

CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE UNLIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb., Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave is sweeping at places over Dhaka,

Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and it may continue, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.**

Country's highest temperature 37.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 25.3 degrees in Chittagong. 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	36.4	27.8	73	58	Khulna	36.4	27.6	77	67
Chittagong	32.2	25.3	92	80	Barisal	35.6	27.0	81	74
Rajshahi	37.6	28.2	79	69	Sylhet	34.4	25.6	77	78
Rangpur	35.2	28.0	78	66	Cox's Bazar	34.8	27.3	84	70

NEWS IN *brief*

Try Rab men who shot Limon: Prof Mizanur Rahman

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday demanded that Rapid Action Battalion personnel who shot and maimed college student Limon during a raid in his Jhalakathi village on March 23, 2011 be brought to justice.

It is a failure of the state, NHRC, and society that neither those who shot Limon are facing justice nor has he been given any compensation, he told a seminar, "Protibondhi Byektir Odhikar O Shurokhhka Ain 2013", (disabled people's rights and protection act 2013) NHRC organised in the capital's LGED Bhaban.

BNP to hold protest rallies in every district Monday

BNP-led 19-party alliance will hold rallies in every district on Monday protesting incidents of forced disappearance and killing across the country. The decision came from the Wednesday's meeting of the alliance's high-ups at BNP chief Khaleda Zia's office at Gulshan, said Rizvi Ahmed, BNP joint secretary general, at a press conference at the party's Nayaplatan office yesterday.

Muggers shoot bKash sales staff

Muggers shot a sales representative of bKash, a money transfer service provider, and snatched Tk 4 lakh by way-laying him in the capital's Rampura yesterday afternoon. Kazi Ramzan, 35, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital with a bullet injury in his right thigh. He was going to deposit the money to a Brac Bank branch in the area.

5.5kg gold seized at Dhaka airport

Customs officials early yesterday seized 48 gold bars weighing about 5.5kg at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital. The officials recovered the bars worth about Tk 2.5 crore from BG 046 flight of Biman Bangladesh which landed from Dubai around 2:45am, said Shamsul Arafin Khan, assistant commissioner of airport customs. The bars wrapped in black cloth were found in the plane's cargo hall, he said.

EKRAMUL KILLING
Jahid, another AL man confess

Two more people, including Jahid Chowdhury who is the prime suspect, yesterday admitted to having involvement in killing Phulgazi upazila chairman and Awami League (AL) leader Ekramul Haque, bringing the total number of confessions to 13, said investigators. Jahid, also known as Jihad, is Phulgazi upazila AL joint secretary while Abdullahil Mahmud Shiblu is Feni Ward 5 AL president and a municipality councillor. They gave their confessional statements to Senior Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Khairul Amin. At least nine of the confessional statements provided till date blamed Jahid of planning and supervising the killing and supplying the arms. Ekramul was shot inside his SUV before being burned alive in Feni town on May 20. Investigators quoted Shiblu as saying that he and some others held a meeting with Jahid at Salam Community Centre at Mizan Road the night before the killing, deciding to attack Ekramul's car and harass him by tearing his clothes off in public. Shiblu claimed that on May 20 he was at his residence and none of his followers took part in the killing. After the murder, Jahid came to his house and informed him and Shiblu claimed to have stated that it was wrong to have killed Ekramul. Details of Jahid's statement could not be known immediately. A total of 22 people including BNP leader Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury Minar, who was sent to jail after an eight-day remand, have been arrested. Seven more are still on remand.

Myanmar's border force regrets Mizan's killing

Returns his SMG, ammo at a BGB-BGP flag meeting; claims they mistook him for Rohingya separatist

STAR REPORT

Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) yesterday returned the sub-machine gun (SMG) of slain Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Nayek Mizanur Rahman along with 120 bullets and four magazines following a flag meeting between the two forces.

In an unprovoked attack, BGP shot at BGB patrols at Naikkhanchhari border in Bandarban on May 28, leaving Mizan dead. The Myanmar force then intruded into Bangladesh and took away his body, his firearm and ammunition, creating huge tension at the border.

Col Khandker Farid Hasan, BGB's sector commander of Cox's Bazar, led a 23-member delegation, while Director Police Brig Thin Ko Ko led a team of 15 members during the four-hour meeting from 10:00am at Maungdaw in Myanmar, which is 11 km off Teaknaf.

As Bangladesh strongly protested Mizan's killing at the meeting, the Myanmar force said they mistook the patrol team for members of Myanmar-based separatist group Rohingya



Nayek Mizanur Rahman

Solidarity Organisation (RSO), who also use dark uniform like BGB's.

When asked why they did not contact BGB officials at that time, the Myanmar side said they did not have mobile phone tower there and that they would build one in a couple of months, BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed told The Daily Star last night.

The Myanmar side regretted the killing and assured Bangladesh of more cautiousness in future to prevent recurrence.

The BGB chief said when Bangladeshi officials asked BGP to withdraw army from their border, they said they needed army deployment to prevent attack by RSO separatists.

The Myanmar team then inquired about whether Bangladesh wanted to deploy army at the border but the Bangladesh side said it was not required, said Maj Gen Aziz.

He said they never gave shelter to RSO separatists and asked for specific information about RSO operatives from BGP, if any.

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Officials of Border Guard Bangladesh, in the right row, and Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) at a deputy director general-level (DDG) flag meeting in Myanmar's Maungdaw yesterday, as tension flared on the border after a BGB nayek, Mizanur Rahman, was shot dead by BGP in an unprovoked attack on May 28. The two sides were led by Cox's Bazar Sector Commander Col Khandker Farid Hasan and Maungdaw's Director Police Brig Thin Ko Ko.

PHOTO: BGB

EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVT
Muhith again dishes out ambitious plans

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Like the previous year, the finance minister yesterday came up with several ambitious ideas to strengthen the local government bodies, which include a scrutiny to decide what issues the central government could transfer to the local institutions and how.

Last year, AMA Muhith spoke for creating an effective bureaucracy for local governance but it proved to be mere rhetoric. In his yesterday's budget speech, he again talked of creating a specialised bureaucracy suited for local government. A fair system of revenue sharing between the central and local governments has to be established, he said.

The minister also pledged that zila, upazila and union parishads would be given more power, and these institutions would deal with education, health, law enforcement, social safety issues.

Experts termed the suggestions very positive but put emphasis on implementation. Last year, Muhith pledged reforms in the local administration and government, said Dr Tofail Ahmed, a local government expert. "But, he never took any single initiative."

While Muhith made the promises repeatedly, the zila parishads have been run by government administrators instead of elected representatives for over last two and a half years. This time, he said the zila parishad elections would take place very soon, a pledge he made in 2012.

DECENTRALISATION OF POLICE
Old promise repeated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's budget again promises to take steps for the decentralisation of police, a pledge Finance Minister AMA Muhith made once before on the same occasion in 2009 but did not take any measures to that end in the last five years.

As in 2009, he also expressed his desire to make police and other law enforcement agencies more people centric and free them from political influence.

The minister, however, did not explain how the decentralisation will be carried out. Asked about this, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker said he could not immediately interpret what kind of decentralisation Muhith referred to.

Talking about the minister's rhetoric, former IGP ASM Shahjahan said, "I don't see any steps taken apparently towards decentralisation in the last five years."

"Decentralisation would create accountability in police's work and help the force earn people's trust, which it is lacking now," he told The Daily Star. He added, "A strong political will is necessary to decentralise police."

UK for political accord for democracy

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UK High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Gibson yesterday called all political parties in Bangladesh to work together for strengthening democratic accountability and breaking the five-year cycle of electoral violence and instability.

He stressed for confidence building measures before a future election so that most people have a chance to vote. Addressing a diplomatic talk at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, Gibson reiterated UK's disappointment that so many people did not have the opportunity to vote in the January 5 elections. He however said, "Bangladesh has a great future."

Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) arranged the

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SONADIA DEEP-SEA PORT CONSTRUCTION
China open to consortium

Says Ambassador Li Jun, expects positive outcome during PM's visit

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China is open to form a consortium with any country, including India and Bangladesh, to construct a deep-sea port at Sonadia and expects a positive outcome during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's six-day China visit beginning today, said Chinese Ambassador Li Jun yesterday.

During an interaction with The Daily Star and three other newspapers, he said an exclusive economic zone for China will also be negotiated during the visit and the joint economic commission's meeting taking place "now in Kunming". He said five to six agreements concerning economic and technical cooperation, disaster management, relief, flood management, planning, a 1,320MW coal-fired power plant in Patuakhali's Kalapara, a Rajshahi WASA Water treatment plant and calamity equipment are expected to be signed after the prime minister-level talks on June 9.

China Harbour Engineering Company has already contacted a Netherlands-based company which showed interest in the port project, he said, adding that the port's location is beneficial not only for Bangladesh but also for The Seven Sisters of India, Myanmar and also Southwest China. "China is restructuring its economy and Chinese companies find Bangladesh a very good destination. They want to invest here," he said, adding that an exclusive economic zone will attract more Chinese investment.

Road crashes kill seven, injure 41

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and 41 injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Wednesday.

A correspondent from Chittagong reports, a three-wheeler driver died when his vehicle flipped on its side after he lost control over the vehicle near EPZ intersection in the port city yesterday.

The deceased was Mohammed Rana, 22.

In Patiya upazila, a passenger died and another was injured when a truck rammmed a battery-run easy-bike in Shantirhat area on Wednesday.

The deceased was Absar Uddin, 24.

Our Bogra correspondent reports, three people died in a head-on collision between a Dhaka-bound truck and a motorcycle on Dhaka-Bogra highway in

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theSTAR'S 18TH ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of The Star magazine's 18th anniversary we offer our readers a **64-page anniversary special**. In the cover story 'Of Apples and Ideas' 22 leaders in their field share their vision for Bangladesh's future. They include visionaries like Dr Muhammad Yunus, Sir Fazle Abed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Professor Anisuzzaman and many more thought leaders. A special story on the new generation of politicians highlights their thoughts on how to make Bangladesh more modern and prosperous. 'The Dawn of the New' analyses the inspiring new wave in mainstream music. '18 Days that Shook Bangladesh' identifies eighteen events that have changed our history forever. Finally we have a few of our most talked about columns talking about Bangladesh's image, the generation gap and how to measure self worth. Don't miss this thought-provoking, exciting, issue.

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