

LIGHT RAIN LIKELY



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

over the country, Met Office said.

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.

Country's highest temperature 35.3 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 24.3 degree Celsius in Dinajur and Rangamati.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius

Max:	Min:
Dhaka 34.0	27.4
Chittagong 31.3	26.5
Rajshahi 35.3	26.6
Rangpur 28.0	24.7

Humidity in percentage

Morning	Evening
66	59
83	79
85	80
97	92

Temperature in Celsius

Max:	Min:
Khulna 34.2	26.5
Barisal 32.6	26.3
Sylhet 33.0	25.9
Cox's Bazar 32.5	25.6

Humidity in percentage

Morning	Evening
70	75
76	92
83	80
79	73

NEWS IN brief

Khaleda Ekram first female Buet VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Ekram, a professor of architecture, has been appointed the first female vice chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Jahangirnagar University is the only other public university to have a woman as VC.

Prof Khaleda will take office tomorrow for the next four years, said Shah Alam, assistant director of the Buet public relations office.

The term of her predecessor, Prof Nazrul Islam, ended on August 30.

Dhaka North City Corporation razes 3 buildings for Bosila road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday partially demolished three multi-storey buildings to construct the 120ft long Bosila road in Mohammadpur.

SM Mahbubur Rahman, general manager (transport) of DNCC, who led the drive, said the buildings were constructed on the land, acquired in 1988, for the road.

The partially destroyed buildings are: 10-storey Moyur Villa, and a five-storey and a six-storey building of Alinoor Villa. The two buildings of Alinoor Villa will be completely destroyed today, Mahbubur said.

2 Myanmarese held with 1,000 Yaba, 58,000 seized in Cox's Bazar

CITY DESK

Two Myanmar citizens were arrested with 1,000 Yaba tablets and 58,000 more Yaba tablets were seized in Chittagong yesterday.

A correspondent from Chittagong reports, Shahed Islam, 24, and Md Yusuf, 24, who came to Bangladesh with temporary pass, were arrested from near Shah Amanat bridge in Bakalia area of Chittagong city.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent adds, Border Guard Bangladesh seized 58,000 Yaba tablets left by smugglers while being chased by them in Beribadh area of Teknaf upazila.

Man arrested for 'killing' Swetchhasebak League leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a man in the capital's Shyampur area for his alleged involvement in killing a union level Swetchhasebak League leader on Wednesday. The arrestee is Nurnabi alias 'Hatkata' Nabi.

Riazul Islam Lalu, Shyampur union Swetchhasebak League president, was shot by criminals at his business establishment near Shyampur Bridge.

Police suspected that Lalu was killed following disputes over collecting extortion money.

Madrasa girl's body found hanging in dorm in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the hanging body of a girl from a women's madrasa in Lalbagh of the capital yesterday.

The body of Sumaiya, 12, was found hanging from a bar used to hang clothes in a bathroom on the fifth floor of Halima Sadia Women's Madrasa hostel.

Sub-Inspector Amjad Hossain of Lalbagh Police Station said Sumaiya, a hostel resident, went to the bathroom around noon. But as she did not respond after repeated knocks on the door by other students, they looked through the ventilator and saw her hanging body. The madrasa staff broke open the door and found the girl dead. The body was sent for an autopsy.

Amir Hossain, a relative of the deceased, said Sumaiya's father is a cook at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Stop sand extractions from Dhopajan Chalti river in Sunamganj

HC asks 4 govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed four government officials to immediately take effective steps to stop extractions of sands and stones from the river Dhopajan Chalti in Bishamvarpur upazila of Sunamganj to save flow of its water and navigation.

In response to a contempt of court petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, the court also asked the officials including the deputy commissioner of Sunamganj to explain in four weeks why they have not fully complied with its order issued on July 22 last year for stopping the extractions.

The three other officials are the director of the Department of Mineral Resources (Sunamganj), the director of the Department of Environment (Sunamganj), and the upazila nirbahi officer of Bishamvarpur.

They have been asked to submit a compliance report to the HC on October 26, petitioner's counsel Iqbal Kabir Lytton told The Daily Star. The HC also directed six other high officials to monitor the work of stopping extractions.

The six are secretaries to the ministries of environment and forest; land; water resources; and energy and mineral resources; directors general of Water Development Board and the Department of Environment. Following a writ petition filed by Bela, the HC on July 22 last year directed the officials concerned to take steps to stop the malpractice.

SC JUDGES' IMPEACHMENT BILL

BNP, allies vow to continue protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday vowed that they would continue their protest against the government's move to re-empower parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges, saying they would not let anything go unchallenged.

The alliance leaders said if the move was implemented, the total judiciary would be "destroyed". There is no alternative for the people except waging tough movement to oust the government, they said, asking the government to face their movement in the street.

The remarks came at a rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan to protest the constitutional amendment bill, which was placed in parliament on September 7, for restoration of the Jatiya Sangsad's power.

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A large crowd of leaders, activists and supporters during BNP-led 20-party alliance's rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. The political combine described the government's move to re-empower parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges as a threat to the independence of the judiciary, and vowed to continue protesting against the attempt.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA FLOODPLAINS

Destruction to be disastrous

Experts, greens tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's move to endorse housing developments in the flood flow zones will bring a disaster to the capital, leading urban planners and environmentalists said yesterday.

They described the alteration to the 1,528 sq km area under the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of Dhaka city as "suicidal" and "illegal", in a gross violation of the town improvement act, and wetland and environment conservation laws.

Addressing a press conference at the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) in the city, they demanded complete implementation of the plan.

Floodplains, natural water retention ponds, and wetlands "must be protected at all costs," said Khondaker M Ansar Hossain, executive member of

BIP, citing a provision of DAP, which was prepared in 2010.

Five professional and environmental groups including BIP, the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), and the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) jointly organised the conference.

Ansar Hossain said there was no need for destroying wetlands and farmlands for housing, as the proposed mixed area, rural settlement and urban residential areas in DAP could together accommodate 2.1 crore people at 250 residents per acre and 2.76 crore people at 350 per acre.

Filling floodplains will trigger urban flooding, causing the breakdown of the drainage and transport systems, affect human health and

prevent groundwater replenishment, he said.

According to urban planners, it will also displace people, break the supply chain of food, and expedite soil liquefaction putting human settlements in danger.

A cabinet committee headed by Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharrar Hossain on August 25 approved nine private housing schemes, including four of East West Property Development, three of Bangladesh Development Company, Maya Kanon of Eastern Housing and Probashi Polli, on flood zones and farmlands.

In early June, they endorsed Jolshiri Abashan in the flood zones of Rugganj and Prottyasha housing in the floodplain of the Turag River.

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IMPEACHMENT OF SC JUDGES Don't empower JS without consulting experts, stakeholders

Democratic Lawyers Association urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Ganotantrik Ainjibi Samity, a forum of lawyers outside the traditional realm of leanings towards Awami League, BNP, or Jamaat, yesterday urged the government not to amend the constitution restoring power of the parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges, without holding discussions with legal experts and stakeholders.

The independence of the judiciary will be damaged, if the bill of the proposed amendment is passed in parliament, the Samity President Subrata Chowdhury told a press briefing at the Supreme Court Bar Association. He demanded that the government restore the original constitution of 1972 incorporating the provision for secularism. Subrata said the forum did not support the committee

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CHALLENGING JUDGE'S APPT

SC order on Khaleda's appeal Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed Sunday for passing an order on two appeals filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the appointment of a lower court judge, who framed charges against her in two corruption cases.

On March 19, Judge Bashudev Roy of the Special Judge Court-3 on March 19 framed charges against Khaleda and eight others in Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases.

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Dhaka launches global initiative to fight autism

Health experts suggest ensuring quality of traditional medicines at WHO conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday launched a global initiative to address the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) in the South-East Asia Region of World Health Organization.

Saima Wazed Hossain, chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism in Bangladesh, will lead the initiative titled "Global Initiative on Autism", to be supported by WHO.

"In the last two to three years, we have already created awareness on autism, but much more needs to be done," she told a press briefing on the sidelines of the ongoing sixty-seventh session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

Saima, also a school psychologist and an expert adviser of WHO on mental health, said more global partnership, involving WHO and development partners, was crucial to take

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Saima Wazed Hossain, chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism in Bangladesh, addresses a press briefing on autism on the sidelines of the ongoing 67th session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Also present are Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director of WHO, South-East Asia region.

PHOTO: BSS

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