

RAIN LIKELY



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

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping at places

over Khulna and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Bogra, Madaripur and Comilla and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day and night temperatures may fall by (1-2) degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm

and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Satkhira, Dinajpur and Chuadanga and lowest 24.3 degree Celsius in Chittagong.

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	32.4	29.0	77	89	Khulna	36.0	27.5	71	95
Chittagong	32.5	24.3	79	79	Barisal	35.0	28.8	79	80
Rajshahi	36.6	27.0	67	72	Sylhet	33.5	24.7	97	72
Rangpur	36.4	27.6	79	--	Cox's Bazar	34.0	27.0	70	83

NEWSIN brief

Muggers shoot two in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot and injured two people and took away around Tk 6 lakh from one of them in the capital's Mugdha last evening.

An employee of Kamal Tours and Travels, Rubel alias Babu, 25, whose money was snatched, was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with chest injuries.

Rickshaw-puller Delwar Hossain, a bystander, was shot in the shoulder as the criminals fled the scene opening fire indiscriminately, said Mugdha Police Station Sub-inspector Sazzad Hossain.

Gold seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials arrested one person with 25 gold bars worth Tk 1.25 crore weighing 2.9kg at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

On information, customs officials arrested Khairul Bashar, 41, a passenger of Saudi Arabia SV-808 flight, and found the bars in his bag.

Ctg district administration to evict illegal houses on hill slopes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong district administration yesterday decided to evict illegal slums on the risky hill slopes in the city before Ramadan.

It directed the Power Development authority, Water Supply and Sewerage authority and Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd to disconnect water, gas and power connections in the slums.

A total of 666 families are living with high risk on 11 hills as the permanent rehabilitation of them was not arranged.

Walking for Chittagong-2 on June 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

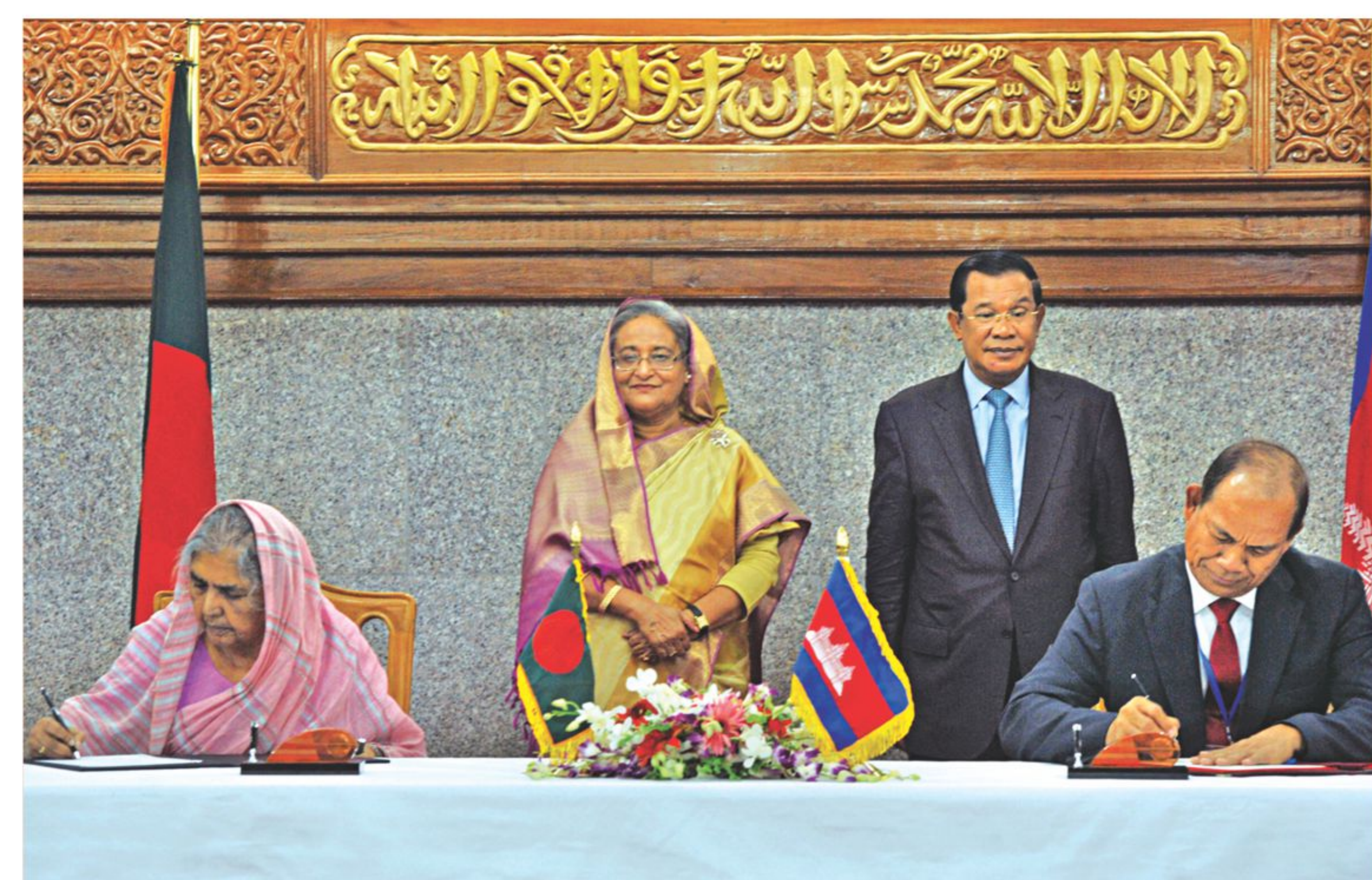
The march titled "Walking for Chittagong" will be held again in Chittagong on June 21 to motivate people to make Chittagong a habitable and international standard city.

Chittagong Research Initiative along with different civic and social organisations, educational institutions and individuals of Chittagong, will organise the programme.

It will start from the city's Old Railway Station at 8:00am and end at CRB intersection at 10:00am after parading different thoroughfares.

Roundtable
BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University has organised a roundtable on "State of Cities: Re-thinking Urban Governance in Narayanganj". Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion
Department of Disaster Science and Management has arranged a discussion on "Disaster Management and Relief: National Budget 2014-15". Venue: Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University; Time: 11:30am.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen look on as Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Cambodian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ouk Rabun sign a Memorandum of Understanding on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

DISEASES CAUSED BY ARSENIC 43,000 die annually in Bangladesh: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 43,000 to 56,000 people die annually in Bangladesh from diseases caused by arsenic, a poisonous chemical that contaminates groundwater mostly in the southern parts of the country, says a study.

Also, some 0.5 percent of the GDP is lost due to this, according to the study on arsenic contamination in Bangladesh jointly conducted by the Department of Geology, Dhaka University, and Columbia University, USA.

Tests of 50,000 tubewells in Araihaazar upazila of Narayanganj revealed that water of 48 percent of the tubewells are contaminated with arsenic. This rate is 25 percent all over Bangladesh, said Dr Kazi Matin Ahmed, geology professor of Dhaka University.

He presented the paper at a seminar titled "Arsenic Activities, Research and Outcomes" organised by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) in its auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Matin said the World Health Organization's acceptable level of arsenic in water was 10 ppb (parts per billion), but in Bangladesh the contamination level was 50 ppb.

He said estimated 35 million people in Bangladesh were exposed to more than 10 ppb arsenic, 22 million to 50 ppb arsenic and 5.6 billion were exposed to over 200 ppb arsenic, which caused 18 types of diseases, including lung, skin and bladder cancer, ischemic heart diseases and skin lesions.

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Sweater factory workers 'kill' management staff in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A group of workers allegedly beat a management staff of a sweater factory to death at Genda in Savar outside the capital yesterday over a clash on Monday.

Shahjahan Swapon, 40, was a sample supervisor of Dynamic Sweater Industries Ltd in the area.

The victim's wife Mahfuza Akter filed a case with Savar Model Police Station accusing 40 workers of the factories by name and many others unnamed.

Of the 40, police arrested 10, including Abul Hasan, Rabiul Islam, Soheli Rana, and Momin Miah on the spot.

Ratan Shill, a nearby barber who witnessed the incident, said the workers of Dynamic Sweater Industries Ltd and Sweater

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Jan 5 JS polls held to thwart illegal takeover Says attorney general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday told the High Court that the 10th parliamentary election was held to prevent any unconstitutional power from entering the country's political scenario.

He was placing arguments before the HC during hearing on two writ petitions filed challenging the legality of Article 19 of Representation of the People Order (RPO) that allows the Election Commission to declare a contender elected uncontested, and seeking a "no vote" provision in the election.

In the election held on January 5, 153 candidates out of 300 were elected uncontested.

The attorney general said candidates have been elected uncontested in many countries of the world in accordance with the law.

Citing examples, he mentioned former US presidents George Washington and James Monroe, both of who were elected unopposed.

Mahbubey Alam furthermore said the HC cannot dictate the parliament to make any law incorporating a "no vote" provision.

He prayed to the court to reject the writ petitions, saying that the petitions were not acceptable.

The HC will resume hearing today.

Khandker Abdus Salam, whose candidacy for Gazipur constituency in the January 5 election was cancelled for

Barisal by-poll saw huge rigging: EWG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sunday's by-poll to Barisal-5 constituency, which was won by the ruling Awami League candidate by vast margin, witnessed huge ballot box stuffing, an election monitoring group said yesterday.

Although the Election Working Group did not name the offenders, local journalists reported that the supporters of only Jebunnesa Afroz, the AL candidate, were on the field on the voting day.

Her lone rival, Bangladesh Nationalist Front's Saiful Islam Liton, was out of contact three or four days before the voting day and none of his polling agents or supporters was seen on Sunday.

"The average voter turnout in the polling stations observed was 53.7 percent. However, the EWG holds that this figure does not reflect the actual turnout due to incidence of ballot box stuffing," said a report of the EWG, a network of 29 civil society bodies.

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BCL factional clash closes Cuet sine die

**Dorms vacated
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) was declared closed yesterday for an indefinite period following a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus the preceding day.

Cuet Vice-Chancellor Prof Jahangir Alam at an emergency meeting took the decision. However, academic activities of post-graduation programmes will continue as usual.

Witnesses said some 10 students attacked BCL Cuet unit Co-Convener Shamim Talha Jim with iron rods and sharp weapons before Bangabandhu Hall on Monday night.

When contacted, BCL Cuet unit Convener Mehedi Al Pavel alleged that it was the followers of BCL Cuet unit Joint Convener

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