

FALL IN TEMPERATURE LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb. Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Slight fall in day and night temperatures is expected over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am.

Country's highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's

Bazar and lowest 19.5 degree Celsius in Dinajpur.

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 30.3	22.8	59	59	Khulna 32.2	23.8	77	71
Chittagong 31.1	23.6	70	72	Barisal 30.7	24.1	77	96
Rajshahi 31.6	20.6	77	73	Sylhet 32.4	23.0	84	73
Rangpur 30.4	21.4	71	71	Cox's Bazar 33.4	25.4	57	80

3rd Bangladesh-US dialogue rescheduled for Oct 28

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The two-day third Bangladesh-US Partnership Dialogue, postponed due to both sides having conflicting schedules after initially being planned to have begun in the US capital Washington DC on October 21, has been rescheduled for October 28.

US embassy spokesperson Monica L Shie informed The Daily Star of the new schedule.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque is due to lead a 10-member Bangladesh delegation at the discussion with his counterpart Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the US Wendy R Sherman, focusing on the expansion of security, trade and development ties.

Schoolgirl killed after rape in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A schoolgirl was killed allegedly after being raped in Biyaiduar village of Kapasia under Gazipur on Friday.

On information from locals, police recovered the body of Popy Aktar, 11, a class VI student, from behind a bush in the village on Friday night.

Ahasan Ullah, officer-in-charge of Kapasia Police Station, said the marks on her body and the evidence of blood suggest that she was raped and then strangled.

Quoting the deceased's family members, police said Popy went missing around midnight on Thursday. Her uncle, Kajor Miah, filed a general diary with the police station in this regard on Friday afternoon.

Police detained two men of the village in this connection.



Language Movement hero Abdul Matin's wife, fourth from left, observes a one-minute silence at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital during a memorial organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote yesterday commemorating Matin who passed away on October 8.

PHOTO: STAR

SEASONAL BAN ON HILSHA FISHING

Cash incentive for fishermen urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cash given through bank accounts to Hilsha fishermen can support them during the period of time when Hilsha fishing is banned, suggested speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Fishermen in this profession find it difficult to maintain their livelihood when Hilsha fishing is banned for 11 days during the spawning season, and during the jatka ban from November 1 to May 31.

The national consultation titled "Exploring Conservation Livelihood Win-Wins PPRC Research Findings on Hilsha Fishermen" was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) organised the programme with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

PPRC carried out the study on 300 fishermen households in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Laxmipur and Chandpur. The study found that 41.7 percent of the fishermen have an average monthly income of Tk 8,333 or an income of Tk 52.4 per capita per day, which is below the poverty line.

Almost a third of the fishermen surveyed did not own any land, and were, on average, Tk 61,818 in debt.

The targeted vulnerable group often do not receive the 40kg of rice under the government's Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme in the right amount and on time, said renowned economist Hossain Zillur Rahman, who presented the findings.

Besides, rice alone cannot meet food requirements of a family, he said.

"Rickshaws, cattle, and poultry provided

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Classroom shortage plagues RU

MA SAYEED, RU

Most departments of Rajshahi University (RU) have been facing an acute shortage of classrooms forcing students to learn in cramped conditions.

Moreover, many classes are being cancelled or postponed.

In the university's language department, there are only three classrooms for around 1,500 students belonging to three disciplines -- Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit. Each classroom is built to hold about 100 students.

Most of the time, students of the language department have to take their classes in buildings belonging to other department.

"The classrooms are usually overcrowded, and most of the times we have to stand during the class," said a third year student of the department.

The situation is similar in many other departments including Bangla, English, history, sociology, political science, anthropology, genetic engineering and biotechnology, psychology, and folklore, said university administration sources.

All these departments have only three classrooms each to cater to students belonging to five sessions including master's students.

"When we are using another department's classroom, sometimes we have to vacate the room in the middle of class as students of that department need it," said a fourth year student, adding that the situation is very embarrassing for them.

Rafiqul Islam, a student of Bangla department, said they sometimes have to take two classes in a day to makeup missed classes.

"Sometimes we waste a lot of time looking for vacant classrooms," he added.

Soniya Akter, a language department student, said it is a hassle to move from Shahidullah Arts Building to Sirajee Building, which houses classrooms of anthropology and folklore departments, to attend classes.

She spoke of session jams as regular classes cannot be held.

Prof Bitika Bonik, chairperson of the language department,

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NEWS IN brief

Cops rescue girl raped in confinement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Darussalam police yesterday afternoon rescued a teenage girl and arrested a man whose friend she says raped her after confining her for around 24 hours in a Mirpur house in the capital on luring her there with promises of finding her a job.

Tipped off, police say they arrested Kabir, who claims to be an electrician, while he was shifting the girl, 16, from the house in Lal Kuthi area while the alleged rapist, Masud, 31, is on the run.

Admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the girl, coming from Kurigram in search of work, said she had got down at the Gabtoli bus station on Friday evening when she was approached by Masud.

Youth commits suicide in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his house over a family feud in the capital's Bashabo yesterday.

Sabbir Hossain, 18, was a salesman at a cloth shop and also looking after their family business in the area, said police.

After an autopsy at Dhaka Medical College Hospital police handed over the body to the family.

Youth hacked to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was hacked to death in the capital's Jurain yesterday afternoon.

Nur Hossain, 32, of Kadomtoli, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital half an hour after police rushed him there.

Quoting locals, police said some five miscreants beat him with iron rods and hacked him with sharp weapons near the Jurain graveyard.

On Thursday, Nur, who worked for a local goon, Babul, with some of his group members beat one belonging to their rival group led by Mofiz over grabbing an auto-rickshaw stand in Postagola, said locals.

Locals suspect that the two incidents are linked.

Victim's brother claimed that on Thursday Nur quarrelled with some drug peddlers as he tried to stop them from selling drugs in the area.

Rotary Club holds breast cancer screening in Patuakhali

CITY DESK

Rotary International District 3281 organised a breast cancer screening programme in Patuakhali on Friday where 30 women were diagnosed with breast cancer.

A total of 150 women were screened during the programme, sponsored by Rotary clubs of Dhaka and Patuakhali, in Sadar upazila parishad auditorium.

Sherin Naher, president of Rotary Club of Patuakhali, Amitab Sarker, district commission of Patuakhali, and Hosne Ara Begum Poly, chairman of District Brest Cancer Programme Committee of Rotary 3281 Bangladesh, were present among others.



Speakers at a national consultation styled "Exploring Conservation Livelihood Win-Wins PPRC Research Findings on Hilsha Fishermen" organised by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Classes resume at Dhaka University today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes of Dhaka University will resume today after an 18-day vacation, said a press release.

The vacation started on September 30 for Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha, University Black Day and autumn vacation, said the press release signed by university's public relations director (acting) Dr Nur-e-Islam.

Professional rivalry turns

FROM PAGE 3

Parishad and Sangram Committee went on an indefinite strike in the division immediately, although the committee had called it for today a week ago, demanding a ban on CNG-run auto-rickshaws and human haulers on highways in Sylhet division, said Selim Ahmed Folik, president of Sylhet Zila Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union, an ally of the committee.

Its other demands include a stop to what it says harassment by police and corruption in the BRTA Sylhet office, immediate repair of Sylhet-Tamabil highway, and an end to extortion there.

On the other hand, Sylhet Zila Auto-rickshaw Sramik Union organised the rally to press home its seven-point demand -- a stop to indiscriminate requisition of auto-rickshaws and harassment by police, a Highway Police office in Sylhet city, an end to delay by BRTA officials in issuing and renewing licence, a ban on commercial use of microbus and cars, recovery of the sites allocated for CNG-run auto-rickshaws by the city corporation at Kadomtoli and Tuberbazar bus terminals, and representation of the union member in Road Transport Committee in the district.

Sylhet Zila Auto-rickshaw Sramik Union President Md Zakaria denied the allegation of attacking the bus workers, saying that rather their procession had been attacked, which in turn was refuted by Sylhet Zila Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union President Selim Ahmed.

Awami League's central Organising Secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj attended the rally at Registry Maidan as chief guest with Zakaria in the chair.

Meanwhile, the city dwellers suffered a lot due to a sudden suspension of auto-rickshaw plying on the streets following the incidents.

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