

RAIN LIKELY



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

at places over the country. Met Office said. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:02pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and Dinajpur and lowest 23.2 degrees at Mongla. 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 | 24.5 | 93 | 79 | Khulna | 33.6 | 23.5 | 98 | 82 |
| Chittagong | 29.9 | 25.8 | 85 | 82 | Barisal | 30.4 | 24.4 | 98 | 92 |
| Rajshahi | 35.0 | 26.9 | 72 | 85 | Sylhet | 31.6 | 25.4 | 86 | 76 |
| Rangpur | 34.4 | 27.5 | 69 | 75 | Cox's Bazar | 31.0 | 25.5 | 80 | 89 |

After 5yrs girl gets home from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD AFROZA KHATUN FINALLY RETURNED TO HER HOMETOWN YESTERDAY, AROUND FIVE YEARS AFTER SHE HAD TRAVELLED TO INDIA WITH HER MOTHER AND ELDER BROTHER ILLEGALLY.

INDIA'S BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF) ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL BANGSHI DHAR SHARMA HANDED OVER THE GIRL TO BORDER GUARD BANGLADESH (BGB) DIRECTOR GENERAL MAJ GEN AZIZ AHMED AT THE BGB HEADQUARTERS IN THE CAPITAL AROUND 10:30AM.

HER FATHER AND MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER FROM NATORE WERE PRESENT ON THE OCCASION.

MONOWARA BEGUM WITH HER LITTLE DAUGHTER AFROZA AND SON MUNNA PARVEZ CROSSED OVER THE BORDER INTO INDIA IN JANUARY 2009 IN SEARCH OF A LIVELIHOOD, SAYS A BGB PRESS RELEASE.

BUT A FEW DAYS LATER, THEY HEADED BACK FOR BANGLADESH AS MONOWARA FELL ILL. IN JANUARY THE SAME YEAR, THEY TRIED TO CROSS THE BORDER NEAR SILIGURI TO COME TO BANGLADESH BUT WERE DETAINED BY POLICE FOR INTRUSION INTO INDIA AND LATER IMPRISONED.

"HEAVY RAINS CAUGHT US UNAWARE, AND WE SOUGHT SHELTER IN A PLACE. MY MOTHER WAS PUTTING ME TO SLEEP WHEN A LAW ENFORCER APPROACHED AND STARTED ASKING US QUESTIONS. WE GOT ARRESTED AFTERWARDS," AFROZA SAID AT A PRESS BRIEFING AFTER THE HANDOVER.



Indian Border Security Force (BSF) hands over twelve-year-old Bangladeshi girl Afroza Khatun to Border Guard Bangladesh at the BGB headquarters in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

NEWS IN brief

PM to inaugurate tech-based crime control centre today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Police is getting a centre equipped with modern information and communication technology and a database on crime and criminals for real-time central supervision in dealing with crimes at any corner of the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the centre, National Crime Control and Operations Monitoring, to be housed in a 22-storied building, at the Police Headquarters in the capital today.

"This centre will help in better supervision of our units in a more effective way and enhance professionalism," Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker told The Daily Star on Friday.

FAO arranges poster contest for Khulna school-goers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organised a poster contest for the school-goers in Khulna on Friday.

Around 350 school children participated in the contest organised at the Khulna divisional museum to mark the upcoming World Food Day, said a FAO release yesterday.

FAO Representative in Bangladesh Mike Robson and Khulna Deputy Commissioner Meshbah Uddin distributed the prizes among the winners of the competition.

RMG factory closed at Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A garment factory at Pukurpar in Ashulia industrial belt was declared closed for yesterday to avoid workers' agitation triggered after a worker was injured in an accident.

A window glass on the third floor of the Lusaka Group, broke down on Enamul Islam while he was entering the factory yesterday. He was rushed to Enam Medical College and Hospital, said police.

Following the incident, workers started agitation blaming the authorities for their negligence in ensuring safety at workplace.

No scope for violence in democracy

Says Mozena

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

There is no scope for violence in democracy and a credible poll is possible through constructive dialogues between the two key political parties, stated US Ambassador in Bangladesh Dan W Mozena yesterday. Stressing the need for the dialogues, he said US Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon have already urged the two leaders to resolve the current political crisis through dialogue.

Mozena was addressing as chief guest a prize-giving ceremony at Pledge Harbour School in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila. He also said Bangladesh was a rich country in terms of agriculture, culture, industry, and technology. "I have roamed the country's 64 districts. One day Bangladesh will rank number one in the garment sector."

Govt out to harass Dr Yunus

Observe three panellists at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is out to harass Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus bringing the allegation of irregularities in tax exemption, three of the four panellists at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap said yesterday.

Asked about the government's decision to take legal action against Prof Yunus, Brac University's Prof Ferdous Azim said, "I don't think it is logical. I think this step comes as the government is picking on Dr Yunus."

"As it appears, ignoring Grameen Bank's contributions to women empowerment in the country, he is being treated as a petty criminal."

She came up with the comments five days after the Cabinet decided to take legal action against Prof Yunus and eight organisations bearing the name of "Grameen" for alleged irregularities in tax exemption.

"The chairman of the National Board of Revenue has said there is no allegation of tax evasion against Dr Yunus. The way the government is harassing him shows it is doing so out of vengeance," said Sushashoner Janney Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder. Supporting their observations, BNP leader Moudud Ahmed termed the government decision a "way to assassinate the character of Dr Yunus".

Awami League lawmaker Tofail Ahmed, however, differed. "According to the constitution, all men are equal. If there is any irregularity, legal action will be taken against him," he said.

BBC Bangla Service and BBC Media Action jointly organised the dialogue in the capital's Biam auditorium.

IMPROVING DHAKA'S AIR Mass transit, clean tech brick kilns imperative

Prothom Alo, World Vision Bangladesh discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mass transportation systems and brick kilns based on clean technology are a must to improve Dhaka's air quality, said noted speakers at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Over 600 traditional brick kilns located in the northern fringes of the capital are the biggest contributors to its air pollution, said Md Nasir Uddin, joint secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo and World Vision Bangladesh jointly organised the discussion on air pollution in Dhaka city and child health in the former's Karwan Bazar premises.

Mass transport systems like metro rail are vital for cutting the air pollution level as slow-moving motor vehicles, in conjunction with traffic congestion, pollute air significantly, said Nasir.

The conventional process of burning bricks must also be replaced with low emission technology, he said.

Dhaka is among the world's 20 cities with the worst air pollution, he said, adding that replacing two-stroke three-wheelers with four-stroke ones and making them run on natural

gas could not make a significant difference in preventing air pollution.

Citing findings of IRIN, the UN's humanitarian news and analysis service, Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi to conquer Mount Everest, said around 15,000 children die of air pollution in Bangladesh every year.

"It is air pollution in Dhaka that triggers my asthma, not cold in Nepal. My little son is also a victim of asthma," he said.

Air pollution hampers overall mental and physical development of a child, said Bonifex Rozario, divisional director of World Vision.

Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of environmental group Bapa, said once underground sewage comes up to the surface during waterlogging, it dries, rises up in the air and eventually enters the lungs.

Khondkar Enayet Ullah, chairman of Dhaka Bus Owners Association, said the sulphur content in diesel used in Bangladesh is 10 percent though ideally it should not contain any.

Chairing the discussion, Prof Ainun Nishat, vice-chancellor of Brac University, said diesel must be free of sulfur as fine particles suspended in the air, coupled with sulfur, is lethal for the lungs.

Let's not allow bigots to take over Bangladesh

Anisuzzaman urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman yesterday urged all to work in unison so that religious fanatics cannot take hold of the country.

The image of Bangladesh lies in the spirit of the Liberation War, but demands are being made to send women back to the confine of the four walls of house, he said.

All will have to work together to defend that spirit, he told a ceremony at BCS (Administration) Academy in the capital where Chandraboti Academy conferred a lifetime achievement award on the educationist for his contributions to the country.

The chief guest, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, said just as a light house was to a sailor, Prof Anisuzzaman was to society.

Chandraboti Academy has published "Akash Amay Bhorlo Aloy", a book containing the life, works and some rare pictures of Prof Anisuzzaman, edited by the academy adviser Mahfuzur Rahman.

Executive Director of Ain o Salish Kendra Sultana Kamal and Chittagong University's Prof Golam Mostafa, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Chandraboti Academy Executive Director Kamruzzaman Kajal gave the welcome speech function, chaired by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.



Finance Minister AMA Muhith hands over a lifetime achievement award to Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman at BCS (Administration) Academy in the capital yesterday. Chandraboti Academy gave the award to the veteran educationist for his contribution to the country.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP will set country back

Joy tells dialogue with youths in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



If BNP wins the next general election, the country will head back to the black days, Sajeb Wazed Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said in Chittagong city yesterday.

People are aware of what they saw during the past BNP tenure--"corruption, terrorism and bomb attacks", he told journalists after attending a dialogue at Chittagong Club Ltd. Joy claimed that in the history of Bangladesh, the last four-and-a-half-year tenure of the Awami League-led government had been a period of unparalleled progress.

"For achieving the intended development of the country, people should vote the Awami League to power through the next election."

The Centre for Research and Information organised the dialogue, "Let's Talk, the Floor is Yours", between current politicians and future leaders.

A total of 160 youths, cultural activists, and social workers

Three held with 1,800 Yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three people with 1,800 Yaba pills in two separate drives in the capital Friday night and yesterday afternoon.

Md Abdul Aziz Howlader, 32, was arrested when he came to sell 1,000 Yaba tablets in front of a shop in City Corporation Market in Dhupkholar Math of Ganderia at 8:40pm Friday, said Rab-10 Commanding Officer Lt Col Imran Ibne Rouf.

On information from him, two more people - Md Shafiq, 52, and Md Abdul Gafur, 50 - were arrested with 800 pieces of Yaba in front of Masjid market on Khadaker road in Jurain at 1:20pm yesterday, Rouf added.



AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS PROJECT IN BANGLADESH (AVC): REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DAI, implementer of the USAID-funded Agricultural Value Chains Project (AVC), invites qualified bidders to submit proposals to supply and deliver the following services:

Health and Workers' Compensation Insurance: RFP No. AVC-Dhaka-0-13-001
DAI seeks health insurance and worker's compensation coverage for its full-time project staff located in Dhaka and in two regional offices for approximately 75 full-time staff.

Organizational Capacity Building: RFP No. AVC-Dhaka-T-13-001
DAI seeks a Bangladeshi firm to provide capacity building services to local organizations in the Southern Delta. The subcontractor and DAI will work jointly; DAI will build organizations' technical capacity to provide value chain development services, and the subcontractor will build their operational capacity for improved financial management, performance monitoring and administrative operations. The subcontractor will have supported USAID programs previously and have a record of helping Bangladeshi organizations meet international standards of business management.

Instructions:
Qualified bidders can obtain a full copy of these RFPs, including deadlines and detailed instructions on the preparation of proposals, via email request to AVCprocurement@dai.com. Please include the RFP No. as the subject line of your email.

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