

RAIN LIKELY



Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Dhaka and Rajshahi 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 5:36pm and rises tomorrow at 5:55am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 21.8 degrees at Srimangal. 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	34.0	25.6	62	54	Khulna	34.0	24.0	77	82
Chittagong	32.8	25.5	80	80	Barisal	33.5	24.0	83	92
Rajshahi	33.0	25.0	87	80	Sylhet	33.8	22.5	66	69
Rangpur	32.7	24.0	64	62	Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.4	69	72

NEWS IN brief

Two gold bars seized from Biman cabin crew at Shahjalal airport

Custom officials seized two gold bars, weighing 20 tolas, worth around Tk 10 lakh, from a cabin crew of Biman Bangladesh Airlines while he was passing through a green channel at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. The crew Kamal Hossin Nehal, who returned from Dubai, hid the bars in his shoes, said custom intelligence officials. He was not arrested but the department will take action against him after investigation, they added. Besides, the officials also seized 148 gold chains, weighing 850gm, worth around Tk 30 lakh, from a passenger, Rubel, who arrived by a Thai Airways flight.

Businessman 'abducted' for Tk 2 lakh ransom in N'ganj

A businessman was allegedly abducted from Murapara area of Ruppangj upazila for Tk 2 lakh ransom money. Victim Imam Uddin Gazi, 55, of the area, is a saw-mill owner. Imam's son, Sirajul Islam Gazi, said his father was returning from Harab Bazar by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw when miscreants abducted him. Around 12:00noon, one of the miscreants demanded the money over the cell phone, added Sirajul.

US embassy to remain closed on October 13, 14, 16

The Us embassy, including the Consular Section and the American Center's Archer K Blood Library and Student Advising Center, will remain closed on Sunday [October 13] for Columbus Day, the next day [October 14] for Durga Puja and Wednesday [October 16] for Eid-ul-Azha. Emergency services for American citizens will be available at 885-5500, said a press release.

Five muggers held in capital

Police arrested five alleged muggers after exchanging fire with them in capital's Kalabagan area yesterday. Kalabagan police recovered a private car, two pistols and a revolver, 14 rounds of bullet and 20 Yaba tablets from the arrestees. Sub-inspector Harun-ur Rashid said a police team while patrolling the area around 2:30am found that the five were gossiping in the area. Over suspicion, police moved towards them when the criminals opened blank fire prompting them to fire back. Later, police chased them and held them on the spot.

Woman found hanging in house in N'ganj

The body of a woman was found hanging from a rafter of her house at Kendua in Ruppangj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday. Ruppangj police broke open the door of the house and found Saleha Begum, 25, wife of Khalil Mian, hanging. Locals said Khalil left the house in the morning following a quarrel with Saleha. Getting no response from inside the house till the afternoon, they informed police. Police sent the body to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.



Human chain Maasranga Television Poribar will form a human chain demanding trial of the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi; Venue: In front of the TV station; Time: 11:00am. **Meeting** Nouka Samarathak Goshthi will hold a meeting on the development during the government; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 11:00am.

'Friend' kills student after abduction

Rapid Action Battalion recovered the decomposed body of a private university student at a house in the capital's Panthapath yesterday, two days after his kidnap from his residence in the same area. The deceased, Ahmed Reza Rifat, 24, a student of Northern University, hailed from Cox's Bazar sadar. Rab arrested his friends Masud Rana Sumon and Linkon. Lt Col MM Anisur Rahman, commanding officer of Rab-2, said Sumon took Rifat to his [Sumon] room on Tuesday, sedated him, and killed him by hitting the head with a brick. After his death, Sumon, by phone, demanded Tk 50 lakh as ransom from Rifat's father Ahmed Ramiz, a health inspector in Cox's Bazar, he added.

Govt conspiring to hold one-sided general polls

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain yesterday alleged that the government had been hatching conspiracy for holding a one-sided general election. He threatened the government saying that if it wanted to hold the election by force, the opposition along with the masses would resist it.

2 DU students stabbed by fellows

An expelled student of Dhaka University along with his friends stabbed their two fellows on the campus following an altercation yesterday. The injured are international relations student Mohammad Niloy, 20, of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, and Sanskrit student Sharif, 20, of AF Rahman Hall.

5 carjackers held 9 stolen cars recovered

Detectives arrested five carjackers and recovered nine stolen private cars in Dhaka and Narsingdi in the last two weeks. The criminals usually lift such vehicles from the capital and after changing their engine and chassis numbers with making fake papers, they sell these in rural areas, Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), briefed journalists at its media centre yesterday.



Police intercept a procession of Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of left leaning parties, before the energy ministry in the capital yesterday. The demonstrators were demanding cancellation of the proposed power plant project at Rampal near the Sundarbans.

Cops foil march against Rampal power project

Police intercepted a procession of Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of left leaning parties, yesterday and foiled its plan to rally in front of the energy ministry demanding cancellation of the proposed power plant project at Rampal near the Sundarbans. Failing to reach the secretariat where the ministry is located, the alliance rallied near Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Addressing the gathering, the left leaders said although Indian law did not permit any thermal power plant within 25km of a forest, India's state-run National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was about to construct a 1,320MW coal-fired power station within 14km of the Sundarbans. "NTPC is doing in Bangladesh what it is not allowed to do in India," said Saiful Haq, convener of the alliance. Pointing out that the government sits idle while vast areas of the world's largest mangrove forest are being grabbed routinely, Zonayed Saki, another leader, said the assurances that the government would not do anything harmful for the Sundarbans was not believable. Shudhangshu Chakrabarty of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Mosharruf Hossain Nannu of United Communist League, and Shahidul Islam Sabuj of Democratic Revolutionary Party spoke among others.

Poet Dilwar Khan passes away

Ekushey Padak recipient poet Md Dilwar Khan died in his house in Sylhet city's Bharthokhola yesterday. He was 77. Kobi Dilwar was suffering from old age complications for long. He left behind four sons and three daughters. After passing intermediate exam in 1954, he could not further study due to sickness. He served as the assistant editor of the Daily Sangbad and the Dainik Gonokantha. He also worked for the monthly Udoyon (now defunct) of the Russian Cultural Centre in Dhaka.



RPO amendment won't empower EC enough

The proposed amendments to the Representation of People Order (RPO) will not sufficiently empower the Election Commission to create a level-playing field for all parties ahead of the upcoming polls, former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hossain said yesterday. "During our tenure, we made several recommendations to strengthen the commission. But we see that most of those points have been dropped from the amendment proposal," he told a seminar, "Free and fair election and our thoughts", at the capital's Mukti Bhaban. "For example, we recommended that all ministries, departments and other government agencies would be required to consult the commission in taking any decision during the polls but it's absent." He also emphasised re-introduction of "no vote" system. Addressing the event organised by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan alleged that the two major parties were being run by the directions of a single person as in the dictatorial system.



Devotees offer prayers to Hindu deity Durga at the start of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the community. The photo was taken from Ramkrishna Mission in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Juta protests 'BCL assault' on teachers

Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (Juta) yesterday demanded punishment for the Bangladesh Chhatra League men who allegedly assaulted some of their colleagues who were demanding Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain's resignation on the campus the day before. Protesting the attack, nearly 150 teachers wrapping their mouths with black cloth brought out a silent procession and also threatened that if the VC did not step down by October 20, the teachers would bring the entire university to a standstill from October 22. Meanwhile, Assistant Proctor Umme Sayka resigned yesterday to protest the alleged attack.

Faulty Salehpur Bridge yet to be fixed

Even after three years of a road accident there killing 13 people, the faulty Salehpur Bridge at Aminbazar in Savar, is still to be fixed, said speakers at a human chain yesterday. They also demanded road safety for all. Several hundred people under the banner of the "Society of Rural and Urban Development" formed the human chain on the outskirts of the capital, marking the road accident at the bridge on October 10, 2010. Quoting experts, they said the construction of the bridge was faulty as it was narrower than it should be but it was yet to be reconstructed.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASES Cross-examinations of PWs end

The court hearing the two Chittagong arms haul cases wrapped up recording statements and cross-examinations of prosecution witnesses (PW) yesterday amidst refusal by defence lawyers to cross-examine the last one. The charge sheet mentions 264 PWs, 56 of whose depositions have been recorded. Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal Number 1 fixed October 23 to read out the statements and ask the accused whether they were guilty and whether they would produce witnesses to claim themselves innocent. Once their depositions are recorded and they are cross-examined, the court will hear arguments from the prosecution and the defence. The court will then fix a date to deliver the judgement. The refusal came after the court decided to give on a later date directives over four petitions submitted by Advocate Khondoker Mahbub Hossain, representing accused

1.6 million elderly people suffer from dementia

Experts tell discussion. Dementia is predominantly prevalent among individuals above 60 and a patient with such a mental disease often fails to recall his past and mistreats people around him, said Dr Zillur Rahman Khan, a psychiatrist at NIMH. According to a study, jointly released by NIMH and World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2005, one in every 1,000 people in the country suffers from dementia. Prof Waziul Alam Chowdhury, director of NIMH, said the number of dementia patients was increasing and if timely steps were not taken it would reach to 5.5 million in 2050. There are only 190 professional psychiatrists and 38 clinical psychologists in the country, he said, adding that only 25 to 50 percent of the adults are privileged with medical treatment for the mental illness.

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE Victims' relatives still waiting for compensation

Ful Mala, mother of Rikta Akter who died when Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24 in Savar, is yet to get any compensation due to wrong information. Rikta, 18, a sewing machine operator at Ether Tex in the nine-storey building, was the only earning member of her family. The family members took her body two days after the disaster and gave their address to the authorities concerned. Mala claimed that the

Political parties must not use children

Views-exchange meeting told. Political leaders and civil society members yesterday urged political parties not to use children for furthering their political interests. This practice of using children for political purposes destroys their childhood and prospective careers, they said at a views-exchange meeting on inclusion of child rights related issues in political manifestos. Child Rights Governance Assembly, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Save the Children organised the programme in the capital's Biam auditorium. The speakers emphasised effective policies to remove discrimination among children so that all children can enjoy their rights to food, health, education, clothing and shelter. "Political parties that use children in politics and terrorist activities are doing evil politics. We must resist them or this culture will destroy our future leadership," said Nuh-Ul Alam Lenin, Awami League presidium member.