

RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER
TODAY

Unl, Dhaka

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

Moderately 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 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chandpur and lowest 23.0 degrees at Kutubdia and 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 33.8	24.2	74	72	Khulna 33.5	23.5	78	80
Chittagong 32.0	24.0	80	76	Barisal 33.5	24.5	78	80
Rajshahi 35.2	25.0	81	72	Sylhet 33.5	24.5	83	73
Rangpur 33.8	25.5	73	83	Cox's Bazar 32.2	25.0	71	82

Fire breaks out at RMG factory in capital, 3 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a garment factory at Nandipara in Madartek in the capital yesterday noon.

A seven-storey building houses the factory, Sicily Garments, on its fifth and sixth floors.

Three people, including two locals in rescue operation, were injured, said witnesses.

No worker was present in the factory during the fire, claimed Jamal Uddin, the factory's merchandising manager.

Nearly 1,550 people work in the factory, said Shamim Ahmed, general manager (production) of the factory.

Eight firefighting units with the help of locals doused the blaze around 2:00pm, said Md Rafiqul Islam, assistant director of Dhaka Division Fire Service.

The cause behind the fire could not be known immediately.

The storage rooms were almost full of a kind of foams used inside jackets, which were gutted, said Jamal. Also there were around 40 sewing machines, he added.

Earlier on November 24 last year, as many as 112 workers were killed in a deadly fire at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital.



This muddy road in Gabtali-Beribandh area of the capital has been awfully battered for a long time with the authorities turning a blind eye to the situation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

NEWSIN brief

Rana Plaza victims get assistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 20 Rana Plaza building collapse survivors were given Tk 20,000 each from Meril-Prothom Alo Savar Assistance Fund at the daily's office in the capital yesterday.

One hundred more survivors will get assistance from the fund, said the organisers.

One survivor, Shahida Akhter, who is now jobless and facing health problems, said she did not get any aid from any government fund.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum and Madonna Group Chairman Md Akhteruzzaman, who donated the money, also spoke.

Shariful made Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation country director

JU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Khondoker Md Shariful Huda of geography and environment department of Jahangirnagar University was made the country director of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation, Bangladesh.

JU Journalists' Association (JUJA) yesterday accorded a reception to Prof Huda at JUJA office where JU Pro Vice-Chancellor (education) Prof MA Motin and JUJA Adviser Prof ATM Atiqur Rahman were also present.

The foundation is working to explore leadership quality in the youth through self-development programmes.

BARS TO BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SAFETY NET SCHEME

Political interference, corruption to blame

Says People's Alliance survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political interference, mismanagement and corruption in local government bodies are preventing the extreme poor from getting government support under social safety net schemes, stated a survey yesterday.

Around 49.06 percent of the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) cardholders think the selection criteria were correct while only 34.2 percent think they get the correct amount of foodgrain allotted by the government.

In another scheme to provide employment opportunities, only 47.33 percent cardholders thought that the selection criteria were correct while the beneficiaries were provided work for, on an average, 57 days a year.

The survey report was revealed at a roundtable organised by Governance

Coalition, a network of non-government organisations, in the capital's Cirdap.

The coalition, through its local civic body People's Alliance, ran the survey in six areas - Charbaria, Chandpura, Shaestabad, Raipasha-Korapur, Kashipur and Jagua unions -- under Barisal Sadar Upazila.

A total of 216 cardholders, 36 from each union, were surveyed between July and September, 2012.

Under the two-year VGD scheme, each extremely poor woman is supposed to receive 30 kilogrammes of foodgrain (rice or wheat) per month, said the coalition Convener Mohsin Ali.

Under the employment scheme, each extreme poor person will receive

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PM asks cops not to harass people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked members of police force to ensure that people are not unnecessarily harassed while seeking services from police stations, outposts and police boxes.

"You [members of police force] should earn people's trust by being compassionate and professionally responsible," she said while inaugurating the National Crime Control and Operations Monitoring (NCCOM) Centre in the capital.

NCCOM, jointly funded by the Bangladesh government and Japan Debt Cancellation Fund, will facilitate central command control and monitoring operations of various units of police force.

It will also consolidate and maintain crime-related database and build a data centre, said sources at the police headquarters.

The inauguration ceremony at the 22-storied NCCOM building was attended, among others, by Home Minister MK Alamgir, State Minister for Home Shamsul Huq Tuku, and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hasan Mahmud Khandakar delivered the welcome address at the function held at the police headquarters while Additional IGP (admin) AKM Shahidul Haque gave the vote of thanks.

Aga Khan arrives today

CITY DESK

The Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), arrives in Dhaka today on a two-day visit at the invitation of the government.

During his visit, the Aga Khan will hold talks with President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other government high-ups, said a press release.

The Aga Khan, on behalf of the AKDN, will sign a Protocol of Cooperation with the government.



PHOTO: COURTESY

State Minister for Law Advocate Qamrul Islam inaugurates Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) Library financed by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL) at DRU office yesterday. IBBL Managing Director Mohammad Abdul Mannan was present at the function as special guest. DRU President Shahed Chowdhury, Vice President ABM Ziaul Kabir Sumon, and Finance Secretary Rezaul Karim were, among others, present on the occasion.

HC DECLARING REGISTRATION ILLEGAL

EC sticks to verdict, Jamaat says it remains 'a party'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad says the High Court verdict declaring illegal Jamaat-e-Islami's registration with the EC as a political party remains in force, Jamaat leaders claim it is still legally a registered political party.

"The court's verdict is applicable for all and it will remain in force until the Supreme Court gives any reverse judgment," said the CEC after a meeting with a four-member Jamaat team at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat yesterday.

Whether Jamaat would be able to participate in the next parliamentary poll depends on the Supreme Court (SC) as the party will file an appeal against the verdict, he added.

However, talking to reporters afterwards, Jamaat leaders claimed that as the issue is yet to be settled at the SC, Jamaat is still

legally a registered political party and will surely be able to participate in the polls.

A three-member special HC bench declared illegal the registration on August 1 following a writ petition.

Rakibuddin said they would decide on the registration cancellation once they got the verdict's full text.

Jamaat leaders also requested the EC not to take any decision on excluding Jamaat leaders, found guilty by the International Crimes Tribunals, until the cases are disposed of at the SC. Rakibuddin agreed to this.

The Cabinet on September 2 approved a proposed amendment to the electoral roll law stating that a person will be excluded from or will not be included in the electoral roll if found guilty under Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunal) Order, 1972 and International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973.

Five BCL men hurt in intra-party clash at Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League Savar University College unit were injured in an intra-party clash on the campus yesterday.

Rajib Ahmed, president (acting) of the unit, Azizul Haque, Rafiqul Islam and Dilon were rushed to Enam medical hospital while Sujon needed first-aid.

Rajib said a group led by Utpal Kumar Shaha, organising secretary of the unit, attacked his group with rods as they stood against them for running "admission trade".

However, Utpal blamed Rajib and his group for running the "trade" and the attack.

Police is investigation the matter.

UPCOMING UNGA

Reducing inequality should be core agenda

EquityBD seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reducing inequality across the world should be the main agenda of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly where the post-2015 development goals will be discussed, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Countries failed to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set in 2000 to create a world without poverty and hunger by 2015. There are now more people who are hungry than what was in 2000, they added.

EquityBD organised the seminar in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud said developed countries were responsible for the crises of climate change facing Bangladesh. "So we must make them pay us compensation," he said.

Stating that Bangladesh has been largely successful in reaching the MDGs two years ahead of the deadline, he said the challenge was to sustain the development and progress.

EquityBd Research Coordinator Barkat Ullah Maruf said the assembly's goals should be to control global arms and military expenditure while debts of least developed countries should be cancelled.



This branch of a tree, with deep cracks running along the trunk, hangs precariously over a road, ready to give way at any moment and cause an accident for the oblivious traffic passing underneath. The photo was taken before Chittagong Club in Stadium area in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Bokhtiar murder case transferred to DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The case, filed over killing of college student Bokhtiar Mohammad Latif with Jatrabari Police Station, was transferred to the Detective Branch of Police yesterday.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, told The Daily Star that now DB would investigate the murder.

DB Inspector Yunus Ali said he had taken the responsibility to probe into the incident.

They are trying to find out whether this was a robbery or a pre-planned murder, Yunus added.

Latif, 20, was shot dead in front of his parents at their residence in Jatrabari by a gang of unknown assailants early Friday.