

RAIN 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 Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet 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 6:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30am.	Country's highest temperature 34.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees in Feni.	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	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
						Dhaka	32.5	25.0	87	69	Khulna	33.5	26.5	81	80						
						Chittagong	30.0	25.3	97	88	Barisal	31.0	26.6	88	88						
						Rajshahi	32.4	26.3	92	94	Sylhet	34.3	26.0	86	83						
						Rangpur	32.7	26.0	90	77	Cox's Bazar	31.5	26.0	95	92						

NAT'L HOUSING AUTHORITY

ACC sues five former officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued five former National Housing Authority officials including its superintendent engineer for allocating twice the same plot by concealing information.

Deputy Director Mahbubul Alam of ACC field the case with Shahbag Police Station in the capital accusing National Housing Authority's former officials-Ikramuzzaman, member; Nurul Islam, superintendent engineer; Moazzammel Haque, assistant engineer; Molla Nawsher Ali, sub-assistant engineer; and Hedaletul Islam, upper division assistant.

According to the case statement, the NHA allocated Omar Faruque Khan of Narsingdi a plot of 1.75 katha in Rupnagar of Mirpur on June 25, 1997.

Faruque was allocated the plot-1 on road-6 of Rupnagar residential area (first phase). But one Mohammad Ali was allocated a plot of five katha including that of Faruque's 1.75 katha in the area in June, 2003, it says.



The Kapasgola road hardly shows any sign that it was once paved and that it is an important thoroughfare in Chittagong city. Like this one, most roads in the country's second largest city are in terrible shape, and as usual, the authorities continue to neglect the sufferings of people and the importance of the street for economic activities. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Govt to bear 70pc of cost

Says Mustafa Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will bear 70 percent of the construction cost of the multi-story buildings in villages planned to save agricultural land, said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

He said the occupants would bear the remaining 30 percent of the cost.

The Tk 424-crore pilot project, "Palli Janapad", was placed at the meeting of Ecneec at the planning ministry yesterday, but it was not approved because some components will be added to it.

Talking to reporters after it, Kamal said the building plan did not contain the facility for drying clothes, but it would be included along with balconies upon prime minister's directives. The project, which follows a foreign model, may be approved at the next Ecneec meeting.

The pilot project will cover seven villages of the country, each of which will have several buildings to accommodate all residents of that village, Kamal said. The Ecneec yesterday approved four projects worth Tk 720 crore.

SUJAN'S CUSTODIAL DEATH

Wife narrates incident before court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Momtaz Sultana Lucy, wife of the slain Mahbubur Rahman Sujan, yesterday narrated the court how her husband was killed in police custody on July 13.

Metropolitan magistrate SM Ashiqur Rahman

Sujan

SI Jahid

recorded the statement of the complainant and fixed today for the next hearing of the case. Today, he will also record statements of five other witnesses.

On July 20, a Dhaka court ordered a judicial enquiry into the custodial death of garment-waste trader Sujan after his wife filed a murder case against 10, including Sub-Inspector Jahid Rahman Khan and Officer-in-Charge Salahuddin of Mirpur Police Station. The case was lodged under The Torture and Custodial Death (Protection) Act-2013.

Govt hardens against unlawful marketing

To take legal action against 10 violators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is preparing to take legal actions against 10 baby food companies and doctors for violating law in marketing and promoting breast-milk substitutes.

"We have 10 complaints. Our legal adviser is preparing how to take legal actions against the law violators," said Dr Shah Newaz, director of the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN), at a press conference at the health ministry yesterday.

The ministry along with IPHN and Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF) jointly organised it as part of observing the World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-7).

There are complaints that some companies are marketing baby food without IPHN registration, providing gifts to doctors or buyers to promote their products, IPHN Legal Adviser BM Elias told The Daily Star by phone.

Also, some doctors prescribed substitutes for breast milk even before completion of six months of babies, he said, adding that these were serious violations of the

VIOLATION OF LAW

Marketing baby food without registration

Prescribing breast-milk substitutes for infants under six months of age

Breastfeeding Substitute Baby Food (Marketing Control) Act, 2013.

"We will soon serve legal notices to the companies and doctors concerned. If they fail to provide satisfactory answers, we will go for legal actions," BM Elias said.

According to him, between 2000 and now, there were no cases filed against the baby food companies or doctors violating laws.

Asked why the government is taking so long in framing a bylaw based on the 2013 act, which was passed in September last year, and whether there is any pressure from the multinational companies, Health Secretary MM Neazuddin said, "The bylaw will be finalised in a month."

"Public awareness is crucial because we have seen children of the well-off families also suffer from malnutrition," he told the press conference.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said exclusive breastfeeding up to six months of age of a baby had a lifelong impact on her health, but there were many men and women who did not care about it.

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PACKAGING RICE

SC upholds govt decision on using jute sacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday reinstated a government decision that asked the rice traders and owners of rice mills and chatahs (rice processing unit) to compulsorily use jute sacks in packaging and carrying rice.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC halted for eight weeks a High Court order that had stayed the government decision.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, the chamber judge of the apex court, came up with the stay order after hearing a government petition seeking stay on the HC order.

The government on September 26 last year issued a notification saying that all the rice traders and owners of rice mills and chatahs must use jute bags in all kinds of packaging and carrying rice, and they have to finish using polythene bags within December last year for protecting the environment.

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BROADCAST POLICY

Journos burn copies terming it 'black law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of journalists yesterday burnt the copies of the National Broadcast Policy-2014 terming it a "black law" for the media and demanding its immediate cancellation.

They vowed to stage tougher protests if the policy, which was approved by the cabinet Monday and is feared to curb the freedom of media and rights of journalists, is not scrapped.

The policy imposes a set of restrictions on the contents of television and radio broadcasts over various issues including those involving the armed forces and law enforcement agencies.

Speaking at a protest rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, Ruhul Amin

Gazi, an ex-president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said the government wanted to rule like a dictator, so it was going to control the media by imposing an undemocratic policy.

A faction of the BFUJ and another of the Dhaka Union of Journalists organised the programme and announced to hold opinion sharing meetings with media personalities, editors and other stakeholders and stage a month long demonstration to get the policy scrapped.

Describing Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu as "an enemy of the freedom of the press", Shawkat Mahmud, president of one BFUJ faction, demanded that the authorities bar him from visiting the Jatiya Press Club until the policy was cancelled.

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TOUCHING LIVES

Int'l community's role dismaying

Observe Dhaka, Tehran over Israel's killings in Gaza; Bangladeshis continue protest

CITY DESK

Dhaka and Tehran have expressed dismay at the inability of the international community to restrain Israel from its latest atrocities in Gaza, which have killed hundreds of civilians.

This was stated by Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif during a meeting on the sidelines of the emergency meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine held in Tehran on Monday.

Israel had shelled Gaza for a nearly month, killing 1,867 Palestinians, before a 72-hour humanitarian truce took hold yesterday.

Denouncing the "genocide", different organisations in Bangladesh continued their protests and demanded the United Nations and West's roles in stopping Israel.

In Tehran, Rizvi represented Bangladesh, one of the 11 members of the NAM Committee.

The Iranian foreign minister appreciated Rizvi's intervention in the meeting and commended Bangladesh's abiding commitment to the work of this important NAM Committee, said a foreign ministry release.

Rizvi thanked the Iranian minister for convening the emergency meeting and reaching consensus on an action-oriented outcome document that should give the NAM Member States a choice of options to firmly stand by the Palestinian people and denounce the Israeli aggression.

Turning to bilateral issues, the adviser said, "Bangladesh and Iran enjoy excellent bilateral relations on the political front, while more needs to be done to realise the economic

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দেখতে চোখ রাখুন
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