

Downpour to continue this month

Says Met office; also warns of heat waves, tornadoes, cyclones

After March, the country is going to experience excessive rainfall in the current month of April, said Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Met office also forecasted one or two heat waves, couple of tornadoes and a probable cyclone generated in the Bay of Bengal.

All the divisions had experienced excessive rainfall in March, except for Barisal, it added.

Beside, a few tornados with thunderstorm may occur in the northern and central part. Excessive rainfall in the upstream may cause flash flood in the northern and northeastern part, the forecast added.

A seasonal low is lying over the South Bay, causing light rainfalls.

However, the trend of rainfall may decrease and day temperature may rise from tomorrow, it added.

INFLUENCING POLLS EC asks IGP to take action against Sharasti OC

The Election Commission (EC) has asked inspector general of police (IGP) to take departmental action against the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sharasti Police Station of Chandpur for influencing municipal poll.

Besides, the EC yesterday also issued directives to the IGP to take similar action against some other cops, who were deployed for election duties, for negligence in their duties, said EC officials.

Election to Sharasti municipality was held on February 22.

The EC had found the allegation true that the OC influenced the polls and the on-duty cops showed negligence in preventing irregularities at a polling station, said EC officials.

Meanwhile, the EC will hold a meeting with officials of law enforcement and intelligence agencies on April 13 to discuss the overall law and order situation of the Union Parishad (UP) polls.

The commission has convened the meeting against the backdrop of widespread violence in the last two phase of the polls that left 33 people dead and over 1,000 injured.



Vegetable traders block Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital yesterday after a mobile court, led by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), demolished an illegal kitchen market on a commercial plot in Karwan Bazar. The protesters also vandalised a bulldozer of Rajuk and over 10 vehicles including a car, inset, in front of the nearby Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) zonal office.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Karwan Bazar veg traders rout out Rajuk eviction team

Vandalise bulldozer, DNCC vehicles

A Rajuk bulldozer, which accompanied a mobile court to clear three commercial plots of illegal vegetable markets in the capital's Karwan Bazar, instead went back being vandalised by unruly traders yesterday.

The bulldozer was attacked near the Petrobangla office after the eviction team cleared one plot of illegal vegetable shops and moved to clear the remaining two.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) said in a press release that during the eviction drive, some "miscreants" vandalised over 10 motor vehicles in front of the city corporation's Karwan Bazar zonal office.

DNCC had no role in the Rajuk eviction drive, and still vandalising the corporation's vehicles was ill-motivated and that legal action would be taken against destruction of public property, the release said.

The traders went berserk when the eviction team moved to the remaining two plots. At one stage, they suddenly went out to block the nearby Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and later vandalised the vehicles in front of the DNCC zonal office. As police drove them away from the Avenue, they on their way back smashed all the glasses and other parts of the bulldozer, said Md Adiluzzaman, authorised officer of Rajdhani Unnayan

Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

The drive was part of Rajuk's ongoing campaign to reclaim car park spaces and remove obstacles for traffic movement.

The eviction team first cleared plot 44 unopposed but faced resistance when they moved to plot 35 and 42, owned by one AKM Joiful Abedin Khan.

As the commotion was brewing up, the driver of another bulldozer parked in front of the DNCC zonal office left the scene without any high official's permission even though the vehicle was meant for the eviction drive.

Executive Magistrate Khandker Oliur Rahman, who was conducting the mobile court, was seen frantically trying to stop the bulldozer from leaving the scene. "Who let the bulldozer leave the scene," he was heard angrily saying to the authorised officer Adiluzzaman, who replied, "I did not allow it; the driver left on his own."

Sawdagor Mustafizur Rahman, a Rajuk director for development control, accompanying the eviction team, was heard saying, "Let the bulldozer stay away." Adiluzzaman turning to Mustafizur Rahman in a clear, angry voice said, "We are not getting the necessary cooperation in carrying out the eviction drive and no command is working here."

As this correspondent asked why the bulldozer should be away, Mustafizur Rahman said, "Our aim is to dismantle the illegal structures, and

we are concentrating on it."

After a prolonged drama of confusion and inaction, the executive magistrate obtained an undertaking from Delwar Hossain Khan Bachchu, representative of AKM Joiful Abedin Khan, which stated that the owner would remove the structures on his own within the next two days.

Oliur Rahman said compared to a huge mob of traders, a 20-member police team was inadequate to carry out the eviction in the face of resistance. He said they gave requisition for five platoons (each containing 100 personnel) of police but got only one platoon. He said they would come back with adequate force later in case the owner did not comply with the undertaking.

Owners of at least five such commercial plots have long been running illegal wholesale vegetable markets in the plots in violation of lease terms causing a severe traffic mess in this important business hub, said Adiluzzaman. With a court injunction on plot 36 and 43, Rajuk attempted to clear the other three.

Delwar Hossain Khan Bachchu said Rajuk had never asked them to build commercial buildings there and never objected to building of kitchen markets on the plots. Adiluzzaman said these were commercial plots and the lease holders were required to go by the term of the lease deed to build approved commercial buildings there.

4 MOULVIBAZAR WAR CRIME SUSPECTS Tribunal wants charges May 31

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed prosecutors to submit formal charges, if there were any, on May 31 against four Moulvibazar men allegedly involved in crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrowardi fixed the date following a petition moved by prosecutor Sheikh Moshfeq Kabir seeking two more months. He said the tribunal's investigation agency completed investigations on March 23 and handed over the report and other documents, which they were now scrutinising and hence needed time to submit the charges.

The accused Akmal Ali Talukdar, 76; Abdun Nur Talukdar alias Lal Miah, 62; Anis Miah, 76; and Abdul Mosabbir Miah, 64; are of Rajnagar upazila. Only Akmal is now in jail while the rest are on the run.

The agency said to have found evidence over the four's involvement in two incidents centring the killing of 61 people, rape of six women and looting and torching of 136 houses in two villages.

During the Liberation War, Akmal was a member of a local Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, while the three others were involved with the Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, it said.

After the Liberation War, Akmal did not get involved with any political party and the three are now involved with Jamaat-e-Islami's politics, it added.

16 Premier University students

FROM PAGE 4 notice, signed by the registrar. "If any students, who were expelled, gets acquittal from the murder accusation or gets excluded from the charge sheet, authority may re-consider their punishment upon appeal," it read.

The decision regarding the degree cancellation of the former students, Saikul Mohammad Tarek (LLB) and Md Nazmul Huq (BBA), would be taken after the verdict, added the proctor. Sohel, an MBA student, was killed on March 29 in an attack allegedly by his rival faction of BCL activists over a farewell and fresher's reception ceremony.

Mild tremor felt in some parts of country

A mild tremor was felt in Dhaka and some other parts of the country yesterday afternoon as a 4.6 magnitude earthquake occurred in Meghalaya, India.

Though the US geological survey tagged the earthquake at 5.0 in the Richter scale and timed it at 7:42 UTC -- around 1:40pm in Bangladesh time.

Bangladesh met office, however, said the earthquake was 4.6 in the Richter scale and it occurred at 212km north east of Bangladesh Meteorological Department at Agargaon in Dhaka.

Anything untoward did not happen so far.

In Sherpur, many came out of their houses and started offering prayers following the earthquake, reports our correspondent.

Kulipara slum fire guts 40 rooms

Around 40 rooms were gutted as a fire broke out in a three-storey tin-made house in Kulipara slum area in the capital's Tejgaon last evening.

No casualty was reported immediately, according to fire fighters.

"We suspect that the fire might have originated from a stove or an electric short circuit," Mozammel Hossain, deputy director of Tajgaon Fire and Civil Defense Station, told The Daily Star.

Primarily, the damage caused by the fire was estimated at Tk 20 lakh, he said.

Eleven fire fighting units doused the fire at 7:05pm, Mozammel said.

Death anniversary CITY DESK

Today is the 20th death anniversary of M A Haque, a former minister, police officer and founder president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

On this occasion, quarakhanis have been arranged at Banani graveyard and in the residence of his daughter Rehana Ashequr Rahman. Food will be distributed among the poor and orphans and special prayers have been arranged in mosques.

A memorial programme will also be held at his birthplace in Zakiganj upazila of Sylhet. MA Haque Foundation and his family requested his friends and admirers to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Many areas of Sylhet city were waterlogged due to yesterday's downpour as waterlogging has become a severe issue due to illegal occupation of the canals by influential people and incessant dumping of waste there. The photo was taken from Pathantula of Subidbazar area.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

226 cops promoted

FROM PAGE 4

(Narayanganj), Farid Uddin (Dhaka), Babul Akhter (Chittagong), Selim Khan (Dhaka), Abdul Warish (Sherpur), Zakaria (Narayanganj), Jashim Uddin (Dhaka), SM Mostayin Hossain (Kishoreganj), Hasan Nahid Chowdhury (Dhaka), Mokhlesur Rahman (Narayanganj), AHM Abdur Rakib (Dhaka), Moinul Hasan (Dhaka), Anisur Rahman (mission), Shihab Kaisar Khan (Dhaka), Saifullah Bin Anwar (Dhaka), Jahangir Mollik (Barisal), Shahriar Alam (Dhaka), Habibur Rahman (Netrokona), Akbar Ali Munshi (Dhaka), Mahbub Hasan (mission), Sahed Al Masud (mission), Ibrahim Khan (Dhaka), Rifat Rahman Shamim (Dhaka), and Proloy Kumar Joardar (Dhaka).

Besides them, 156 senior assistant police superintendents were made additional police superintendents.

ACC issues

FROM PAGE 4 over the phone," it read.

ACC requests apprehending any person demanding money impersonating ACC officials and contacting Director (Observation and Evaluation) Meer Joynul Abedin Shibli at 01711644675 and 9352552 and the nearest police station.

26 foreign

FROM PAGE 4 State Minister for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council S M Ashraful Islam, US Ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, British envoy Alison Blake, Canadian High Commissioner Benoit-Pierre Laramée, Japanese envoy Masato Watanabe and Russian Ambassador Alexander I Ignatov spoke on the occasion.



Dhaka University Environment Society forms a human chain at the Raju sculpture, protesting the chopping of century old trees and the government's plan to build a 22 storey police residential building in the university's property.

PHOTO: STAR

Download The Daily Star iPhone & Android Apps

The Daily Star Online Fresh | Bold | Fast