

RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|--|
| Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. | Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.0 degrees at Kutubdia. | | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
| | Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. | | Max: Min: | | Morning Evening | | Max: Min: | | Morning Evening | |
| | Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: | | Dhaka | 34.2 26.5 | 81 66 | Khulna | 32.2 27.0 | 70 83 | | |
| | | | Chittagong | 32.0 25.6 | 80 83 | Barisal | 31.5 26.5 | 80 83 | | |
| | | | Rajshahi | 33.5 25.0 | 90 80 | Sylhet | 35.2 26.4 | 74 66 | | |
| | | | Rangpur | 33.0 25.5 | 81 76 | Cox's Bazar | 31.0 25.5 | 80 83 | | |

2 Indian rights activists denied Bangladeshi visas

They are set to meet Felani's family to file writ petition over case verdict

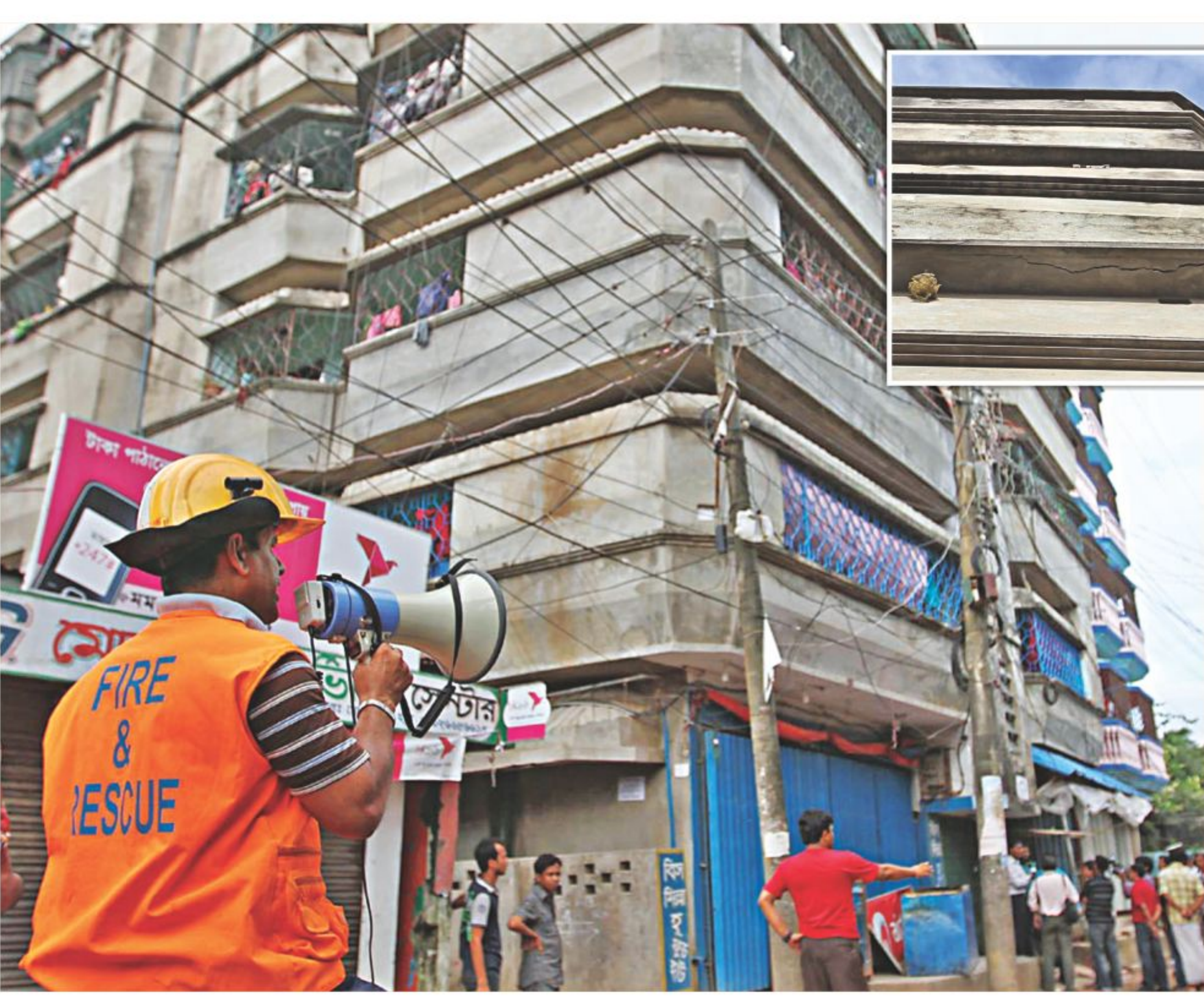
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Indian rights activists, who are set to file a public interest litigation with the Indian Supreme Court regarding Felani Khatun's murder, were denied visa from Bangladesh yesterday, reports BBC Bangla Service.

Six days after they applied for visa, Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata denied visa to Kriti Roy, chief of Indian rights body MASUM, and Malay Sengupta, a retired judge, as per the report.

The rights activists said Bangladesh government had not permitted them to visit Bangladesh to stop further proceedings regarding the killing of the teenage Bangladeshi girl in 2011 by the India Border Security Force (BSF).

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A fire fighter urges people to clear the area surrounding the six-storey Shovon Manjil in Chittagong city's South Halishahar that tilted yesterday. Inset, some of the cracks which developed on the building.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

3 women fight over newborn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Strange as it may sound, three women claimed the motherhood of a newborn in Bogra.

Shapla Begum, 22, wife of Mostafa Kamal of Jatholida village in Gabtoli upazila, gave birth to a baby boy at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital on September 9.

But the boy went missing from the hospital around 8:00pm, approximately 10 hours after its birth, leaving both Shapla and her husband in total despair.

The family immediately filed a general diary with Sadar Police Station about the boy's missing, and started a desperate search themselves for the lost baby.

In the meantime, on September 17, eight days after the baby's disappearance, Shapla came to know that a baby was traced at a childless mother's house at Hasraj village in Sonatola upazila, some 10 km from her village.

Kohinur Begum, 25, wife of Mostafizar Rahman in the village, claimed that she was the mother of the baby.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sonatola Police Station AKM Khalequzzaman was in a dilemma as he found it very difficult to deal with.

Police then picked up Kohinur. She later confessed that she had bought the baby from garments worker Shefa Begum in the capital's Demra area by paying Tk 15,000, as she [Kohinur] and her rickshaw-puller husband had no child. Shefa, 34, is the wife of Shajahan Mia of Shaghata upazila of Gaibandha district.

Police tricked Shefa into travelling Bogra from Dhaka. But her claim was more amazing. She said that she was the original mother of the baby.

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DoE fines Gazipur factory Tk 26 lakh for pollution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a garment factory in Gazipur Tk 26 lakh for polluting the environment.

DoE Director M Alamgir (monitoring and enforcement) fined Ayman Textile and Hosier Ltd in Chandra area of Kaliakoir upazila for discharging untreated waste into the Turag river. The factory authorities were also ordered to install an effluent treatment plant (ETP).

Representative of the factory owner at the DoE headquarters promised to take necessary steps in this regard.

Law passed to modernise madrasa education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed two bills, one on modernising madrasa education and another on simplifying village court proceedings, and sent a third on establishing a maritime university for further scrutiny.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid proposed the passage of the "Islamic Arabic University Bill, 2013", first placed in parliament in February 23.

The law, passed in voice vote, states that the university will be set up to prepare the curriculum, conduct exams and confer degrees of Fazil and Kamil level madrasa students and teachers. Islamic University in Kushtia has been performing these duties.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, on the minister's behalf, proposed the passage of "The Village Court (Amendment) Bill, 2013", first tabled in parliament in June 27 amid objections from opposition lawmakers.

The law, passed in voice vote, stipulates inclusion of a rule for increasing women representation in village courts and states that an appeal filed with a magistrate against a village court verdict must be disposed off within 30 days.

The law increases the amount of fine the courts can impose, from Tk 25,000 to Tk 75,000, and the penalty for contempt of court or non-compliance of order, from Tk 500 to Tk 1,000. It also states that people bringing false charges can be fined Tk 5,000.

The "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Bangladesh Bill 2013", placed by the education minister earlier, was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry for further scrutiny.

A report will have to be placed in the House in 15 days. Once the bill is passed, the public university will be established in the Bangladesh Marine Academy campus to produce skilled manpower for the maritime sector.

PM asks PSC to recruit the best

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) to rise above all influences to recruit efficient, honest and talented people.

"The public servants will have to be pro-people as they are the servants of the republic while the people are its owners," she said while inaugurating the newly constructed building of BPSC at Agargaon in the capital.

Urging all to work together for the development of the country, Hasina said her party, the Awami League, came to power to serve the people.

She said the government introduced e-governance to bring transparency and infuse dynamism in the public administration while massive reform programmes were being implemented to build an efficient public administration suiting the 21st century.

She said BPSC has been shifted to its own building after over 40 years of its inception in 1972 as the present government took urgent measures, including allocation of land in 2012.

She said it was one of BPSC's constitutional duties to select qualified candidates for the cadre posts and all first and second class gazetted posts while recommending recruitment, promotion, regularisation of jobs and determination of seniority.

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NEWS IN brief

Sylhet mayor takes office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

New Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury yesterday at a function took the charge of his office from acting mayor Md Shahjahan.

The pro-BNP mayor vowed to modernise Sylhet city and keep the SCC free from political influences. He said he will hold talks with senior citizens and take their advice on how to run the body.

Councillor Rezaul Hasan Lodi conducted the function while Councillors Farhad Chowdhury Shamim and Shahana Begum also spoke.

11 Shibir men held with bomb making materials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested 11 Shibir activists with bomb making materials and jihadi books at Madhyo Paikpara in the capital's Mirpur last night.

They were held at two Shibir messes opposite the central mosque around 9:30pm while they were planning to commit subversive activities during today's hartal, said Rab-4 Commanding Officer Lt Col Quamrul Hasan at a press briefing on the spot.

A good number of posters demanding release of detained Jamaat-Shibir leaders, including Shibir President Delwar Hossain, were also seized during the raids, he said.



Bangladesh Cycle Lane Bastobayan Parishad brings out a bicycle rally in the capital's Teacher-Student Centre in Dhaka University yesterday demanding separate bicycle lanes and that the day be declared "World Cycling Day".

PHOTO: STAR

SYRIA CRISIS Bangladesh welcomes US-Russia agreement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh welcomed the agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation on elimination of Syrian chemical weapons.

"Bangladesh hopes that the initiative would contribute towards a diplomatic solution to the situation in Syria ensuring the central role of the United Nations," said a statement issued by the foreign ministry yesterday.

Bangladesh reiterates its call for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian crisis reflecting the aspirations of Syrian people upholding its national sovereignty, independence, national unity and integrity, it said.

The US and Russia reached the agreement on "The Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons" on 14 September in Geneva.

Fire breaks out at Jiban Bima Tower

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A small fire broke out at Jiban Bima Tower in the capital's Dilkusha yesterday noon.

An electric board, located between 14th and 15th floor of the tower of the lone state-owned life insurance company, caught fire around 12:00noon, said Dhaka Fire Service officials.

However, the fire came under control only 10 minutes later when an electric operator cut the power connection of the building, they added.

ABM Manjur Kader (Babul Akhter) Trust Fund formed at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In memory of noted freedom fighter and newscaster Babul Akhter, "ABM Manjur Kader (Babul Akhter) Trust Fund" has been formed at the Department of Soil, Water and Environment of Dhaka University.

Younger brother of Babul Akhter Masud Kader Mona yesterday handed over a cheque worth Tk 5 lakh to DU Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin for the trust.

Two poor but meritorious students (one male and one female) of honours 4th year of the department will be given scholarship from the fund every year.

100 AC minibuses in capital soon

Says Obaidul Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said 400 taxicabs and 100 air-conditioned (AC) minibuses will be commissioned in the capital soon.

Besides, 250 taxicabs will be pressed into service in Chittagong, he said at a press briefing at his ministry's conference room.

The minister informed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to lay the foundation stone of much-talked-about metro rail and the second Kanchpur, Meghna and Gumbi bridges in October. She will also inaugurate the four-lane project of Nabinagar-DPZ-Chandra road next month, he added.

About the Dhaka-Chittagong four-lane highway, the minister said carpeting of 20 kilometres of the highway has been started while construction work of 12 bridges, out of 20, has been completed.

He informed construction work of one underpass is nearing completion and that of another is progressing.

He also said reconstruction work of bridges under Bangladesh Eastern Bridge Improvement Project is going on with the funding of Jica and government.

SERVICES AT COMMUNITY CLINICS Half of recipients not happy: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost half of the recipients of healthcare at community clinics in rural Bangladesh are unhappy with the available services, show findings of a nine-month survey.

"Though around 52 percent of the recipients perceived community clinic services as good, the rest prefer to go elsewhere due to poor services at the clinics," said Abdus Sabur, a consultant of community health services, who presented the report yesterday. The community clinics mainly aim to ensure healthcare for women and children, but it was being hindered due to a large number of male staff, the report says.

The majority of the male employees restrict female patients from availing services at the clinics, it adds.

According to the report, only 10 community clinics were staffed exclusively with female, while one in four is not fully staffed.

Health Network of Bangladesh (HNB), a platform of nine non-government organisations, disclosed the report at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The report was prepared based on a survey of 48 community clinics across eight districts of six divisions excluding Barisal between June 2012 and February 2013.

Around 12,000 community clinics are currently operating in Bangladesh. Each of these health centres is designed to serve 6,000 people.

The report says the majority of the service providers are not advising patients follow-up visits while one-third of the clinics are not maintaining their operational schedule.

The incumbent government has taken the initiative of establishing community clinics to deliver health services for the rural people and invested requisite equipments to facilitate the services, said Sabur.

He, however, observed that the government's purpose was not being fulfilled.

Condolence

With great love and respect, we remember our beloved Managing Director, Mr. Rashed Ahmad Ali, who left us on Monday, September 09, 2013 for his eternal abode.

May Allah (SWT) grant him blessings and eternal peace, and ease our hearts from the pain of his absence.

A Doa Mehfil will be held at his residence on Friday, September 20, 2013 at 3:30 pm. Family, friends and colleagues are cordially invited to attend.

Family and Colleagues
Contact : 0173 0053251



Seminar
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), and CTO Forum Bangladesh will organise a seminar on "Emerging ICT Careers and Prospect"; Venue: IUB campus, Basundhara Residential Area; Time: 6:00pm.

Roundtable
Election Working Group will arrange a roundtable discussion on "Review of the Proposed Amendments of the RPO"; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 2:30pm.



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