

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is like to occur at one or two places over Rajshai, Rangpur, Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur,

Madaripur, Rangamati, Maijdee Court, Rajshahi, Barisal and Bhola and it may continue, as a mild heat wave.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at

6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:24am.

Country's highest temperature 39.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 20.3 degree Celsius in Dhaka.

The highest and lowest temperatures 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	36.0	20.3	56	56	Khulna	37.5	24.5	67	55
Chittagong	33.5	21.8	71	74	Barisal	36.0	23.7	64	66
Rajshahi	36.5	22.4	66	62	Sylhet	35.7	22.5	75	45
Rangpur	33.0	21.6	70	60	Cox's Bazar	34.5	25.0	52	76

NEWSIN brief

Another victim of Tejpuribazar fire dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another victim of Tejpuribazar shop fire died after fighting for life for 20 days yesterday morning, bringing the death toll to 6.

Mahmudul Hasan, owner of Mahfuz Sewing and Electric, succumbed to his injuries at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The fire and explosion at Mahfuz Sewing and Electric, a shop that sells accessories for garment factories, left at least 11 people with serious burn injuries on April 10.

Aman released from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Aman Ullah Aman was released from Dhaka Central Jail on bail yesterday, 11 days after he had been sent to jail in a case filed for killing a Shibir man in the capital.

Deputy Jailer Tariqul Islam said Aman was freed from jail around 2:30pm.

The High Court granted Aman a six-month bail Tuesday.

Shibir man, Mansur Pradhania, 20, died in a clash between police and Jamaat-Shibir activists at Malibagh on December 29 last year.

TUESDAY'S TRAIN-BUS COLLISION Another victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another victim of the horrific accident where a train rammed into a bus in the capital on Tuesday night died yesterday raising the death toll to four.

The deceased Al Amin, a rickshaw puller, was in the locomotive.

When the train collided with the bus, Amin fell out of the train and it ran over his left arm completely severing it.

Amin was rushed back and forth between Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation as doctors tried to address his critical injuries.

He died at DMCH around 3:30am.

Meanwhile, police have identified the driver of the bus, Balaka Paribahan, that caused the fatal accident.

His name is Kabir and he is yet to be arrested, said police.

Eye witnesses claimed that the bus had gone on ahead

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STEALING SEIZED GOLD Three cops remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three policemen on a three-day remand each in a case filed for embezzling 165 gold bars that were seized in the capital's Rampura in March.

The accused are Sub-inspector Manjurul Islam and constables Wahiduzzaman and Akash Chowdhury of Rampura Police Station.

The court passed the order after Jatan Kumar Roy, deputy director of Anti-Corruption Commission and investigation officer of the case, produced them before it with a three-day remand prayer.

The IO told the court that the three along with two of their sources were involved in the embezzlement. So they needed to be remanded for gathering more information, Jatan added.

Detective Branch of police on April 9 filed the case with Rampura

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PUBLIC NUISANCE

People suffer, particularly in the middle of the day when there is a huge pressure of traffic, as a narrow strip of the road is all that is left for their movement at the capital's Malibagh intersection because of an excavation going on there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Govt to launch new vaccines this year

Expanded Programme on Immunisation official tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's immunisation programme will launch two new vaccines by this year.

The Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) is expecting to run campaigns for pneumococcal vaccine and polio vaccine (IPV), which can be injected, by November.

As pneumonia causes 20,000 deaths of children under five every year, introducing the pneumococcal vaccination will save many lives. Although polio was successfully eradicated from the country in 2006, IPV is being launched to continue the success.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), which is providing the vaccines, would finalise the dates of deliveries by this month, said Dr Md Tajul Islam A Bari, programme manager of EPI, yesterday.

He was addressing a roundtable discussion organised by Prothom Alo with support of Lions Clubs International at the Bangla daily's office in the capital.

Health experts observed that the country owes much of its success in cutting 72 percent of child deaths in the last two decades to EPI.

Except the Maldives, Bangladesh has the lowest number of child deaths in South Asia, they added.

National Prof MR Khan commended EPI for conducting the largest



A large swathe of ground, which should be the bed of the Gorai river, is seen exposed between the Hardinge and Lal Shah bridges at Bheramara upazila of Kushtia yesterday. The Gorai sees a huge decline in water flow every dry season (February-May) because of India's unilateral withdrawal of water through Farakha barrage at the upstream. Though the government has spent millions of takas dredging the distributary of the Padma to prevent salinity intrusion, sand slides down into it again when there is a shortage of water.

Viral disease Chikungunya quite prevalent in capital

Finds study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 33 percent of the people in four areas of Dhaka city are suffering from Chikungunya, a viral disease that causes sudden high fever, severe joint pain, muscle pain and headache, according to the preliminary findings of a survey.

The disease is transmitted to humans through the bites of two species of mosquitoes--Aedes albopictus and Aedes aegypti. The study warns that Chikungunya could create a major public health hazard if the prevalence continues to go up.

"The percentage of prevalence is quite high, and the trend seems to go up if mosquito breeding is not controlled rigorously," said Prof Mahmudur Rahman, director at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research (IEDCR).

The IEDCR survey was conducted on 621 people of Sutrapur, Dhanmondi, Motijheel and Mohakhali between August and September last year but the sample size is good enough to be representative of the city population, he said.

Fever triggered by Chikungunya may persist up to 12 days, and resulting joint pain for several months, said Prof Rahman. The patient can also suffer from rash, causing tremendous irritation, he told a seminar at the IEDCR in the capital.

The disease does not have any treatment now, but once diagnosed, the patient can be sure that she or he does not need to go for treatment but to wait out the illness, said Dr Rahman, adding that if one suffered severe pain, doctors could suggest some palliatives.

While presenting the study, "Entomological and Climatic Attributes and Seroprevalence of Chikungunya in Dhaka city", the professor said dampness, lack of sunlight, and stagnant water in pots could create favourable conditions for the mosquitoes.

Rahman said they had yet to establish any link between climate change and Chikungunya but they could do it once the study was completed by the end of the next year.

Chikungunya was first detected in Poba of Rajshahi in 2008. It was found in Sathia of Pabna in 2009 and in Dohar and Shibganj in 2011. There are no cases of fatalities in any of these places.

Dr Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and Dr Shah Nawaz, director of DGHS, also spoke.

Qausem's war crimes trial nears end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proceedings against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali are likely to conclude on Sunday, as both the prosecution and the defence almost completed their closing arguments, the last phase before the pronouncement of verdict.

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday asked the defence to complete the legal arguments within half an hour on Sunday. It also asked the prosecution to complete their rebuttal, in response to the defence arguments, within 30 minutes on the same day.

After completion of the arguments and rebuttal, the tribunal will either fix a date or keep the case waiting for delivering the verdict, according to law and common practice of the courts.

Quasem, now 61, the alleged chief of Chittagong Al-Badr, faces 14 charges including murders in Chittagong between November and December 16, 1971.

Earlier in the day, his counsel Mizanul Islam completed the factual arguments to prove Quasem's "innocence", saying the prosecution witnesses were "not credible".

He placed arguments on seven charges yesterday, and tried to show contradictions between the testimonies of prosecution witnesses and their documentary evidence.

After the last part of his arguments, he said the prosecution could not produce any documentary evidence where Quasem was mentioned as Al-Badr leader.

"But, the Investigation Officer [of the case], talking with two prosecution witnesses even before the commencement of investigation, had set [Quasem as] an offender," said Mizanul.

"From the beginning to the end of the investigation, he [the investigation officer] has carried out the probe with a special motive, being directed by the government," said

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CHANNEL 24 TALK SHOW Decision on contempt proceedings against 7 on June 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 will decide on June 12 whether it will initiate contempt of court proceedings against four officials of Channel 24 and three other people involved in a talk show of the private television station over comments on the trial of a BNP leader seven months ago.

The tribunal fixed the date yesterday after hearing from both the prosecution and the defence on show-cause notices served on the seven persons in this connection.

While attending a live episode of the talk show, Muktabak, on September 18, two guests--Zafrullah Chowdhury, trustee of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, and Mahfuz Ullah, secretary general of the Centre for Sustainable Development--claimed that the rights of then war crimes accused

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CONVERSION TO ISLAM Why issuance of ad should not be declared illegal

HC asks JU authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon Jahangirnagar University authorities to explain by May 15 why issuing an advertisement over an employee's conversion to Islam should not be declared illegal.

On April 25, the director of JU's public relation office issued an advertisement for the media, saying that a fourth class employee of the institution along with his family members had converted to Islam.

Bangla national daily the Janakantha on April 28 published a report in this regard, saying that the JU authorities had apologised to the nation for the advertisement.

Following the report, the HC yesterday issued the rule on a suo moto (of its own) move, asking the JU authorities to explain why they should not be directed to take legal action against the director of its PRO for issuing the advertisement.

Vice-chancellor of JU, its syndicate, registrar and director of its PRO have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain fixed May 15 for passing a further order on this issue.

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