

## RAIN LIKELY



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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places,

Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:25pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am.**

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.4 degrees at Rangamati and Teknaf.

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 32.6	25.5	75	72	Khulna 33.5	25.3	85	81
Chittagong 31.4	26.1	81	80	Barisal 32.4	26.5	79	74
Rajshahi 34.0	25.9	83	71	Sylhet 35.2	26.3	86	61
Rangpur 33.0	25.0	78	67	Cox's Bazar 31.3	25.5	78	82

## NEWSIN brief

### Youth's hanging body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police yesterday recovered the hanging body of a youth from a mango tree in front his house at Ulukandi in Araihaaz upazila of Narayanganj.

Deceased Titas Mia, 22, son of Rowshan Ali Mridha, used to work at a local power loom factory.

Araihaaz police sent the body to a hospital morgue for an autopsy.

### Fire breaks out at oil mill in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A fire broke out at a vegetable oil manufacturing mill at Fatulla in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said the fire originated at the warehouse, housed on the fourth floor of Kamal Vegetable Oil Mills, and soon engulfed the entire floor. A huge quantity of chemicals, raw materials and about 12 machines were damaged by the fire.

Fire fighters doused the blaze after an hour. An electric short circuit might have caused the fire, said

### Body of man recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a man from a bush near East West Medical College in the capital's Turag yesterday.

Identity of the man, aged around 45, could not be known immediately.

The man was strangled with a scarf which was found tied around his neck, said Turag police.

### Two arrested for CD piracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths were arrested with 20,200 pirated CDs and a huge number of blank CDs and DVDs from a house at Nawabganj in the capital's Lalbagh area on Wednesday.

Rapid Action Battalion officials said they arrested Jony Chowkidar alias Sagor and Jewel Chowkidar and also recovered equipment, including a computer and a scanner, used for piracy from the house.

### Polythene factory sealed off in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) seized around two tonnes of illegal polythene bags and four machines from a factory in the capital's Lalbagh yesterday.

A mobile court, led by DoE Director Md Alamgir and an executive magistrate, also arrested two workers of the factory, Shampad Plastic, in a house on Abdul Aziz lane, says a press release.

The factory owner managed to escape. Later, the mobile court sealed off the factory.

### College student shot by muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot and stabbed a Dhaka College student and snatched away his motorbike in the capital's Mohakhali Flyover yesterday morning.

Abdur Rob, 25, a master's student of economics, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Three muggers in a car waylaid Abdur and shot him in his arm and leg. They also stabbed him in his hand which cost him his little finger, said Banani police.

A case was filed against three unidentified people.

## Violence against minorities seldom tied to religion

Says Mozena

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The violence against religious minorities in Bangladesh is seldom about religion, US Ambassador Dan Mozena said yesterday.

Rather, it is about the pursuit of power and financial gain of the cheap politicians and greedy land grabbers, he told a seminar on "Religious Tolerance and Peace" organised by Inter-Faith Dialogue Forum (IFDF) at the capital's Brac Centre.

"These cheap politicians and greedy land grabbers are a threat to the nation," he said.

Citing examples, Mozena said most recently, "we saw how the greedy owner of Rana Plaza grabbed land from a Hindu family and built on it the building complex that is now known around the world as the symbol of greed, corruption and land grabbing from minorities."

He called upon the government, civil society and the people to reject these cheap politicians and land grabbers who seek to use religion to advance their self-serving agendas to acquire power and wealth.

Mozena said diversity was the beauty and magic of Bangladesh. The respects for religions here also reflect at the national level as the country observes national holidays during the key festival of each religion, he said. "I know of no nation where the president hosts a grand reception to commemorate the great festival days of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity."



#### Discussion

Bangladesh Chhatra League will hold a discussion demanding arrest of those launched the grenade attack on an Awami League rally; Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 3:00pm.

#### Meeting

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samabaya Dal will organise a meeting on the amended constitution; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.



A large stretch of the 1.4km Bahaddarhat flyover in Chittagong city, which is due to be ready by September, is still under construction. The labourers, however, are working day and night under army's supervision to meet the deadline, inset. The army was tasked with completing the work after a girder collapse killed 15 people in November last year. The flyover's construction began in March 2011, and it is expected to reduce traffic jam in the port city to a great extent. The photos were taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

### Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At four years old, Nadira Khatun suffered a stroke that paralysed the right side of her

body. A heart surgery could bring her back to normal life, but her widowed mother Minara Begum, a garment worker, is never going to afford that by herself.

Minara is already struggling to keep the six-year-old daughter, her only child, alive, who needs monthly medication and physiotherapy costing about Tk 8,000. Doctors say a surgery on her heart will cost about Tk 4 lakh.

The hapless mother, therefore, has appealed to the well-off people for financial assistance. Donations can be sent to Minara Begum, Account No-21912, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Pallabi Branch, Dhaka. She can be contacted on 01928708320.

## Teachers go on strike at BRUR for arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A section of teachers of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) yesterday started an indefinite strike to realise a seven-point demand, including salary arrears.

Other demands include regularisation of jobs of the teachers who have been appointed on an ad hoc basis and appointment of teachers against all the vacant posts.

A section of officials and employees who were appointed on the ad hoc basis during the tenure of immediate past vice-chancellor Abdul Jalil Miah also started such strike for salary arrears.

The teachers under the banner of "Muktijuddher Chetanay Progotishil Shikkhak Samaj," who were loyal to Abdul Jalil Miah, called the strike on Wednesday.

Associate Professor Abu Kalam Md Farid-ul Islam, joint convener of the association, told The Daily Star that they are yet to get salary for the months of May, June and July and bonus for Eid-ul-Fitr.

Dr AKM Nurun Nabi, vice-chancellor of BRUR, told The Daily Star that the BRUR authorities will manage the salary arrears within a few days.

Dr Tuhin Wadud, member secretary of "Sochetan Shikkhak Samaj", another section of teachers who waged movement against irregularities during Jalil Miah's tenure, said defying the strike, they went to the campus yesterday but failed to join the academic activities as all the academic buildings were kept under lock and key.

BRUR sources said 674 teachers, officials and employees were appointed against 336 permanent posts during the tenure of Jalil Miah. As a result, salary and other allowances allocated for the staff finished three months ago.

## SCBA demands withdrawal of contempt charges against HRW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday demanded that the government withdraw the contempt of court petition filed against the Human Rights Watch.

The prosecution on Tuesday filed the petition with the International Crimes Tribunal-1 against the New York-based rights body.

The rights body claimed the trial of former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam at the tribunal had been "deeply flawed" and "it had not met the international standards."

The SCBA leaders at its executive committee meeting also demanded withdrawal of the amendment to the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006. SCBA President AJ Mohammad Ali

## Presence of journos at JS meetings sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chiefs of different parliamentary standing committees and senior journalists at a workshop yesterday called upon the Speaker to allow journalists at the meetings in the parliament to make the committees' functions more effective and transparent.

Members of the Jatiya Sangsad bodies said without involving the media and civil society groups, functions of the legislature cannot be transparent and the people have the right to know.

Management and Resources Development Initiative organised the dissemination workshop titled "JS bodies under media scanner" at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

MRDI also revealed findings of a study aimed at identifying the gap between discussions of the parliamentary standing committees and their media coverage.

Findings of the study were based on news analyses published and telecasted in different print and electronic media in a certain period. Three JS bodies -- agriculture, LGRD and disaster management -- were selected and articles published on the three bodies were analysed.

In its recommendations, the study said committee briefings should be formalised to avoid information gaps.

Other significant recommendations include improvement on proceedings writing, presence of relevant experts in meetings and increased media coverage on JS body meetings.

The study was based on 85 stories published during the monitoring period. According to the study only 19 out of the 85 stories had no authenticity problems.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, among others, were present at the workshop.



Commuting has become a nightmare over this road, filled with numerous gaping potholes lurking under water-logged sections, beside the Fulbaria bus stand in the capital. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## SETTING MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT AT 15

## Govt urged to ratify ILO convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) convention that has set the minimum age for employment at fifteen.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organised the seminar in Biam auditorium of the capital.

"It is important to outlaw the involvement of children below the age of fifteen, in labour, so as to promote them to go to school and develop effectively as individuals," said BSAF Director AS Mahmud.

The Minimum Age Convention by ILO will ensure that this can be so, he added.

Labour and employment ministry Secretary Mikail Shipar supported the demand, and pushed for the activation of the child labour monitoring cells in the zila and upazila levels, that are to ensure underage workers are not being employed.

There is also discussion regarding assigning a unique sixteen digit code to every registered birth, so that certificates cannot be faked, and the actual age of individuals can be verified without involving them into work, he added.

He also urged that compulsory education be extended up to eighth grade, and the government pilot project providing free meals in some schools, be extended to all.

## People won't accept polls under partisan govt

Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just as the public did not accept the 15th amendment to the constitution, they will also not accept an election held under a partisan government, claimed BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

Fakhru was addressing the inaugural session of a political workshop of BNP for leaders of its front organisation Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal at a hotel in the capital.

Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque, in a separate programme at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, urged the government to pass the bill of caretaker government in the upcoming parliamentary session scheduled to start on September 12.

Rallies of BNP-led 18-party alliance rescheduled

The BNP-led 18-Party alliance yesterday changed the dates of three of its rallies, which were scheduled to be held in Rangpur, Rajshahi and Barisal.

Rangpur's September 16 rally has been rescheduled for September 15; the rally in Rajshahi which was to be held on September 15, will now be held on September 16 and Barisal's September 28 rally has been rescheduled for September 29.

Dates of rallies to be held in Narsingdi, Khulna and Sylhet have not been changed.

On August 19, the alliance announced dates for six rallies to be held across the country to press home their demand for the caretaker government.

## শেলটেক শরণ মেলা ২০১৩

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