

RAIN OR THUNDERSHOWERS

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am. Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.0 degrees in Rangpur. 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	22.1	16.8	92	85	Khulna	20.0	17.5	98
Chittagong	25.5	17.2	72	90	Barisal	121.5	16.5	88
Rajshahi	19.6	14.8	95	96	Sylhet	21.5	15.0	98
Rangpur	21.5	13.0	94	80	Cox's Bazar	29.0	17.0	75

54,412 students get primary scholarships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced the list of scholarship recipients of Primary Terminal Examinations 2013 with 54,412 students receiving scholarships.

The scholarships have been given in two categories -- talent pool and general.

A total of 21,978 students got scholarships in the talent pool and the remaining 32,434 in general category.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman announced the list of scholarship recipients at a press conference around 12:30pm at his ministry's conference room in the secretariat yesterday.

The list of scholarships is available on the Directorate of Primary Education's website: www.dpe.gov.bd.

'Selective' opinion polls harming country

Says Gowher Rizvi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Gowher Rizvi yesterday said the country was being harmed for constantly raising issues based on "selective evidence" from opinion polls regarding the political situation and recent national elections.

"By constantly raising issues based on selective evidence from opinion polls, I think, we're doing ourselves a self-disservice," he told a seminar at the capital's Brac Centre.

Reminding all of the constitutional compulsion, Gowher said pushing for fresh polls, by setting deadlines, was creating instability when the country needed respite and

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The road in front of Willes Little Flower School & College in the capital's Kakrail is virtually used as a parking lot by people coming to drop off and pick up students, blocking off traffic on the major thoroughfare of the city. The photo was taken around 4:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Petition filed seeking mandatory use of Bangla in courts, offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to take steps to use Bangla, the state language, in all courts and offices in the country.

Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition praying to the HC to order the government to issue a circular asking the officials concerned to use Bangla as official language.

The petitioner also prayed to the court to issue a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be ordered to apply the Bangla Bhasha Procholon Ain (Bangla Language Introduction Act), 1987 in all offices.

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KHALEDA'S GRAFT CASES Hearing on charge framing deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred again the hearing of Zia Orphanage and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others.

So far, hearing of the two cases has been deferred 19 and 10 times respectively.

Judge (in-charge) Md Rezaul Islam of the Special Judge Court-3 gave the order after Khaleda's lawyer submitted two petitions seeking deferment of the hearing on charge framing against them.

In the petition, Taherul Islam Towhid, a defence lawyer, said Khaleda could not appear before it due to cold-related illness.

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5,000 Dhaka city buildings illegal

Housing minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of illegally constructed buildings in Dhaka city stands at around 5,000, and drives for evicting those are underway, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain told parliament yesterday.

These buildings have been constructed either without authorisation or in violation of the rules of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk), he said in response to a star-marked question by ruling Awami League lawmaker Waresat Hossain Belal. The minister also said Rajuk had detected some 321 buildings in the capital as risky.

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HC stays cases against 4 bloggers
Asks why those should not be scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for three months proceedings of two cases accusing four bloggers of making "derogatory comments about Islam" on social media and issued four separate rules upon the government to explain in four weeks why the cases should not be closed.

The HC bench came up with the orders and rules after hearing four separate petitions filed with it by the accused, now on bail, on October 9, 2013 for quashing the cases' proceedings.

The four are Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, a master's student at Dhaka University; Russel Parvez, a teacher at an English medium school; Mashur Rahman Biplob, a resident of the capital's Pallabi area, and Asif Mohiuddin, an ex-student of a private university.

Shuvo, Parvez and Biplob were arrested on April 2, 2013 under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in different areas in the capital on suspicion of making the comments.

Asif was arrested the next day at an Uttara hospital where he was undergoing treatment for stab

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ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RAB
Peers to fast on Wednesday for safe return of missing Chittagong man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jewellers and residents of Chittagong city's Hazari Lane yesterday declared to stage a token hunger strike before Chittagong Press Club on Wednesday demanding safe return of jeweller Mridul Kumar Chowdhury.

Bangladesh Jewellers' Association, Chittagong had earlier announced to keep their shops in Chittagong district closed tomorrow. Yesterday's announcement came at a rally the demonstrators organised in the area. Mridul's brother Shimul Chowdhury had claimed that a group of seven to eight men in plain clothes, introducing themselves as Rab personnel, picked up Mridul at gunpoint from before the jeweller's house in Hazari Lane on February 11. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), however, denied their involvement.

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