

RAIN LIKELY



Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy rainfall is also

likely to occur at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:14am.**

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius in Feni. 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	31.2	26.9	89	67	Khulna	30.0	26.5	87	82
Chittagong	31.6	25.1	97	81	Barisal	30.5	26.7	92	90
Rajshahi	31.8	27.5	87	80	Sylhet	29.7	25.8	89	83
Rangpur	32.4	27.2	97	77	Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.2	78	84

NEWS IN brief

Two farmers killed by lightning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
Two farmers died after being struck by lightning in separate incidents in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna early yesterday. The dead are Abdur Rahman Mollah, 55, of village Boira, and Abu Sayed, 58, of village Baghsail. Lightning struck the two while they were working in their respective fields, said locals. Biman Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said he heard about the incident but there was no official confirmation.

Man's body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The unidentified body of a man was found in a sack in the capital's Chawkbazar area early yesterday. "Arms and legs of the body were bound with ropes. Our patrol police found the sack around 5:30am in the morning," said Sub-Inspector Rafiq of Chawkbazar Police Station. Rafiq said police suspect the man was beaten to death. The body was sent for an autopsy.

28 BNP, Jamaat, Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
Police arrested 28 activists of BNP and Jamaat-Shinier from Rangpur city yesterday and Thursday. They were arrested in cases filed for vandalising and torching polling centres and snatching away ballot boxes and papers during and after the January 5 national elections. They were sent to Rangpur Central Jail yesterday.

Two carjackers held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday arrested two persons in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area for carjacking. A private car, two knives and 22 mobile phones were also seized from Ruhul Amin alias Ruhul and Robi Sikder alias Rakib. The law enforcers, on suspicion, signalled a car near Apollo Hospitals Dhaka to stop, but it sped away, said Sub-inspector Nazrul Islam of Bhatara Police Station. Police then chased and managed to corner the vehicle and held them, he added.

Boy drowns in Sunamganj river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A boy drowned in a river at Rohomotpur village in Shalla upazila of Sunamganj yesterday morning. Family sources said Johninur Miah, 7, son of Md Maru Miah, fell into the river near their house when he tried to wash his hand in it. Johninur's body was found floating in the water body around 9:30am, said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shalla Police Station.

Robbers kill house owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Robbers stabbed a man to death while looting his house at Uttar Chakrabani in Beanibazar upazila in Sylhet early yesterday. About 10 miscreants entered into the house of Abdul Jalil, 65, by breaking open the main door, said Beanibazar police Officer-in-Charge Abul KalamAzad. They looted some gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh at gun point. As Jalil tried to resist them, they stabbed him in the chest and abdomen and left the scene.

Experts doubt high

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women.
Criticising the report, a worker, Nilufar Yasmin, said there were long working hours, and they faced losing job if they were sick for some days or applied for two or three days leave. "If production falls, the workers get sacked and are not paid the salary of that month," she said. The workers' job satisfaction was determined on the basis of some criteria, including safety at workplace, relationship with supervisors, and team spirit, according to the report. The study also said 39 percent of female workers received less than the minimum wage of Tk 5,300, which was fixed by the government in December last year. Due to low salaries, around 70 percent of workers cannot afford enough protein in their food intakes and consequently half of them suffer from health problems and take treatment from non-physicians. Apart from these, they also face accommodation problem, as on average a female worker has to share toilets and bathroom with 22 others. The research found that eight percent of workers were children, aged below 18. Female workers are vulnerable to sexual harassment at workplace and on the way from their houses. Several speakers pointed out that the garment industry has a huge workforce of 40 lakh people, but the BGMEA or the government was yet to conduct a census on them. Dr Binayak Sen, research director at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said if the factories become more compliant, job satisfaction would increase. President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam moderated the function, while its general secretary Maleka Banu spoke, among others.



A pump station at a reservoir in Zakiganj upazila of Sylhet being built to irrigate cropland in five upazilas of the district under the Upper Surma-Kushiyara project. Inset, a water flow regulator of the project at Beanibazar upazila to control flooding in the upazilas. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

FIVE UPAZILAS IN SYLHET

Flood control project limping for 12yrs

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet
Although over 12 years have passed, the much talked-about five-year long flood control and irrigation project to be implemented in Sylhet is still incomplete mainly due to repeated revisions of project works. Only 75 percent of the work is done, officials admitted. Numerous canals and reservoirs are to be dug up in five upazilas--Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar, Golapganj and Sylhet Sadar--under the "Upper Surma-Kushiyara Project" to control flow of the Surma and Kushiyara rivers. Successful implementation of the project would protect about 54,000 hectares of land in the five upazilas from recurrent flooding, and provide water for irrigation for 10,000 hectares of cropland. Officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board, which is implementing the project, said the main reasons for the delay are repeated revisions of the project for five times, non-cooperation of locals, and delay in land acquisition. The revisions included adjusting the cost of the project to inflation and crossing off some less important components from the design because the water resources ministry delayed in releasing fund or approved inadequate sums of money each time, according

to some officials. Siddiqur Rahman, executive engineer of BWDB, Sylhet said so far 75 percent of the work has been completed at a cost of Tk 97.23 crore. The delay in project completion has led the expenditure to rise by over Tk 20 crore, he said. According to the official, the Water Development Board undertook the project in fiscal year 2001-2002 and initially it was to be completed by 2005-2006 at a cost of Tk 111 crore. After revisions for the fifth time in 2009, the project cost went up to Tk 131.5 crore and the deadline was set at 2012. However, it is already two years past the deadline, and the board has now extended the deadline till June 2015, he said. Siddiqur suspects that as the project completion has been delayed again, it would not be possible to stay within the allocated budget of Tk 131.5 crore. The project starts from the Amolshid border in Zakiganj upazila where the two rivers enter the country from India and runs up to Golapganj and Sylhet Sadar along the banks of the two rivers. The Surma and Kushiyara flood adjacent areas every year between April and October, causing damage to croplands and washing away households.

Five-year project begins **2001**
Revised **5** times over fund
Costs rise by Tk **20**cr
New deadline June **2015**
To protect **54,000** ha land
To irrigate **10,000** ha cropland

Lighter sinks in Ctg

All 12 crew rescued
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A lighter vessel carrying around 1,500 tonnes of steel coil capsized in the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port yesterday. The vessel MV Sundarban-1 sank at a place between Alpha and Bravo anchorages of the outer anchorage around 7:15am when it was going to Narayanganj from a private jetty at Banglabazar Ghat of the Karnaphuli river, said operators of Radio Control Room of Chittagong Port. All the 12 crew of the vessel who jumped into the bay were later rescued by a speed boat and a lighter vessel crossing the spot. Five of them got hurt and took primary treatment. Apollo Ispat, a Narayanganj based manufacturer of corrugated sheet, imported the coil worth around Tk 9 crore, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Relatives carry an indigenous woman to a hospital on an easy chair turned stretcher at Bagaichari upazila in Rangamati yesterday, as the lone ambulance of the upazila health complex has remained dysfunctional for the last three months, forcing the people living in far-flung corners in the upazila to resort to this alternative means.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



Garbage spill over half the road in Genda of Savar, creating obstacle to traffic movement and spreading malodour in the area. The Savar municipality authorities are dumping the household waste at over 18 points of the Dhaka-Aricha highway, as there is no landfill in the area. Savar Mayor Md Refatullah admitted the fact, and said they had requested the Dhaka North City Corporation to use the nearby Aminbazar landfill, but to no avail. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

Ensure safe foods

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of their rights, UNB added. The activists recommended creating awareness among businessmen and consumers about the deadliest aspects of formalin and other chemical ingredients through mass media, our staff correspondent added. They demanded enacting the proposed "Formalin Control Bill 2014" without any provision allowing a certain level of formalin, stringent punishment including hefty

finer for those to be found responsible for food contamination, setting up a control room, and launching surprise raids on food warehouses and factories by anti-adulteration teams. Poba Secretary Abdus Sobhan, Modern Club President Abul Hasnat, Green Mind Society President Amir Hossain, Bangladesh Peace Movement President Prof Kamal Ataur Rhman, and Poba coordinator Atiq Morshed, among others, spoke.

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