions.

Most shopping malls, roadside shops and eateries remained closed too.

Zakir Hossain Rubel, general secretary of Central Plaza Traders' Association, said the plaza would remain closed till Saturday. "Staff of the shops are enjoying an eight-day holiday since Eid day," he added.

Educational institutions in the city also remained closed for the Eid vacation.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Activists of different human rights organisations form a human chain in front of the High Court in the capital yesterday demanding release of Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of rights body Odhikar.

## Maj Gen Ashab Uddin new envoy to Kuwait

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Maj Gen Mohammad Ashab Uddin as the new ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait, said a foreign ministry press release.

Gen Ashab, ndc, psc was commis-sioned in 1979 with the first regular batch. In his military career, Ashab served as general officer commanding of Savar and Chittagong, besides holding many other important positions.

He completed Masters in defence stud-ies and in political science from National University.

He also obtained his Masters in phi-losophy from University of Madras, India.

## Thirteen-year-old girl raped in capital, left for dead Rapist on the run

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A thirteen-year-old girl was raped and then the rapist tried to kill her in the capital's Gulshan area last night.

The victim, who is a class-IV student of a local school, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for her severe injuries in the head.

Her father, a roadside vendor, said she had brought him lunch to his shop and stayed there to help him till night.

Around 8:30pm, she went out to the toilet when Kamal raped her beside the road, only about 100-120 metre away from the shop, said the father.

Kamal repeatedly hit her on the head

with bricks when she tried to resist him.

Assuming her to be dead, the rapist left her there inside piles of bricks. The child, barely able to move, dragged herself to her father, who wrapped a banner around her body to cover her and took her to the hospi-tal.

The girl told The Daily Star that she screamed for help with all her might while she was attacked but nobody came to her rescue.

Kamal, the rapist is the son of a tea stall vendor named Bhandari.

Gulshan police said Kamal is abscond-ing.

He was not arrested till this report was filed at 12:40am today.

## Shortage of rainfall likely in August too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is going to experience a shortage of rainfall in August also, the second drier month in a row in this year, the metrological depart-ment said in its long term forecast.

In July, there was a 30 percent shortage of rainfall than the normal average, monthly weather report of the Met office said.

Historically, most of the mon-soon rains take place in July and August which is around 532 milli-meter (mm) and 420 mm in average.

However, Shamim A Ahmed, an agro-meteorologist at the Dhaka Met office, said the less rainfall was not affecting the standing crops yet.

Currently, the farmers are either

making the seedling beds of Aman paddy or sowing the transplanted Aman saplings in the field, he added.

"Though rainfall is less, but the dry spell was not very long this year. So still there is enough humidity for transplanted Aman," said Shamim.

More than 70 percent of farmers have already been done with trans-planting the sapling, he added.

Though the rainfall will be less than normal, a normal flood would submerge the northwestern part known as the Ganges dependent area in the country in the second half of this month.

In the three-month forecast, starting from August, the weatherpersons forecasted normal rainfall in September and October.