

RAIN LIKELY



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

Moderately heavy to very heavy rainfall is also likely at places over the country, 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 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 5:23am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius in Sreemangal. The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius	
	Max:	Min:
Dhaka	32.8	27.5
Chittagong	30.8	25.5
Rajshahi	34.2	28.0
Rangpur	34.5	27.4

	Humidity in percentage	
	Morning	Evening
76	60	
83	89	
79	68	
69	85	

	Temperature in Celsius	
	Max:	Min:
Khulna	32.7	27.3
Barisal	32.0	27.2
Sylhet	36.2	26.5
Cox's Bazar	28.5	26.0

	Humidity in percentage	
	Morning	Evening
84	96	
94	91	
76	61	
96	98	



Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, a student organisation, burns effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Barack Obama at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday, protesting Israel's ongoing attacks on Gaza and the seeming acquiescence of the US.

PHOTO: COURTESY

42kg smuggled gold seized at airport

Four held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials in separate drives seized 328 smuggled gold bars weighing around 42kg at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

They also detained four people at the airport in this connection.

On information, the customs officials detained two passengers—Mohammad Ali and Mohammad Sharif—in a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines landed at the airport from Dubai via Bangkok around 3:00pm, Hossain Ahmed, commissioner of customs, told The Daily Star.

After their detention, the officials searched the aircraft and recovered 270 gold bars weighing 32kg from its lavatory and under its passenger seat, said the official, adding that the gold bars worth around Tk 15 crore were wrapped in black scotch tape and black cloths.

Ahmed claimed that they had prior information about the gold bars and appearances of the detained passengers "who were smuggling the gold bars." He, however, said the duo claimed that they were not the possessors of the gold.

When asked, the customs commissioner explained that sometimes gold smugglers in the guise of passengers keep gold

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ISRAEL'S ONGOING ATTACK ON GAZA

Protests turn angrier in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests against Israel's attack on Gaza have intensified across the country with people calling out to the global community to intervene immediately to end what they term genocide by Israeli military.

A cross-section of people in different parts of the country yesterday protested the attack, and called for an immediate end to the atrocities.

Denouncing the attack and the United States' continued military support for Israel, students of Dhaka University (DU) burnt effigies of Benjamin Netanyahu and Barack Obama on the campus yesterday.

Leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

(Inu), a component of the ruling Awami League-led alliance, burnt the national flags of the US and Israel in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Meanwhile, a social organisation named Lamp Post demonstrated in front of the United Nations (UN) office in the capital, demanding that it "break its silence and wake up" to stop the atrocities.

"The UN bodies profess to be the protectors of human rights, but have made no real effort to stop Israel's attack on Gaza where scores of children have been killed for nearly two weeks," said Ashish Koraya, a protester.

Another protester, Nahid Sultana Lisa, termed the UN a "puppet of the imperial countries."

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), a professional body of journalists, formed a human chain on the DRU premises.

Terming the attack monstrous and barbaric, DRU President Shahed Chowdhury declared that they would lay siege to the US embassy in Dhaka if the bombardment on Gaza continued any longer.

In front of the capital's National Museum, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation condemned the US for "awarding USD 351 million to Israel so that it could continue killing children and destroy Palestine".

In Cox's Bazar, 10 progressive organisations including the Communist

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WAR CRIMES

Decision on charges against ex-JP lawmaker August 14

Tribunal records cross-examination of IO in Qaisar's case for second day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has fixed August 14 for giving order on whether war crimes charges will be framed against former Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker Engineer Abdul Jabbar for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971 in Pirojpur.

The tribunal fixed the date after the prosecution prayed for the former JP leader's indictment, while state-appointed defence plead to exonerate him from the war crimes charges.

Jabbar, whose candidacy was cancelled by the Election Commission after getting nomination for general election-2008 from Pirojpur-3 by Awami League-led alliance, is supposed to be on the run. Therefore, the three-member tribunal appointed a defence lawyer for the war crimes suspect.

Family members of the martyrs of 1971, freedom fighters and local people of Mothbaria town raised voice when he was given grand alliance ticket for the 2008 election.

Accused in a case under collaborators' act, he became a fugitive after the

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This is how vehicles are parked on Dhaka-Tangail and Dhaka-Aricha highways, because over 200 malls on those major inter-district routes do not have a single parking lot. The shameful crookedness of the mall owners and the supervising authorities concerned cause maddening traffic jams on both the highways on a daily basis. And during this Eid shopping season the problem has reached a paralysing proportion. But who cares?

PHOTO: RASHAD AHMAD

Another girl 'raped' in capital

Accused arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped in their rented house by a son of the landlord at the capital's Mirpur-2 on Saturday night.

Imran Hossain Palash, 35, son of Ismail Hossain, was arrested early yesterday and a Dhaka court sent him to jail after he was produced before it, said Mirpur Police Station Sub-inspector Afzal Hossain.

The victim, a madrasa student, lives with her sister and brother-in-law in the tin-shed house.

The girl was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's One-Stop Crisis Centre where she will undergo a test today, said OCC chief Dr Bilkis Begum.

During the occurrence, the girl was home alone, said her

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BNP'S NEW DHAKA CITY COMMITTEE

Leaders meet Abbas to calm him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of BNP leaders of the new Dhaka city committee yesterday met its convener Mirza Abbas in his residence to assuage his discontent over the formation of the committee, and to persuade him to get going with the party activities immediately.

Led by Abdul Awal Mintoo, joint convener of the recently declared committee, the leaders held a three-hour long meeting with Abbas in his Shajahanpur residence of the capital, party sources said.

It has been decided that Abbas will host an iftar party within a day or two in the capital in honour of all members of the new

committee, and discuss the party's next course of action, sources present in the meeting told The Daily Star.

Abbas, a member of the party's standing committee, got displeased, as over 20 leaders including member-secretary Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel were included in the new committee without consulting him.

On advice of Khaleda Zia and approval of BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, the 56-member Dhaka City unit of BNP was declared through a press conference Friday night.

Utterly disappointed over the failure of Sadeque Hossain Khoka-Abdus Salam

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ADVANCE TRAIN TICKET SALE STARTS

Eid vacationers throng station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of Dhaka city residents thronged Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday to buy advance train tickets ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the biggest religious festivals of Muslims.

Some ticket seekers had stayed at the station overnight, while others went there after seheri to join the queue for a better chance at getting the train tickets.

Ticket booths opened at 9:00am. In the capital, the tickets are only sold at Kamalapur Railway Station. A person can buy a maximum of four tickets.

Visiting the railway station yesterday, The Daily Star found people waiting in a long queue for the tickets.

Tickets for leaving the capital on July 24 were sold yesterday. Tickets for July 25, 26, 27 and 28 will be sold from today till Thursday at railway stations across the country.

Still queuing for tickets at noon, many people were afraid that by the time they reached the booths the tickets would be sold out.

Many holiday makers yesterday left the station in a cheery mood after securing their tickets.

"I forgot all my sufferings as soon as I got the tickets," said a happy Nova Ahmed, who secured tickets to go to Dinajpur.

Meanwhile, Government Railway Police (GRP) yesterday held three persons on suspicion that they were selling tickets on the black market.

"We know that they have committed similar crimes in the past, and that is why we have detained them," said Abdul Mojib, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

Around 18,000 advance tickets of intercity trains from

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Ashraf blames Khaleda for BNP's 'sorry state'

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday blamed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her party's present "sorry state".

"It's neither Khoka nor Mirza Abbas nor Fakhrul, but it's you (Khaleda) who are responsible for the party's present unpleasant condition as you didn't participate in the election under a democratic government," he said at an iftar party organised by AL-backed Jubo League in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Turning to the recently formed convening committee of BNP's Dhaka city unit, Ashraf said, "It will be of no use even if you reorganise your party for a hundred times."

Urging Khaleda to stop issuing threat to the government, he said, "I hope you'll assess yourself after the Eid instead of launching any movement."

"The government has assumed power through people's mandate. No threat will work."

He also advised Khaleda to criticise the government constructively, identify its misdeeds, and suggest ways for resolving the problems.

N'GANJ BY-ELECTION

Slain Nazrul's wife, brother to contest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The wife and brother of the slain Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam yesterday submitted nominations for the by-election to the post of councillor ward no 2 of Narayanganj City Corporation.

Nazrul's wife Selina Islam Beauty and brother Abdus Salam submitted the nominations to Narayanganj District Election Officer Tarifuzzaman yesterday afternoon.

The post fell vacant following the killing of Nazrul along with six others in late April.

After submitting the nomination, Salam said "If elected, we would try to speed up the trial of the seven-murder."

Although two candidates from the same family have submitted nominations, both claimed to have "no feud between them" and said one would withdraw the candidature before the polls.

Beauty is going for the polls in order to "complete the incomplete work of her husband."

Four candidates have submitted nominations on the last day of submission of the nomination papers, said Tarifuzzaman. The by-election will be held on August 21.

Nomination papers will be scrutinised on July 21 and symbols will be distributed among the candidates on August 4.

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Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

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