

RAIN LIKELY

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka and at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur 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 and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:37am.**

Country's highest temperature 33.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.5 degrees at Khepupara. 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	29.7	26.0	87	87	Khulna	32.0	25.6	96	100
Chittagong	26.8	24.9	96	96	Barisal	29.4	25.8	92	89
Rajshahi	30.5	26.3	80	87	Sylhet	33.9	25.5	89	87
Rangpur	32.7	26.6	67	64	Cox's Bazar	27.5	24.2	96	96



People from all walks of life place wreaths on the coffin of renowned folk singer **Abdur Rahman Boyat** at **Central Shaheed Minar** in the capital yesterday. He died on Monday at the age of 74.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

World's 8th GDD centre opens in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The world's eighth Global Diseases Detection (GDD) Regional Center, which works to identify, control and combat priority infectious diseases, opened in Bangladesh yesterday. The centre is housed in the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), the disease control wing of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), in the capital. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, officials said the centre would serve to detect emerging epidemics and diseases. Other countries where the GDD regional centers are operating include India, Thailand, China, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt and Guatemala, they added. The GDD regional center has been established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the disease prevention unit of the US health department. "Establishment of the GDD regional centre would incorporate the country into a network that monitors and reacts to potential epidemics that could originate from Bangladesh," said Mahmudur Rahman, director of IEDCR. IEDCR has achieved the prestigious responsibility following its progress in establishing twenty-four hours disease monitoring, state-of-art laboratories, and accomplishments in the field of disease surveillance, he added. Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said the establishment of the GDD centre would help Bangladesh in its commitment to building a robust public health system. Director General of Health Services Dr Khandaker Mohammad Shefyetullah said the large population of Bangladesh made surveillance a difficult job, and the GDD centre would help improve the situation. US Deputy Chief of Mission to Bangladesh Jon Danilowicz also spoke at the event.

Mahi B Chy severely injured in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bikolpodhara Bangladesh Joint Secretary General Mahi B Chowdhury broke his right leg as he missed a step and fell to the ground while getting out of a car in Malaysia Monday night. Doctors fixed his leg with nine screws and a steel plate at Tungshin Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, said a BDB press release yesterday. The leg was broken just above the ankle, and he needed a four hours surgery. It was raining when the accident occurred in front of this hotel. Mahi came back to the hotel after seeing off his father BDB President Badruddoza Chowdhury and mother, who were heading for Bangkok, at Kuala Lumpur Airport. They went to Malaysia on a family tour on August 13.

STONE THROWING AT TRAINS BR launches campaign for prevention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) yesterday launched a campaign from Pahartali in Chittagong to Feni to build awareness among people living beside railway tracks to stop throwing stones at trains. A 16-member team of railway east zone officials, boarding three railway trolleys and using loudspeakers, spoke to the dwellers on both sides of the railway tracks on the effects of throwing stones at moving trains and the punishment for it. The campaign would be conducted till Akhaura via Comilla, said Sukumer Bhoumik, divisional railway manager of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone). He said the campaign was launched following the death of a train passenger caused by a stone thrown from outside at the running train. On August 10, Priti Das, the train passenger, died instantly after being hit by a stone in the head from the outside the train she was travelling in at Bhatary in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong.

Indian man held with 8kg gold at Shahjalal airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Customs officials detained an Indian national with 65 gold bars weighing around eight kilograms at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital Monday night. They also seized 9,000 pieces of two gigabyte memory cards, 2,225 pieces of four gigabyte memory cards and 11 iPhones from his possession, Alamgir Hossain, senior assistant superintendent of Armed Police Battalion (APBn), told The Daily Star yesterday morning. Dipak Kumar Acharya, 60, came to Dhaka from Hong Kong by a flight of Biman Bangladesh that landed at 9:30pm, he said. "As he was a transit passenger he was roaming about the transit area but in a suspicious manner," said Alamgir. Customs officials then searched his bag and found the gold bars and other valuables in it and detained him, he added. The market price of the gold bars is worth around Tk 3.5 crore while the cost of other items is about Tk 50 lakh, the APBn official said. While talking to The Daily Star yesterday morning, Shamsuddin Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station, said, "We have heard about the incident but no customs officials contacted us in this regard till now." Zakia Sultana, Dhaka Customs House commissioner, told The Daily Star yesterday that since Acharya is an Indian national and a transit passenger, they have been reviewing the laws to find out how they can file a case and hand him over to the police.

37,672 primary schools to get laptops, projectors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government will give laptops and multimedia projectors to 37,672 government primary schools across the country within June 2016 to improve the classroom teaching-learning process, said Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen yesterday. "It is necessary to impart education through digital system to help students understand complex textbook contents easily," he said while speaking at the launch of a multimedia classroom at Agargaon Taltola Government Primary School in the capital. Core Knowledge Ltd and Rahimafrooz assisted setting up the multimedia classroom. The minister said the government provided a laptop, a multimedia projector and wireless modem to each of 503 primary model schools at upazila level. Four teachers of each of these schools have been given training on developing digital contents for multimedia classrooms, he said. Besides, he said, the process to set up such classrooms in 1,000 schools was going on and they had already started giving training to the teachers.

Jamaat godfather of all militant bodies

Shahriar Kabir tells discussion condemning Aug 21 grenade attack
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Demanding a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, eminent war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir yesterday said the party was the godfather of all militant organisations in the country. Jamaat should be tried not only for its anti-liberation role but also for its involvement in the militant activities committed to date after independence, he said, urging the government to use the constitutional power to ban the party immediately. He was addressing a discussion, "Jamaat's involvement in militancy and militancy in the name of religion: Where does it end?", organised by Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, an anti-war criminal platform, in the capital's WVA Auditorium. The platform organised it to observe the 9th anniversary of the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital in 2004. The then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped death in the attack, which killed 24 AL leaders and activists, including Ivy Rahman, and injured 300 people. Immediately afterwards, the BNP-Jamaat government blamed AL and India for the attack, said Shahriar Kabir, executive president of the platform. "But in a 2010 interview, Harkat-ul Jihad Al-Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Abdul Hannan revealed to me the involvement of BNP and Jamaat leaders," he said. Expressing concern over the slow progress of the August 21 attack case, he said if the AL failed to come to power again, the case would vanish. He also expressed worries over the progress of other cases filed against Jamaat men for militant activities. Shahriar claimed that Jamaat-BNP men's infiltration into every tier of the administration was the main reason for the slow progress of these cases. The platform adviser, Justice Syed Amirul Islam, urged the government to exercise self-righteous process and single out the anti-liberation elements in the cabinet. He said only banning of Jamaat would not suffice to stop militancy. Transparency in political parties and removal of repression and discrimination are necessary, he added. Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha also spoke.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN
From left, Justice Syed Amirul Islam, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, and Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, widow of martyred intellectual Dr Abdul Alim Chowdhury, at a discussion organised by Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, an anti-war criminal platform, in WVA Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Trucker stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Unidentified criminals stabbed a truck driver to death in the capital's Demra early yesterday. The deceased was Md Russel, 21. The incident occurred at East Boxnagar nearly half an hour after he had left this house, said Harun-ur Rashid, sub-inspector of Demra Police Station. After being stabbed, he ran but died from bleeding around 150 yards off the spot, Harun added. Russel's brother Rezaul filed a murder case with the police station accusing several unidentified persons.



Waterlogged Royal Chattr in Khulna city due to incessant rain yesterday. Many other places in the city saw similar situation.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Shibir blasts bombs in Ctg demanding release of activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Islami Chhatra Shibir men yesterday brought out a flash procession and blasted several crude bombs in Chittagong city demanding release of their activists who were arrested in connection with an attack on Sunday. Witnesses said about 30 Jamaat-e-Islami backed Shibir activists brought out a brisk procession from the city's Kazir Dewri intersection at about 11:00am. When the procession reached near Public Administration Centre in Askar Dighi area, they blasted several cocktails and fled. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered a live cocktail. On Sunday, Jamaat-Shibir activists attacked a police van and vandalised five other vehicles that left three policemen and a Shomoy TV videographer injured. Police detained 61 men in this connection. On Monday morning, police filed two cases with Panchlaish Police Station in connection with Sunday's incident and showed 35 of the detainees arrested in the two cases. Nineteen other detainees were shown arrested in two cases filed in connection with an attack on July 14. The rest were freed.

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