RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

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

Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20am.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 25.0 degrees in Sylhet and Rangamati.

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	32.8	28.8	74	65	Khulna	34.0	28.0	80	84
Chittagong	33.0	27.5	80	74	Barisal	32.0	27.5	88	78
Rajshahi	34.2	27.5	89	73	Sylhet	34.0	25.0	88	63
Rangpur	34.0	26.0	86	72	Cox's Bazar	34.0	27.5	68	82

BNP demands Ershad's trial for Zia's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded an open trial and punishment of former military ruler HM Ershad because he said many army officers including Ziaur Rahman were killed due to Ershad's conspiracy.

Ersahd is an example of "political perversion", he said in a press statement hitting back at Jatiya Party secretary general Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu for criticising BNP chief Khaleda Zia and Fakhrul recently.

The BNP spokesperson alleged that Bablu could not say anything outside his chairman Ershad's thoughts, since he was part of Ehshad's political habit of purchasing political leaders.

In a write-up in the Bangladesh Protidin newspaper on Saturday, Ershad claimed that he did not come to power like Zia who he said grabbed power through a military coup.

On the same day, Fakhrul demanded that the JP boss apologise to the nation for this remark.

Hitting back at Fakhrul's speech, Bablu on Sunday said Zia killed thousands of

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AL, JSD, Ershad unleashed reign of killing

Khaleda tells DAB iftar party; urges people to join post-Eid movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said "the killer force Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and killer Ershad" together with the present government had established a reign of killing in the country.

"Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal is a killer force. The JSD backed-Gono Bahini killed thousands of people [in the post-liberation war period]. Ershad is another killer. All the killer forces are united at present," she told an iftar programme

The pro-BNP Doctors Association of Bangladesh organised it on the LD Hall premises of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

In her brief address, the BNP chief said the government was ruling the country in a "free style".

"The ruling party cadres have been engaged in extortion, looting and killings as the government has lost control over them.

"The people have got exasperated with the continued killing, forced

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An almost deserted Cox's Bazar beach due to Ramadan and the World Cup, putting 60,000 people's livelihoods in trouble for a month. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Ramadan, World Cup dent Cox's Bazar tourism

60,000 dependent on the sector in hardship

ARUN BIKASH DEY, *back from Cox's Bazar*

The tourism business in Cox's Bazar has taken a nosedive since beginning of the ongoing month due to Ramadan and football World Cup, putting the people dependent on the sector in dismay.

Most of the hotels, motels and guest houses, over 200 in number, are now almost empty, scores of shops built on both sides of the roads leading towards the sea beach are barren with very few customers or no one at all.

The main attraction of the town, the longest natural sea beach of the world, which used to be buzzing with thousands of tourists, is now almost barren, putting the lives of around 60,000 people, who live from the earning of tourism business directly or indirectly, at stake.

Visiting the beach Sunday afternoon, The Daily Star correspondent found a handful of tourists at Laboni, Sugandha and Kalatoli, three main points of the beach. Locals said these three points used to be crowded with the presence of thousands of tourists every afternoon.

Presence of tourists usually remains very low during the month of Ramadan every year, said Nurul Islam, member secretary of Sea Beach Management Committee, adding that the ongoing monsoon and football World Cup fever had further

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Shamim Osman big liar: Ivy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *N'ganj*

Narayanganj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy yesterday called ruling Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman a great liar, referring to his recent remarks that the gas crisis in Narayanganj was persisting due to the mayor's non-cooperation.

Ivy said the city corporation allowed Titas Gas to dig roads for installation of large gas pipes to increase flow in Narayanganj last year but the installation work stalled for an associate of Shamim petitioning the High Court against the work.

Speaking at a programme in Narayanganj where the city corporation unveiled a Tk 424 crore surplus budget for 2014-15 fiscal, the mayor said Shamim was not worth doing people any good.

The budget aims to earn Tk 424.4 crore as revenues while the expenditure would be Tk 422 crore.

TROUBLE-TORN IRAQ

60 more Bangladeshis return home today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty more Bangladeshi workers are returning home today from Iraq on "security grounds".

A flight of Qatar Airways carrying the migrants will land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 6:00am, Md Rana, one of the migrants, confirmed The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"We have decided to return home on security grounds. Nobody is forcing us to come back," he said.

The migrant workers made the decision to come back as Sunni rebels have been fighting with the Iraqi government since June 5.

Early this month, 68 Bangladeshis, all working for South Korean company Hanwha Engineering and Construction, returned home for the same reason.

Around 4,000 Bangladeshis are working under the South Korean company for its Bismaya New City Project, 25km away from Baghdad.

According to international human rights organisations, around 2,000 civilians have been killed in the crossfire between Sunni rebels and government forces.

However, no Bangladeshi casualty has been reported so far, said the Bangladesh embassy in Iraq.

ALLEGED GRAFT IN PVT UNIVERSITIES

Education ministry asks TIB for info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday asked Transparency International Bangladesh to provide it with specific information within three days related to the recent report on corruption by the private universities in the country.

In a letter sent to TIB yesterday, the graft watchdog was asked to come up with the names and designations of the officials of the ministry and the University Grants Commission (UGC) who had helped the organisation prepare the report, said a press release.

The letter also highlighted the ministry's interest in taking action if there is any graft by the universities. "Specific information is needed to take proper steps," the statement added.

The letter also asked for the list of the surveyed 22 universities, identities of the people involved in "illegal money

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In order to ease traffic congestion in the capital, the traffic department has been fining car drivers on the spot Tk 1,200 each for double parking from the first day of Ramadan. The photo was taken in Motijheel yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Protests continue

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international community to force Israel's government to stop the killings.

Addressing a press conference at its office in the capital, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, vice chairman of the Bar Council, announced that the lawyers would form human chains on all bar association premises across the country tomorrow to protest the aggression.

The killing of a huge number of innocents in Gaza is a violation of international human rights and laws, he said.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission expressed its worries over the killing of Palestinians, many of whom are children and women.

This is a threat to the peacekeeping initiatives in the Middle East since Israel does not obey the international laws, it said in a statement. The rights body urged the UN to take strict measures to immediately stop the aggression.

HC orders NHRC

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The HC also asked the government and commission to show cause as to why the NHRC chairman's statement in its 2011 annual report about the killing, rape and acid throwing should not be declared illegal.

ACC okays suing Sreepur mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday gave permission to sue Mayor Anisur Rahman and two former officials of Sreepur Municipality in Gazipur for allegedly misappropriating Tk 51.1 lakh between 2010 and 2013.

An ACC probe found that Anisur and former accountant Abdul Mannan realised Tk 43.75 lakh as municipality and holding tax but they did not deposit the money in the government exchequer, said an ACC official. The two with former secretary Mashrekul Alam also misappropriated Tk 7.35 lakh which they collected from five markets as value added tax and income tax.