

HEAVY FALLS LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khuna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to very 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 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am. Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Dinajpur and lowest 24.5 degrees in Rangamati and Chandpur. 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	29.8	25.5	91	78	Khulna	31.5	26.2	93	98
	Chittagong	28.2	25.0	96	92	Barisal	31.1	26.2	96	97
	Rajshahi	31.3	27.0	95	97	Sylhet	28.5	25.0	94	90
	Rangpur	31.7	26.4	80	86	Cox's Bazar	27.4	26.5	97	93

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Morning Candy



Sharing the experience.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

One of the fondest memories of my childhood was stretching out on a chair in the lawn of our Sylhet home on a winter's morning and opening the daily newspaper. The crisp feel and smell of the paper enhanced the experience. I had waited eagerly for the hawk to throw the bundled paper over the gate. While I usually encountered many unknown words – for example, thinking “ratio” was a mis-spelling of “radio” – that never diluted my enjoyment of reading the news.

My childhood days – late 1960s – were days of global volatility. Wars were major news, often reported with large, melodramatic headlines. I was too young to remember Kennedy's assassination, but the escalation of the Vietnam War was reported in great detail in our papers. So was the Six-day War in the middle-east. In the days leading up to that war, newspaper stories set up an expectation that was exactly the opposite of the war's outcome.

But by far the best part of the newspaper was the Kochi-Kacha page edited by Dadabhai Rokonzaman Khan. This juvenile section appeared weekly and contained tasty morsels: puzzles, anecdotes, stories, unusual facts and a letter from Dadabhai to his readers. The world of literature came alive in his page. Once it ran a complete Bangla translation of *Les Miserables*: the segments stretched out over years.

Where did it come from, this morning candy? The first newspaper was the Roman *Acta Diurna* published in 59 B.C.; however, the first printed newspaper appeared in 1605 in Antwerp. The first photograph reproduced in a newspaper was in 1865. Over centuries, delivering news to people through newspapers has become part of human civilization. Truly

mass-produced newspapers appeared because of innovations in the United States by W. R. Hearst and his rival, J. Pulitzer, both colourful and larger-than-life figures.

The first major newspaper in the subcontinent was Hicky's Bengal Gazette which published from 1748. In Bangladesh we have had our share of famous newspapermen including Maulana Bhashani and Manik Mia. This newspaper is in many ways the brainchild of the late visionary A.S. Mahmud.

Today we enjoy a substantial and open media including several dozen daily newspapers. They are available just about everywhere. This is a testament to our progress as nation. In the age of the Internet and hand-held devices, many people prefer to get news from a website. But to me, nothing replaces the experience of reading a paper newspaper.

When I lived abroad, I had high regard for the New York Times. But my trust in it was bruised by its inaccurate, misleading reports and columns leading up to the Iraq War. More recently, I have noticed that whenever it chooses to write on Bangladesh, the Times places inordinate emphasis on negative stories – particularly related to the garment sector – and hardly features our positive stories or the progress made by the country.

Along similar lines, I have a question for our newspapers. Is it really necessary to publish close-up photographs depicting the anguish of loved ones every time tragedy strikes?

Nonetheless, it is wonderful to have a thriving press in this country. May our newspapers continue their pursuit of keeping the public informed in a timely, accurate and relevant manner.

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Anti-trafficking efforts limited

Says US State Department report about Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is not fully compliant with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking but it is making significant efforts to improve the mechanism to halt trafficking, according to a US State Department report released yesterday.

The Bangladesh government made limited efforts to protect the victims of trafficking, while police registered 377 cases involving individual or groups of victims in 2013, compared to 602 in 2012, said the Trafficking in Persons Report 2014.

It stated that the government reported investigating 84 new cases of sex trafficking and two cases of forced labour in 2013, compared with 67 sex and labour trafficking cases in 2012.

BCL men beat up cop for stopping top leader's car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An on-duty traffic constable was beaten up by Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres when he stopped the car of the BCL president from violating a red light in the capital.

Police, however, are yet to take action against the offenders. Khan Muhammad Rezwan, deputy commissioner of traffic division (south zone), acknowledged the incident.

The injured traffic constable, Mohammad Mamun, was admitted to the Central Police Hospital in Rajarbagh.



Ensure women's rights in all areas

Speakers urge all from poet Sufia Kamal's 103rd birthday celebration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 103rd birth anniversary of poet and women's rights activist Begum Sufia Kamal was observed yesterday with a call for ensuring equal rights of women in every sphere of life and taking a stand against sectarian violence.

The poet's own rights-based organisation, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP),



A woman introduces different trees to a kid at National Tree Fair in the capital's Agargaon. A large number of tree lovers visited the fair yesterday as it was a weekly holiday.



Khaleda to reach Bogra today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will reach Bogra today on her way to Joypurhat from the capital.

She will set out from the capital in the afternoon and by evening she will reach Bogra, where the BNP chief will spend the night. Khaleda will leave Bogra for Joypurhat tomorrow where she will address a public meeting.

Ahead of her visit, BNP,

Fire breaks out in Ashulia factory

Probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A fire broke out in a sweater factory at Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday, gutting a large amount of clothes ready for shipment.

The fire started around 6:45pm on the ground floor of ZA Sweaters Ltd and engulfed the upstairs.

Seven fire fighting units from nearby five fire stations took the blaze under control around 8:00pm, said Rafiqul Islam, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Dhaka.

The official suspected that the fire originated from a boiler explosion. The factory used the ground floor as store room.

All of around 200 workers working during the incident safely got down from the factory. But, four people including a production manager Bakul were injured while they were dousing the blaze, said Assistant Superintendent Rasel Sheikh of Savar Circle Police.

Store In-charge Nuruzzaman claimed that the fire damaged goods was worth around Tk 20 crore.

The Fire Service and Civil Defence formed a committee to find out the actual reason behind the fire and to assess the losses.

REPUTED COLLEGES IN CTG CITY

Seat crisis rings alarm for science education

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

As more than 5,000 GPA-5 achievers in this year's SSC examinations under Chittagong board are set to be denied admission to the top five government colleges in the port city, a bigger alarm rings for science education, which is already seeing a dwindling interest of students because of not-so-bright career prospects in general given the high investment.

A good number of school graduates are thinking of switching from science to business studies or humanities group to make sure that they study at colleges which offer quality education and charge less than private institutions.

Sudipta Dey, a GPA-5 achiever from science group at Khawja Ajmeri School, dreams to become a physicist and wants to study science at Chittagong Government College

KEY FIGURES	
CTG BOARD	
Pass rate	91.4pc
Total GPA-5s	10,884
GPA-5s (science)	7,391
CTG CITY	
Total colleges	73
Seats at top five govt colleges	5,185
Seats for science students	1,930

or Government Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College. He said it would frustrate him if that did not happen.

But many students around him who cherished almost similar

dreams are thinking otherwise.

"Many of my friends have decided to switch to commerce group if they fail to enrol in any of the city's renowned colleges," Sudipta told The Daily Star. It would be really disappointing if they cannot study in those colleges and fulfil their dreams, he said.

This year, 10,884 students secured GPA-5 in the Secondary School Certificate exams under Chittagong board but only 5,185 seats are available at the top five government colleges in Chittagong city.

The three other institutions are Government City College, Chittagong Government Women's College and Chittagong Collegiate School and College. Of the total GPA-5 securers, 7,391 are science students but the five colleges offer only 1,930 seats for them.

CTG, TANGAIL

Four die from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two persons were killed after being electrocuted in Chittagong yesterday.

A street urchin, Md Abu Siddique, 16, son of Jalal Uddin, came in contact with a live electric wire, which was snapped by a storm, on a roadside field in Mia Pahar area of Baizid in the city, said locals.

Police said Najrul Islam, 21, an electrician, was electrocuted while turning on a generator at Shadan Market in Kelishahar in Patiya upazila.

Meanwhile, two siblings died from electrocution at Kaharta Ramkhopara village in Sakhipur upazila of Tangail yesterday, reports UNB.

The dead are Haji Martoz Ali, 65, and his brother Haji Muktar Ali, 60, of the village.

Witnesses said Martoz came in contact with a live electrical wire while trying to remove it from the rooftop of his tin-shed house with a bamboo stick amid rain around 8:00am. Muktar and three others-- Khalilur Rahman, 45, Shahjahan Ali, 45, and Habibur Rahman, 40 -- also got electrocuted when they tried to save Martoz.

They were rushed to the Upazila Health Complex where the two brothers were declared dead.



Sunnydale students, who completed their A-Level this year, celebrate their success by tossing graduation caps in the air at a ceremony at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital yesterday. Eminent educationist Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and Sunnydale School Principal Tazeen Ahmed are seen among the jubilant graduates.

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