


RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Kushtia, Tangail and Mymensingh till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met	Office said.	Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.0 degrees in Srimangal.	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			
	Night temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.	Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		
	The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises tomorrow at 6:31am.		Dhaka	28.0	14.7	41	33	Khulna	29.0	15.2	63	54
			Chittagong	29.4	15.2	54	50	Barisal	28.4	13.0	66	60
			Rajshahi	23.7	11.0	74	50	Sylhet	28.2	13.1	60	45
Rangpur			20.2	09.8	67	89	Cox's Bazar	31.0	17.2	44	50	



Retired judge Siddiqur Rahman elected DSE chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Retired judge Siddiqur Rahman Mia was elected chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday by its directors, both independent and shareholders, at a hotel in the capital yesterday following the launching of a demutualisation scheme.

Demutualisation separates management and ownership to transform bourses into profit oriented and efficient companies.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission in September 2013 gave consent to the appointment of seven independent directors to each of DSE and Chittagong Stock Exchange. The then directors had proposed 14 names for each of the two bourses.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Masud Uddin Noyon, 6, has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for blood cancer since November 2011.

Noyon's doctor, Prof Dr Chowdhury Yakub of paediatric haematology and oncology department of BSMMU, said Tk 8 lakh is needed to complete Noyon's treatment.

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Contestants of a roller skating marathon whizz along the roads in the capital's Hatijheel after forming a human chain, inset, organised by Search Skating Club urging visitors to refrain from littering there.

PHOTO: STAR

UPAZILA POLLS IN JAMALPUR, BARISAL 18 hurt in attack by AL men

STAR REPORT

At least 18 supporters of pro-BNP candidates in elections to two upazila parishads (UP) were injured and a vehicle was vandalised in alleged attacks by activists of the ruling Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday.

At least 16 BNP activists suffered minor injuries in an attack by AL men while campaigning for Faridul Kabir Talukdar, a candidate of the February 19 Sarishabari UP election, in Chechiabadha village of Jamalpur district, reports our correspondent.

The injured took first-aid and the upazila unit AL President Abdul Malek admitted the incident.

Sarishabari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kamrul Ehsan said police had resolved the issue on the spot and no complaint was filed.

Two persons suffered minor injuries while a microbus was vandalised during an attack by BCL activists on supporters of Abul Hossain Mia, a candidate of the February 19 Gournadi UP election, at the Gournadi bus stand in Barisal district, reports our correspondent. However, Gournadi Police Station OC

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Sadistic sex maniacs feared to be on the prowl

ZYMA ISLAM

The close resemblance between the murders of two housemaids in Uttara last month, and another outside of Dhaka have made police suspect that they may be dealing with a gang of serial killers who sexually abuse and murder their prey.

Two of the suspected gang members were arrested yesterday, while three others are on the run.

The two were identified as Sheikh Kamal al Mamun, a janitor, and Abdul Wahab, a land broker, and the former gave a statement in court confessing to one of the murders, Inspector Mohammad Ali Mahmud of Uttara (West) Police Station told The Daily Star.

What initially seemed like isolated murders now presents the fearful prospect of a sadistic gang of serial killers on the prowl.

Amena Khatun, 33, was found dead on January 12, stuffed in a sack and lodged in a drain, and the body of Khadija Bagum, 25,

was discovered on January 31. Her body was dismembered into two and put in two sacks.

Inspector Mahmud, however, refused to divulge details of the case outside of Dhaka.

"We could only develop the hunch after finding Khadija's body. The similarity of her case with Amena's gave us the clue," he said.

For one, although the bodies were discovered 19 days apart, they were found on the same road, separated by four houses only, in Uttara Sector 14.

"Both were gang-raped and sexually tortured," said Inspector Mahmud. Morgue sources said they were both strangled.

According to the confession given by Al Mamun, the group had brought Khadija to a house of Wahab on road 20 under promise of giving work, and then gang-raped and murdered her, said Sub-inspector Firoze, investigator of the murder.

"We learned that they dismembered her

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NEWSINbrief

Indian scholarships to FFs' children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Indian High Commission yesterday in Barisal distributed scholarships worth Tk 11.3 lakh to 64 children of freedom fighters who are studying at secondary and higher secondary levels.

Devas Samaddar, district president of Bangladesh Bharat Moitri Samity, presided over the distribution ceremony held at Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city. Twenty nine secondary level students received Tk 10,000 each, while 35 higher secondary level students received Tk 24,000 each.

Sapling planted commemorating language hero Altaf Mahmud

DUI CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to raise awareness on tree plantation among the youth, Sabujpata, a private organisation, yesterday planted a sapling of a Bombax tree commemorating Language Movement hero Altaf Mahmud.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, wife of martyred Altaf Mahmud, and Shahed Alam, organiser of Sabujpata, was present during the planting in the eastern part of the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

Sergeant Zahurul Haque's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 45th death anniversary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque.

On the occasion, Liberation War Museum and his family jointly organised a painting competition for children on its premises yesterday, said a press release.

Sergeant Zahurul, an accused in the Agartala conspiracy case, was killed in jail by the Pakistani army on this day in 1969.

Pitha Utsab held at AUST

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong Pitha Utsab (cake festival) was held on the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) premises in the capital on Thursday to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Students of the electric engineering department of AUST organised the festival which was inaugurated by the head of the department, Prof Abdur Rahim Mollah, said a press release.

Daffodil University's anniversary today

CITY DESK

Daffodil International University celebrates its 12th founding anniversary today.

The daylong programme will include a bus rally, pitha utshab, blood donation programme, discussion and concert.

Inter-department sports competition, Math Olympiad, cultural competition and IT quiz also have been arranged for the week as part of the celebration. US Ambassador Dan W Mozena will attend the event as the chief guest.

Coast Guard members recognised for excellence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty members of Bangladesh Coast Guard were recognised yesterday for their professional excellence.

State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan distributed medals to the 40 at a function organised at the Coast Guard headquarters in the capital yesterday marking the Coast Guard Day-2014.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad anniversary celebrated

CITY DESK

Freedom fighters brought out a procession in the capital, marking the 43rd founding anniversary of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad on Thursday.

They placed a wreath on the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32 and held a rally with Mosharraf Hossain, convener of the founding anniversary celebration committee, was in the chair, said a press release.



People from all walks of life join a demonstration organised by One Billion Rising, a global campaign to end violence against women, using the banner "Uddome Uttorone Shotokoti" before the Supreme Court in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh 'rises up' to end violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday joined One Billion Rising, a global campaign to end violence against women.

People from all walks of life congregated in front of the Supreme Court in the capital under the banner "Uddome Uttorone Shotokoti" donning red outfits.

The theme for this year is "Rise for Justice" with special attention into the unsolved cases of post-election rape of two Hindu housewives in Monirampur of Jessore, the disappearance of rights activist Kalpana Chakma, and the assault on journalist Nadia Sharmin by Hefajat-e Islam activists.

"Activists of Hefajat-e Islam while hitting me kept asking me why I am here amid the rally, being a female. Even those who saved me asked me why I do not go about with my head covered," actress Bonna Mirza read from an excerpt sent in by Nadia Sharmin.

Sharmin was attacked by Hefajat men on May 5 last year during the long march organised by the Islamist organisation.

Chandra Tripura, an activist of Hill Women's Federation, read out one of the last speeches given by Kalpana Chakma before she was allegedly abducted in 1996, "Adivasi women face double oppression from their men and the Bangalees."

"The bodies of women have always been used by men

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DISASTERS, WATER, HEALTH PROBLEMS Youths brainstorm for IT solution


BSS, Dhaka

More than 200 young IT professionals participated in the two-day Water Hackathon App Festival 2014 in the capital yesterday to solve problems related to water, disasters, education, health and governance with the help of information technology.

The festival was organised by the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program, together with Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and Access to Information (A2I) Programme of the Prime Minister's Office.


State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman inaugurated the festival while Keiko Santo, disaster risk management specialist of the World Bank; Mirva Moulanen, communication specialist of the Water and Sanitation Program; and Anir Chowdhury, A2I policy adviser, also spoke at the event.

The participants said the festival aims to establish effective coordination among different people with potential to eradicate poverty because they believe that challenges of poverty can be faced with information and mobile technology. The festival is organised together with partners such as Google, Microsoft and Erickson, and various local IT firms.

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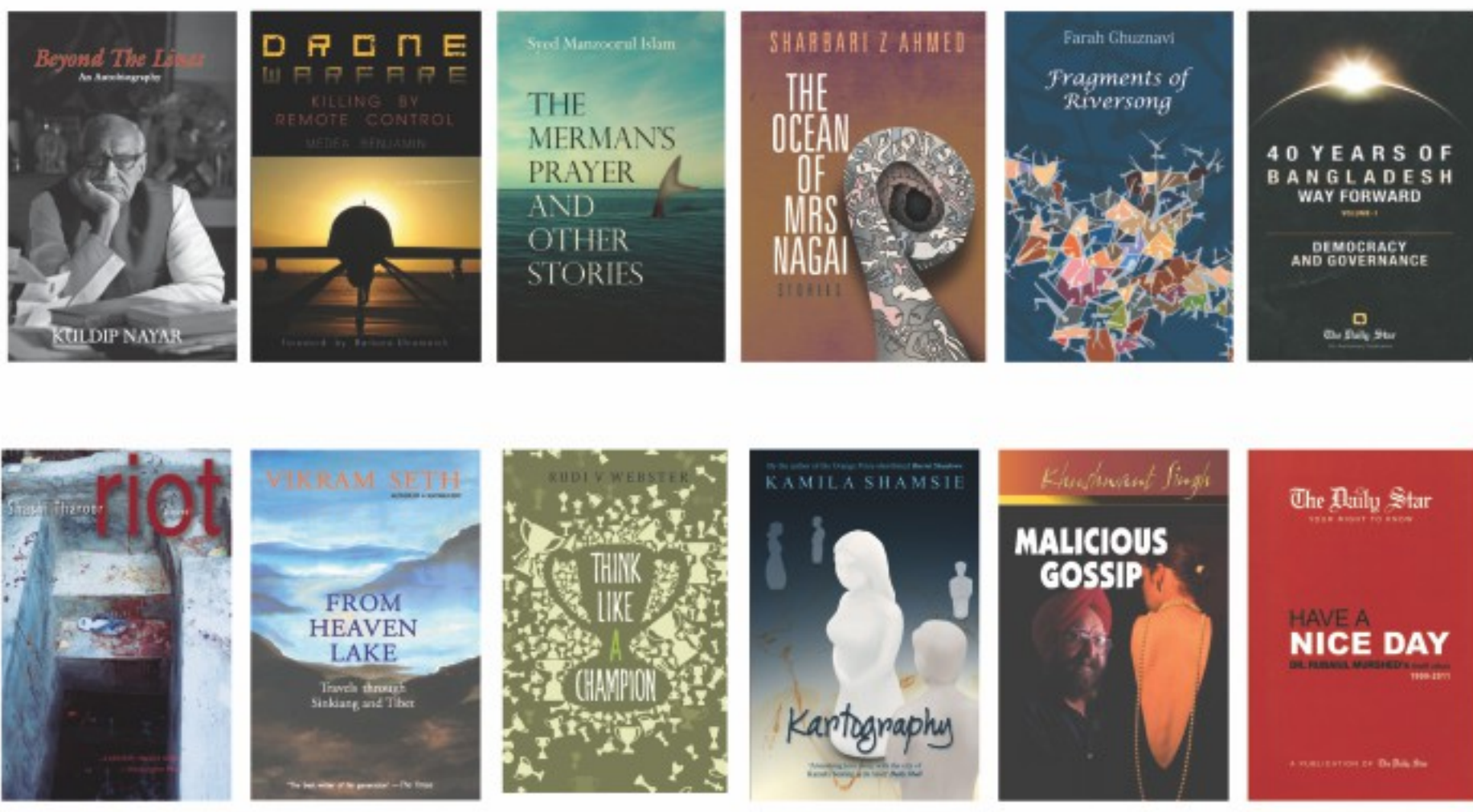
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