

RAIN LIKELY

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Rangpur, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and at many places over Dhaka, 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 remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35pm and rises tomorrow at 5:56am.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 21.4 degree Celsius in Madaripur. 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	31.0	24.7	78	80	Khulna	32.5	24.6	90	80
Chittagong	31.2	24.5	76	77	Barisal	30.5	25.2	98	97
Rajshahi	30.0	24.6	92	90	Sylhet	31.5	25.5	92	86
Rangpur	29.4	24.6	89	95	Cox's Bazar	33.6	24.8	71	85

GOVERNMENT AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

2 lakh small farmers to get Tk 24 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday declared aid of about Tk 24 crore for over two lakh marginal farmers in order to spur farming in the country's southern region and also to rehabilitate the recent flood affected group.

A total of Tk 8.49 crore has been allocated for 86,475 flood-affected farmers, each of whom will get free fertilisers and

will get to choose from seeds of wheat, maize, mustard and Boro.

On the other hand, seeds of wheat, maize, grass pea and phelon (a type of lentil) and fertilisers, worth Tk 15.49 crore, will be distributed among 1,18,540 small and marginal farmers of 12 southern districts.

With this help, small farmers will be encouraged to produce more and balanced fertiliser will be promoted as

well, said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury at a press conference in the agriculture ministry conference room in the capital.

The government is now trying to boost farming activities in the southern districts as more land in the northern parts of the country is being used for industrialisation and other

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WAR TRIALS OF SIRAJ MASTER, AKRAM, LATIF TALUKDAR

Defence's behaviour frustrating Says tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 yesterday reproached the defence counsels of three war crimes accused for exhibiting behaviour which was "frustrating" after the latter sought a week's adjournment of proceedings.

"Have some preparation when you come to court," said ICT-1 Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim, deferring hearing arguments on the charge framing till October 20.

The judge also pointed out that the defence had already been given time once to do their homework on placing arguments.

Sheikh Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master, 72, Khan Akram Hossain, 61, and Abdul Latif Talukdar, 68, were allegedly involved in crimes against humanity and genocide in Bagerhat during the 1971 Liberation War.

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NEWS IN brief

Bangladesh decides not to join any anti-ISIS alliance for now

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Following a series of meetings by government policymakers, Bangladesh has decided not to join any alliance fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) at this moment, over fears for the safety of the huge number of its migrants in the Middle East who might become retaliatory targets.

Rather, the Bangladesh authorities will closely observe the situation and consider it positively if the United Nations take any step to reach a solution to the crisis, diplomatic sources said.

DU to launch two new departments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University will soon open two departments this year, considering importance of the subjects in the country, says a press release.

The Department of Applied Mathematics will offer honours course for the session of 2014-15 while the Department of Communication Disorders will conduct master's programme for now. The University Grant Commission has approved the departments, it added.

DUI Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said some more departments will be launched soon offer-

10 Bangladeshis studying nuclear science on scholarships in Russia

CITY DESK

Ten Bangladeshi students have started taking classes in Russia's National Research Nuclear University (MEPhi) on scholarships after winning a Physics Olympiad held in Dhaka in 2013.

Russia's State Nuclear Power Corporation-Rosatom, and Soviet and Russian alumni associations of Bangladeshi students, and Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Dhaka supported the Olympiad in where over 700 Bangladeshi students participated.

The ten will study physics, chemistry and other relevant subjects of nuclear industry during the six-year course at the university that has produced five Nobel Prize winners.

50 meritorious students get stipends in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

For higher education, Dhaka University Students Welfare Association gave stipends to 50 meritorious students in Kaliganj of Gazipur yesterday.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki and the association President Zakaria Imran were, among others, present on the occasion at Shahid Moyez Uddin Auditorium.

15 govt officials leave for Korea for training in capacity building

CITY DESK

Fifteen officials from the Statistics and Informatics Division and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics have left for Korea to participate in a 13-day second year's training programme to be held from October 12 to 25.

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) organised the multi-year training programme (2013 to 2015) on "Capacity Building and Empowerment Program for Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics", says a press release.



Three of the four blackbucks released at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur on Saturday after being bought from the Netherlands at Tk 10.5 lakh apiece.

PHOTO: STAR

ARSON, VANDALISM CASES

Fakhrul's indictment hearing Nov 5

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed November 5 for hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 25 other leaders and activists of the BNP-led 20-party alliance in a case for violence.

The case was filed with Paltan Police Station for violence, vandalising and torching vehicles, and assaulting police in the capital's Chamelibagh during the then opposition's agitation on March 2 last year.

The order came after lawyers for BNP leaders -- Moudud Ahmed, Mirza Abbas, Abdullah Al Noman, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal General Secretary Habibur Rashid Habib -- and sought time for hearing.

Fakhrul and 15 others were present during the

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Bangabandhu Safari Park gets four blackbucks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four blackbucks, two males and two females, were introduced for the first time at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur on Saturday after being bought from the Netherlands at Tk 10.5 lakh apiece.

A species of antelope native to the Indian subcontinent, blackbucks generally live on open plains and woodlands in herds of five to 50 animals with one dominant male. They give birth to two to four offspring a year.

Primarily grazers, with a diet consisting mostly of grass, blackbucks avoid forested areas, although they have occasionally been observed browsing on acacia trees.

The 3,690-acre park consists of separate enclosures housing over 2,000 species of animals and exotic birds

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DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMMES

People with disabilities, elderly are assets

Roundtable told emphasising inclusion of issue in post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elderly and people with disabilities should be viewed as asset rather than liability while planning disaster risk reduction programmes, said speakers at a roundtable in the capital yesterday a day ahead of the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Though the persons with disabilities were focused upon in last year's IDDR, the 10-year Hyogo Framework for Action created in 2005 to make the world safer from natural hazards did not address the issue on them, said Nazmul Bari, director CDD. He stressed the need to include the

issue in the post 2015 framework.

Once it appears in the framework, it would come into national policies and resources would be allocated for ensuring the rights of these vulnerable groups, hoped Bari.

Citing the wisdom and knowledge

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Road crashes kill 21, injure 62

CITY DESK

Countrywide road accidents killed 21 people and injured 62 others yesterday and Saturday.

A correspondent from Feni reports, three people were killed and 10 others injured when a bus hit a roadside tree as the driver lost control over the vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Kosba area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Shamim Al Mamun, 19, Md Mamun, 17, and Josna Begum, 36. They hailed from Tangail.

A correspondent from Comilla reports, seven people died and 30 others were injured when a truck and a bus collided head-on on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Miabazar in Chaudhagram upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Md Faruk, 27, Janey Alam, 42, Jamal Hosen, 34, Enamul Kabir, 35, Ismat Ara Shumi, 27, Farha, 7, and Rekha Akther 32.

In another accident, Ashraf Ali, 40, died when two buses collided head-on on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Lalbagh area of Chaudhagram upazila yesterday

Our Chandpur correspondent reports, a child died and three other were injured when a bus ran over the child on Chandpur-Comilla road in Kumardugi area yesterday.

The deceased was Nazia Sultana, 7, daughter of Nazir Hossain of Chandpur.

Our Benapole correspondent reports, Niranjon Kumar 49, of Norail died when a car hit him on Benapole-Jessore road in Sarsa Bazar area of Jessore yesterday. Police arrested the driver.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, Munni Begum, 25, of Shankarpasha village died when a truck hit a three-wheeler at Nandanpur Bazar in Santhia upazila of Pabna on Saturday.

Our Natore correspondent reports, four people were killed and three others injured when a truck and a battery-run autorickshaw collided head-on on Bonpara-Hatiqumrul highway

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War criminal Ghulam Azam's condition stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health condition of former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam remained stable yesterday after a slight deterioration on Saturday at Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, stated doctors at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Serving a 90-year jail sentence for committing crimes during the nine-month-long 1971 Liberation War, he was shifted to the unit on Thursday after complaining of feeling weak.

He has been detected with kidney problems and infection in the lungs, BSMMU Director (hospital) Brig Gen (ret) Abdul Majid Bhuiyan told The Daily Star yesterday.

BSMMU Associate Prof SM Mustafa Zaman, under whom Ghulam Azam has been undergoing treatment, said he has been provided with BSMMU's maximum facilities and treatment.

"There is no negative indication at this moment," he added.

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