

RAIN LIKELY

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur 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 6:37pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 24.7 degrees in Rangpur. 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	33.0	26.4	81	69	Khulna	32.5	28.0	82	89
Chittagong	30.7	26.3	82	88	Barisal	32.9	27.0	88	83
Rajshahi	34.2	27.4	90	80	Sylhet	36.0	25.3	88	64
Rangpur	33.0	24.7	96	82	Cox's Bazar	31.0	26.0	88	83

NEWS IN brief

Bangladesh-Myanmar consultation on August 31

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) will be held in the capital on August 31, focusing on issues including Rohingyas, security, connectivity and building trust between the two countries. A delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Thant Kyaw, is likely to arrive on a four-day visit on August 28 to attend the meeting, said an official. Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque will lead the Bangladeshi delegation.

Santosh Gupta's pictorial biography to be launched tomorrow

CITY DESK
The Life and Times of Santosh Gupta, a pictorial biography, will be launched tomorrow at 6:00pm in Poet Shamsur Rahman Auditorium of Bangla Academy. An icon of patriotism, Santosh Gupta contributed to all democratic movements including Liberation War, and as a 20th century journalist stands out in a crowd. Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Journalist Kamal Lohani, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Dr Syed Mohammad Shahed and Artist Kalidas Karmakar will attend the programme.

Shibir leader arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Police arrested a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir from Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area yesterday. Syed Hossain, 24, president of Patiya Government College-unit of Shibir, is also a member of Chittagong south district unit. He is accused in two cases filed for arson attack, vandalism and attack on on-duty police before January 5 parliamentary election, said police.

Punish rapists

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She said three of the gang took her to one side of the farmland where she was raped, while others took away her power tiller, two bullocks and a water pump machine. The attack was allegedly instigated by Abdur Razzak, chairman of Rasulpur union of Niyamatpur, Nauga, adjacent to the village of the adivasi woman. Talking to the Daily Star by phone, she said her power tiller and bullocks were recovered by police from the chairman Abdur Razzak's house. "He [Razzak] is the brother-in-law of Monirul Islam Montu, one of the main accused in the rape case and the principal land grabber," she said. She filed two cases with Gomostapur Police Station Monday night—one for rape and looting and the other for assault—against 18 named and 14/15 unnamed people, including Razzak, she added. The victim was admitted to Gomostapur Upazila Health Complex on the day before being shifted to the district sadar hospital early Tuesday. The investigation officer, Sub-inspector Mominur Rahman, said police had arrested three of the named accused—Ziaul Karim, Azizur Rahman, and Anisur Rahman.

HC directive sought for conserving Rabindranath's kachharibari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its directive on the government to preserve the historical and archaeological beauty of the kachharibari of poet Rabindranath Tagore at Shahjadpur in Sirajganj. The petitioner, Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, also urged the HC to direct the government to demolish the five-storey building built 10 feet away from the kachharibari, reportedly by Yarn Merchant Association. According to the Antiquities Act, 1968, no structure can be constructed damaging natural beauty and significance of

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Bangladesh Forest Department brings out a colourful procession at Doyel Chattar on Dhaka University campus yesterday marking International Tiger Day 2014, which is usually observed on July 29. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

International Tiger Day observed

CITY DESK
With a call for supporting the government to protect the Bengal Tigers, the national animal of the country, International Tiger Day was observed yesterday. Though the day has been being observed on July 29 since 2010, this year due to Eid vacation Bangladesh Forest Department yesterday organised a rally and a discussion with the theme "Tiger is the National Pride of Bangladesh". The discussion was held at Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital where Anwar Hossain Manju, environment and forest minister, was the chief guest. Citing a report of TRAFFIC, Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator (Wildlife) of the forest department, said despite different conservation rules, nearly 1,425 tigers were killed

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Cops foil solidarity rally at RU

OC assaults sound system operator

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police dispersed members of Progressive Students Alliance of Rajshahi University who held a rally on the campus, defying a ban on demonstrations there, demanding arrears and Eid bonus for Tuba Group workers yesterday. Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, assaulted a sound system operator for not switching off the system at the rally. The demonstrators were also protesting the assault on Zonayed Saki, a leader of a left-leaning political party. Law enforcers beat up Saki who attempted to demonstrate in the capital for the Tuba Group workers on Wednesday. The leaders and activists of the alliance, a platform of four left-leaning students' bodies, had marched

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Police attack on Tuba workers condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and labourers' organisations yesterday condemned police's attack on the workers of Tuba Group garment factories, who were staging a hunger strike demanding to be paid three months' arrears and Eid bonuses. They termed the attack a gross violation of human rights. A few hundred workers had been in the strike since July 28 but police ousted them from inside the factories at the capital's Badda yesterday, using tear gas and batons. The Tuba authorities, backed by police, also confined over 1,000 workers to the factories for hours Wednesday, allegedly to quell their ongoing protests for full payment. In a statement, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the attack was comparable to those in the medieval age. He demanded that the government take proper initiatives for full payment of their arrears. President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim and its General Secretary Syed Abu Zafar, in a statement, said the government had made the situation more complex by repressing the workers instead of accepting their legal demands. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, in a statement, also condemned the attack on university teachers and cultural activists who visited the spot to express solidarity with the workers. Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, Gonotantik Bam Morcha, and Bangladesh Garments Sramik Shanghati also condemned the attack in separate statements.

Seven made secretaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promoted seven additional secretaries to the post of secretary and posted them to different ministries and bodies, said separate gazette notifications. Sirajul Islam and Golam Rabbani have been made secretaries to the Election Commission and the housing and public works ministry respectively while SM Golam Farroque made a member of the planning commission. Dr Selina Afroza and Nasima Begum have been made secretaries to the fisheries and livestock ministry and the social welfare ministry respectively. Khandaker Iftakhar Haidar has been appointed to the BPATC, Savar as its rector while Iqbal Khan Chowdhury made chairman of the Tariff Commission. Meanwhile, Uzalal Bikash Datta, a member of the planning commission with secretary status who went on leave preparatory to retirement, has been made officer on special duty.

Monitoring can halve launch accidents

Say activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of the launch accidents can be averted if the authorities monitor the vessel operation properly during inclement weather and ban the unfit ones, rights and environmental activists said yesterday. "About 33 percent of the launch accidents occur due to operation in bad weather and 23 percent happen for faulty designs," Aminur Rasul Babul, member secretary of the Safe Water Way Movement, told a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital. The Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST) and 15 other organisations arranged the conference and demanded legal action against all agencies and officials concerned who showed negligence in protecting waterways. In a written statement, Mujibul Haque Munir, assistant director (education and food security) of COAST, said the latest launch capsized in Munshiganj, in which 33 people were killed and scores feared dead, was a result of unabated irregularities and mismanagement. "The formation of investigation commissions followed every accident, but we've got merely any result... About 500 committees were constituted in the last 40 years while only three reports got published. Many committees have not even submitted their reports," he said. Mujibul demanded an immediate withdrawal of the launches with flawed designs and punishment for the designers and owners. "Eighty seven launches operate on Mawa-Kewrakandi route but most of them are 30 to 40 years old and 25 don't

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NHRC chief for revision of child act

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Prof Mizanur Rahman, the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, yesterday called for a revision of the child act to remove "some inconsistencies" from it. He made the call while addressing a views exchange meeting, "Morality and principles of journalism regarding children", in a Khulna city hotel. Hasibur Rahman Mukur, executive director of the Management Resource Development Initiative (MRDI), which organised the meeting with Unicef, moderated the programme.

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Ershad goes to India tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad will go to India tomorrow for a six-day private visit. Ershad's Political Secretary Sunil Shuvo Roy told The Daily that he will go there for his son Eric Ershad's medical check-up. Ershad, also the special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will also attend the World Peace conference in China on Aug 23, at the invitation of the Chinese government, said JP Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu. Meanwhile, opposition

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