

RAIN LIKELY



Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong, 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 6:28pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36am.** Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and Chuadanga and lowest 24.6 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	32.8	25.8	93	92	zKhulna	34.5	26.6	81
Chittagong	29.5	25.5	85	89	Barisal	33.0	27.2	80
Rajshahi	33.7	25.6	86	85	Sylhet	27.8	24.9	98
Rangpur	31.2	25.6	92	91	Cox's Bazar	30.4	26.0	81



FOR THE PEOPLE?

The BNP-led 20-party alliance held a rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyana yesterday, with a call and promise of "fighting for democracy", but it seemingly never thought about the demos or the people of the city, when it brought in scores of processions through the streets blocking traffic, forcing commuters to walk towards homes instead of waiting in tailbacks, *left*. It also chartered many buses for its activists and supporters, while many of them just took over the passing ones, *far left*, creating a serious dearth of public transports during the rush hour. Hundreds of commuters had to wait for hours to fight and catch rare buses home, *top*. And of course the government did not care to solve the situation despite knowing beforehand that the largest opposition outside the parliament was scheduled to hold the event. The chaos would only give it a perfect opportunity for its own propaganda.

PHOTO: STAR

PINAK-6 CAPSIZAL Plea filed seeking HC directives for removal of 8 govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its directives on the government to take action against eight high government officials for their failure to protect lives of passengers of the launch Pinak-6.

Pinak-6 with around 200 passengers on-board sank in the Padma river on August 4. About 46 bodies were recovered, 50 people survived, and the rest went missing. The government called off the search on August 11 after eight days, considering bad weather and Padma's strong currents.

Ashish Kumar Dey, chief editor of online newspaper ptbnews24.com and convener of Nou, Sarak and Railpath Jatiya Raksha Committee (National Committee to Protect Waterways, Roads and Railways) and Tushar Rehman, secretary general of Citizens Rights Movement, jointly submitted the petition to the HC as a public interest litigation.

They prayed to the HC to issue a rule upon the govern

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RU BCL's criminality takes new dimension

*Activists abduct youth for Tk 5 lakh ransom
before freeing him 14 hours later*

RU CORRESPONDENT

In their latest spate of criminality, three Bangladesh Chhatra League men at Rajshahi University abducted a university admission candidate on Monday night for ransom before releasing him 14 hours later, after senior leaders learned this and launched a search for the victim.

The victim, Junnum Walid Babu, who came to meet a female friend at the university from Dinajpur, was tortured in confinement. He sued six abductors and mentioned three names—RU BCL joint secretary Golam Kibria and activists Tawsik Taj and Sonnet.

The university unit BCL expelled the two activists and recommended expulsion of

Kibria to the central body, for the abduction. Kibria, the prime accused in the abduction case filed with Motihar Police Station, was arrested on the campus last evening, said police.

Talking to The Daily Star before his arrest, Kibria denied the allegations and said, "His fellow BCL man and roommate Tawsik Taj was involved in the abduction; he can't take the responsibility."

On August 16, two factions of BCL clashed at RU in a bid to "establish supremacy", leaving four of them injured. Two days before, four activists beat up a student for protesting against harassment of two female peers.

Babu said he was abducted from a private

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JAN 5 NAT'L POLLS EC to hear field staff's experiences

Plans workshops in 7 divisional cities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to better manage future polls, the Election Commission (EC) will hear the experiences of the field level officials who were engaged in the one-sided January 5 parliamentary election.

The commission has planned workshops on "Sharing experiences regarding the 10th parliamentary poll" at seven divisional cities of the country.

"We will listen to them, and take their recommendations on how we can better manage elections in the future," EC's Acting Secretary Sirazul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

The first workshop will be held in Rangpur on August 29-30 and September 1. The schedules for other divisional cities will be finalised later, he said.

The EC yesterday sent letters to the returning officers, assistant returning officers, presiding officers and polling officers of the January 5 vote in Rangpur division to join the workshops.

Officials from only those constituencies, where elections were held, will participate, said Sirazul.

The January 5 poll denied over half of the electorate numbering 9.19 crore their voting rights as 153 candidates were elected unopposed, while voting took place only in 147 constituencies.

The chief election commissioner, other commissioners and top officials of the EC Secretariat will attend the functions, to be jointly arranged by the EC and Strengthening Election Management in Bangladesh (SEMB) project of UNDP.

A boycott by the then BNP-led opposition alliance and other parties has made the January 5 election one-sided, and the poll drew huge criticism.

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PRE-HASINA-MODI TALKS
Dhaka, Delhi to discuss land
boundary, Teesta issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, the foreign ministers of the two countries will discuss a host of pending issues, including land boundary and Teesta water sharing.

Diplomatic sources said the officials of the countries have already begun preparations for holding the first meeting between the two premiers on the sidelines of UN General Assembly to be held in New York at the end of next month.

They said ahead of the two premiers' meeting, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj are expected to hold the 3rd Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting in New Delhi.

An inter-ministerial meeting with Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque in

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Family members grieving for Alauddin Mollik, 34, of Pabna, while a relative consoles the brother of Elahi Hossain, 31, of the same district, *inset*, as the two men along with Faruk Khan, 38, of Munshiganj were killed Monday in a construction site collapse in Malaysia where they went in hope of bettering their lives.



PHOTO: STAR

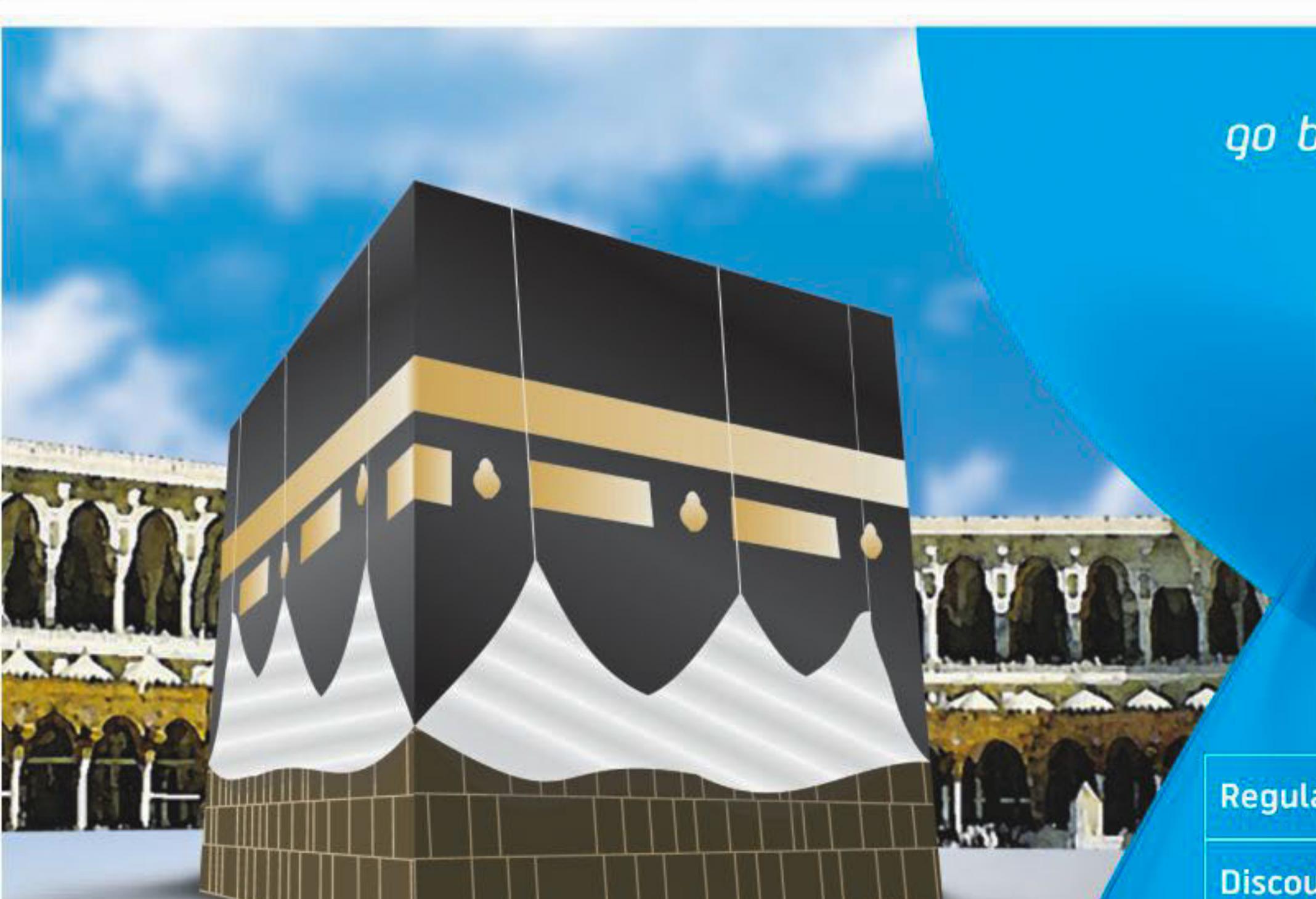
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