

RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unit: Dhaka

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 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.	Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 23.2 degrees in Sylhet. 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	25.4	78	92	Khulna	33.5	25.5	82	78						
			Chittagong	31.2	25.8	82	80	Barisal	33.3	26.7	77	94						
			Rajshahi	34.0	25.2	95	89	Sylhet	32.8	23.2	90	83						
			Rangpur	29.8	25.0	96	90	Cox's Bazar	31.4	25.5	81	85						

Biman halts Delhi, HK flights to carry hajis

First Hajj flight with 419 pilgrims takes off today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has suspended flight operations on Dhaka-Delhi and Dhaka-Hong Kong routes as it has engaged three of its wide-body aircraft for this year's Hajj operations start today.

As per an earlier decision of the Biman board, the flight operations on the two international routes will remain suspended until the Hajj operations end on November 8, said Biman officials.

The national carrier resumed twice weekly service each on the routes in May last year, a year after it suspended operations to these two long-served destinations in 2012 due to a severe shortage of aircraft.

The last flight with a 162-seated Boeing 737 aircraft flew to Hong Kong on Friday with 156 passengers and returned home with 119 passengers. A similar aircraft flew to Delhi on Saturday with 32 passengers and returned with 104 passengers.

"Although response from passengers was poor immediately after the resumption of flights on the two routes, it improved considerably later," said an official at Biman's marketing department.

The first Hajj flight is scheduled to leave Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7:05am today with 419 pilgrims for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened the Hajj programme at Askkona Hajj camp in the capital.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will carry 49,378 Hajj pilgrims, out of 98,757, from August 27 to

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Leaders and activists of BNP-led 20-party alliance chanting slogans protesting police obstruction of a procession they were bringing out from Aswini Kumar Town Hall premises in Barisal city yesterday morning, against the government move to amend the constitution re-empowering the parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges for misconducts and incapacity. The protesters were not allowed to march in the end.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

National Poet Nazrul's 38th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 38th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed across the country today, 12th Bhadra of Bangla calendar, with due respect and solemnity.

Different socio-cultural and political bodies have planned elaborate programmes. Television and radio stations will air special programmes while newspapers will publish special articles highlighting Nazrul's life and works.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia issued separate statements on the occasion.

The Dhaka University authorities will arrange a Qurankhwani at its central mosque after Fazr prayers. DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, students, teachers and

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Father shot dead on Subhan's instruction

Martyr's son tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The son of a martyr yesterday described at the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that his father was tossed two or three feet in the air before thudding to the ground when the Pakistani army shot him at the instruction of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan in Pabna on May 12, 1971.

"See, how Joy Bangla is!" said Subhan Moulana as he kicked my father's body two or three times," said Shamsul Alam, who saw the incident from 50 yards away.

Breaking down in tears, the 24th prosecution witness said that to save their lives, his grandfather took his hand and ran into a nearby sugarcane field while the occupation army started shooting at them. "But bullets missed us, and we saved ourselves hiding in the field."

Shamsul, 57, said his father Mohiduddin Pramanik was an influential Awami League leader of Satbaria Union, and many residents of their village were involved with the party.

He said he heard heavy gunfire around 6:00am on May 12, 1971 from the west of their village and saw flames; people ran in different directions to save their lives.

"My grandfather asked us to go to Gajnar Beel, 7-8km from our village. My father and I stayed at home, as my father refused to leave the house." Around 12:00 noon, the Pakistani army and Subhan, riding in two cars, arrived at their house, adjacent to Zila Parishad, he said.

"Seeing Subhan Moulana my father raised his hands and approached them."

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CID takes over Mujibur's abduction case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday took the charge of the case filed over the alleged kidnapping of Sunamganj district BNP leader and his chauffeur.

Inspector Suranjit Talukder, CID's Sunamganj camp in-charge (investigation), will now conduct the probe, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Hai Chowdhury of Sunamganj Police Station.

Mujibur Rahman, a member of the advisory committee of the BNP's Sunamganj unit, and his driver Rezaul Haque were

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RAJSHAHI CITY BNP Minu-Bulbul rift grows

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi BNP is rife with differences between Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and former mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu since Bulbul was neither made general secretary of the city BNP nor president of the city Jubo Dal recently.

Soon after a press release revealed on Saturday night that a 169-member city Jubo Dal committee was formed, without Bulbul, 70 of his loyalists resigned immediately, while 50 more have tendered resignation letters to Minu, the new city BNP president.

Bulbul, who had headed the city Jubo Dal before being elected Rajshahi city mayor in June last year, was made a vice president of the city BNP.

Sahanul Islam, who resigned as senior vice president of the new city Jubo Dal, told The Daily Star that they demanded that Bulbul be made general secretary of the city BNP or be retained as president of the city Jubo Dal. "It (the new committee) is a conspiracy against the mayor to keep him out of politics," he said.

Sahanul also alleged that at least 20 businessmen were made leaders of the city Jubo Dal, including general secretary Abul Hasnain Hikal, neglecting politicians.

Mayor Bulbul declined to comment because of his "illness".

The division between Bulbul and Minu, who supported Bulbul in his mayoral bid, surfaced as the latter "interfered in the city politics too much", said BNP insiders, while Bulbul funded the anti-government movement and supported activists involved in it.

The lists of the new city Jubo Dal and city BNP committees were signed by BNP office secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on August 19 and faxed to Rajshahi later, said Minu.

The Jubo Dal committee was overhauled with Waliul

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HC okays foreign TV channels

Scraps challenge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the authorised cable television service providers to continue operating foreign channels in Bangladesh.

The court rejected a writ petition, which challenged the legality of these channels, and sought directives on the government to ban three Indian TV channels -- Star Jalsa, Star Plus, and Zee Bangla.

The HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman passed the order, saying that the petition was not moved properly.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar on airing foreign TV channels, which had legal licences, following the HC order.

The petitioner's counsel, Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan, told The Daily Star that he would move the petition before another HC bench later to get an order in favour of his client.

On August 7, Supreme Court lawyer Syeda Shahin Ara Laily filed the petition.



A 25-foot stretch of a road was swept away by water from the swelling Balu River in Kazir Jaiga village of the capital's Khilgaon Monday. With the road broken, over a hundred students from Nagdarpur and Nasirabad villages now have to make a 1.5km detour or use boats to go to Prof Ali Ahmad School and College in Kazir Jaiga. The sudden onrush has also adversely affected fish farming in a large swathe of the low-lying area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Swelling Balu sends students on 1.5km detour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a hundred students of Prof Ali Ahmad School and College in the capital's Khilgaon have been left without a direct road to their institution since Monday when a part of the mud street connecting it with their villages was washed away by water from the swelling Balu River.

The students, from Nagdarpur and Nasirabad villages, now need to take a 1.5km detour or use boats to attend classes. It takes one more hour than the usual time, said the villagers.

The 1,700-foot long and 15-foot wide road in Kazir Jaiga, another village where the institution is located, is connected with Nagdarpur. The onrush of water has swept away about a 25-foot stretch of the road around 2:00pm on Monday, affecting more than a dozen families and fish farms

there.

"My students are the worst sufferers of the damage," said Abdul Hakim Sardar, principal of the college, which stands 200 yards from the broken part.

Musa Ratul, a fifth grader from Nagdarpur, said, "I had to start one hour earlier than the usual time to reach school in time."

But all were not like Ratul.

"Six to seven students of my class, at 9:00am, came in late and blamed detours for that," Hakim said, calling for immediate repairs of the road.

Echoing the teacher, Nasirabad Union Council member Samir Ali and said he had already talked to senior officials. "I hope that the repair work will start tomorrow," he told The Daily Star.

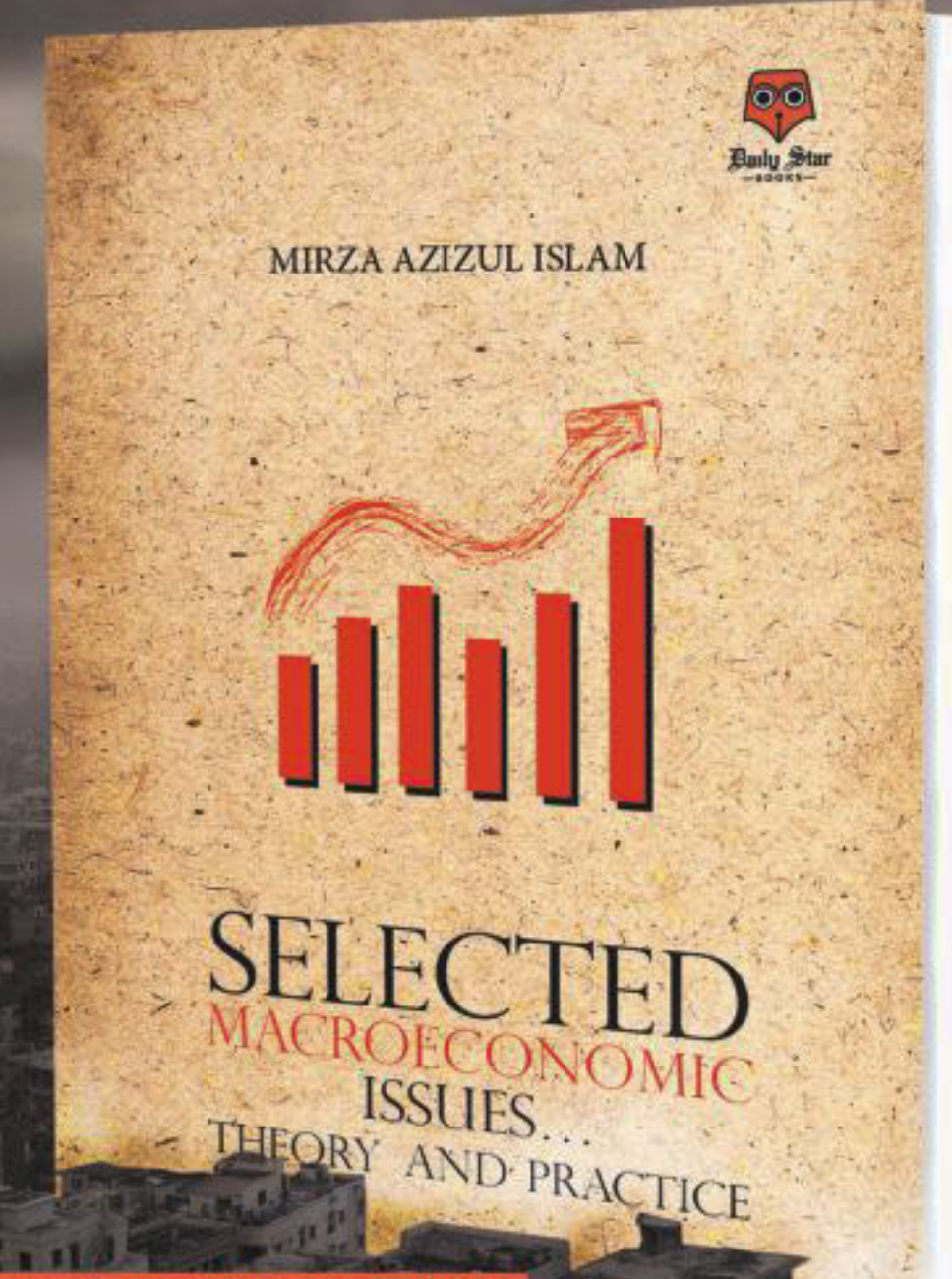
Joy Miah, who along with nine others built fish farms over a vast tract of the low-lying area, braces for losses, as fish have made their way out

through the damaged part. "We had invested some Tk 15 lakh and expected to make around Tk 15 to Tk 20 lakh, but all is gone," he said.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), however, called it an "isolated incident" and said there was little possibility of flooding in and around Dhaka in next few days.

Ripon Karmaker, duty officer of the FFWC, told The Daily Star that the water levels of the rivers around Dhaka--the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Turag, and Balu--might rise in the next 72 hours but these were still below the danger level.

"Besides, the water levels [in the rivers] are rising very slowly. So, we don't see any possibility of flooding in and around the capital in two or three days," he said, adding that inundation of low-lying areas near the rivers was common in the monsoon.



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