

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 the regions of Sitakunda, Rangamati, Jessore, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Khulna 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 5:30am.

Country's highest temperature 41.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 18.6 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	39.0	24.9	21	25	Khulna	40.2	24.2	40	36
Chittagong	39.6	24.0	31	56	Barisal	39.0	23.4	44	46
Rajshahi	40.0	22.4	51	37	Sylhet	38.2	23.1	46	31
Rangpur	37.0	20.5	56	33	Cox's Bazar	39.5	25.7	75	40

Rubble of illegal structures built on the Buriganga embankment after a team of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Dhaka district administration destroyed 46 concrete and makeshift structures at Lalkuthi of Shyambazar in the capital yesterday.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

PM opens new taxicab service in capital

Asks for 15pc fare cut

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to reduce the fare of the newly launched taxicab by 15 percent, showing utmost respect to public opinion and for the convenience of the mass people.

"Refix the first two kilometres' taxi fare at Tk 85 from Tk 100," she said

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DUE SHARE OF WATER

AL allies press for Teesta talks

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The partners in the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday recommended that the government ensure proper sharing of the Teesta river water through bilateral talks with neighbouring India.

They said the government should persuade Indian authorities to meet Bangladesh's demand, as the people of northern districts were badly affected by India's massive withdrawal of the Teesta water violating bilateral agreement, said

sources in an alliance meeting at AL president's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

The Daily Star, which has been facing an unexplained and unwritten bar from covering AL office meetings since April 5, got to know of the meeting outcomes through phone conversations with some leaders who attended the programme.

As in previous programmes, this correspondent was denied access to the post-meeting briefing at the AL president's office yesterday. The office staff refused to let The

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No bargaining chip in govt's hands

Fakhrul tells BNP long march rally

PANKAJ KARMAKAR, from Rangpur

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the incumbent government would not be able to realise its due share of the Teesta water, as it had given "everything" to India, and did not have any bargaining chip left.

"The government has given transit, corridor to India, and let it use the Chittagong port," Fakhrul told a rally at Azampur of the capital's Uttara during the inauguration of the party's two-day long march towards Teesta Barrage in Lalmonirhat, demanding fair share of the river water.

He also said the incumbent government was not elected by the people, so it could not establish the people's rights to the Teesta water.

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NEWS IN brief

Four carjackers held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested four carjackers of a gang and seized a private car and three motorbikes from their possession in the capital's Mirpur early yesterday.

The arrested are Sajid Khan, 22, Jewel, 22, Jahangir Hossain, 30, and Sajib, 20.

Of the arrestees, Sajid used to lead the gang, Rab-2 Commanding Officer KM Azad told reporters at a press briefing at its headquarters in Agargaon yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-2 team first arrested Sajid around 12:00am in Paikpara and, based on his information, nabbed the other three at Darus Salam.

Housewife's hanging body recovered in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police recovered the body of a housewife hanging from a mango tree at Gazirchot of Ashulia in Dhaka yesterday.

Nipa Rani, 35, wife of Gopal Prasad of Tangail, had been missing since Monday night following a quarrel with her husband, said police.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Villagers handover drug trader to police in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A drug trader was handed over to police with 20 liters of locally made alcohol by villagers in Vakurta union of Savar, in Dhaka early yesterday.

Locals said they complained about Md Niamuddin, 40, who had been running drug trading in the area for a year, to police several times but no action was taken.

Two lakh shrimplets seized in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Detectives seized two lakh illegally caught shrimplets, worth Tk 4 lakh, from a truck at Dapdapia Ferry Ghat in Barisal yesterday.

In the presence of officials from Barisal Sadar upazila fishery department, upazila nirbahi officer also fined seven traders, who were on the truck, a total of Tk 3,500 for illegally catching the shrimplets in Bhola.

The shrimplets were released into the Kirtankhola river. The fry were being transported to Bagerhat.

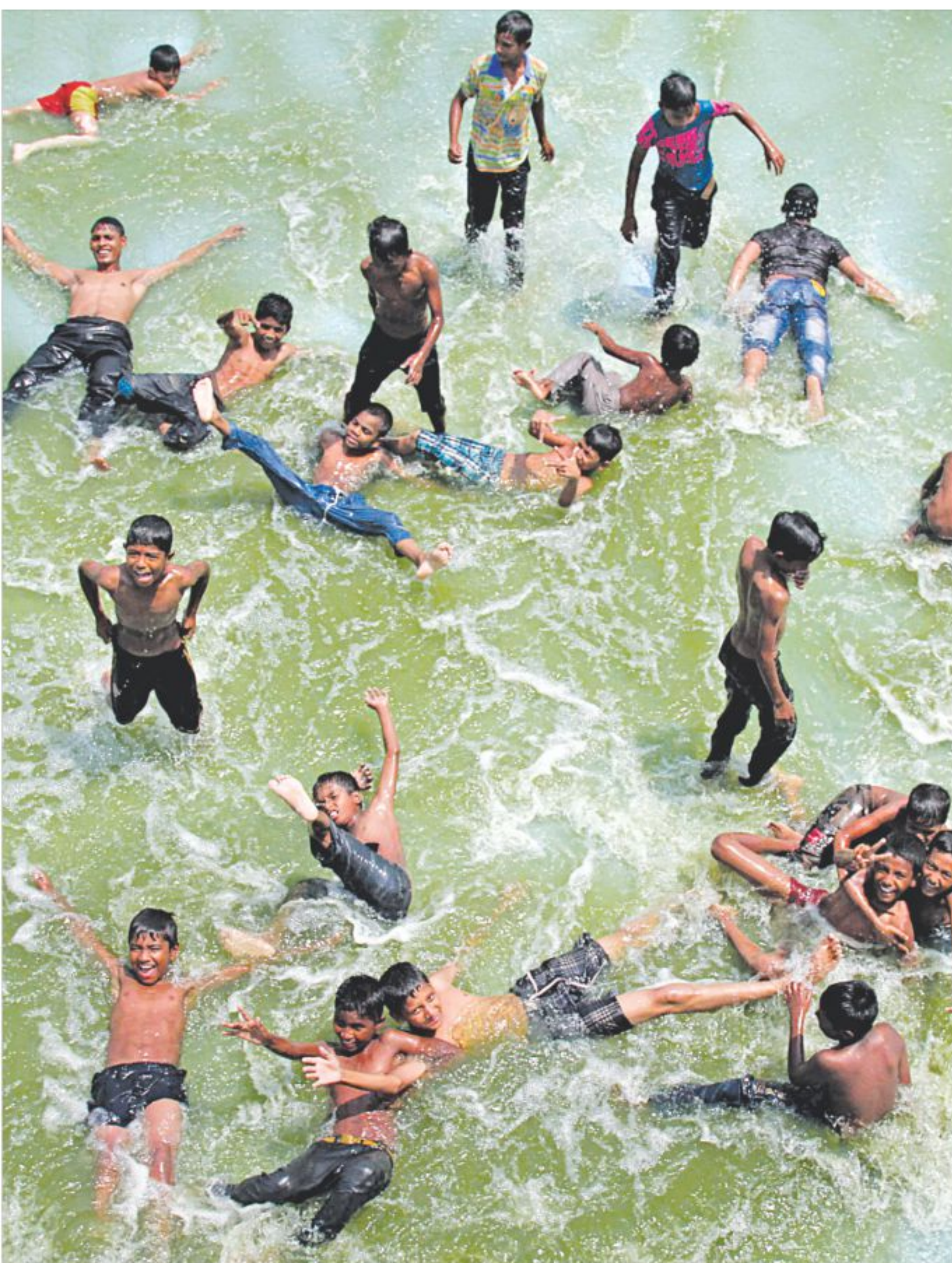
Another victim of Gazipur gas pipe explosion dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Another victim of gas pipe explosion on Thursday in Gargaria Masterbari Bazar in Gazipur died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Mostafa Jaman, 45, was injured in the explosion occurred due to a pipe leakage while Infratech Construction Company was digging holes to expand Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

With this the death toll rose to two in the incident.



With a scorching heat wave sweeping through the country, children try to cool off splashing about in the waters of Hatirjheel Lake flowing through the now opened sluice gate near Rampura Bridge in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Government reshuffles civil admin

17 officials transferred, five made OSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has posted 17 joint secretaries and deputy secretaries to different offices and made five joint secretaries officers on special duty (OSD), said gazette notifications of the public administration ministry issued on Monday and yesterday.

Those made OSD are Abul Kashem Talukder of the liberation war affairs ministry, Mizanur Rahman of Bangladesh Betar, Abdul Khaleque of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, Ikramul Haque and Syed Nazmul Huda of two projects taken for establishing silos. One of them was made OSD for allegations of submitting a forged certificate of freedom fighter, sources said.

Separately, five OSD officials--four joint secretaries and one additional secretary--have been posted to different ministries.

Of the five, Helal Uddin Ahmed has been posted as joint secretary to the public administration ministry while joint secretary Habibur Rahman has been attached to the social welfare ministry, joint secretary Ahsan Habib Talukder to the housing and public works ministry, and joint secretary Mohiuddin Khan to the finance division. Additional secretary Sarwar Khan has been attached to the labour and manpower ministry.

Qaisar handed me over to Pak army

Freedom fighter tells war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday testified that Syed Mohammad Qaisar and his accomplices had handed him over to the Pakistani army during the Liberation War and the army's torture forced him to amputate his left leg.

Shah Hussain Ali, son of martyred Shah Firoz Ali of Habiganj, said the accused and his aides had also handed his father over to the occupation army and that his father never returned.

Hussain testified before International Crimes Tribunal-2 as the eighth prosecution witness in Qaisar's case. The freedom fighter said he and his father had to face dire consequences, as he joined the Liberation War and his father contributed in organising war in Habiganj.

Earlier, Hussain's younger brother Shah Hasan Ali testified as the seventh prosecution witness in the case, giving almost an identical description of the incidents and sought justice.

Qaisar, a state minister during the HM Ershad regime, is facing 16 charges including genocide and murder in Brahmanbaria and Habiganj in 1971.

During his three and a quarter hours testimony, Hussain gave vivid descriptions of the incidents and on several occasions became very emotional. He said he had seen Qaisar at

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DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable 3:00pm.
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will arrange a roundtable on women entrepreneurs; Venue: FBCCI Conference Room; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion on gender-responsive budget; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 3:30pm.

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LET'S RAISE OUR HANDS AND PRAY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEPARTED SOULS OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

On Thursday, 24th April 2014 at 12:01 pm, prayers will be held at all garment industry establishments and related organizations in remembrance of the departed souls of Rana Plaza tragedy. Let's raise our hands together and pray for the salvation of the departed souls.

We stand united and determined in creating a safe environment in garment industry, and will continue to ensure dignity, well-being and safety of our workers.

Logos: Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Leather Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BLGMEA).