

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfall is also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna, Comilla and Satkhira and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius in Sayedpur.

The highest and lowest temperatures 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 | 29.4 | 25.6 | 86 | 87 | Khulna | 34.5 | 26.8 | 83 | 84 |
| Chittagong | 32.4 | 25.9 | 89 | 83 | Barisal | 33.2 | 26.0 | 80 | 76 |
| Rajshahi | 34.1 | 27.0 | 84 | 96 | Sylhet | 33.0 | 24.5 | 94 | 80 |
| Rangpur | 32.3 | 24.4 | 90 | 71 | Cox's Bazar | 32.5 | 25.7 | 74 | 88 |

Foreign workers torch factory in Malaysia

Bangladeshis not involved, says official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 800 foreign workers set fire to their factory building in Malaysia on Tuesday night, aggrieved at the alleged mistreatment by their employers.

The workers, mostly from Nepal, set alight the electronics manufacturing plant of JCY HDD Technology Sdn Bhd in Kulaijaya around 8:00pm, local English daily The Star reported yesterday.

Fire fighters put out the fire two hours later. Earlier, the workers stoned their employers' office and burned down a car following a strike.

The protesters said the management made workers play a game where a ball was tossed and those who failed to catch it would be kicked, punched and beaten with sticks.

"We had also been treated badly and often kicked or punched by our employers for every mistake," claimed Kishor Rai, a

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Activists and supporters join a rally of the BNP-led 20-party alliance on the Jatiya Press Club premises in the capital yesterday, in which the combine protested the government's move to re-empower the parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges.

PHOTO: STAR

Rashidpur gas well-8 begins production tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The production at Rashidpur well-8 of the state-run Sylhet Gas Field Ltd (SGFL) will begin tomorrow.

Starting on January 4, drilling at the well at a cost of Tk 150 crore completed recently, officials informed, subsequently its flare test was also conducted successfully.

The gas field will be able to add additional 15 MMCFD gas to the national grid, said Md Amir Hossain, director of the project for the drilling, yesterday.

The job was performed with the assistance of Russian state-owned company, Gazprom International, he said.

Setting up of an 8km pipeline from the well to Rashidpur gas processing plant also completed,

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FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Do your jobs

Nat'l conference urges govt agencies concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national conference yesterday urged the government agencies, especially the police force, to play due roles in fighting human trafficking and protecting the victims and survivors.

They also emphasised coordination between government and civil society's activities to make people aware of this crime.

Their remarks came at the national conference to discuss the draft National Plan of Action (NPA) to combat human trafficking in 2015-17, organised at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre by Winrock International, a US-based organisation.

Abu Ahmed Jamadar, joint secretary to the law ministry, said the anti-human trafficking law had directed different agencies, especially police, to take stern action against trafficking.

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SUSTAINABLE DELTA MANAGEMENT

Govt embarks on making mega plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday launched a project to prepare Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, a massive roadmap to ensure a sustainable delta management by properly dealing with issues like climate change, water management, food security and economic growth in the next 50 to 100 years.

The plan is expected to be ready by fiscal year 2015-16. The project will also sketch a framework for implementation of the roadmap with an elaborate investment plan for short-, medium-, and long-term interventions, said the project director Mafidul Islam.

"We shall formulate comprehensive strategies to implement the delta plan. Later, these proposals and strategies will be sent to the ministries concerned," he told the launching ceremony at the Planning Commission in the capital.

The "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 Formulation Project", funded by the governments of Bangladesh and the Netherlands, will cost Tk 878.644 million, and will be carried out by Planning Commission's General Economics Division.

The strategies will address issues of

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GRAFT CASE

Two DMCH doctors flee courtroom

Four of its ex-officials, including director, sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two physicians of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday escaped from the dock of a courtroom soon after it rejected their bail in a corruption case.

The doctors, Atiar Rahman, an assistant professor, and Moshir Rahman, a senior lecturer, had looked casual; maybe they had expected bail, said court sources.

But when the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka rejected their bail petitions, the two looked around before sneaking off around 2:00pm, Shah Alam Talukdar, metropolitan additional public prosecutor, told The Daily Star.

Judge Md Jahurul Haque issued a show-cause notice upon three policemen, who were on duty at the courtroom's gate at that time, to explain how the two fled.

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GATCO GRAFT CASE

HC clears way for trial resumption against ex-CPA chief Lutful Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court to resume trial proceedings of the Gatco graft case against Lutful Kabir, former director of Chittagong Port Authority.

The HC rejected a petition filed by Lutful in 2007 for scrapping the proceedings of the case against him.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against former premier Khaleda Zia, her son Arafat Rahman Koko, Lutful Kabir and 20 others on September 2, 2007.

The case was filed against the accused on charges of corruption in awarding Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) the contract for container management at

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Family members of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam place a wreath at the rebel poet's grave on Dhaka University campus marking his 38th death anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

ULab school alumni recall Sheikh Russell, Baby Serniabat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Laboratory Ex-Students Association yesterday held a daylong programme commemorating August 15, the day some army men killed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members in 1975.

Titled "Tomader Jonno Bhalobasha", around 1,000 students of University Laboratory School attended the event, beginning at 10:00am at the school's playground. Bangabandhu's youngest son Sheikh Russell and Baby Serniabat, daughter of Bangabandhu's brother-in-law Abdur Rab Serniabat, who were also killed in the attack, had studied at the school.

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Creative questions in six more subjects from 2016 HSC exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to introduce creative questions in six more subjects in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations from 2016.

It will also introduce the method in four subjects in Alim examinations under Madrasa Board the same year.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting at the education ministry with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair, said a press release.

The method was first introduced in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations in 2010. In HSC exams, the method was applied in 2012.

Currently, all 29 subjects at SSC level have creative questions. The method is being applied in 12 subjects in HSC examinations and three subjects in Alim.

According to the release, creative questions would be introduced in Economics, Logic, Information and Communication Technology, Finance Banking and Insurance, Production Management and Marketing, and Geography in HSC examination.

For Alim exams, the subjects are Economics, Physics, Biology, and Civics. The meeting also decided to introduce creative method in nine more subjects including Agriculture Studies, Statistics, Psychology, and Food and Nutrition in HSC exams from 2017.

IRI workshop on opinion polls underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An US-based non-profit organisation, International Republican Institute (IRI), started a two-day training workshop in the capital yesterday on how to conduct public opinion research.

Representatives from different NGOs are participating in the workshop held at The Daily Star Centre.

"Our aim is to cultivate core competencies within civil society organisations to conduct and analyse public opinion research," said Franklin Bonner, resident country director of IRI Bangladesh.

Before elections, the candidates learn which issues need to be addressed in their campaigns, he said, adding that the government could also benefit from

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Myanmar delegation

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August 31, informed diplomatic sources.

The delegation will afterwards call on Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali in the afternoon. It will also go on a visit to Sylhet tomorrow.

Talks will also centre around human trafficking and security, economic issues including trade and investment, introducing coastal shipping, and cooperation in the fields of energy, education, agriculture and tourism.

Foreign ministry officials told The Daily Star that Dhaka would again invite President Thein Sein to visit Bangladesh. A scheduled visit was postponed after religious violence erupted in the Rakhine state in June 2012.

The FOC was also originally scheduled for June 18 but was postponed due to escalation of border tension when a Border Guard Bangladesh personnel was killed in May by Myanmar border guards.

There are around 30,000 Rohingya refugees living in two camps alongside several lakh undocumented ones around the country.

Biman starts Hajj flights

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This year, Biman has decided to carry the pilgrims by its own aircraft, for which the national carrier had to suspend flight operations on Dhaka-Delhi and Dhaka-Hong Kong routes since it has engaged three of its wide-body airplanes in Hajj operations.

Although 419 pilgrims were supposed to be in the first flight yesterday, four pilgrims did not fly due to illness and six others of a family decided not to go as one of their members did not get visa, Menon said in briefing at the airport.

"I'm happy with the management at the Hajj camp and at the airport," Mahbubur Rahman Patwari, a pilgrim, told this correspondent before boarding the aircraft. Like him many other pilgrims expressed their satisfactions at the overall management.

Both the ministers pledged to continue the satisfactory service.

Before and after Hajj, Biman will carry 49,378 pilgrims, out of 98,757, between August 27 and November 8 by 270 flights, including 224 dedicated flights and 46 scheduled flights.

The pre-Hajj flights will continue from August 27 to September 28 and post-Hajj return flights from October 8 to November 8.

The remaining half of the Hajj pilgrims will be ferried by Saudi Airlines, which will start flights on September 1. Its post-Hajj flights will continue from October 9 to November 17.



Founder of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaking at a session of the EBL Leadership Lecture Series in The Westin Dhaka on Monday. The educationist talked about his life and works and the inspiration, motivation behind establishing BSK. The session was moderated by Ali Reza Iftekhar, right, managing director and CEO of Eastern Bank Ltd.

PHOTO: COURTESY

National film policy

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soft loan should be given and duties on importing film equipment and taxes relaxed. He also called for founding a film certification board by abolishing the present censor board to rate movies.

Prof Alam said national awards for non-commercial film should be introduced and grants for film production increased.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said no policy should aim at controlling the mass media in this century.

Film producers Manzure Masim Murad and Matin Rahman also spoke.