

RAIN LIKELY

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

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

Severe heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Khulna and Kushtia and moderate to mild heat wave is sweeping over Dhaka, Barisal and Rangpur and rest of the Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Majidpur and it may continue.

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:14am.

Country's highest temperature 41.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chuadanga and lowest 22.4 degree Celsius in Sreemangal.

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	36.5	28.5	69	57	Khulna	40.5	27.8	70	52
Chittagong	33.0	27.4	77	75	Barisal	36.2	27.4	77	70
Rajshahi	40.4	27.0	70	49	Sylhet	34.2	23.5	72	72
Rangpur	36.2	25.2	72	58	Cox's Bazar	35.0	27.6	73	77

Further Bangalee intrusion feared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A citizens' forum yesterday demanded that the government suspend the process of setting up a university and a medical college in Rangamati, saying that these would ultimately lead to new settlements from the mainland and land grabbing in the hill tracts.

"Establishment of these institutions will have negative impacts on the hill tracts' social, cultural, economical and political aspects," said Syed Abul Maqsood, a columnist and civil rights activist, at a press conference.

He said instead of providing necessary primary and secondary education and healthcare to the people in the Chittagang Hill Tracts (CHT), the government was going ahead with the idea of a university and medical college for "political reasons".

Contacted, State Minister for CHT affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Singh said the clear goal of the university and medical college was to better educate the people in the CHT and their development.

"If there are any specific issue, which may cause problems, we are ready to discuss. But, opposing the idea outright is not a solution," he told The Daily Star.

At the press conference organised by Nagorik Samaj, a platform of the citizens, at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city, citizens said the government started acquiring land and evicting indigenous people at Rangamati Sadar and Kawkhali upazilas for setting up Rangamati Medical College and Rangamati Science and Technology University in 2010.

In the face of strong opposition from the indigenous

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Illegal easy-bikes plying and remaining parked in Katgar area of Chittagong city yesterday. These vehicles, which are shaky, do not have any legal document, and creating traffic chaos, are allegedly allowed to stay on roads by police in exchange for routine bribes. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Illegal easy-bikes plaguing Ctg city

Owners' association claims bribing Patenga cops, OC denies

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The number of unauthorised battery-run three-wheelers, known as easy-bikes, has almost tripled in Chittagong city in the last two years with the authorities turning a blind eye to the situation.

According to easy-bike owners associations, more than 1,500 easy-bikes now ply the roads of the port city. But in 2012, the number was only around 500.

In Katgar, a locality in the city's southern part, more than 1,000 easy-bikes now ply five different routes while only around 300

used to ply about two years ago.

According to the Motor Vehicles Ordinance 1983, no motor vehicle can ply without six documents -- registration, fitness certificate, tax token, route permit, insurance certificate and driving licence. But the easy-bikes have none of these.

Sources at the Power Development Board (PDB) said each of the auto-bikes is run by five rechargeable batteries and has to be charged eight hours daily.

With the amount of electricity needed to

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Asian women shy of seeking treatment

Singaporean doctor tells seminar

TAMANNA KHAN from Singapore

The fear of embarrassment prevents Asian women, who suffer from involuntary urine leakage disorder and pelvic organ prolapse, from accessing medical help, said a Singaporean urogynaecologist.

Pelvic organ prolapse means dropping of womb, bladder or bowel from their normal position.

The set of muscles that supports pelvic organs becomes weak during pregnancy and can cause urinary incontinence or such prolapse even later in life, said Dr Christopher Chong, obstetrician, gynaecologist and urogynaecologist of Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore.

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Eight jurnos win Unesco Bangladesh Journalism Awards 2014

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight print and electronic media journalists, including photo journalist Rashed Shumon of The Daily Star, have won the "Unesco Bangladesh Journalism Awards 2014".

The award-giving ceremony was organised by the Unesco Bangladesh in association with Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) yesterday at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The other winners are Haidar Ali, Muhammad Joyal Abedin and Abhijit Bhattacharya of the daily Kaler Kanto; Kajol Hajra of the daily Samakal; Ashiqur Rahman Chowdhury and Sheikh Nazrul Islam of NTV; and Mashudul Haque of ATN News.

Each of them received prize money, a crest and a certificate for their investigative reports

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Adhunik places proposals to Speaker

UNB, Dhaka

Adhunik (We Prevent Smoking), an anti-tobacco organisation founded by Dr Nurul Islam, placed a six-point proposal to Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on Thursday.

They urged the government to take more stringent policy measures to curb the growing menace of tobacco consumption in the country.

An eight-member delegation led by Adhunik President Amanullah Khan met the Speaker at her Sangsad Bhaban office around 12:00 noon and submitted the proposals.

The proposals were submitted ahead of the May 31 World No Tobacco Day for speedy implementation of the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usages (Control) Act 2005, amended in 2013.

The proposals included raising tax on tobacco particularly on lower grade cigarettes and bidis by 200 percent; providing soft loans to farmers willing to switch over to

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Second convocation of AUW held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of 131 graduates received their degrees at the second commencement of the Asian University for Women (AUW) held at Chittagong Boat Club in the port city yesterday.

Of the graduates from 12 Asian countries, 69 received Bachelor of Arts degrees and 62 received Bachelor of Science degrees.

An honorary degree was conferred on Lady Judy

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Menstruation should be discussed frankly with girls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for open discussions on menstruation to make adolescent girls aware about it and to avert health hazards.

A lack of awareness and social taboo are the main reasons for different types of health complications occurring in young girls when they reach puberty. So, it needs to break the silence and discuss the issue elaborately, they said at the roundtable titled "Let us talk about menstruation" jointly, organised by the daily Prothom Alo at its office in cooperation with the WaterAid.

Besides raising awareness, it is very crucial to arrange separate toilet, soap, bin with a lid, and other necessary

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Huda proposes formula for voter roll update

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP leader Nazmul Huda yesterday recommended involving ward-level elected public representatives in the voter roll update programme to "complete the work in seven days".

He said a committee would be formed at every ward of the union parishads, municipalities and city corporations with the elected member or councillor as the head.

The committee which will also include former candidates will take the responsibility of the voter list of that particular ward, he told a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"Every decision must be taken unanimously so that none can commit irregularities," said Huda, also chairman of the Bangladesh National Alliance (BNA), a newly-floated political party.

In consultation with the local election officials, the committees will deploy the necessary number of people for data collection or other activities, he said.

Huda, who was expelled from the BNP, said the candidates and elected people knew accurate information

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