

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

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

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over

Dhaka, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Sitakunda, Rangamati, Chandpur, Majidee Court and Feni and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm

and rises tomorrow at 5:35am.

Country's highest temperature 39.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 19.2 degrees in Srimongal.

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	37.2	25.2	51	34	Khulna	38.5	24.5	66
Chittagong	33.2	25.0	95	69	Barisal	37.4	24.9	67
Rajshahi	39.0	23.9	69	56	Sylhet	37.0	22.8	52
Rangpur	34.4	23.0	62	56	Cox's Bazar	35.7	25.5	80

NEWS IN brief

Shibir hurls crude bombs at police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A videographer of Ekushey Television was injured when Jamaat-Shibir activists threw two crude bombs at police from their brisk procession at Beldarpur in Rajshahi city yesterday noon.

Hasan Al Mobin was given first aid at a clinic.

After the attack police fired several rounds of rubber bullets to disperse a few hundred Jamaat-Shibir men, said Saidur Rahman, OC of Boalia police. A Shibir activist claimed that four Shibir men were also injured by rubber bullets.

Another Tejturi Bazar shop fire victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another victim of last Thursday's fire at a shop in the capital's Tejturi Bazar died yesterday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, raising the total death toll to five.

Zahirul Islam, 60, a rickshaw-van driver died at DMCH's burn unit. The incident occurred last Thursday when flammable chemicals caught fire and exploded at "Mahfuz Sewing and Electric" on the ground floor of a residential building.

Rab seals off substandard chocolate factory in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rapid Action Battalion mobile court yesterday sealed off a chocolate factory, Yoko Food and Agro Ltd, and fined four of its managers Tk 1 lakh each for using substandard and expired materials to produce chocolates in Keraniganj of the capital.

BSMMU to start evening surgery at ENT department

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) will soon set up an evening operation theatre for surgery on ear, nose and throat (ENT) patients at the Department of Otolaryngology, said Vice Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta yesterday.

He said as the number of ENT patients is increasing, the evening operation theatre will render services speedily.

Bullet-hit body recovered in Shiddirganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of an unidentified man, aged around 50, from Karaitala area of Narayanganj's Shiddirganj early yesterday.

Locals saw the body with hands and legs tied and mouth wrapped in tape. Police sent the body to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

He might have been killed in another place and dumped here, police said.

Mohiuddin gets bail in corruption case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted bail to Awami League city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over allocation of 27 shops of the Chittagong City Corporation.

Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge SM Mojibur Rahman passed the order after Mohiuddin's lawyer prayed for his bail.

Body of missing IIUC student recovered from Karnaphuli River

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of an International Islamic University, Chittagong student on Tuesday night, who went missing in the evening during a boat ride with friends, from the Karnaphuli River in Anumajhirhat area.

Ridwanul Islam Raktim, 25, a BBA final year student of IIUC, fell into the river while he was taking pictures, said Ziaul Huq, victim's cousin.

Indian cricket 'gambler' sent to jail after remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent an Indian citizen to jail in a case filed on the charge of cricket betting on both international and domestic matches.

Atanu Datta who hailed from Regent Park area of Kolkata was arrested from a hotel in the capital's Mirpur on April 13.

The court passed the order after Sub-inspector Enamul Haq of Mirpur Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case, produced him before it on completion of his one-day remand.

Atanu after the arrest admitted that he was involved in cricket betting outside Bangladesh and came here as a spectator.

BOKHTIAR KILLING Seven robbers indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police yesterday pressed charges against seven robbers for killing Bokhtiar Mohammad Latif, an A-level student of Dhamondi Academia, in the capital's Jatrabari area in September last year.

The accused are Mohammad Khalil, Mohammad Akhter, Mohammad Rustam Ali, Mohammad Jalaluddin alias Jalal, Mohammad Habib, Mohammad Sabuj alias Swapon, and Mohammad Moti alias Jitu.

All the accused were earlier arrested and they are now in jail.

Of the accused, Moti, Akhter, Jalal and Habib gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

DB Inspector Md Yunus Ali, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the robbers to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The IO said the victim was killed on September 12 last year after he saw the robbers entering their residence cutting grills.

Following the incident, Zahid-al-Latif, a businessman, filed a case with Jatrabari Police Station.

STEALING TK 1.48CR ACC arrests suspended Pubali Bank official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested a suspended official of Pubali Bank accused in a case filed for misappropriating Tk 1.48 crore through issuing fake vouchers against bank drafts.

Mashiul Alam, who was posted at the bank's RK Mission Road branch in the capital, remained absconding after the bank authorities lodged the case with Wari Police Station on September 23 last year.

A team of the anti-graft watchdog picked him up from the capital's Tejgaon around 9:00am, ACC Deputy Director Abdus Sobhan, who led the drive,

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Proceedings against Khokon likely to end today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The war crimes proceeding against fugitive BNP leader MA Zahid Hossain Khokon may conclude today, as the defence finished placing its closing arguments yesterday.

International Crimes Tribunal-1 led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim fixed today for hearing arguments on legal points, and after that it will draw a conclusion to the case proceedings.

Argument on legal points is the last step before delivery of the verdict.

Khokon, assumed to be living in Sweden with his son and daughter, faces 11 charges of killing, torture, abduction and confinement during the Liberation War.

In his arguments, state-appointed defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan said his client MA Zahid, now mayor of Nagarkanda municipality in Faridpur, and MA Hossain Khokon were different persons.



"being absconding" would go against him.

The defence lawyer said harassment of MA Zahid began after he became Nagarkanda mayor. "He was implicated in various cases, and he got bail from the High Court. When he was implicated in this case,

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POVERTY ALLEVIATION BY 2021

Target 1 million families a year
Speakers at Shiree discussion urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should target minimum one million extreme poor families a year to eradicate poverty of 25 million people, living in around six million families, by 2021, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

If the government can take this initiative, Bangladesh will be able to eradicate extreme poverty before the World Bank deadline of 2030, they said at the discussion in the city's Cirdap auditorium.

The discussion titled, The Manifesto for the Extreme Poor, Shiree, an NGO that works for economic empowerment of the poor, organised the programme, said a press release. Government officials often ministries and representatives of some NGOs took part in the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

Women blockade the Mohajonpatti-Kastoghar road in Sylhet city's Kastoghar area for three hours yesterday demanding supply of water. Some men also joined the demonstration.

People with disabilities lack assistive devices

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lack of affordable, good quality assistive devices like wheelchairs, hearing aids, and artificial limbs are holding back development of people with physical disabilities, speakers told a roundtable yesterday.

"Even public hospitals have been found to be giving patients wooden limbs of little use," observed AHM Noman Khan, executive director, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), which organised the discussion in the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Equipment used by special needs people need to be customised according to their height, weight and extent of disabilities, stated the speakers.

For instance, patients living in Dinajpur, and in Chittagong Hill Tracts will require different kinds of wheelchairs, said Mizanur Rahman, secretary general, National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled.

"No form of sporting equipment is available for such persons either," said Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, executive

director of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP).

Osman Khaled, an executive committee member of CDD, who himself has special hearing requirements, expressed via sign language that many hearing devices found in the market caused headaches, so patients stopped using them.

In addition, devices such as doorbells connected to lights must be brought into the market for people with hearing impairments, he said.

The speakers observed that outside of Dhaka, it was very difficult to find good quality devices, while high prices of quality equipment forced people into buying low quality ones.

People must understand that these are the things special needs people need to live in dignity, said Lieke Scheewe, programme coordinator of the Light for the World The Netherlands.

The speakers also urged research on innovation of equipment suitable for Bangladeshi roads.

Govt, donors to fight climate change effects

Tk 1,230cr project to be operated in 12 coastal districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in cooperation with different donor agencies has launched a development project to enhance the capacity of coastal people for resisting adverse effects of climate change.

The "Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project" aims to achieve improved livelihoods, in the form of higher incomes and food security, for poor households in 12 coastal districts -- Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

This information was revealed at the inception workshop on the project at the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Improved road connectivity, improved market services and enhanced climate change adaptation capacity are the three major components of the project, said project director AKM Lutfur Rahman.

Besides, different important information will be disseminated through introducing community radio services in the selected districts.

Involving around Tk 1,230 crore, the project will continue till the end of 2018.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),

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NAT'L ANTHEM RECORD

Boosting patriotism was goal
Claims Noor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh managed to set a record in Guinness World Records with over 2.5 lakh people singing the national anthem at the National Parade Ground in Dhaka on March 26, but people from all walks of life across the country took part in the event willingly, he said at a press briefing at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

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R Basil (2nd from left), executive director and CEO of STS Holdings; Dr Shagufta Anwar (3rd from left), general manager, business development of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka; and Abu Taleeb (3rd from right), CEO of STS Group, along with consultants of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka pose for a photograph at the unveiling ceremony of the new logo of STS Group in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR