

Mercury to go further up

Heat wave sweeps half the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mild heat wave is sweeping across Dhaka and Khulna divisions along with the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Chandpur, and Barisal. According to an official of Bangladesh Meteorological department, this may continue for two or three more days.

The day temperature may rise slightly and night-time temperature may remain nearly unchanged all over the country, a Met office bulletin said.

Rain and thunder showers accompanied by gusty winds are likely to occur in one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions. The weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy skies elsewhere over the country for the next 24 hours from 6:00pm.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 38 degree Celsius at Jessore and Khulna and a minimum temperature of 21 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangpur.

Amidst the sweltering heat, people in the capital could be seen consuming various refreshments from roadside makeshift shops in hopes of gaining some relief.

A renowned medicine specialist of the country, Prof Dr ABM Abdullah, said increasing presence of high humidity in the air was causing different kinds of diseases including viral fever and dysentery.

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A common myna cools itself amid a sweltering heat wave sweeping the country. The photo was taken at the Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

PRIVATE TUITION Nahid slates 'dishonest' teachers

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday slammed dishonest teachers depriving students in classrooms to provide private lessons in exchange of money.

"Some dishonest people have been there in the teaching profession," he told a programme over the distribution of cheques among retired teachers intending to perform hajj this year.

The minister inaugurated the online distribution of retirement benefits and welfare allowances at the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis).

He also talked to retired teachers of Tungipara upazila of Gopalganj, Companiganj of Sylhet and Kasba of Brahmanbaria through a videoconference.

The event was jointly organised by the Non Government Teacher & Employee Welfare Trust, and the Non Government Teacher Employee Retirement Benefit Board in collaboration with the Access to Information (a2i) programme.

Nahid said there were also some teachers who revealed MCQ answers to students in examination centres. "What else can be worse than this education? The black sheep (dishonest teachers) were also being caught and brought to justice," he added.

He said the standard of education has improved. "But that is not enough. It has to be improved further," he said.

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16TH AMENDMENT HEARING Don't make political arguments

Supreme Court to lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the lawyers concerned not to make any political arguments before it during the hearing on the appeal against the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment of the constitution.

The 16th amendment had empowered parliament to remove judges for incapacity or misbehaviour. Following a writ petition filed by nine Supreme Court lawyers, the HC on May 5 last year declared the amendment illegal.

"We [judges] have decided that we will not hear any political arguments on this appeal, as it is involved with the constitutional interpretation. Please maintain the decorum of the court and control the emotion during the hearing on the appeal," Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha said while presiding over a seven-member bench of the Appellate Division during the hearing on the appeal yesterday.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the court that the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman might be mentioned during placing arguments on the constitutional matter in the appeal.

Later on, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza placed arguments on the appeal, saying that the writ petition, upon which the HC scrapped the 16th amendment of the constitution, is not acceptable, as it was premature.

The writ petition was premature as it was moved before the HC challenging the 16th amendment of the constitution, although no law was formulated on this amendment, he said.

The additional attorney general said the provision of empowering parliament to remove judges for incapacity or misbehaviour was in the original constitution.

Those who illegally occupied the state power had changed the original constitution and included the provision of the Supreme Judicial Council in the constitution, he argued, adding that going back to the provision of the original constitution is not a violation of the basic structure of the constitution.

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RAID ON GULSHAN OFFICE BNP may hold rally May 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP is likely to stage a rally in the capital on May 24 protesting the raid on party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office on Saturday.

If the party is denied permission for the rally, it will bring out processions across the country the next day.

Though there is no formal announcement yet, insiders say leaders discussed the plans at the party's standing committee meeting at the Gulshan office last night with Khaleda in the chair.

Emerging from the meeting, a standing committee member told The Daily Star that the rally will be held at the Suhrawardy Udyan. If the party doesn't get the permission, processions would be held in the capital and other parts of the country on May 25.

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 22

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-00
JAMAAT	4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Mount Everest's famous Hillary Step destroyed

Mountaineers say

NEW ZEALAND HERALD ONLINE

Mount Everest's famous Hillary Step has collapsed, according to mountaineers.

Named after Sir Edmund Hillary, the "Hillary Step" was a 12-metre high rock barrier on the South-East Ridge which is known as the final major hurdle before climbing to the peak of Everest.

However, it appears the Hillary Step is now gone following Nepal's 2015 earthquake.

"It's official -- The Hillary Step is no more," Everest Expedition said on its Facebook page.

"Not sure what's going to happen when the snow ridge doesn't form because there's some huge blocks randomly perched hither and thither which will be quite tricky to negotiate."

The collapse was initially reported in 2016, however climbers weren't certain the Hillary Step was gone because the area was blasted with fresh

snow.

However, further confirmation of the step collapse came from Pemchhiri Sherpa, who told planetmountain.com "Yes, it has changed ... before we had to climb the rock but now, after the earthquake, the route has changed and now we need to climb from the right."

British mountaineer and expedition leader Tim Mosedale confirmed the news, saying the step had been destroyed, leaving "rubble and debris".

"It's easier going up the snow slope [and indeed for inexperienced climbers and mountaineers there's less 'climbing' to be done making it much easier for them]. However it's going to form a bottleneck. The Hillary Step often formed a bottleneck but some years they fixed an up and a down rope," he said.

"In the current state it would be difficult to safely negotiate down where the step used to be on account of the huge unstable rocks that are perched on the route."



Meet the Iraqi YouTube star

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

"I'll say it again if you give me 1,000 dinars (66p)," Hassan Aldawash smiles mischievously.

His father laughs along. "He's not actually joking. Everyone wants his picture or a video."

Hassan, while very small for his age, looks and acts older than his seven years - but he's had to grow up very quickly. IS invaded his family's village in Nineveh province when he was just four, and they were forced to live under the extremists' rule for two and a half years.

They fled to an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is welcomed by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre in Riyadh as she arrives to attend the Arab-Islamic-American Summit yesterday.

Drive them out: Trump

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kind of future they want for themselves, for their countries and frankly for their families and for their children," he said.

"It's a choice between two futures and its a choice America cannot make for you. A better future is only possible if your nations drive out the terrorists and drive out the extremists.

"Drive them out! Drive them out of your places of worship. Drive them out of your communities. Drive them out of your holy land and drive them out of this earth," he said.

The White House has sought to draw a clear distinction during the visit with Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, who Saudi Arabia and its Sunni Arab allies saw as lecturing and soft on their Shia rival Iran.

Trump did not hesitate to single out Iran in his speech.

"From Lebanon to Iraq to Yemen, Iran funds, arms and trains terrorists, militias and other extremist groups that spread destruction and chaos across the region," Trump said.

"Until the Iranian regime is willing to be a partner for peace, all nations of conscience must work together to isolate it."

He appealed to Muslim nations to ensure that "terrorists find no sanctuary on their soil" and announced an agreement with Gulf countries to fight financing for extremists.

Introducing Trump, Saudi King Salman called Iran "the spearhead of global terrorism".

Unlike the Obama administration which would often raise concerns over civil liberties with longstanding Arab allies, Trump had made no mention of human rights during his visit so far.

"We are not here to lecture -- we are not here to tell other people how to live... or

how to worship. Instead, we are here to offer partnership -- based on shared interests and values," Trump said.

Some 35 heads of state and government from Muslim-majority countries were in Riyadh for the Arab Islamic American Summit, mainly from Sunni states friendly to Saudi Arabia.

Much of the focus during the summit was on countering what Gulf states see as the threat from Iran, which opposes Saudi Arabia in a range of regional conflicts from Syria to Yemen.

Trump's speech was touted as a major event -- along the lines of a landmark address to the Islamic world by Obama in Cairo in 2009.

It was especially sensitive given tensions sparked by the Trump administration's attempted travel ban targeting several Muslim-majority nations and his previous remarks on Islam.

In December 2015, Trump told a campaign rally he was calling for a "total shutdown" of Muslims entering the United States "until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on".

His words shocked many Americans, with Trump detractors noting that the US Constitution prohibits religious discrimination.

"I think Islam hates us. There is a tremendous hatred there. We have to get to the bottom of it," Trump said in a March 2016 interview with CNN.

Still, Trump was welcomed warmly in Saudi Arabia, where he and first lady Melania Trump were given an extravagant reception by King Salman and the rest of the Saudi royal family.

The first day saw the announcement of hundreds of billions of dollars in trade deals, welcome news for Trump as he faces mounting troubles at home linked with the probe into alleged Russian

meddling during last year's election campaign.

Among the agreements was an arms deal worth almost \$110 billion with Saudi Arabia, described as the largest in US history.

The trade deals announced on Saturday were said to be worth in excess of \$380 billion, and Trump proudly declared the first day of his visit "tremendous".

Yesterday he held a series of meetings with other Arab leaders, including Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Bahrain's King Hamad.

The meeting with Sisi -- an avowed fan of the president -- was especially warm and Trump said he would "absolutely" be putting Egypt on his list of countries to visit "very soon".

Trump referred to Sisi as "my friend" and Sisi said the US president was a "unique personality" and "capable of doing the impossible", to which Trump responded: "I agree!"

Trump even complimented Sisi on his footwear, saying: "Love your shoes. Boy, those shoes. Man..."

Sisi has faced harsh criticism of his human rights record since he led the military overthrow of Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

Trump, who travels to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Monday before visiting the Vatican, Brussels and Italy for Nato and G7 meetings, is taking his first steps on the world stage as he faces increasing scandal at home.

The last week has seen a string of major developments in Trump's domestic woes, including the announcement that James Comey, the former FBI chief fired by Trump, has agreed to testify publicly about Russian interference in the US elections.

DEATH IN MANHOLE Victim's family gets Tk50 lakh compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of a man who died falling into a sewer through an open manhole on a box culvert in the capital's Paltan on March 6 has received Tk 50 lakh under a Supreme Court directive.

Dhaka South City Corporation

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Gunmen kill 4 cops in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Unidentified gunmen have shot dead four policemen in Pakistan's north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said yesterday.

The gunmen opened fire on the duty officers late Saturday in a village in Kohat district, some 80 kilometres (49 miles) southwest of Peshawar.

"Gunmen opened fire on their official vehicle from both sides of the road, all the four policemen died on the spot," Javed Iqbal, a district police

officer in Kohat, told AFP.

A second police official in Kohat said the attackers fled during the darkness.

No group has yet claimed responsibility.

Violence across Pakistan has declined in recent years following a series of military offensives against insurgents in the northwestern border areas.

But the remnants of militant groups are still able to carry out periodic bloody attacks, particularly in the northwest.