

Rain likely



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

ER

Y

Umh

Dhaka

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

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:56am.

Country's highest temperature 34.0

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majidee Court and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius

Max: 32.2

Min: 25.8

Dhaka

32.2

25.8

Chittagong

31.4

25.6

Rajshahi

33.1

25.3

Rangpur

28.4

25.8

Humidity in percentage

Morning 76

Evening 66

Khulna

76

66

Barisal

75

78

Sylhet

83

81

Cox's Bazar

87

87

Temperature in Celsius

Max: 32.5

Min: 26.2

Khulna

32.5

26.2

Barisal

32.0

25.8

Sylhet

32.6

24.6

Cox's Bazar

32.4

25.0

Humidity in percentage

Morning 78

Evening 76

Khulna

78

76

Barisal

82

82

Sylhet

81

71

Cox's Bazar

87

85

Residents protest unauthorised cattle market in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Over 100 people under a banner, "Inhabitants of Greater TB Gate Area", formed a human chain and staged a rally in Sylhet city yesterday demanding eviction of an unauthorised cattle market on the area's Shahi Eidgah Playground.

Staging the demonstration before National Heart Foundation Hospital, the protesters urged people not to buy cattle from the market and threatened to declare tougher agitation programmes if the eviction did not take place within 24 hours.

The market had taken over the area's sole playground and polluting the

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A kitchen market trader in the capital's Motijheel tends to the display of his spices yesterday. Demand for spices is high during Eid-ul-Azha when animals are sacrificed and the meat is used in preparing different delicacies in almost every household.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Cattle traders 'drugged, robbed' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

"Agyan party" members allegedly doped and robbed at least 26 cattle traders at Steel Mill market in Patenga area of Chittagong city early yesterday.

The victims claimed that the miscreants took away around Tk 16 lakh from them as they became unconscious after eating supper laced with sedatives.

The traders of Faridpur, Chapainawabganj and Bogra, came to the market to sell their cattle ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Habibur Rahman, 40, one of the victims, said they had the food around midnight.

Fellows took them to Chittagong Medical College Hospital around 1:30am.

Dr Abu Hanif Chowdhury at CMCH said the food items they had were drugged.

However, Patenga Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed said the cattle traders suffered from food poisoning.

Journalist Shafiqul Kabir passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shafiqul Kabir, former special correspondent of The Daily Ittefaq, died of a cardiac arrest in his residence yesterday. He was 72.

He left behind his wife, a son and two daughters.

Kabir received Lifetime Achievement Award from Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

President of Jatiya Press Club Kamal Uddin Sabuj and its General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members, says a press release.

Alhajj Syed Md Ismail

CITY DESK

Alhajj Syed Md Ismail, founding president of Newspaper Hawkers' Multipurpose Welfare Co-operative Association Ltd, died at a hospital in the capital on Saturday. He was 87.

He was buried at Jurain graveyard following his namaz-e-janaza in his Mirhazirbag residence the same day.

He left behind his wife, a son and three daughters.

Shirin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shirin Ahmed, former deputy general manager of Bangladesh Bank, died of cancer on October 10. She was 64.

She was buried at a graveyard at Jurain after Juma prayers on Friday.

She left behind her husband, a son and a daughter-in-law.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Rokeya Rahman, a former teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the capital.

She had served the school for 18 years. She also served several other schools as a teacher.

Her family requested all to pray for the departed soul.

APPEARANCE FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT

Two Jamaat lawyers flout HC summons

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Two Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, including its acting secretary general, Rafiqul Islam Khan, have not yet appeared before the High Court to face a contempt of court case although they were ordered to do so on September 16.

A vacation bench of the HC on August 5 summoned "absconding" Rafiqul, and Md Ibrahim, a central Jamaat leader, for making a "derogatory and contemptuous" statement about the court.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain in a suomoto (of its own) order asked them to appear before another HC bench dealing with contempt of court cases.

The court also issued a rule asking the two to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for making such a statement.

Rafiqul on August 1 issued a statement, signed by Ibrahim, rejecting an HC verdict, which, on that day, declared the Jamaat's registration with the Election Commission illegal.

He said the government's desire reflected through the HC verdict, which is against the rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights and the constitution.

Announcement of the verdict at the last stage of the

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Dhaka agrees on BCIM economic corridor

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expressing commitment to strengthen greater connectivity, Dhaka agreed to actively participate in promotion of the development of the proposed economic corridor linking Bangladesh, China, India, and Myanmar (BCIM).

During a delegation level meeting between Dhaka and Beijing, the Bangladesh side agreed to consult the modalities of the initiatives with other parties for strengthening connectivity in the BCIM region for closer economic, trade and people-to-people linkages.

An eight-member Chinese delegation led by Deputy Director of the National Development & Reform Commission of China, Lin Dajian, yesterday held a meeting with the high officials of the ministries of foreign affairs, communications and energy, and Economic Relations Division.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haq chaired the meeting, in which the Chinese side handed over a draft of the proposed framework of the economic corridor. The Chinese side has already provided the draft to India and will give it to Myanmar.

Chinese Ambassador Li Jun was also present at the meeting.

On completion of a similar discussion with the Myanmar government by the Chinese authorities today, the four countries will hold a joint working group meeting in Beijing in December to form a common platform to workout further details of how to construct the regional highway, meeting sources said.

"We are very much positive about the initiative... the proposal on the corridor is still in the very initial stage and Bangladesh needs to work out details of how we can proceed with the proposed South-Southeast Asian connectivity highway," said an official, who attended the meeting.

The BCIM Forum for Regional Cooperation held its first meeting in Kunming, Yunnan Province in 1999, and concluded its 11th meeting in Dhaka in February this year. However, it is a nongovernmental forum.

Bangladesh considers the proposed corridor

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Constitution will be violated if JS sits after Oct 24

Says Rafiqul Islam Mia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday claimed that if the parliament sits after October 24, it will be a clear violation of the constitution.

He was addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He asked the people as well as BNP leaders and activists to demonstrate if the government tries to hold parliamentary session after October 24.

Meanwhile, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi alleged that the government has formed a torture squad comprising some servile high officials of police to control the opposition leaders and activists.

"We heard from different sources that the government formed the squad to control and harass the opposition leaders and activists," said Rizvi.

However, he could not give any information about the squad.

"We also heard that the squad will later turn into a killing squad," said the BNP leader at a press conference at the party's headquarters in the capital.

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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

Bridges Division, army to sign deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications ministry's Bridges Division will sign a Tk 133 crore deal with Bangladesh Army today for supervision consultancy work of two approach roads and two service areas of the Padma bridge project.

The approach roads and service areas will be constructed at both ends of the bridge at a total cost of about Tk 1,600 crore, Shafiqul Islam, project director of Padma bridge project, told The Daily Star.

Earlier on August 20, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader announced that the consultancy work would be given to the army.

"Army will do the supervision consultancy work for three years so that construction of the approach roads and service areas are done properly," added Shafiqul.

A Bangladesh-Malaysian joint venture company is constructing the approach road and service area at Janjira point of the project under a Tk 1,097 crore agreement.

Another tender of about Tk 440 crore has been finalised for building the other approach road and service area at Mawa point of the project.

The government decided to construct the 6.12km bridge with its own fund as the World Bank and three other

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Ctg railway station, bus stands crowded with home-goers

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

With Eid-ul-Azha, one of the biggest Muslim festivals, just around the corner, residents of Chittagong city are flocking to the city's bus stands and railway station in a rush to get home to enjoy the festival with their family and friends.

Visiting Chittagong Railway Station, different bus stands and bus counters in the port city, The Daily Star found the places to be overcrowded with homebound people.

Md Muslim Uddin, assistant secretary of Bangladesh Inter-district Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union, said the number of homebound people has been increasing since Saturday and it will significantly rise in the coming days.

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Home-goers cram into Sadarghat Launch Terminal in the capital yesterday to get home to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their relatives.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A bus takes a sharp turn to overtake two trucks, forcing an oncoming vehicle nearly off the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Goal Bathan in Gazipur's Kaliakoir on Saturday. Such manoeuvres frequently cause accidents and are especially dangerous during the holiday season when the traffic is heavy on the highways.

Six held on charge of impersonating cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (west zone) arrested six people for impersonating highway police in Shonir Akhra, said Joint Commissioner of DB police Monirul Islam in a press briefing yesterday.

Pretending to be highway police, the gang used to stop cargo-bearing trucks under the pretence of checking their papers and then rob them, he said at the briefing held at DMP media centre.

On information, a team of DB police caught the gang red-handed while they were waiting to ambush a truck around 9:45pm yesterday.

They also recovered two sets of police uniform, one wireless set, one toy gun, two cleavers, one metal rod, and several tablets used for drugging people.

The arrestees are Mohammad Julhaz Hawladar Saiful, Mohammad Mokhsedur Sardar, Mohammad Sohel Rana, Mohammad Jafar Hossain Hasmat, Mohammad Saiful Islam and Mohammad Kabir Hossain.

The robbers used to frequent Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways, one of the robbers, Julhaz, told the police during interrogation, said Monirul.

A case was lodged.

In another raid yesterday, a team of DB police caught four criminals who used to mug people after making them unconscious using drugs, said Monirul.

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RMG workers abstain from work for salaries, Eid bonuses in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Garment workers of two factories at Barabari and Saydana Maleker Bari in Gazipur city abstained from work yesterday demanding their 10-day salaries of the current month and Eid bonuses.

To avoid any untoward situation, the authorities closed the factories for the day.

SM Samsur Rahman, assistant superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Police, said around 8:30am, the workers of Parksin Garments Ltd at Barabari started the strike.

Later, the authorities assured them of paying their arrears within today.

Demanding their salaries, the workers of the other factory, Tex Tech Sweater Ltd, ransacked the factory.

On information, police rushed to the spot and took the situation under control.

Following a meeting among the Tex Tech authorities, industrial police and the workers around 2:00pm, the authorities paid the workers' bonuses.