

HEAT WAVE MAY CONTINUE

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Severe heat wave is sweeping over Rangamati, Sitakunda, Chaudanga, Jessore and Khepupara and moderate to mild heat wave is sweeping elsewhere

over the country and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31am.

Country's highest temperature 40.7 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 20.2 degrees in Rangpur and 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	37.8	27.0	27	17	Khulna	39.5	24.5	47	38
Chittagong	39.0	25.0	55	39	Barisal	37.5	25.9	44	50
Rajshahi	39.5	22.6	31	29	Sylhet	38.8	24.4	58	31
Rangpur	36.2	20.2	49	36	Cox's Bazar	38.0	27.2	79	52

New taxis hit Dhaka streets today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the new taxi cab services in the capital today with 46 taxis hitting the streets on the first day amidst public concern over high fares.

The inaugural ceremony will take place at Army Golf Club in Dhaka Cantonment at 10:00am.

Bangladesh Army Welfare Trust is tasked with bringing 400 cabs and private firm Toma Paribahan 250. Out of the 650, the army trust will operate 150 taxis in Chittagong.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Communications Secretary MAS Siddique said every month, 46 to 50 cabs would be added to the fleet.

The new taxi fares fixed by the government are much higher than those in most Asian cities including New Delhi, Islamabad, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and Dubai.

The fare is Tk 100 for the first 2km, Tk 34 for each subsequent km, and Tk 8.5 for a minute's wait for air-conditioned cabs. For non-AC ones, it is Tk 50, Tk 20, and Tk 5 respectively.

Given that, a traveller from Dhanmondi-8 to Shahjalal international airport (16km), a 20-minute wait in jam included, will have to pay Tk 746 for an AC cab and Tk 430 for a non-AC one.

In New Delhi, the charge for the first 2km is Tk 45 and Tk 19 for every next km and Tk 2.6 for a minute's wait, according to our correspondent there.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader has said the new fares were fixed considering the comfort, security and safety of passengers.

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NEWS IN brief

Steel factory workers block highway demanding arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sarker

Over eight hundred workers of Buildtrade Engineering Limited blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday demanding their arrears for March in Kalampur of the capital's Dhamrai.

The hour-long blockade at 2:00pm caused heavy traffic resulting in the sufferings of passengers.

The workers returned after police assured them of settling the issue. However, the factory authorities were not found to make any comment.

US embassy mulling online visa application

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Embassy in Dhaka is thinking to introduce an online visa application system from September for Bangladeshis to spare them of troubles, said US Embassy Consul General Jamie Fouss at a programme in Dhaka yesterday.

The programme was organised by the embassy and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh to introduce the application system.

Currently, no Bangladeshi travel agent is allowed to deal with the visa application, he said adding, they would consider involving them in future.

Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 5

Eminent economist Dr Rehman Sobhan, who greeted Kamal Hossain by handing over a copy of the book to the latter, said the veteran lawyer not only placed arguments in different international cases but also compelled the judges to take his arguments into consideration.

Many of his arguments later embellished international law on economics, he said. "Even, he has contributions in the cases on natural resources."

The book is edited by Supreme Court lawyer Sharif Bhuiyan, Prof of University College London Philippe Sands, and Dutch senator Nico Schrijver. The volume comprising 14 chapters has interview of Dr Kamal, his opinions and experiences on different international law, and a life sketch.

Dr Kamal said there was a dream of building a beautiful and economically developed country when the constitution was being drafted but that dream was yet to be fulfilled.

He called upon both new and old generations irrespective of religions and classes to share their experiences and co-operate with each other to establish the rule of law and a beautiful Bangladesh.

Indian economist Prof R Sudarshan said Dr Kamal's role was undeniable on international economic law.

Dr Faustina Pereira, director of Brac's Human Rights and Legal Aid Services programme, moderated the programme.

Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

To know about most modern treatment of diseases involving Colon, Rectum and Anus like, Piles (bleeding in toilet), Longo operation (Piles opn. without cutting anus), Cause of failure of operation around anus, pain after passing stool (Fistula), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation, Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative colitis), Colonoscopy, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer operation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Children's bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by:

Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of Bangladesh & the Sub-Continent

Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque
International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)
Founder Chairman (Reid.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery
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Care Ad



Two grieving family members of dead Rana Plaza workers, who died when the nine-storey building pancaked on April 24 last year, pay respects at their graves. The collapse killed at least 1,138 people and injured several hundred. The picture was taken yesterday at the capital's Jurain graveyard.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhanmondi Playfield Grabbers milking name of Bangabandhu's son Allege green activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club is exploiting the name of a member of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's family to strengthen its illegal grip on the road-side public playground, agitating environmental activists told a rally yesterday.

Some 50 environmental organisations under the banner of "Save Dhanmondi Playground Movement" organised the protest programme in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, demanding cancellation of what they called a false case against some eminent green activists fighting for freeing the public space.

Organisers include Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), and the Institute

of Architects Bangladesh (IAB).

"The club, which is a limited company, is exploiting the image of prime minister's slain brother Lt Sheikh Jamal to reinforce its illegal hold on the playground to serve its business ends," said Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin.

The club owners, who should be sued for grabbing a public playground, sued the local residents for entering the playground on Friday, he said. "The authorities must scrap such an unfounded case."

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Poribesh Bachao Andolan, echoed him.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, a central leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the club owners had chosen to manipulate

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Democracy needs able opposition in JS

Says British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Gibson yesterday said active opposition in parliament, free media, and institutional freedom for different organisations like the Election Commission were very important for "accountable democracy" in Bangladesh.

He made the remarks replying to queries from journalists at Sylhet City Corporation after his meeting with Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury. The United Kingdom wants to see accountable democracy in this country, he said.

Asked about the January 5 elections, the envoy said that along with the international community, the UK also expected a participatory election. But, in the absence of that many got chances to become elected uncontested, he added.

"However, after the election we are working to further deepen the bilateral relations with Bangladesh," Gibson said, referring to the recent visit of British Minister of State for International Development Allan Duncan to Bangladesh in this regard. He also expressed satisfaction over the recently held "participatory" elections to the

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US-Bangla security talks today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington's stance on regional strategic relations and strengthening of military cooperation will dominate the 3rd security dialogue between the two countries to be held in the capital today.

Mustafa Kamal, secretary (bilateral) of the foreign ministry, will lead a 30-member Bangladesh delegation at the daylong dialogue at Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS).

Tom Kelly, principal deputy assistant secretary of State for Bureau of Political-Military Affairs of the United States, will lead a 27-member delegation.

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Two hacked to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were hacked to death in a house at Battala in the capital's Mirpur on Sunday night.

The dead were Quayum Mia, 38, a resident of Madhya Pirerbagh, and his friend Jahangir Hossain, 35, an electrician at Pashchim Monipur.

Police suspect that the murders were committed following a quarrel between two sections of locals over disappearance of a girl.

The girl went missing on Friday and had an affair with a house painter, Billal, said Mirpur police quoting her relatives.

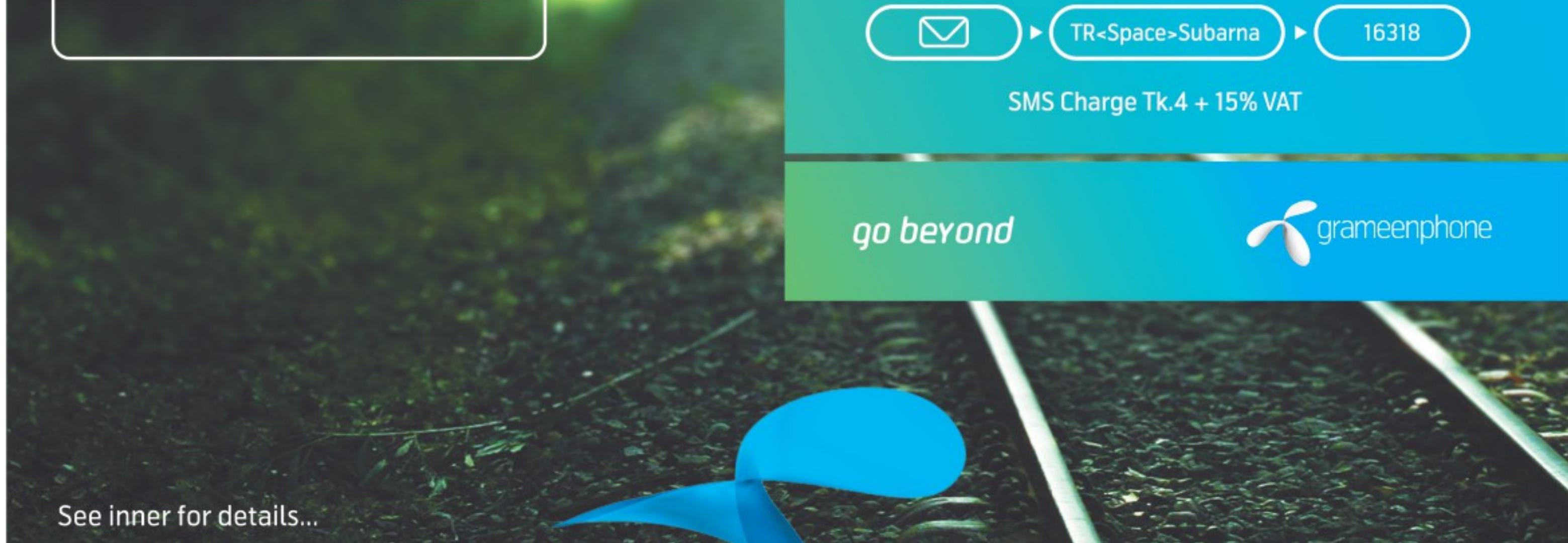
Around 11:45pm on Sunday, some three relatives of the girl went to the house of Billal's sister Parvin in Battala suspecting that the girl could be there. They slapped Parvin during a heated conversation and left.

Soon afterwards, four more locals, including Quayum and Jahangir, went to the house where some eight people hacked them with sharp weapons, police added.

Police recovered the bodies near Parvin's tinshed house and sent those to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsies.

They also recovered two motorbikes from the spot which were believed to be used by the dead.

Police have identified



See inner for details...

CARE AD