

RAIN LIKELY



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

Moderately 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 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sayedpur and Dinajpur and lowest 24.4 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
Dhaka	33.8	27.0	69	66	Khulna	34.0	26.5	73	90
Chittagong	31.0	25.0	89	88	Barisal	32.2	26.4	76	82
Rajshahi	34.3	26.5	81	70	Sylhet	32.0	24.4	92	83
Rangpur	34.5	27.4	69	80	Cox's Bazar	31.8	25.0	77	83

NEWSIN brief

High downlink fees hurdle for Dhaka TV channels in India : Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday informed the parliament, through a written statement, that the main obstacle to transmitting Bangladeshi TV channels in India is high downlink fees.
There is no legal bar on downlinking Bangladeshi TV channels in Indian, the statement added.
The government decided to raise the issue, through the foreign ministry, in the upcoming Saarc summit. A proposal was made to reduce the downlink fees in India, it said.

War criminal SQ Chowdhury sent to Kashimpur jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Convicted war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was sent to Kashimpur jail in Gazipur from Chittagong Central Jail yesterday.
On Wednesday, he was produced before a Chittagong court which transferred him to Kashimpur jail. He was produced before the court in two cases filed for torching and vandalising vehicles in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong in 2010.
The prison van carrying Salauddin Quader Chowdhury left Chittagong jail at 9:00am, said Mahbulul Islam, jailer of Chittagong Central Jail.

Michael Henry appointed VC of GUB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dr Michael Henry Boehme, a professor of the Humboldt University of Berlin, has been appointed as vice-chancellor of German University Bangladesh.
A professor of horticultural plant system at the Humboldt University, he taught in many universities at home and abroad, said a press release.
The trustee board of GUB believed that the joining of Boehme will play an important role in improving the standard of its education and bringing it towards the expected goal.

National IELTS Partners Meet held

CITY DESK
British Council Bangladesh yesterday hosted National IELTS Partners Meet at Raowa Convention Hall in the capital's Mohakhali celebrating 24 years of IELTS.
Deep Adhikari, director examinations services; British Council Bangladesh; Nasreen Sultana, deputy exams manager; Syeed Hasan, head of Business Development, and Nafiz Zaman, business development manager, with other stakeholders were present at the event.

David Bergman's

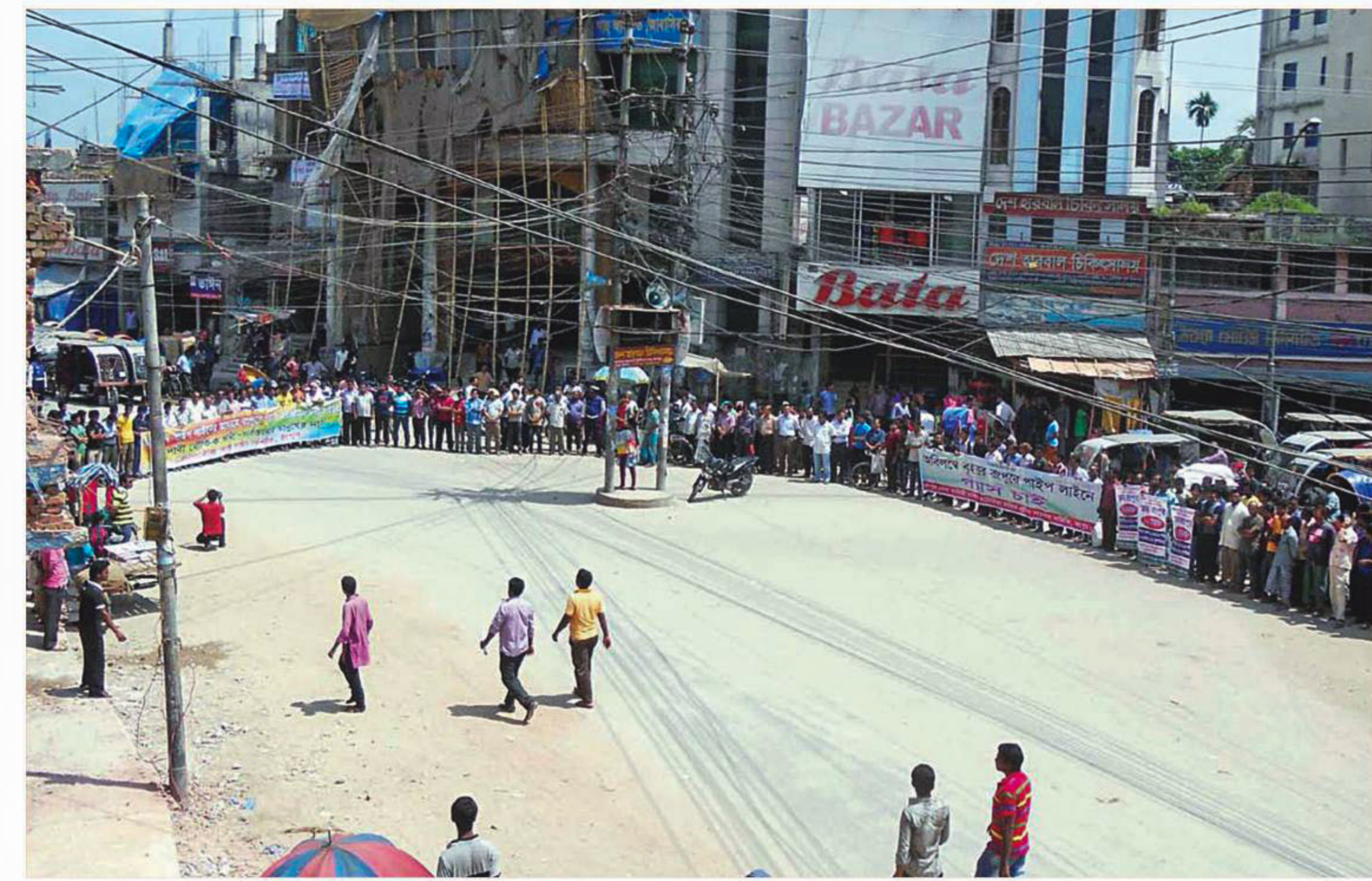
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wrong in mentioning three million deaths and the number of 200,000 women raped in 1971.
In his submission on August 25 and yesterday, Bergman's counsel Mustafizur Rahman Khan, however, said the write-ups were "definitely critical" but fell under the parameters of permissible fair criticism and had been made "bona fide and in good faith".
But, petitioner's lawyer Mizan Syeed yesterday said Bergman was a "habitual contemptner" as he wrote the "contemptuous articles" even after being cautioned seriously by a tribunal earlier for his other writings.
Bergman's blogposts cannot be considered "fair criticism", as those had a "tendency" to malign the dignity of the tribunal and "tended it and its members into public hatred", he added.
In his earlier submission, the defence lawyer said his client, upon receiving a notice from the tribunal, deleted two words from his write-ups expressing regrets. However, replying to a court's inquiry, he said Bergman did not mention in his blog why he had deleted the words.
But, the petitioner's counsel said Bergman deleted the words because he understood that it was "contemptuous" and "this is one sort of admission." Besides, the words were a very "little part of his contemptuous articles" and deletion was done lately, he said.
Mizan also refuted the defence's claim that the petitioner did not specify the parts of the articles, which amounted to contempt. "We specified the allegations, and even quoted from the articles of the contemptner in the ninth to 15th paragraph and the 25th paragraph of our petition," he said.
Meanwhile, the tribunal recorded the testimony of Azabuddin Miah, the 27th prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan.
Azaduddin, an assistant librarian of Bangla Academy, exhibited two newspapers reports—one of The Pakistan Observer and the other of the Dainik Azad.
The report of The Pakistan Observer, published December 9, 1970, testified that Subhan contested the 1970's election, while the Dainik Azad on September 7, 1971 published a statement of Subhan, said prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon.
The proceeding was adjourned till Sunday after the defence declined to cross-examine Azabuddin.

Exhibition
A week long solo photography exhibition titled "The Dying Grounds" of journalist Shafiq Rahman will begin. Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:00pm-8:00pm.

Seminar
A seminar on "Seismic Design, Retrofitting and Practices of

Building Construction for Cities, a project of PWD and Jica, will be held. Venue: Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel. Time: 4:45pm.

Recital programme
Konthoshor Bachik Utkorsho o Abritti Chorchha Kendro will organise a recital programme. Venue: Public Library. Time: 6:30pm.



With the clock striking 11:00am, Rangpur city dwellers simply stop all the activities for 10 minutes yesterday to realise their long-standing demand for supply of natural gas in the division. Organised by Brihattar Rangpur Gas Andolon Committee, the programme "Rangpur Silent for 10 Minutes" was held at 70 points in the city. The photo was taken from Jahaj Company intersection.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Rangpur city halts for 10min seeking gas supply

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
Demanding supply of natural gas through pipeline in Rangpur division, the city dwellers abstained from their daily works and observed a 10 minute silence on the streets at the city's 70 points yesterday.
The programme "Rangpur Silent for 10 Minutes" was organised by Brihattar Rangpur Gas Andolon Committee.
Different shops, business establishments, educational institutions as well as traffic came to a standstill from 11:00am to 11:10am.
Thousands of people from all walks of life joined it at the venues, including Rangpur Press Club, Begum Rokeya University, Payra Chattar, Jahaj Company intersection, Kacharibazar, Rangpur Medical College intersection, Shatmatha, and central bus terminal intersection.
Various government offices and NGOs also expressed their solidarity with the programme.

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IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HAOR, COASTAL PEOPLE

Costly loans keep them poor: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Majority of the people in haor and coastal areas have to take loans at high interest rates to cope with the impacts of climate change on their livelihood, and fall in a vicious cycle of poverty, according to a study.
Eighty-eight percent of people of Sunamganj haor areas and 73 percent of Satkhira and 50 percent of Cox's Bazar coastal areas said they took loans to "survive" after loss of livelihoods induced by climate change.
Majority of the respondents said they failed to overcome poverty and lead a normal life even after engaging their children in labour.
Funded by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, the study was conducted by Participatory Research and Development

Initiative (PRDI), surveying 2,000 households in Sunamganj, Cox's Bazar and Satkhira between May 1 and July 31 last year.
Titled "Impacts of Climate Change in the Climate Hot Spots", its findings were disseminated in a seminar at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.
Coastal fishermen are at the highest risk, as they fish in the "rough sea" and live close to the shore, found the study.
It added that all respondents in the coastal areas believed that saline sea water had penetrated their croplands due to high tides and rise in the sea level.
"While cyclones and rough weather often cause deaths to many fishermen, others have to return to shore without any fish accepting a financial loss," read the study.

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DB catches deceptive drug dealer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yaba smuggler Mohammad Salauddin pretending to be a disabled man would use a crutch and bring the contraband items inside its hollow bars to dodge the law enforcers.
His tricks had been successful for several times, hauling 1,000 to 1,500 pills each time to the capital from Teknaf. But yesterday, detectives arrested him while he got down from a train at Kamalapur station and recovered 800 tablets from his crutch, said the Detective Branch of Police.
Salauddin said he used to buy each yaba for Tk 200 and sell for Tk 220, and would wear a punjabi and a prayer cap for deception.

4 illegal dental clinics sealed

Mobile court jails 5 dentist impersonators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sealed off four unauthorised dental clinics and jailed five dentist impersonators for nine months each in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.
The court also fined them Tk 1 lakh each, in default, to suffer three months more.
The convicts are SM Ilias Hossain of Garden Dental Care, Hasanur Rahman of Al-Madina Dental Care, Akter Hossain and Tofazzal Hossain of Al Hera Dental Care and Md Alaaddin of Zannat Dental Care.
AHM Anwar Pasha, executive magistrate of Rapid Action Battalion, who led the drive, said the four convicts had no qualification but they were using different degrees in their nameplates introducing themselves as "specialist dentists." They were prescribing medicines and conducting surgery in the clinics though they failed to show certificates of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, the regulatory body, before the court, added Pasha.
It is alarming that they were using equipment without sterilising those before the surgery, said the magistrate.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The United States Coast Guard ship, Rush, has been offered to Bangladesh to help enhance the country's capacity to secure its now clearly delineated maritime territories in the Bay of Bengal, says a press release of the American embassy. At 378 feet, Rush is equipped with facilities for helicopter deployment. Bangladesh Navy may receive the vessel in spring. Last year, the US transferred another ship, which is now Samudra Joy, the largest ship in Bangladesh Navy.

56 BNP men sued

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Zia Orphanage graft cases.
BNP men who were accompanying their chairperson engaged in clashes with law enforcers while the party men were trying to enter the court premises at Government Alia Madrasa.
Law enforcers lobbed teargas shells and fired rubber bullets during the clash. At least 10 people including three policemen were injured during the clash and at least two vehicles, parked nearby, vandalised.

'Shibir' violence on

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students were reportedly dominated by Shibir.
Proctor Siraj-ud-Daula said, "We don't see any so-called general student to talk to." He added, "Decisions will be made soon regarding opening of the two dormitories."
As in the last few days, Shibir denied bombing the station and attacking the bus yesterday.
Meanwhile, a press release was sent to different media outlets yesterday thanking the students, teachers and staff of the university for "making the strike successful". One Morshed Hasan, without giving any address, sent the release on behalf of "tormented students".

GAZIPUR CLASH OVER BUSINESS RIVALRY

One of ten injured dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

One of the 10 people injured in Monday's fighting between Bangladesh Chhatra League activists and supporters of a businessman in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila died in hospital yesterday.
Salim Hossain, 37, of Shibchar upazila in Madaripur, was a jhut (scraps of fabrics) trader and lived with his family in Mowchak area of Kaliakoir.
The clash occurred because of contention over a jhut business, shared by Sakhawat Hossain Ruben, an ex-BCL leader, and Md Juel Ahmed, a BCL supporter and younger brother of Mowchak Union Parishad Chairman Lokman Hossain, also an Awami League leader.
The victim did not take part in the clash but was attacked by BCL men because he was allied with Juel. He had suffered injuries to the head.
Two men including BCL Gazipur city unit President Masud Rana Ershad, who led the clash at the behest of Ruben, were arrested for the violence. Ershad was remanded for two days yesterday, said Officer-in-Charge of Kaliakoir Police Station Omar Faruq.

BANGLADESH IN WIKILEAKS
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