

RAIN LIKELY

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Sylhet division

and the regions of Tangail, Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Sayedpur and Chuadanga and it may continue. Day and night temperatures may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.**

Country's highest temperature 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Tangail and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius in Rangamati. 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	34.0	24.7	67	88	Khulna	35.3	25.5	72	98
Chittagong	33.5	25.8	75	72	Barisal	33.8	25.2	78	93
Rajshahi	37.1	25.5	63	81	Sylhet	36.2	25.3	69	67
Rangpur	34.2	25.0	73	62	Cox's Bazar	34.8	27.2	73	80



Spikes of this retractable spike strip were already broken yesterday just two days after it was installed with a lot of hoopla on Hare Road in the capital to prevent motorists from driving on the wrong side of the road. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UPCOMING NATIONAL BUDGET
Allocate Tk 6,000cr for indigenous welfare

Demands Bangladesh Adivasi Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum yesterday demanded that the government allocate Tk 6,000 crore in the upcoming national budget for the development of indigenous people living both in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and the plains.

"The government this year plans to pass the national budget of Tk 3 lakh crore. We, the indigenous people, are two percent of the total population in the country. So, we deserve allocation of Tk 6,000 crore of the budget," said Sanjib Drong, general secretary of the forum.

He made the demand while presenting a keynote paper on a dialogue on demand of indigenous-friendly budget, jointly organised by the forum and Actionaid Bangladesh in the city's The Daily Star Centre.

In the last five fiscal years since 2009-10, the government's allocation for CHT affairs ministry was Tk 2,943 crore, while only Tk 74 crore for indigenous people on plain land, he said. Out of the CHT region, there are around 20 lakh indigenous people on plain land, but the government's allocation for them is very poor, Sanjib added.

Some invited guests also took part in the discussion and put emphasis on the government's equal importance for keeping sufficient allocation in the budget for the two groups of ethnic people.

Shaktipod Tripura, organising secretary of the adivasi forum, said the indigenous people had been becoming poorer gradually mainly because of losing their agricultural lands.

If the government had truly wanted the welfare of the ethnic people, it must have protected their lands from being grabbed by non-indigenous people, said Rabindranath Saren, president of forum.

The corrupted government policymakers and officials do not distribute allocations properly among the indigenous people, lawmaker Ushaton Talukder alleged.

Prof Dalim Chandra Barman, vice-chancellor of ASA University, said the government should ensure the rights of the indigenous people as per the directions of constitution.

Addressing as the chief guest, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said the government should take a coordinated policy to ensure fair budget allocation for the indigenous people living both in the CHT and the plains.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, among others, spoke.

SECOND DAY OF RAINFALL AFTER HEATWAVE
Capital sees waterlogging again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a continuous heatwave over more than a week, the capital yesterday experienced an hour-long rainfall that submerged most of the city streets causing misery to the commuters.

A similar shower, however, accompanied by cool breezes on Saturday brought a sigh of relief to the city dwellers, who suffered a 38-degree Celsius temperature just a day before.

Besides, bestowing comfort on people, the incessant rainfall that began around 1:55pm yesterday also caused severe traffic congestion with ankle-deep or knee-deep stagnant water on the roads.

An important road, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, went under water which also caused dearth of public transports, said Mahfuza Akhtar, a commuter.

Similarly, Rokeya Sarani, where she lives, was also submerged, she added.

This correspondent, who passed through Hare Road and Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, saw some vehicles breaking down on the waterlogged thoroughways while pedestrians walking right along the middle of the roads to avoid water on the edge.

Dhaka experienced 19 millimetre rain, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION
2.2m children bearing unnecessary costs

Says Campe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of over 2.2 million children aged between four and five years are bearing unnecessary costs for pre-primary education, according to a report launched yesterday.

The parents mainly spend on stationery, school bags, books and uniform--materials which are not supposed to be used in pre-primary education, it said.

The report titled "Education Watch 2013: New Vision Old Challenges" was published by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) in a ceremony at LGED auditorium in the capital. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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