


RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 35.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sayedpur and lowest 21.6 degrees in Khulna. 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	31.1	24.2	85	76	Khulna	30.4	21.6	83	83
Chittagong	32.6	24.7	88	80	Barisal	29.0	24.2	95	83
Rajshahi	33.6	23.3	78	74	Sylhet	34.7	25.5	73	81
Rangpur	34.2	25.0	73	69	Cox's Bazar	34.4	27.5	77	75



An indigenous man uses a megaphone voicing the demands for punishment of the alleged land grabbers who attacked Khasis in Srimangal on Friday, during a human chain in front of Kulaura Shaheed Minar in Moulvibazar yesterday. Ten rights organisations took part in the protest.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

ROOPPUR NUKE POWER PLANT
Cabinet okays \$199m Russian hard-term export credit
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved \$199 million procurement proposal under Russian hard-term export credit for the first phase of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission will procure services and goods from Russian contractor Atomstroyexport under a deal between Bangladesh and Russian governments, according to a proposal by the Ministry of Science and Technology. After the meeting, Nurul Karim, additional secretary

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Gold worth Tk 1cr seized at Shahjalal airport
15 held
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) arrested 15 people with 22 gold bars, weighing 2.37 kilograms, in separate drives in the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Shamsu, Selim, Ab Razzak, Nasir, Shaheed, Ormar Faroque, Forkan, all passengers of a Saudi Airlines flight, and Hasem Ali, Taizul, Nurul Afsar, Ohid, Jalal Mia, Liton, Golam Kibria and Shakil, of a Bangladesh Airlines flight, were arrested while leaving the airport evading taxes of the bars worth around Tk 1 crore, said APBn officials.

CJ recommends govt regularise job of six HC additional judges
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain has recommended the government regularise the job of six additional judges of the High Court. Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday told The Daily Star that his office has received the recommendation from the chief justice and it will be sent to the president through the prime minister's office. The judges are Justice Ashish Ranjan Das, Justice Mahmudul Hoque, Justice Md Badruzzaman, Justice Zafar Ahmed, Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain. They were appointed on June 13, 2012 for two years.

SRIMANGAL KHASIS
Adivasis, rights activists protest Friday's attack
Demand permanent solution to land problems
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Ten rights organisations and people from different indigenous communities living in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila yesterday demanded punishment to the attackers of Srimangal Khasis and a permanent solution to the land-related problems of the community. More than a hundred adivasis formed a human chain in front of the Shaheed Minar in Kulaura, organised by Khasi Students Union, while Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), an environmental group, condemned the attack through a statement on Saturday. Bapa was also among the 10 bodies that joined the human chain, alongside Adivasi Nari Foundation, KUBORAZ, Kapaeng Foundation, Tribal Welfare Association, Bangladesh Garo Students Union, Global

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Azhar helped Pak army kill three in Rangpur
Sons of two martyrs tell war crimes trial
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two prosecution witnesses yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that the Pakistani army accompanied by war crimes accused ATM Azharul Islam shot dead their fathers and brother on April 3, 1971 the at Dhapengineer Para crematorium of Rangpur's Kotwali thana. The 16th witness, AYM Moazzem Ali, and 17th witness, Tapan Kumar Adhikari, in the case against Azharul, heard the incident of the killings from a survivor, Dinesh Chandra Bhoumik alias Montu Doktor. Earlier, Dinesh's son Rathish Chandra Bhoumik, the 13th witness, described how narrowly his father had escaped death when the occupation army accompanied by ATM

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Azharul, then Islami Chhatra Sangha president of Rangpur town, shot Dinesh along with 10 other people. The 16th witness said his father AY Mahfuz Ali alias Jorrej Mia, then president of NAP's (Bhashani) Rangpur unit, had raised his voice for the country's liberation. On March 27, 1971, the Pakistani army picked him up from their house to Rangpur cantonment where he was tortured. The 17th witness said his father Durgadas Adhikari and younger brother Uttam Kumar Adhikari were taken by the Pakistani army on March 24, 1971 to the cantonment. Both the witnesses told the tribunal that

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Numerous trenches like this one were dug on Rampura Road between Malibagh and Rampura in the capital for utility work more than four months ago, but nobody cared to fill those up properly after the work was done. For all these months the trenches have been posing danger to the vehicles and passengers. The situation gets worse after rain, when the drivers cannot assess the depth of those.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

NEWSINbrief

Navy seizes banned fishing net
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Navy has siezed about 20 million meters of banned fishing net used to catch Jhatka fish (hilsa smaller than 23 centimetres) from costal areas and different rivers in the southern part of the country in last three months. The length of the net, worth about Tk 44 crore, can be calculated as 19,440 kilometers, said a navy press release. Navy along with coast guard started a drive to protect Hilsha fish on February 28. The net has been destroyed.

Man 'kills himself' in capital
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly killed himself by jumping off a four-storey hotel at Nazira Bazar in old Dhaka yesterday. Md Sobhan, 27, of Chandpur, was suffering from mental illness and came to his brother Borhanuddin Manik, who works in the hotel and restaurant, 'One Star' two days ago for treatment, said Bangshal police. He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and his body was sent to the morgue for an autopsy.

Two children drown in Rangpur
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Two children drowned in a canal in Amashu-Kukrul area in Rangpur city on Saturday afternoon. The dead, Lambi, 6, daughter of Samsul Islam, and Shrishti, 7, daughter of Selim Mian, hailed from the same area. Police said the girls went to the canal for bathing on Saturday afternoon but did not know swimming.

Russian Embassy celebrates National Day
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russian Embassy in Dhaka hosted a grand reception at its embassy in Gulshan on Saturday marking the National Day of the country. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali attended the reception as the chief guest while Russian Ambassador Alexander A Nikolaev welcomed the guests. The reception began with national anthems of Bangladesh and Russia and was followed by a beautiful musical soiree.

Trip for challenged children arranged
CITY DESK

The Concord Group arranged a free trip for 200 orphanages, underprivileged children and children with disabilities to their theme park Fantasy Kingdom on Saturday. Concord started its journey in 1973 as a small engineering construction firm with the construction of bridges damaged during the Liberation War and intends to continue such kind of social activities to help the underprivileged people of the country.

Course for defence finance auditors starts
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A month-long foundation course for the newly recruited auditors of the defence finance department was inaugurated yesterday, said a press release. Controller General Defence Finance Mahtab Uddin chaired the session and the director general of Financial Management Academy spoke at the event held in the senior finance controller's (army) office in Dhaka Cantonment.



Workshop
Institute of Water Modelling has organised a workshop on "Collaborative Research on Flood Resilience in Urban Areas: Dhaka Case Study"; Venue: Spectra Convention Centre; Time: 9:00am.

Seminar
The Australian High Commission in Dhaka has arranged a seminar on "Australia and Bangladesh: Sharing Experiences in Protection of Human Rights"; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 9:00am.

CHILD TRAFFICKING
Online birth registration for all may be a deterrent
Seminar told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring online birth registration for all may significantly reduce child trafficking, said speakers at a seminar yesterday. Around 80 percent of the slum children and 42 percent of sex workers who enter 13 brothels of the country at the age of 13-17 do not have birth registration, the speakers said adding that if these children are registered digitally, traffickers would not be able to buy and sell them easily. Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), World Vision Bangladesh and Terre des Hommes Netherlands organised the seminar titled "Child Trafficking in Bangladesh: Analysis of the Status and Possible Way Forward" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. Professor Ishrat Shamim of sociology,

Dhaka University in her presentation said there is no statistics on the number of children trafficked between 2011 and 2014. However, according to Bangladesh police, about 559 children were trafficked from June 2004 to December 2010, she added. She said many of the trafficked children's limbs are often amputated so that they can be used for begging on the city streets. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, additional secretary (political) of the home ministry said Bangladesh and India would soon sign a deal on preventing human trafficking. Bangladesh is trying to bring its trafficked citizens back before inking the deal, he said. Speaking as the chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali said children who are neglected by their families

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