

RAIN LIKELY



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, said Met Office.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:18pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am.

Country's highest temperature 37.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 21.2 degrees in 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	34.2	26.8	74	65	Khulna	35.5	24.5	75	70
Chittagong	30.7	25.5	80	81	Barisal	33.3	26.4	73	71
Rajshahi	37.4	25.0	88	85	Sylhet	31.5	22.5	79	67
Rangpur	32.3	23.6	91	73	Cox's Bazar	33.0	27.5	73	80

NEWS IN brief

Woman beaten to death by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A housewife died after allegedly beaten by her husband over a family feud at Balighat village under Tahirpur Upazila in Sunamganj on Monday. Reshma, 35, was beaten mercilessly by her husband, Abdus Salam of the village, following an altercation on Sunday night, said Abul Hossain Khan, union parishad chairman. She was rushed to Tahirpur Upazila Health Complex and died around 6:30pm on Monday on way to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Md Aminul Islam, 28, has been suffering from acute kidney disease. Both of his kidneys are damaged and doctors have advised him to go for kidney transplant. Aminul's poor family is unable to bear the cost of his treatment and his mother Aklima Begum is now looking to the affluent and generous people of the society for financial assistance. Assistance can be sent to Aklima Begum, account no: 9162-1, Janata Bank, Dharmapur Branch, Comilla. His family can be contacted at 01732489770.



Obituary

CITY DESK
Syeda Bulbul Choudhury, former deputy national commissioner of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association, passed away in her Dhanmondi residence in the capital yesterday. She was 80. Bulbul, wife of Abdul Malik Choudhury, former chief conservator of Forests, left behind her husband, three children. Her qulkhani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at her residence. All are requested to participate.



DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Kendria Kanchi-Kancha Mela will hold a discussion marking the birthday of Rokonzaman Khan Dadabhai; Venue: Kanchi-Kancha auditorium; Time: 5:00pm.
Meeting
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will arrange a meeting protesting distortion of history by the BNP; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:30am.
Human chain
Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal will form a human chain demanding fair share in the Teesta river water; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Jainul chairman of Rajuk again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday appointed GM Jainul Abedin Bhuiyan as the chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) again on a contractual basis. Bhuiyan, who went on a one-year Leave Preparatory to Retirement (LPR) as National Housing Authority chairman on April 3, is expected to take over charge on April 21, said official sources at Rajuk. The government took him on contractual appointment cancelling his LPR, added the sources. Faiyaz Ahamed, private secretary to the minister for housing and public works
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SUBPAR SHIELDS GIVEN TO FOREIGN FRIENDS Independent MP demands JS probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Independent lawmaker Rustam Ali Farazi yesterday slammed the government for "corruption" in the making and purchase of subpar shields awarded to the foreign friends of Bangladesh for their outstanding contributions to the country's Liberation War. Speaking on a point of order, he demanded that the government forms a parliamentary probe committee headed by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury to investigate the alleged corruption to bring the culprits to book. "Being a nation, our heads have been down as the shields have been found adulterated. The corruption has tarnished our image," he told the House. He said one tola of gold was supposed to remain in each of the shields but the gold was "found less than the actual amount." "We have come to know that big fishes including the secretary of the ministry concerned were involved in the corruption," he added. The lawmaker said low-profile probe committee will not be able to unearth "the corruption" as "big fishes" are involved in the anomalies.

STEALING OF SEIZED GOLD DB sues 3 cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Detective Branch of Police on Monday night sued three policemen and two police sources for embezzling 165 gold bars that were seized from smugglers in the capital's Rampura area in mid-March. The accused are: Sub-Inspector (SI) Manjurul Islam and constables -- Wahiduzzaman and Akash Chowdhury -- of Rampura Police Station, and their source Sajib Shikder and Mahfuz Alam Rony, also a driver of a police van. On March 31, detectives arrested the three policemen and Rony and recovered 149 gold bars after raiding the arrestees' and
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The bamboo skeleton will soon shape up as a giant replica fish at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University. It will be part of a mammoth colourful procession during the Bangla New Year celebrations on April 14. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Last PW against Mir Quasem testifies today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The prosecution will produce the last of its witnesses against war crimes accused and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali today. International Crimes Tribunal-2 fixed today to record the testimony of Nurul Islam, the last and 24th prosecution witness and the investigation officer of Quasem's case. Earlier yesterday, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan completed recording the testimony and cross-examination of Anisur Rahman, the 23rd prosecution witness. Quasem, the alleged chief of Chittagong Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, is facing 14 charges of crimes against humanity committed in Chittagong during the Liberation War in 1971. He, however, pleaded not guilty. Prosecutor Zead Al Malum told The Daily Star that they believed that 24 witnesses would be sufficient to prove all charges against Quasem. Besides three seizure-list witnesses, who exhibited several documents seized by the investigator, the prosecution produced 20 witnesses, mostly victims of abduction and torture. Quasem's lawyers have submitted a list of 22 witnesses to
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2 held for visa, passport forgery in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rapid Action Battalion arrested two persons, who are involved in sending people abroad using forged passports and visas, at the capital's Mohammadpur and Fakirapool early yesterday. The arrestees are Abdul Jabbar Khan, 47, owner of Khan Travel and Tours; and SMA Mannan alias Jahangir, 35. At a press briefing at Rab-2 headquarters, its Commanding Officer KM Azad said after investigation, they conducted the drive and arrested them. After quizzing the duo, Rab came to know that they used to duplicate the visas of different countries at different printing presses at Fakirapool, he added.

TORTURE CELL IN BARIDHARA 12 arrestees placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Twelve persons, including a BCL leader of Dhaka University hall unit, were placed on a three-day remand yesterday in connection with running a torture cell in the capital's Baridhara DOHS. A team of Rab-1 arrested the 12 after raiding a buying house in Baridhara on Monday. Three of the arrested, Omar Faruk, Al-Imran and Muntasir Rahman, are students of Dhaka University. Al-Imran is also the senior vice president of Jasimuddin Hall unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League. Two cases have been filed against them with Cantonment Police Station. Maj Asif Quddus of Rab-1 told The Daily Star that they handed the 12 over to Cantonment police. He said police were now searching for the owner of the buying house "Samantha Corporation", which was also used as a torture cell. One Mohammad Wajibullah Milon is the owner of the buying house. Quddus said the four-room apartment was rented six months back and it was used as a torture cell for the last three months. He said clients of the buying house were tortured there for money.

COP, WIFE MURDER Court takes cognisance of charge against Oishee

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday took cognisance of charges against Oishee Rahman for killing her parents, Special Branch of Police inspector Mahfuzur Rahman and Swapna Rahman, in August last year. The court also accepted charges against three other accused -- domestic help Khadiza Akter Sumi, 11, and Oishee's two friends Asaduzzaman Jony, 27, and Mizanur Rahman Roni, 25. The bodies of Mahfuzur and his wife, who were stabbed to death, were recovered in their Chamelighat residence in the capital on



A fire extinguisher lying on a road, as workers of HKD International, a tent manufacturing factory, yesterday vandalised their industrial unit in Chittagong Export Processing Zone, protesting transfer of some workers from one section to another. Around 1,500 workers took part in the demonstration that started around 11:00am.

PHOTO: STAR

BR RECRUITMENT SCAM 3 probe body members defend report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Three members of a committee formed to probe irregularities in recruitment to Bangladesh Railway yesterday testified before a Chittagong court against three suspended BR officials, including general manager (east zone) Yusuf Ali Mridha, defending their investigation report. Mohammad Ali, a BR staff, who also testified, said he was present during the seizure of documents for the investigation. The three other PWs are Shamsuddoha Chowdhury, convener of the probe committee; and Miya Jahan and Nasir Uddin, its members. The accused recruited failed examinees to different
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The Daily Star - grameenphone IGNITE Activation programme starts in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Activation programme of The Daily Star-Grameenphone programme "IGNITE", a science competition for school students, began yesterday at Scholars Home School and College in Sylhet city. Over two hundred students of Scholars Home School and College, The Khajanchibari International School and College, Syed Hatim Ali High School, Kazi Jalal Uddin High School, Sylhet Government Pilot High School and Police Line High School attended the programme. Principal of Scholars Home School and College Brig Gen (ret'd) Zubayer Siddique inaugurated the programme "Introducing IGNITE". IGNITE, a joint initiative of Grameenphone (GP) and The Daily Star, was initiated to inspire the students of class VI to X towards science education through different projects, competition and activities. With the slogan "Science for Internet Generation," the competition will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions. Students of these divisions can register for the competition at www.ignite-bd.com. The activation programme will continue in Sylhet for two more days. It was already held in Chittagong, and after Sylhet the programme will be held in the capital.

All district hospitals to get burn units: Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
The government will gradually establish burn units in the general hospitals of all district headquarters, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday. Budget for the health sector will be doubled than that of the current year in the next fiscal, he told a programme at Chittagong Circuit House. REHAB, Chittagong zonal standing committee, at the event donated 10 beds to the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Experts caution against malaria, dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
As malaria and dengue are becoming a growing public health concern worldwide, experts yesterday laid stress on preventive measures to fight against the vector borne diseases. They advocated for wearing long sleeves, trousers, using insect repellants, bed nets and getting rid of stagnant water near houses to prevent attacks. As a huge number of people in the country are poor and vulnerable to climate changes, these diseases are of a major concern for Bangladesh, they told a seminar. The adverse effects of globalisation and rapid transportation of goods expose the country more to the risk of spreading the
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