

Rain likely in 3 divisions



Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:19am.

Country's highest temperature 32.5

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.4 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

The highest and lowest temperatures 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	29.6	16.2	55	87	Khulna	30.2	17.0	71	63
Chittagong	29.6	18.7	74	64	Barisal	29.5	17.3	72	78
Rajshahi	29.3	13.4	77	69	Sylhet	29.5	14.9	58	61
Rangpur	28.0	15.6	74	71	Cox's Bazar	32.5	19.5	70	75

Dhaka decided in principle to sign Ticfa

New foreign minister tells journalists

UNB, Dhaka

New Foreign Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali yesterday said Dhaka and Washington would sign the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (Ticfa) as the decision was taken in principle earlier.

"Let's see...still we've time," he told journalists after a marathon meeting with his colleagues a day after getting his portfolio.

Earlier in parliament, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said ministers of the election-time government would not make any policy decisions, rather would only be doing routine works.

Commerce Secretary Mahbub Ahmed and acting deputy of US Trade Representative Wendy Cutler is scheduled to sign the deal on behalf of their respective sides on November 25.

Asked on the government's position if India agrees to sign the Teesta deal on December 15, a smiling Abul Hasan said, "We say in English we'll cross that bridge when we'll come near to it. Time will say how we'll cross that bridge. Future will answer your question."

He said there has been a significant progress in Bangladesh over nearly the last five years and in many indexes Bangladesh is well ahead of many countries, including the biggest and friendly neighbour India.

"Bangladesh has achieved a respected position in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

NEWSIN brief

3 bombs exploded before new civil aviation minister's residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants exploded three crude bombs before the Gulshan 2 residence of the new civil aviation and tourism affairs minister, ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader, in the capital last night.

Hit by the splinters around 9:00pm, one pedestrian Mohammad Sujon Miah, 19, was taken to Shahabuddin Medical College Hospital and shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

BSF picks up Bangladeshi farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi farmer from Agrovolut border under Benapole port yesterday.

The victim is Yasin Ali, 35, a farmer, of Chandanpur village in Kolaroa upazila of Satkhira.

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said BSF members of Jhaudanga camp picked up Yasin from Zero Point and took him to their camp around 7:00am.

The BGB send a letter to the BSF demanding a flag meeting and release of Yasin.

Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Laxmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Unidentified miscreants shot a Jubo Dal leader to death and injured his cousin at Nandigram village in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur early yesterday.

The victim, Morshed Alam, 32, son of Siraj Mia of the village, was general secretary of Bashikpur union unit of the youth wing of BNP.

Sadar police said the culprits fired gunshots at Morshed and his cousin Sumon while the two were sleeping at their fish enclosure, killing Morshed instantly and injuring Sumon.

Three Hizb-ut Tahrir men held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested three activists of banned Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir in Panchlaish of Chittagong city.

MM Iftekhar Uddin alias Rumi, Forhan Alam and Ataul Islam, also students of Chittagong University, were held while they were distributing anti-government leaflets to pedestrians and Muslim devotees before Afmi Plaza in East Nasirabad Hill View area after Juma prayers, said Panchlaish police.

During interrogation they admitted that they were Tahrir activists, police added.

A case was filed in this regard.



Paying respect

Sramik Nirapotta Forum will pay its respects at the Jurain graves of the Tazreen Fashions fire victims on the eve of the incident's first anniversary; Venue: the Jurain graveyard; Time: 9:00am.

Reunion

Dhaka College will organise a reunion for its former students

and celebrate its founding anniversary; Venue: its premises; Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

South Asia Youth for Peace and Prosperity Society will hold a roundtable, "National Parliament Election of Bangladesh: Expectations and Reality"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:15pm.



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, inset, addresses a rally of the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, threatening to paralyse the country if the schedule for the 10th parliamentary election is declared without restoring the non-party caretaker government system.

MIGRANT WORKERS 65 more leave for Malaysian jobs

None of 60,000 foreign workers deported from Saudi Arabia are Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another 65 Bangladeshi workers left on a flight for plantation jobs in Malaysia from the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday, bringing the total from April till date to 1,120.

Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh on November 26, 2012 to hire 10,000 workers for the jobs.

Each worker had to spend only Tk 33,500 while the recruiting agencies would have charged a minimum Tk 2.5 lakh to Tk 3 lakh, said the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training officials.

Meanwhile, none of the 60,000 illegal foreign workers deported by the Saudi Arabian government recently were Bangladeshis, the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh told The Daily Star recently.

The 56 Bangladeshis held earlier were freed as their work permits were valid.

The Saudi government launched the crackdown on illegal foreign workers on November 4, a day after a seven-month amnesty period to extend visas ended.

However, the Saudi labour ministry is allowing the illegal expatriates till December 2 to pay fines to either legalise their visa status or leave the Kingdom.

BNP declares dawn-to-dusk hartal in Pabna for today

Demands release of Shimul Biswas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

BNP's Pabna district unit yesterday declared a dawn-to-dusk hartal there for today demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Special Assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas.

Biswas hails from Pabna's Kuthipara area and is the unit's executive committee member and the secretary of Pabna Truck Drivers' Association. Law enforcers picked up Biswas and Khaleda's Adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo from outside her Gulshan residence in the capital on November 8 and accused them in two cases over "attempted murder of cops and involvement in violence in the capital".

Protesting the arrest, the Pabna unit observed hartals on November 9 and 16. Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, the central committee joint secretary of which is Biswas, then enforced a countrywide 24-hour transport strike on November 21.

Indo-Pacific economic corridor holds great promise for Bangladesh

Says US Asst Secy of State Nisha Desai

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh stands to benefit greatly from the establishment of an Indo-Pacific economic corridor if it can conquer the divisive legacy of its past and come together around a democratic political transition in the coming months.

This was stated by US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal during her swearing-in ceremony at George Marshall East Auditorium in the State Department, Washington, DC on Thursday.

According to the US, the creation of the corridor, linking the economies of India, Bangladesh, and Southeast Asia, holds great promise for greater trade and cooperation throughout the region.

Nisha, who visited Bangladesh on November 16-18, had a range of meetings with top leaders, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia, and urged a dialogue to hold a free, fair, credible, and inclusive election.

In his speech, US Secretary of State John Kerry, who administered the oath, lauded Nisha, saying that during her visit to Bangladesh, she showed how she never missed a chance to speak up or stand up for America's values.

"She spoke forcefully about the need for leaders to rise above partisan differences and find a peaceful way towards the ballot box."

Kerry said the countries Nisha was going to represent were complicated and had been going through enormous challenges. "America's prosperity rests more than ever in the strength of our links to this region," he added.

Kerry also said, "Nisha's experience and the success that so many Indian Americans bring to the American table shows to everybody in the world the deep ties that we have between the United States and India."

For the first time, five out of the six regional assistant secretaries of state are women. Nisha is the first South Asian to lead the key bureau of US State Department.

In Loving Memories

Today 23rd November, 2013 is the 4th death anniversary of Mr. Razaul Karim, an eminent insurance executive, founder member of Shishu hospital & Palli Shishu foundation. Former General Manager of Shadharan Bima corporation, Managing Director of Janata insurance company ltd., Pioneer insurance company ltd., Agrani insurance company ltd., Member secretary of Central rating committee, notable philanthropist & freedom fighter.

Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal; Memories are treasured, that no one can steal. Some may forget you, now that you are gone but we'll remember you no matter how long. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay, love and remembered in every single way. No tears, no verse can ever say how much we miss you every single day.

We request all his relatives, friends, associates and admirers to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Your loving daughter Mala, grandson Waris and family members.

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