

RAIN LIKELY

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division till 6:00pm today.

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

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over

Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Barisal and Patuakhali and it may continue and spread over the rest part of Dhaka and Barisal divisions.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm

and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

Country's highest temperature 38.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chuadanga and lowest 17.0 degrees in Dinajpur.

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	36.6	24.0	61	21	Khulna	37.2	24.0	76	37
Chittagong	32.0	24.4	76	78	Barisal	36.2	24.5	80	48
Rajshahi	37.3	19.6	60	40	Sylhet	35.7	20.6	60	43
Rangpur	35.3	21.0	77	36	Cox's Bazar	34.4	25.0	76	76

NEWS IN brief

JS not place of making personal attacks: BNP leader Rafiqul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday said the parliament cannot be a place for making personal attacks or assassinating character.

Speaking at a meeting at Jatiya Press Club, he claimed the ruling party lawmakers, after being elected illegally, have been making personal attacks at BNP leaders using abusive language in the parliament.

Mahmudur Rahman Mukti Parishad organised the meeting demanding release of the Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman.

Ex-BCC mayor Hiron laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Shawkat Hossain Hiron, an Awami League lawmaker, former Barisal city mayor and the city AL president, was laid to rest by his mother's grave at Barisal Muslim Graveyard yesterday afternoon.

His last namaz-e-janaza was held after Juma prayers at Bangabandhu Udyan where general people and leaders and activists from different political parties showed their last respects to him.

Earlier, Hiron's body was kept at his home, party office and the city corporation premises for wakes.

His qulhwani will be held at Nuria school ground near his city residence after Asr prayers today.

One held for 'indecent' podcasting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested a man in the capital on Thursday night for posting "objectionable and indecent" photos and video clips on the internet, the elite force told a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital yesterday.

The arrestee is Abdul Malek Selim alias Selim Pasha, 38, of Comilla.

Man murdered in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Unidentified criminals beat an elderly man to death over a land dispute at Nurbagh in Fatullah of Narayanganj city yesterday morning.

The victim was Samsul Alam, 60, said Fatulla Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Akther Hossain.

He was rushed to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead.

One dies in road crash in Dhamrai

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A motorcyclist died when a Paturia-bound bus hit his bike on Dhaka-Aricha highway near Dhulivita bus stand of Dhamrai, on the outskirts of Dhaka yesterday.

Sazzad Hossain Faruque, 25, son of Zahangir Hossain, of the upazila, died on the spot.

Locals seized the bus but the driver escaped.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Zakia president, Rokan GS of BCS assoc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zakia Akhter and Mohammad Rokan Uddin have been elected president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Family Planning) Association recently.

Zakia is an officer of the 18th batch while Rokan 20th batch, says a press release.

The other office bearers of the 23-member central committee are vice presidents Niazur Rahman, Shohel Pervez and Dewan Morshed Kamal; joint secretaries Sheikh Shahiduzzaman and Abdullah Al Hadi; and Mejbah Uddin, organising secretary.

Meherpur farmers destroy onions protesting low price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Facing huge losses for unusually low prices, frustrated onion growers of Meherpur district staged protests yesterday by spreading several hundred kilograms of onions on the Meherpur-Mujibnagar highway in Bamanpara and crushing those by a truck.

They demanded that the government stop importing Indian onions during the harvesting time and address their plights immediately. The onion price has hit as low as Tk 10-15 a kg at farmers' level, while it should have been around Tk 20, said the protesters.

"We have been incurring heavy losses due

to the falling prices," said Abdur Razzak, a farmer of Bamanpara of Meherpur sadar upazila. "We did not expect such low prices given the experience of previous years."

Razzak cultivated onions on 26 bigahs of land investing Tk 11 lakh, he said. "I have to incur a loss of Tk 3 lakh for selling it for Tk 400-500 per maund (about 40kg)."

Another farmer, Ahsan Habib, of the same area echoed him. He cultivated onions on 32 bigahs and would suffer a Tk 2.5 lakh loss if the current price exists, he said.

Onions were grown on 2,200 hectares of land in three upazilas of Meherpur this year, according to agriculture officials.



Onions being emptied onto the highway from sacks in Bamanpara of Meherpur sadar upazila yesterday.



Patients evacuated to a playground near the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) at the capital's Mirpur-14 after a fire broke out in the 9th floor of the hospital last evening. Inset, fire fighters inspecting a damaged room.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Fire breaks out at CRP

17 shanties gutted; 2 factories also catch fire in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four separate fires broke out across the capital yesterday, with flames breaking out at a slum gutting 17 houses, two polythene factories and a hospital.

Flames engulfed Bhasantek slum in Mirpur, a large slum in the capital, in the afternoon.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flames after an effort of about 50 minutes, a duty officer of the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters told The Daily Star.

Seventeen houses were gutted in the fire, which originated from an electric stove, said

fire service sources.

Another fire broke out at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed in Mirpur-14. No casualties were reported.

Maj Major Jihadul Islam, director of the training and planning division of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said an air-conditioner on the tenth floor of the 13-storey building exploded causing the fire.

Seven fire fighting units rushed to the spot around 6:20pm and brought the flames under control after around 30 minutes.

No patients were on the tenth floor as it has been rented out to a NGO.

Shafiqul Islam, executive director of the

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BCL infighting at DU hall hurts 5

20 cocktails, 8 machetes recovered

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were injured when two rival groups of Surya Sen Hall unit of Dhaka University clashed on the dormitory premises over a trifle.

The injured--Nahid, Shahzad, Monir, Sunny, and Abu Sayeed--were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Each group pelted the other with bricks, and two crude bombs were exploded.

Acting proctor Amzad Ali said the clash was tied to an altercation between two first year students of the opposing factions over the use of a bathroom Thursday night.

Yesterday, they started clashing at a Jasim Uddin Hall

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Thai fishing trawler seized in Ctg

Eight crew also held for illegal intrusion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard (east zone) seized a foreign fishing trawler, TV Namnave, and arrested eight crew from S Alam Jetty near Bridge Ghat area of the Karnaphuli River in Chittagong on Thursday night.

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Around 50 green and social organisations at a rally in front of the Dhanmondi playground in the capital yesterday demanded that the playground be open to the public in compliance with a High Court order.

PHOTO: STAR

DHANMONDI PLAYGROUND Stop construction works: Activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded a stop to all construction works on, and removal of all illegal establishments from Dhanmondi playground in the capital.

They also asked Sheikh Jamal Club Ltd to comply with a High Court order and open the playground to common people.

About 50 green and social organisations held a citizen's rally in front of the playground demanding it be open to the public.

In 2004, following a public interest petition filed by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Institute of Architects Bangladesh, the HC directed the city corporation to free the

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ATTACK ON GONOJAGORON MANCHA ACTIVISTS Govt probe sought

DU CORRESPONDENT

Anti-war criminal platform Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday demanded that a high-level government committee investigate the recent attack on the mancha activists and punish the culprits.

The mancha spokesperson Imran H Sarker alleged that activists of the ruling Awami League, Jubo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League attacked them on April 3.

Addressing a press conference at Shahbagh, he also said a section of Jamaat-e-Islami agents within the government was hatching a conspiracy to root them out, as he said they were the main obstacle against any "collaboration between the government and Jamaat."

Imran announced a candle light programme at Shahbagh on April 14 and countrywide protest rallies on April 18, demanding death penalty for all war criminals and accelerate their trial.

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