

RAIN LIKELY



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

Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:00pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.

Country's highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.5 degrees at Sylhet.

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	32.8	25.0	73	76	Khulna	34.7	25.7	80	84
Chittagong	32.0	25.9	75	82	Barisal	34.5	26.4	86	96
Rajshahi	35.8	26.6	79	70	Sylhet	33.8	23.5	79	66
Rangpur	34.7	26.0	79	67	Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.7	80	88

Nearly 2.76 lakh govt posts vacant

Ashraf Islam tells JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 2.76 lakh out of over 14 lakh posts in the government lie vacant, LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam told parliament yesterday, adding that steps were under way to fill the vacancies.

To another query, he said the number of officers made officer on special duty (OSD) was 410 from 2001 to 2007, while it fell to 345 from 2009 to June this year. Ashraf, however, said it would take some time to come up with the correct amount spent for their salary and allowance.

To a third query, he said the Public Service Commission suggested appointing three physically challenged BCS candidates as per a January 12, 2012 circular on keeping one percent of jobs reserved as quota for such persons.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a crowd at Rajshahi High Madrasa grounds yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abdul Alim's links to Razakars not proved

Defence claims at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence lawyer yesterday said the prosecution had "miserably failed" to prove war crimes accused and BNP leader Abdul Alim's involvement with the Peace Committee or Razakar force in Joypurhat during the Liberation War.

According to the prosecution, Alim, president of Joypurhat Convention Muslim League in 1971, was chairman of the Peace Committee and commander of the Razakar force in Joypurhat, and with Maj Afzal of the Pakistani army, he committed numerous war crimes.

On the second day of the defence's closing arguments, Alim's lawyer Ahsanul Huq Hena said although the prosecution claimed Alim was chairman of Joypurhat Peace Committee, their documents showed that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abbas Ali Khan was the chairman. The Peace Committee and Razakar force collaborated with the Pakistani army in committing genocide among other crimes in 1971.

Hena said the prosecution tried to prove a "nexus" between Alim and Maj Afzal, but documents showed that the army officer was posted in Gaibandha, not in Joypurhat, in 1971.

The prosecution earlier presented a photo, provided by a witness, showing Alim with Maj Afzal at Joypurhat Railway

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AL to rid country of anti-liberation forces on return

Sajeeb Wazed Joy tells Tangail rally

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Tangail

Terming the next parliamentary election "the last battle of the 1971 Liberation War movement", Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday said anti-liberation forces would be stamped out from the country if Awami League (AL) was voted to power again.

The only son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was addressing a rally at Rani Bhavani Model High School in Tangail's Madhupur upazila.

Joy, as part of his aim to help AL, the president of which is his mother, in electioneering to ensure its victory, reached Mymensingh with a large motorcade on Sunday.

Hundreds of makeshift arches were built



Sajeeb Wazed Joy

on Tangail-Dhaka and Mymensingh-Tangail highways while thousands of cheering people, including schoolchildren, stood by to welcome Joy. He also attended several rallies in Tangail yesterday.

Joy said the trial of war criminals has been initiated as pledged and the verdicts would be executed if AL came to power again.

He reiterated his speech in a Mymensingh rally on Sunday that terrorism, militancy, bomb attack incidents and corruption would return if the BNP-Jamaat alliance came to power again. "Extremists have lined up to come to power," he said.

Joy blasted Leader of the Opposition and

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SAYEDEE'S VERDICT SC starts hearing on appeals today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to start hearing today on the appeals filed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee and the government challenging the war crimes trial verdict against him.

The appeals have been enlisted as item No 21 in today's hearing list of the apex court.

On February 28, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Sayedee to death on two charges although it had found him guilty on eight out of 20 charges brought against him.

Sayedee on March 28 filed an appeal with the SC seeking acquittal from all the eight charges.

The government on the same day submitted another appeal to the apex court for seeking death penalty for him in all the eight charges, which were proved before the tribunal.

On July 30, a five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed today for beginning

Aga Khan IV inks deal with govt to operate its organs

BSS, Dhaka

The Aga Khan Development Network yesterday signed a protocol with the government to operate its organs in Bangladesh as Prince Karim Aga Khan IV arrived in Dhaka on a two-day tour.

The protocol was signed after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.

According to a foreign ministry statement, Finance Minister AMA Muhith accompanied by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni also called on him at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel when they sought the development network's cooperation in the areas of health, particularly in non-communicable diseases, education, heritage tourism, jute industry, agriculture and livestock.

The organs are Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS), Aga Khan Education Services (AKES), Aga Khan Academies (AKA), Aga Khan University (AKU), The University of Central Asia (UCA), Aga Khan Trust For Culture (AKTC), Aga Khan Agency For Microfinance (AKAM), Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS).

The lone profit-oriented organisation to be operated in Bangladesh under the deal is Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), the statement said. The office of the spiritual leader said AKDN works in 30 countries.



Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, chairman of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), one of the world's biggest private development groups, and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni sign a protocol at the foreign ministry in the capital yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina looks on at the signing.

PHOTO: PID

DHAKA-ARICHA HIGHWAY

VIPs a boon for travellers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The passage of VIPs on Dhaka-Aricha Highway prompts eviction drives by law enforcers on illegal makeshift shops, bringing a sigh of relief for vehicle passengers and the locals as traffic congestion become nearly non-existent.

However, as soon as the VIPs pass, the shops, the main cause for the congestion, return to their usual spots on the footpaths and encroaching on nearly half the highway's width, said commuters and the locals.

Yesterday, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV visited the National Memorial in Savar around 1:30pm. Between 10:00am and 2:00pm, the highway was free from shops and jam.

Like him, two to three VIPs use

the highway on an average each week, bringing relief for brief periods, stated commuters and drivers.

During the passage of VIPs, a journey from Nabinagar to Gabtoli Bus Terminal in the capital by bus takes around 40 minutes.

However, in other days, crossing acute traffic jams before Jahangirnagar University, Savar Bazar Bus Stand, Genda, Hemayetpur and Aminbazar on the route takes nearly three hours, said the commuters.

"If police can keep the road free from hawkers two or three days a week, why don't they do it every day?" asked Jony Akter, a private bank employee

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Publishers oppose ban on guide books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association (BPBA) yesterday criticised the government initiative to stop the publication and circulation of "guide books" and "note books".

Referring to the draft Education Act 2013, it condemned the provision which states that legal actions will be taken against the makers and suppliers of such books.

At a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, the association said the publishing industry of the country would be in danger if the law was passed and enforced. "About 25 lakh people may lose jobs and become derailed because of the law," said Alamgir Sikder Loton, president of BPBA. He demanded that the law must allow publication and marketing of these books.

Loton also criticised the draft for banning inclusion of any book in the curriculum of primary and secondary education, which is not approved by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

NEWSIN brief

Rony freed from Kashimpur jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Golam Maula Rony was freed from Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur yesterday nearly two months after he had been arrested in a case filed for assaulting journalists.

The Independent TV authorities on July 20 filed the case against Rony alleging that he had beaten up its reporter Intiaz Momin and videographer Mohsin Mukul on the day at his Topkhana Road office in the capital.

On August 11, two local AL leaders lodged two more cases in Patuakhali against Rony, his relatives and party activists over extortion and ransacking business establishments.

The High Court on September 11 granted him bail in the three cases.

5 held with VoIP equipment, Yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-2 yesterday arrested three persons in connection with illegal VoIP business and seized some equipment worth around Tk 15 lakh from their house in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

They are Imran Hossain Raju, Sadekuzzaman Naim and Sajib Hossain. The equipment includes one channel bank, 351 SIM cards and two modems, said a Rab press release.

On Saturday night, the same team arrested Shahadat Hossain Faisal and Jalal with 3,130 Yaba pills at a

Boy drowns in pond in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year-old boy drowned in a pond in the capital's Mirpur Beribadh area yesterday.

The deceased was Md Ramjan, a resident of Gudaraghat in Mirpur-1.

Uncle of the deceased Sajjad Hossain said Ramjan drowned while bathing with his friends in the pond in Nababer Par around 1:30pm.

Divers from Fire Service and Civil Defence fished out the body around 4:00pm.

ACC okays charge sheet against eight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the submission of a charge-sheet against eight persons, including an official of Uttara Bank and a police inspector, for embezzling over Tk 1.19 crore from Rajarbag Police Telecom Office in the capital.

The accused includes AM Razi Uddin Ahmed, former principal officer of Hotel Isakhan branch of Uttara Bank; Abdul Latif, former accountant of the Rajarbag office; Anwarul Hossain Sarkar, an accountant of home ministry; and Yunus Ali, former police inspector.

According to the charge sheet, they misappropriated the money through fake procurement documents.



Reception

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Gonoparishad will accord a reception to Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Deshpremk Jonogoner Mancha will hold

an open discussion and press briefing on election law; Venue: Sangskriti Bikash Kendra; Time: 3:00pm.

Rally

Non-MPO Educational Institutions Teachers-Employees Alliance will stage a rally demanding inclusion of registered institutions in monthly pay order list.



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জরুরী জ্ঞাতব্য

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