

SLIGHT RISE IN TEMPERATURE LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

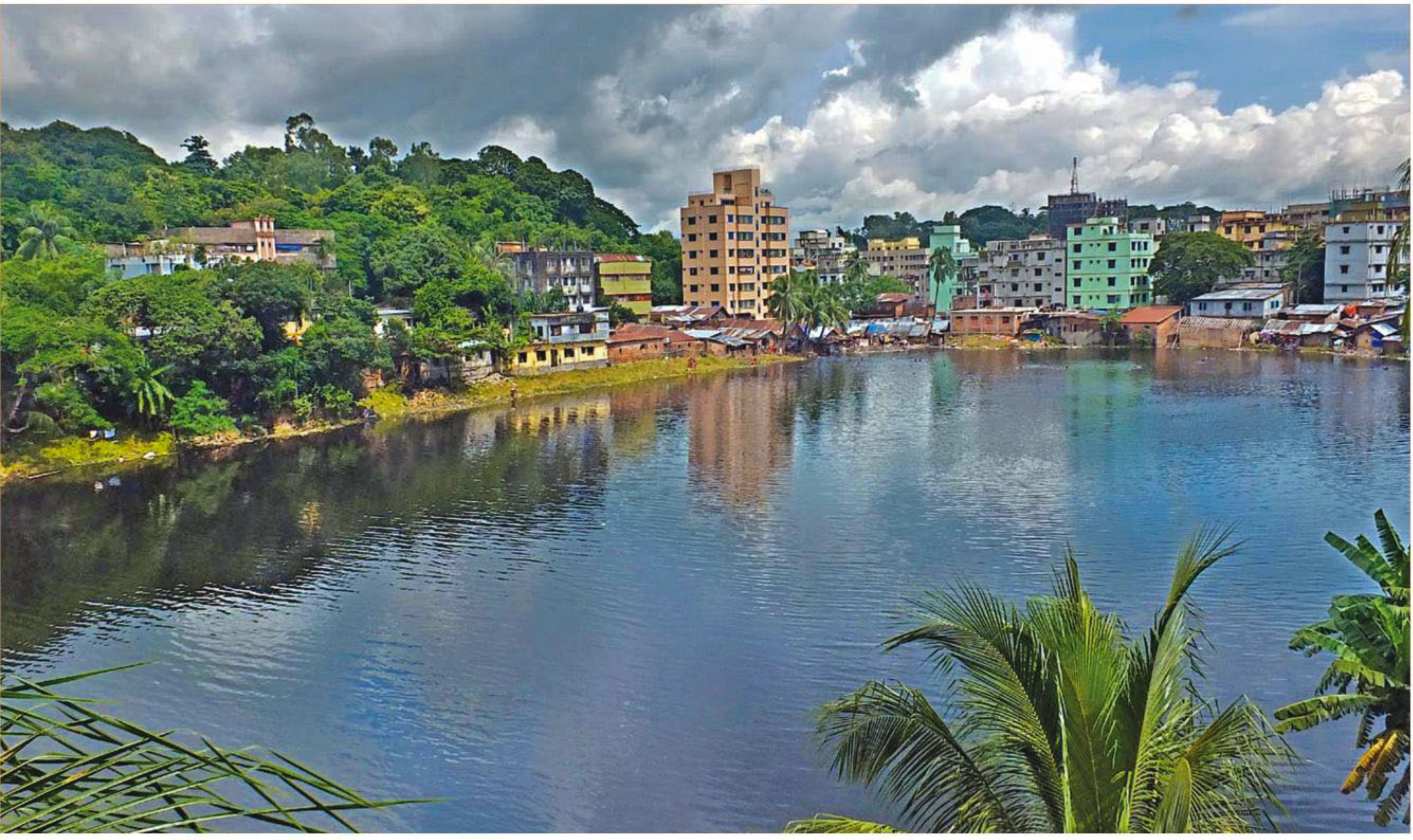
14th, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:35am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.9 degrees at Srimongal. 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	31.7	26.3	87	78	Khulna	34.5	27.0	84	100
Chittagong	31.8	25.6	91	83	Barisal	32.5	26.4	84	81
Rajshahi	36.0	27.2	87	81	Sylhet	30.7	25.7	89	83
Rangpur	30.2	26.8	79	83	Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.5	94	80



ASHKAR DIGHI FINALLY GETS CLEANED UP IN CTG CITY

The centuries-old Ashkar Dighi has retrieved its previous look following a recent clean-up operation by the Chittagong City Corporation, left. Because of its entire surface being thickly covered with water hyacinths, the large pond in Jamal Khan area hardly seemed to be a water body earlier, and could be easily mistaken for a huge playground, top right. The environmentalists had long been clamouring for cleaning the pond, but the drive was not launched until a 10-year-old schoolboy drowned in it in June. Bottom right, children playfully swim in the clean water yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

MILKY MURDER CASE

Another accused arrested

Shahidul Islam, a close associate and bodyguard of former Jubo League leader Shakhawat Hossain Chanchal, one of the main accused in the Milky Murder case, was arrested on Tuesday and taken into remand yesterday. A week ago, Jahangir Mondol, another accused and Chanchal's driver, identified Shahidul in the CCTV video footage that captured the murder of Jubo League leader Riazul Haque Khan Milky in front of a shopping mall in the capital's Gulshan on July 30. Rapid Action Battalion arrested Shahidul from the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station Tuesday, Rab-1 Commanding Officer Kismat Hayat told The Daily Star. Rab produced Shahidul before a Dhaka court yesterday and prayed for a seven-day remand to interrogate him. In response, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tanvir Ahmed granted four days. Rab also prayed for a seven-day remand for Chanchal's brother-in-law Sharifuddin Chowdhury Pappu alias Dr Pappu who was arrested on August 6 and sent to jail. So far, nine people have been arrested by Rab in connection with the Milky murder case. However, the prime suspect, Jubo League leader Jahid Siddique Tarek, was killed in a shootout between his cohorts and Rab on July 31. Shakhawat Hossain Chanchal is still absconding.

HALL-MARK SCAM

2 more petitions filed against Jasmine's bail

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed two more petitions with the High Court to cancel the lower court orders that have granted bail to Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam in two loan scam cases. On August 4, a Dhaka court granted bail to Jasmine in all the 11 cases filed by the ACC after she pledged to pay back in monthly instalments Tk 2,600 crore, which her company has swindled out of Sonali Bank. The commission filed the first petition with the HC on Tuesday for cancelling her bail in one of the 11 cases. ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the ACC would file eight more petitions in a few days for cancelling her bail in the remaining eight cases. Citing from the petitions, he said Jasmine was granted bail illegally, as investigations were underway, and there were serious allegations of money laundering against her. Granting conditional bail to an accused is always illegal, Khurshid said. Hearing of the petitions may take place next week, he added.

Nation mourns Aug 15 murders today

Different political parties, and socio-cultural, professional and student organisations have planned elaborate programmes to commemorate the August 15 victims on National Mourning Day today. The national and party flags will be kept at half mast and black flags will be flown atop Bangabandhu Bhaban and all party offices at the time of sunrise. On this day in 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated by a disgruntled group of army officers. President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet members, leaders of the Awami League and its associated bodies, and people will place wreaths at the portrait of the father of the nation in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi road 32 in the capital at 6:30am. An AL team led by party President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Syed Ashraf

Islam will lay wreaths at the grave of Bangabandhu at Tungipara, Gopalganj at 10:00am. The AL will organise special prayers and a milad mahfil at the graves of the August 15 victims at Banani graveyard at 7:30am and Bangabandhu's grave at 11:00am. Staff at the Prime Ministers' Office yesterday organised special prayers for the victims. The AL will organise a discussion on the life of Bangabandhu today at 3:30pm at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Mujib Sena Oikya League will organise a milad and discussion at its office in Gulistan. Islamic Foundation is likely to offer daylong free medical care among the capital's destitute people. On the occasion, the Gonojagoron Mancha will hold a daylong photo exhibition titled "Uditto Surya" on the life and works of Bangabandhu at Shahbagh intersection, organise cultural events, and offer flowers at his memorial in Dhanmondi.

TWO CASES AGAINST FAKHRUL

Indictment hearing deferred till Sept 17

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until September 17 the hearing on charge framing against BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 25 other leaders and activists in two cases. The court passed the order after lawyers of Moudud Ahmed, Mirza Abbas and Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annee submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing. The two cases were filed against them on charge of creating anarchy and preventing police from discharging their duties on March 2 during their agitation programme. One case was filed against Fakhrul, Moudud and 24 others with Paltan Police Station while another case filed against 23 BNP leaders and activists, including Fakhrul and Moudud, with Shahjahanpur Police Station. Four accused, including Amanullah Aman and Nazimuddin Alam, were present in the court while Fakhrul, Moudud and two others were absent. Eighteen others have remained absconding. Meanwhile, another Dhaka court yesterday adjourned until September 17 for hearing of the case filed against Fakhrul and 45 others for torching a vehicle before the Prime Minister's Office on April 29 last year.



Thirteen-year-old boy Babul in Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He was severely injured after a cocktail thrown by Jamaat picketers exploded on him during yesterday's hartal in Chittagong city's Bakalia Miakhan Nagar area.

PHOTO: STAR

Pankaj Saran offers help for developing education sector

Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran yesterday offered his country's assistance in developing the education sector of Bangladesh. During a meeting with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at his office, the high commissioner praised Bangladesh for making remarkable progress in the education sector among Saarc nations, said a press release. Pankaj Saran also offered training for teachers of the country's secondary and higher secondary education institutions teaching science, mathematics, English and IT. The minister assured Pankaj Saran of considering the offer. Nahid spoke about different achievements of his ministry to the high commissioner and discussed issues of mutual interest. Pankaj Saran further praised Bangladesh's achievements in women development sector. He also invited Nahid to a ministerial level meeting in New Delhi on International Literacy Day on September 8.

Death anniversary

Today is the third death anniversary of Hasan Iqbal, a language movement veteran and former assistant editor of the daily Ittefaq. On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at Barobagh Jame Mosque at Mirpur-2 in the capital after Asr prayers, says a press release. His relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Woman 'burnt by husband' dies

A woman allegedly burnt by her husband at Joydevpur in Gazipur on August 3 died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Burn Unit yesterday afternoon. The victim is Seema Akhter, 30, wife of Mosharraf Hossain of the area. Victim's elder sister Minara Parveen told The Daily Star that the couple had no good relations since their marriage 13 years ago. Mosharraf went abroad and returned two months back. After his return, their relation deteriorated further, she said. Minara alleged that on the day Mosharraf asked Seema to bring Tk 1 lakh from her father's house but she expressed her inability that led to a quarrel at 2:00am. At one stage, Mosharraf poured kerosene on Seema's body and set her on fire. She was admitted to DMCH with 68 percent burn injuries. Seema lodged a complaint with the police against her husband. Police later arrested Mosharraf from DMCH the same day. Joydevpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) SM Kamruzzaman said a murder case would be filed against Mosharraf who was now in jail.

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