

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY
Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Comilla, Jessore, Noakhali and Kushtia till 6:00pm today.

Weather may mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:30pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20am.

Country's highest temperature 37.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 22.0 degree Celsius in Sayedpur.
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 | 35.5 | 25.6 | 55 | 48 | Khulna | 36.0 | 24.2 | 71 | 50 |
| Chittagong | 32.6 | 26.3 | 83 | 73 | Barisal | 35.5 | 24.9 | 69 | 59 |
| Rajshahi | 36.0 | 23.4 | 71 | 79 | Sylhet | 35.0 | 22.7 | 63 | 51 |
| Rangpur | 33.2 | 22.4 | 73 | 64 | Cox's Bazar | 35.3 | 27.3 | 75 | 63 |

Six govt high officials face contempt of court rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued two separate contempt of court rules against six high officials of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) on charges of ignoring its orders in two cases.
BTCL Managing Director Mahfuz Uddin Ahmad and DSCC Administrator Md Alamgir are among the six.
One rule was issued against three BTCL officials for disconnecting telephone operator Zamir Telecom's interconnection signalling link, and the other was issued against three DSCC officials for not regularising the job of 88 employees.
The rest of the six officials facing the charges are BTCL General Manager AA Mohammad Moasir and Director (overseas) Md Ziadul Anam, and DSCC Chief Executive Officer Md Ansar Ali Khan and Secretary Khan Md Rezaul Karim.

After hearing two contempt petitions, the HC asked the six to explain why action should not be taken against them for committing contempt by ignoring its orders.
The BTCL blocked ZT's interconnection signalling link on March 17, 2010 for not making its outstanding payment.
Following a writ petition, the HC on April 22 the same year directed the BTCL to reconnect ZT's link. On March 11, 2012, the court upheld its 2010 order but the company on March 20 this year again cut off ZT's signalling link for not paying dues.
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Bangladesh Inland Water Authority (BIWTA) removes earth, which has been dumped by grabbers encroaching upon the Shitalakkhya near Kanchpur bridge yesterday. The earth-filling was carried out by the people allegedly backed by Narayanganj city councillor Nur Hossain, also the prime accused of a recent seven-murder.

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 21st century learning must be student centred

Say speakers
WASIM BIN HABIB, from Cox's Bazar

The learning system in the twenty-first century should be student-centred and teachers need to teach using different methods to ensure students' better understanding of materials, said teachers and students at a seminar in Cox's Bazar yesterday.
They said a significant number of teachers in the country have become habituated with traditional teaching-learning approaches and are unwilling to use technology in imparting lessons.
The seminar "Twenty-first century teachers: Skills and Challenges" was held on the second day of a three-day Teachers' Conference held at the Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre.
Access to Information (a2i) Programme under the Prime Minister's Office, and British Council in association with the education
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Torture by Azharul impaired me for life

Victim tells war crimes trial; younger brother corroborates incident as another witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers yesterday narrated how war crimes accused ATM Azharul Islam tortured them at the fag end of the Liberation War, leaving one of them with a lifetime of physical impairment.
The siblings, Rafiqul Hasan Nannu and Sakhawat Hossain Ranga, described in detail two incidents of

torture while giving deposition at International Crimes Tribunal-1.
Rafiqul, 62, said he was involved in Chhatra League politics and knew Azharul, a then second year higher secondary level student at Rangpur Carmichael College and member of Islami Chhatra Sangha.
The 12th witness said he would visit Rangpur Press Club to read newspa-

pers where he met Azharul several times. "After the 70s [general] election, I had argument with Azharul on political issues."
On December 1, 1971, Rafiqul went to a tailor shop in Rangpur town where some Chhatra Sangha members attacked him and dragged him to a nearby camp of Razakar, an auxiliary
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Local govt should get bigger budget

Roundtable told; empowerment of elected representatives to spend money urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to expedite development activities, allocations from the national budget for local government institutions should be increased and the public representatives there should be empowered to use that money, speakers told a roundtable yesterday.
Since there is no fixed allocation for local government at present, they recommended increasing it to five percent of the national

budget. Last year, the allocation stood at a mere 0.77 percent.
The allocation in the proposed development budget for union, upazila and zila parishads, municipalities, and city corporations went down from Tk 1,927 crore in 2012-2013 fiscal year to Tk 1,712 crore in 2013-2014, according to a short research paper, "Budget Decentralisation and Rational Allocation for Local Government Institutions".
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OVERCROWDED PRISONS Lack of rehabilitation creates repeat offenders

Says prison boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A significant number of prisoners re-engage in criminal activities after they are released due to a lack of proper rehabilitation facilities and failure to reintegrate into the society, said Inspector General (IG) of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekar Uddin yesterday.
He added that this leads to overcrowding in prisons.
The prisons in Bangladesh at present are holding prisoners double their capacities, he said at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop at a hotel in the capital.
The workshop titled "We have not forgotten you- Pathways for Rehabilitation of Prisoners" was jointly organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and GIZ, a

German government organisation, under their project "Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Bangladesh".
The workshop aims to develop skills of prisoners so that they can make a living and fit into the society again.
According to the prison directorate's estimate, till last March 31 the prison population was 65,662 (male 63,451 and female 2,211) but the capacity is only 34,167, said Senior Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed.
Around 69 percent of the total prisoners are on trial at the moment, he said, adding that many prisoners spend years waiting for their trial to end, and sometimes their time in prison pre-trial exceeds their eventual sentences.
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Moscow won't impose on Bangladesh

Envoy in Dhaka tells journalists

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russian Ambassador in Dhaka Alexander A Nikolaev yesterday said leaders in Beijing, New Delhi and Moscow had "enough political wise" not to impose their own visions and models of democracy on any country of South Asia, particularly Bangladesh.
Asked about Russia, China and India congratulating Sheikh Hasina's new government despite reservations by the USA and Europe about the January 5 general elections, he said Russia sent greetings because "they believe in equal relations with everybody".
"We are for equal relations with everybody regardless of the size of the territory or population," he said, replying to a question during a diplomatic talk in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.
Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) organised the event presided over by its President Mainul Alam and addressed by General Secretary Angur Nahar Monty.
In another reply, he said they still recognised the January
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Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Navy Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Thura Thet Swe, left, meets Bangladesh Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral M Farid Habib at the Navy headquarters in the capital's Banani on Monday. The Myanmarese admiral will leave tomorrow.



Dr Ahmad Rafique, third from right, an expert on Rabindranath Tagore, receives a crest from Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, at Channel i Bhaban in the capital yesterday as part of a lifetime award the private television station gave him in recognition of his contribution to research on the great Bangalee poet. A press conference was also held to announce the AB Bank Channel i Rabindra Mela 2014, which will take place at the complex tomorrow to mark Tagore's 154th birth anniversary.

BR RECRUITMENT SCAM

Four new recruits sent to jail for falsehood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Four newly appointed employees of Bangladesh Railway, who are facing charges of recruitment irregularities, were sent to jail yesterday, as they have acquired ad-interim bail from the High Court by giving false information.
Senior Special Judge of Chittagong SM Mojibur Rahman passed the order after the four surrendered at the court and sought regular bail, said Mejbah Uddin Chowdhury, public prosecutor of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).
The accused SM Azizul Haque, ASM Saidur Rahman, Rabiul Hasan, and Ashraf Islam have been recruited as tool
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