

RAIN LIKELY



Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to 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 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.** Country's highest temperature 33.5

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Ishwardi and lowest 24.5 degrees in 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	32.5	27.3	79	82	Khulna	32.6	26.5	89	88
Chittagong	29.0	25.0	92	81	Barisal	31.5	26.4	92	81
Rajshahi	32.2	26.2	99	97	Sylhet	33.0	25.4	83	85
Rangpur	31.7	26.0	92	90	Cox's Bazar	27.0	25.3	96	97



UN peace chief due on July 22

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Hervé Ladsous, an under-secretary general and the head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) of the United Nations, is arriving in Dhaka on July 22 on a three-day official visit. His visit coincides with the stepping down of Under-Secretary-General and Head of Department of Field Support of UN Peacekeeping Ameerah Haq of Bangladesh on health grounds. Diplomatic sources said Ladsous is visiting Bangladesh to discuss with government leaders, armed forces officials and others concerned about the current global situation and how Bangladesh can more effectively contribute in the UN peacekeeping operations. Official sources said during Ladsous' visit, the government will call for more representation from Bangladesh at the commanding, policy framing and decision-making levels of the UN peacekeeping in the context of Dhaka's contribution to the peace missions. Ladsous, who will lead a delegation comprising senior UN officials, including the military deployment adviser, will visit the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation in Gazipur and take part in a dialogue on the present

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RECLAMATION OF BALU, TURAG RIVERS HC directive sought for pillars in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court, seeking its directives on the government to set up pillars on the original boundaries of the Balu and Turag rivers to prevent them from being encroached upon. Manzill Murshid submitted the petition on behalf of the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), praying to the HC to order the government to start activities to establish the pillars in seven days.

He said the HC in a judgment on June 25, 2009, directed the government to demarcate the original boundaries of the Balu, Turag, Buriganga and Shitalakkhya rivers through a special survey committee as per CS (cadastral survey) and RS (revisional survey) records, to set up pillars on the boundaries and to construct walkways on their banks in two years. The HC directives came following a writ petition filed by HRPB.

In yesterday's petition, Manzill said the government had demarcated the areas of the rivers and started establishing pillars on the boundaries of the rivers, but it had reportedly stopped setting up pillars on the boundaries of the Balu and Turag more than two years back.

Lands of the two rivers at many places have been grabbed and structures have been constructed there, as the administration has not resumed setting up pillars on their boundaries, the lawyer said.

Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that there was no dispute about compliance with the HC directives to set up pillars on the boundaries of the Buriganga and Shitalakkhya.

He said the HC might hear the petition on July 20.



Kids enjoying their Ramadan holidays catching fishes in a field inundated by rising waters of an adjacent lake which brought in a bounty of fishes there in Rasulpur of Tangail Sadar upazila on Monday. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

War crimes trial for freeing nation from stigma

Anisul Huq tells discussion on International Criminal Justice Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The aim of holding the trial of the 1971 crimes against humanity is to free the nation from stigma and to establish the rule of law, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

The trial will also end the culture of giving impunity to the heinous offenders, he told a discussion jointly organised by the law and foreign ministries to observe International Criminal Justice Day

at state guest house Padma, said a law ministry press release.

Anisul Huq said the trial of the 1971 perpetrators was going on quite in line with the international criminal law and justice.

International Criminal Justice Day sends the strong message to the perpetrators of human rights violations around the globe that none of the people who commit such crimes is immune, even heads of states or governments, he said.

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EVICION OF TANGAIL SEX WORKERS Evictors eyed brothel land

Says Sex Worker's Network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grabbing the 302-decimal land of the 200-year-old Tangail Kandapara brothel was the main motive of the locally influential people, who evicted sex workers from the place on July 13, leaders of the Sex Worker's Network said yesterday.

"It has been heard that the local MP in connivance with the local mayor are planning to set up a housing society in the land," said Aleya Akter Lily, executive director of Swanirbar Mohila Sangstha, a member of the network.

She read a press note at Dhaka Reporters Unity during a press conference on "No eviction of sex workers from their abode i.e. brothels without planned

rehabilitation", organised by the network with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

According to the Sex Workers Network, the brothel with 806 rooms was home to 950 sex workers and 129 of their children.

"On July 10, representatives of the evictors went to the brothel and ordered them to leave the place within three hours," said Aleya. "When they did not comply, the evictors told the house owners that if the brothel was not vacated within three hours, they would burn everyone to death."

After the electricity supply to the brothel was cut in the July 12 evening, the sex workers started leaving, vacating the place by the next morning.

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US lauds Modi's intent to boost Saarc

Stresses its plausible role in facilitating regional connectivity

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Lauding Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's steps to improve ties with the Saarc countries, a top US official on Wednesday said Modi had shown firm commitment towards strengthening India's relations with its neighbours, including Bangladesh.

The official also expressed her happiness over Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Bangladesh late last month.

"The United States welcomes the new government's efforts to strengthen Saarc," said Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Desai Biswal, while testifying before a senate subcommittee on "Indispensable Partners: Reenergising US-India Ties" in Washington, DC.

She said India had a chance to bring its entire neighbourhood along, enhancing prosperity and peace by boosting trade and building connectivity throughout South Asia and the Bay of Bengal region.

The US has a tremendous opportunity to encourage physical connectivity by expanding port and

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4 abductees rescued in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The army last night rescued four abducted construction workers in Mohalchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district, 11 days after their abduction.

The rescued are Faruq Ahmed and Mohammad Hasan of Feni; Raju Ahmed of Mymensingh, and Liaquat Ali of Chittagong.

Acting on a tip-off, army personnel conducted a raid in remote Pankhimura area, said Lt Col Rabbi Hassan, commanding officer of Shindukchhari Army Zone. Sensing the presence of the security forces, abductors managed to flee the scene, leaving behind the four, he said. A light gun, a locally-made pistol and around eight bullets were also recovered, he said, adding that the rescued would be handed over to their relatives today after some legal formalities.

On July 6, the workers were kidnapped from a bridge construction site allegedly for extortion.



As the Eid-ul-Fitr nears, Muslims have started flocking to the markets in the capital to buy new clothes to wear on the festival day. The photo was taken in New Market yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Three hurt during muggings in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including an alleged snatcher, were injured in three separate incidents of mugging in the capital yesterday.

They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. In Palashi, muggers shot a rickshaw-van driver, Mohammad Rana, 30, in the abdomen around 5:30am, and took away his vehicle laden with Tk 30,000 worth of fruits, said Lalbagh police.

At Nayatola in Moghbazar, a schoolteacher, Mizanur Rahman, 35, was shot in the right leg and robbed of a bag containing Tk 12,000 and some valuable documents at 3:00pm. Ramna police confirmed the incident.

Meanwhile, a man, Shiru Mia, who claimed himself to be a sub-contractor and said he was robbed of Tk 80,000 in Shekhertek around 5:30pm, came to the hospital with heavy cuts in the evening.

Adabar police, however, called Shiru a listed mugger, and said he was injured while trying to commit mugging. He is in police custody at DMCH, police said.

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