

LIGHT RAIN OR THUNDERSHOWERS LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

11th, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.	Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.		Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 23.0 degrees in Bogra.		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.		Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
	The sun sets in the capital today at 5:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:56am.		Dhaka	33.0	26.0	69	93	Khulna	33.7	25.2	69	87
			Chittagong	31.4	25.8	79	78	Barisal	31.8	25.0	77	94
			Rajshahi	34.2	24.1	88	80	Sylhet	34.5	25.0	83	76
			Rangpur	32.1	24.0	87	75	Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.5	76	78

Nirmalendu Goon's surgery successful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet Nirmalendu Goon had a successful two and a half hours long coronary bypass surgery yesterday afternoon in Labaid hospital of the capital.

The 70-year-old poet yesterday had chest pain and was rushed to Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in Dhanmondi, where doctors found a blockage in his heart.

He was then transferred to Labaid hospital in the evening.

Saifur Rahman Lanin, assistant general manager (corporate communication) of the hospital, told The Daily Star that doctors have kept him under observation and they will be able to inform more about his health condition later.

9 officials of fake employment agency arrested in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rapid Action Battalion personnel arrested nine officials of a fake employment agency in Konabari area of Gazipur on Sunday afternoon.

The Rab team also seized a laptop, documents of 56 clients and diaries from the office of M-touch BD Ltd.

Mohammed Badrul Alam Mollah, assistant director (media coordinator) of Rab-4, said the company took around Tk 28,000 from each client promising to provide them jobs.

However, it failed to provide them jobs, and when clients asked for their money back, the

MORSALIN KILLING CASE Former BNP lawmaker Gias, two sons denied bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday denied permanent bail to Muhammad Gias Uddin, former BNP lawmaker from Narayanganj-4 constituency, and his two sons in connection with a case filed for killing school boy Morsalin in August.

Judge Malik Abdullah Al Amin of District and Sessions' Judges Court ordered the trio to appear before the court today.

Earlier on September 15, Gias and his three sons got interim bail for four weeks from a higher court which is set to expire tomorrow.

CONSERVATION OF GROUNDWATER Innovate conducive agricultural methods

Experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

New agricultural methods should be innovated for higher yield with less water in order to meet the increasing demand for food, experts stressed at a workshop yesterday.

At present, around 75 percent of the groundwater is being used for irrigation which is considered too high for water sustainability, the speakers mentioned at the workshop titled "Innovations for More Food with Less Water" held in the capital.

Expressing concerns on depletion of the groundwater level across the coun-

try due to excess extraction of water for irrigation, the experts further said the available surface water could meet 75 percent of the demand for irrigation, if it is managed systematically.

Experts from Bangladesh, Nepal and India discussed the issue at the regional workshop jointly organised by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and Asian Development Bank.

Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, secretary to the water resources ministry, was the chief guest while Shahidur Rahman, the

director general of the BWDB, chaired it.

The country has already undertaken "The Ganges-Kobadak Irrigation Project" for practising modernised agricultural methods and better management of surface water for irrigation in 95,600 hectares of area.

After reviewing the initial phase, the experts proposed increasing the amount of surface water by upgrading and repairing canals and infrastructures in the project area, improving flow management at territory level, and water allocation on consultations with farmers.

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INCONSISTENCIES IN ELECTORAL LAWS EC plans amendments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission plans to amend some electoral laws concerning different local government bodies to ensure consistency in the rules.

"There are some inconsistencies in the rules regarding elections to local government bodies-- city corporation, upazila, municipality and union parishad. We want to review these rules to remove the inconsistencies," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told The Daily Star yesterday.

"For example, there are different penalties ranging from two years to seven years in jail for violating the same electoral law in elections to different local bodies. We want to make the penalty same for the same offence regardless of which local government election it is," he said.

Currently, restrictions on vehicular movement and electoral campaign are imposed 48 hours prior to voting in some elections, while 32 hours before in other elections, the commissioner added.

The issue was discussed in yesterday's meeting, he said, adding, "We have asked our officials concerned to prepare a draft and place it before the commission in the next meeting."

The upazila parishad election rules were amended

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'CONTEMPT OF COURT' Verdict about David Bergman rescheduled for Dec 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday rescheduled for December 1 to pass verdict on the contempt of court proceedings against David Bergman, a Dhaka-based British journalist, for allegedly demeaning the court through his blogposts.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam reasoned that they could not complete preparations.

The tribunal on September 4 had fixed yesterday's date after completing hearing arguments of lawyers of both the petitioner and the defendant.

The tribunal started the proceedings on April 17 after finding "prima facie elements of contempt" in his three write-ups posted in his personal blog in November 2011 and January 2013.

Supreme Court lawyer Abul Kalam Azad filed the contempt petition on February 18, saying Bergman made relentless efforts to justify that the tribunal was absolutely wrong in mentioning that three million people were killed and 200,000 women raped during the Liberation War in 1971.

In his submission on August 25 and September 4, 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".

If found guilty, Bergman, the editor (special reports) of the English daily New Age, may face highest one year's imprisonment or fined up to Tk 5,000 or both.



A long row of hoardings with Eid greetings from Awami League leaders, sporting the images of Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and Bangabandhu himself, have been hiding Bibir Pukur, the largest pond smack in the middle of Barisal city, from view since before Eid-ul-Azha, violating the city corporation's ban on such advertising on thoroughfares. The situation makes one wonder, just because they are in power are they entitled to do anything they want? The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

CLOSURE TO TRAUMA OF GENOCIDE Justice, forgiveness both necessary

Says Prof Sue Gronewold of Kean University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Truth-telling and justice are not enough to obtain closure for the trauma of genocide, rather reconciliation or coming to terms with what had happened through forgiveness should be the ultimate goal, said a US history professor yesterday.

Prof Sue Gronewold, who also teaches master's programmes on holocaust and genocide studies at Kean University, stressed the importance of reconciliation at a lecture, "Justice for Genocidal Crime", at Liberation War Museum in the capital's Segunbagicha.

She gave examples of the Cambodian trial where people spoke of their victimisation and suffering before the perpetrators and reached some kind of closure.

However, in reply to questions from Barrister Tureen Afroze,



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Dhaka expects withdrawal

FROM PAGE 3

Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, will also feature talks on bilateral trade and investment, officials told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, an inter-ministerial meeting at the foreign ministry with Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque in the chair discussed the bilateral issues.

The second largest manpower destination for Bangladesh after the Saudi Arabia, the UAE now reportedly hosts over 7 lakh Bangladeshis.

Although the majority of them are unskilled, the government will push for professionals such as doctors, nurses, engineers, bankers, pharmacists, teachers and accountants to join the workforce in the UAE.

British Council drawing

FROM PAGE 3

Muhammed Zafar Iqbal said, "I started coming to this library in 1968 when I passed my secondary school examination."

The British Council organised the event on its premises on Fuller Road in the capital on the occasion of its Customer Service Week.

Earlier in a drawing contest organ-

ised for the children within the age group of 6 to 15 years, the participants drew pictures of how they visualise The British Council.

Fahmida Hossain, a student of class two, drew the sun with the word "knowledge" in it while another student Sriha drew brightly coloured balloons.

Enquire about US labour

FROM PAGE 3

claimed, GSP did not affect Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) export.

Bangladesh has found alternative RMG markets much bigger than that of the US, she said without mentioning names, and that the GSP issue will be dealt with when it comes up.

The US will provide the GSP facility if it thinks Bangladesh deserves it and Bangladesh will not try to influence the US, she said.

At the informal discussion ministers made fun of Rail Minister Mujibul Haque's wedding and of known Marxist leaders, Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu and Civil Aviation and Tourism Affairs Minister Rashed Khan Menon, performing Hajj.

The cabinet approved the draft "Trademark (Amendment) Act-2014" seeking to extend the trademark related dispute disposal period from 120 to 360 working days.

Briefing journalists afterwards, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the cabinet was also apprised about the third quarterly report on implementation of its decisions.

He said 33 of 55 decisions taken from July to September had been implemented.

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