

RAIN LIKELY



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

Southwest monsoon may withdraw from Bangladesh during next 24 hours.

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 22.6 degree Celsius in Syedpur.		The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:	
Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka 33.0	25.5	75	65
Chittagong 32.0	25.6	73	77
Rajshahi 32.2	24.4	95	90
Rangpur 32.0	24.0	94	83

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Khulna 32.5	25.7	77	79
Barisal 31.5	25.3	80	75
Sylhet 33.5	25.0	86	81
Cox's Bazar 33.2	26.2	71	76

G4S VAULT LOOTING

Looter held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion members yesterday arrested the man who they claimed has confessed to looting Tk 3 crore from the vault of G4S, a security service company, in Chittagong city.

The arrestee is Shahidul Haque alias Shanta, 24, of Narsingdi.

Tk 3 crore was looted from the G4S vault early Sunday. CCTV footage showed a masked man taking the money out of the vault with a duplicate key, said police.

Shahidul was working as a security guard at the office of G4S in the port city, said Md Sohel Mahmud, an assistant director of Rab-7.

A Rab-7 team arrested Shahidul in the Khulshi area of the port city around 7:00am, he said.

Sohel Mahmud said in primary interrogation, Shahidul admitted that he was the masked man that looted the vault and then kept the money with his associate Bashirul Alam, a muezzin.

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Woman dies 24 days after being set ablaze by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A woman allegedly set on fire by her husband died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night, after fighting for her life for 24 days.

The deceased was Ratna Akter, 22, of Gazipur city.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Sub-inspector Iqramul Haque of Pubile Police Outpost under Joydebpur Police Station said on September 21, Rubel, Ratna's husband, doused Ratna in kerosene and set her on fire after an altercation regarding dowry at their home in Bindan Badurtala of Gazipur city.

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Several hundred students from different schools wash their hands with soaps at a programme marking "National Sanitation Month" and "Global Handwashing Day" on Osmani Memorial Auditorium premises in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

PREVENTING DIFFERENT DISEASES

Wash hands with soaps 5 to 7 times a day

People urged at programme on Global Handwashing Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Everyone should acquire the habit of washing hands with soaps properly at least five to seven times a day to prevent different diseases, said discussants at a programme yesterday.

Proper sanitation practice and cleaning hands with soaps can save a good amount of money that a family spends for treatment, they said.

They were addressing the inaugural session of "National Sanitation Month October-2014" and "Global Handwashing Day-2014" on Osmani Memorial Auditorium premises in the capital.

Local Government Division Secretary Manzur Hossain said people should wash hands from finger to knee after toilet and before having foods.

Additionally, hands should be washed five to seven times daily, he added.

He also stressed spreading the message of importance of washing hands to every corner in the country, particularly in the rural areas and urban slums.

Addressing the function, Charlie Hrachya Sargsyan, chief

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"FORGING FREEDOM FIGHTERS' CERTIFICATES" ACC summons 3 Muktiyoddha Sangsad officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday summoned three elected officials of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, including Wahidur Rahman, chief engineer of Local Government Engineering Department, over allegations that they resorted to forgery in obtaining freedom fighter certificates.

Wahidur, a vice-chairman of the sangsad's central command council, was summoned on October 21 while SM Mortuja Hossain, another vice-chairman, and Mahbulul Haque Chisty alias Babul Chisty, secretariat member, on October 23.

The inquiry officer, Farid Ahmed Patwari, also an ACC deputy director, told journalists that they launched the investigation against the trio early last month.

The ACC move came following a report titled "Bought out! Fake freedom fighters, war crimes suspect to 'ensure welfare' of war heroes" published in The Daily Star on June 16.

The report stated that Wahidur and Mortuja, who have

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WORLD WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY Opportunities evade blind children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visually impaired children get little opportunity to realise their potentials as there is still little awareness about the rights of people with blindness, according to visually impaired students yesterday.

They said this was the reason why families were reluctant to invest in education of blind children.

They were addressing an event organised by the Department of Social Welfare at its office in the capital to accord reception to 48 visually impaired students who scored GPA 5 in primary, junior and secondary school examinations.

The programme, organised in observance of World White Cane Safety Day, also featured discussion by activists who work for the rights of people with disabilities.

"I was lucky to have the opportunity to study. But there are many others out there who never get a chance to improve their lives," said Raju Hossain, a student of class nine who came from Rangpur to attend the event.

Commenting on lack of awareness in rural areas, Rakib, a student from Barisal, said, "I know parents in villages who would not even admit that they have children with disabilities, let alone send them to schools."

The students added that more Braille books are needed to teach visually impaired students.

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'FORCED CONVERSION TO ISLAM OF 200 HINDUS IN 1971' Another witness backs allegations against Jabbar

Subhan's war crimes case set to hear closing arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more prosecution witness yesterday corroborated testimonies of some previous witnesses that war crimes accused and former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar's accomplices forcibly converted around 200 Hindus, including himself, to Islam in Pirojpur in May 1971.

Another war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan is set to enter the final stage as International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed November 2 for hearing the closing arguments. Subsequently, the tribunal will either keep the case waiting for a verdict or set a date to that end.

The 12th prosecution witness, Dilip Kumar Paik, 60, said Jabbar along with his accomplices and the Pakistani occupation army led a massacre at Pirojpur's Phuljhuri village and set houses on fire on May 17, 1971.

"On Jabbar's direction the Pakistani army shot dead my cousin Sarda Kanta Paik

while he was fleeing for his life," said Dilip, stating that he had seen it from the distance.

About eight to 10 days later, Dilip said he and his father Kumud Bandhu Paik, who had contested in the 1970 provincial election from Mathbaria constituency, boarded a boat aiming to reach Telikhali and save their lives.

En route they were caught at Chhapa Bazar around 10:30am by Hossain Kerani, leader of a local peace committee, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, who then informed Jabbar, he added.

Overhearing discussions of local Razakars, he said to have understood that Jabbar had instructed Razakars to first give them a proposal to convert to Islam "if they wanted to live" otherwise threaten to hand them over to the Pakistani occupation army.

"We gave silent consent to save our lives," he said, adding that they were later taken near their Phuljhuri village home where the

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Rubbish dumped on the road at Tongi in Gazipur occupies almost half of it hampering vehicular movement and causing traffic congestion as well as environment pollution in the area with the authorities concerned turning a blind eye. The photo was taken under Tongi Bridge recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Agriculture friendly public

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day by day, they said.

As a result, small and marginal farmers failing to meet their basic needs by means of agriculture are forced to rely on non-agricultural activities, they added.

They were addressing the inaugural ceremony of the three-day conference of the Asian Society for Agricultural Economists (ASAE) in the Brac Centre for Development Management.

With the theme "Viability of small farmers in Asia", at least 321 delegates from different countries including the Philippines, Japan, China, Korea and India

are participating in the eighth conference organised by ASAE and Brac.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury inaugurated it as chief guest while Dr Mahabub Hossain, adviser to the executive director of Brac, was in the chair.

Prof Joachim von Braun presented the keynote papers styled "Small farms: large number, great diversity, big role for economic transformation and innovation."

Due to the structural change in economy, Bangladesh has recently experienced a decreasing contribution of the agricultural sector to its gross domestic product (GDP), said Dr Mahabub Hossain.

SC stays case against BNP

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and 2006.

Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, chamber judge of the SC, yesterday passed the stay order after hearing an appeal filed by Mafruz

Sultana challenging a High Court verdict that in February cleared the way for the lower court to run the trial proceedings of the case.

The chamber judge also fixed November 6 for hearing the appeal.

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