

RAIN LIKELY

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions with moderate heavy to heavy falls at places till

6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 21.5 degrees in Bogra. 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	31.2	27.5	75	67	Khulna	36.6	26.7	75	81
Chittagong	32.6	26.0	71	76	Barisal	35.2	26.6	81	81
Rajshahi	33.4	23.2	79	71	Sylhet	28.0	25.4	95	79
Rangpur	30.5	23.5	89	72	Cox's Bazar	34.9	25.0	78	79

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



The graduate with proud mother.

PHOTO: ALISHA KABIR

Fatherhood

Last Sunday was a memorable day for my family. My son graduated from university.

It seems only yesterday that Ihsan started university education at Cornell University in remote Ithaca, New York. Today, four years later, he has earned a dual-major Bachelor's degree in Physics and Economics by completing the graduation requirements of both the departments.

Further, he was honoured as one of four students to address the Ivy League university's convocation ceremony attended by 20,000 people.

The occasion made me proud beyond words. It also made me pause and think about fatherhood.

My father often quoted a Bangla saying: *sneho nimnogami*. It means "affection flows downwards." Caring for offspring is a force of nature, a force much stronger than we feel for others. My siblings and I benefitted from this unconditional love from my parents who made great sacrifices to raise their children.

So when my wife and I were blessed with children, life had made a full circle.

Time flew by fast. Now it all seems a blur - baby food and diapers, vaccinations and first day of school, shopping for kiddie clothes, reading aloud and watching cartoons. The first birthday rolled into the second, others came and went quickly.

We asked ourselves the same question other parents ask - am I a good mother or father to my children?

Most of us look to our own childhood for hints on being a good parent. But times change. How does one account for changes that have taken place between generations?

Some things remain the same through changing times. For example: the need for open communication, with at least one parent, so that the child can confide both good and bad things about

their life.

Close friends of the youngster are extremely important. In childhood and adolescence I was lucky to have friends who pushed, inspired and challenged me, whether in studies or sports. Parents can and should monitor the behaviour and ambition of the friends.

Should parents take a hands-on interest in the children's studies? In my day, parent-teacher conferences were rare. My father taught me English grammar in Class III but that was his last direct involvement in my studies. But given today's demanding curricula, it becomes vital for parents to stay directly engaged to whatever extent possible.

When parents take an interest in their children's activities, it strengthens the bond between them. This must be done while minimizing intrusion into the child's space. For Ihsan who likes public speaking, his mother played a crucial role. For his athletic and outdoor activities I engaged him early on.

My parents always made me take my decisions (and deal with the consequences.) This helped me become independent. I tried to do the same with our children, but perhaps not to the same extent.

What is the most important gift that parents can give to children? I believe it is time. Childhood passes quickly never to return. But the time you spend with your children nurtures them for life and stays with you as cherished memories.

I leave you with a quote from Kahlil Gibran which resonated with me on this special day:

"Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you.

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you."

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Minister's remark on Jamaat spreads anger

Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Gonojagoron Mancha, 35 other organisations protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-war crimes platforms Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday strongly protested the law minister's comments that the trial of the Jamaat-e-Islami as an organisation for crimes against humanity in 1971 cannot be held right at this moment.

The Nirmul Committee leaders expressed astonishment over Law Minister Anisul Huq's "negative" comments, and demanded that the prime minister remove all barriers and confusions over holding the trial of war criminals.

Anisul Huq on May 29 reportedly said Jamaat could not be tried as an organisation at this moment for three reasons. He said the provisions of the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act state about the trial of organisations but it did not say anything about the punishment.

It might create an adverse impact if Jamaat's trial is held at an International Crimes Tribunal, since a case over its registration is pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, he said.

Thirdly, according to the law minister, some of the Jamaat leaders, who committed crimes

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Tales of heartbreak unfold at airport

Bodies of 6 Bangladeshis killed in Riyadh arrive

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

Sadness filled the air at Dhaka airport yesterday as families received the bodies of six men who died with three other compatriots in Saudi Arabia two weeks ago. Grieving parents and siblings were all around, expressing their distress.

"Why Allah took my son's life so early?" cried Hoby Mia, 65, father of Shah Alam, 28. "Why He left us broke? Who will look after us now?"

The young Alam was one of the six men whose bodies arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Nine Bangladeshi workers, seven from Comilla and one each from Noakhali and Madaripur, died in a factory fire in Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital, on May 12.

The bodies of the three others will be brought back after completion of the relevant procedure, said Dr Ziauddin, deputy secretary of the wage earners welfare board at the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

The bodies of the six-Shah Alam, Mohammad Selim, Motiur Rahman, and Mohammad Jalal from Comilla and Khorshed Alam Akkas from Madaripur and Jakir Hossain from Noakhali-were handed over to their families with Tk 35,000 each for burial costs, he said.

Hoby Mia said his son had worked for eight years in Saudi Arabia. He had come home in January and married in March this year before he left for Saudi Arabia again.

Alam talked to his parents and newly married wife four or five hours before his death, he said. "I could not imagine my son would flee this way, leaving me in distress. He would ask me not to worry about him. He would send us money regularly."

The distraught father had sent his son abroad with hope for solvency and happiness in the family. He said his wife had fallen sick after learning of their son's death.

The death of Selim took away the smile of just yet another family.

"Oh! My brother how will we bear the

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Shah Paran breaks down in tears holding the coffin of his elder brother Selim at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital where his body arrived along with five other corpses yesterday. Nine Bangladeshi workers were killed in a factory fire in Saudi Arabia on May 12. Six bodies were flown home on a Biman Bangladesh flight yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

3.2kg of gold seized at Shahjalal airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday detained a man and seized 3.2kg of gold from his possession at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

The arrestee, Arif Hossain, 28, arrived from Kuala Lumpur in a flight of Biman Bangladesh, Shamsul Arafin Khan, assistant commissioner of customs, told The Daily Star.

Arif had paid tax for 20g of gold, but customs officials on suspicion searched him thoroughly and recovered 3kg more gold from his possession.

The price of the seized gold was worth Tk 1.5 crore .a

Use of surface water raises safety concern

Experts say Dhaka Wasa's current process can't remove all harmful elements

UNB, Dhaka

With Dhaka Wasa's growing dependency on surface water, the risk of consuming unsafe water goes up as its conventional water treatment system cannot entirely remove harmful chemicals and surface metals, say experts.

It is almost impossible for the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to fully neutralise all the chemicals pouring into the rivers surrounding the capital from factories and industries with its traditional treatment process, they told the news agency recently.

In the treatment process, they said, Wasa used alum, liquid chlorine and cold lime to purify surface water, but these were not enough to bring the chemicals down to a permissible level.

Consumption of chlorine for a long period may cause diseases and complications such as colon cancer, peptic ulcer and liver and kidney damage, they said.

"Dhaka Wasa's dependency on surface

water has risen from nine percent to 22 percent in the last five years. But, its purification process has not yet achieved the required standard, as chlorine can only destroy bacteria, not chemicals," said Prof Didar-Ul-Alam of Dhaka University's soil, water and environment department.

Among the six rivers around the capital, the Buriganga is highly polluted. The five other rivers are Shitalakhya, Turag, Balu, Sonai and Debdholai.

"Even the surface water in the Shitalakhya river contains all sorts of floating material, dissolved chemicals and undissolved organic compounds," Prof Alam said.

Many waterborne micro-organisms cannot also be removed if the water is not treated with right amounts of chemicals. The organic compounds, most of which are harmful to humans, cannot be removed with the conventional treatment method, he said.

Long-term use of chlorine accelerates

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Over 500 cyclists yesterday cycled about 18 kilometres in Chittagong city to motivate people to use bicycles as a mode of transport. Ten cycling organisations arranged the event titled "Critical Mass".

PHOTO: STAR



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