

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 33.8°C 26.9 MYMENSINGH 32.5°C 26.0 CHITTAGONG 33.4°C 25.7 SYLHET 32.8°C 24.9 RAJSHAHI 34.4°C 26.4 RANGPUR 34.2°C 26.0 KHULNA 33.5°C 26.6 BARISAL 32.2°C 26.0 COX'S BAZAR 32.2°C 25.0

Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal & Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh & Sylhet in 24 hours till 6:00pm & Thursday the Met office said. The sun sets over Rangpur, Rajshahi at 6:49pm and rises & tomorrow at 6:02am. The country's highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius in Feni. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:



WHEN WATERLOGGING BECOMES A PART OF LIFE

Clockwise from left, A boy wearing gumboots wades through water to cross a road. Vehicles move slowly to avoid potholes and unwanted accident. A woman gets on a rickshaw from a makeshift structure kept next to a store. The photos were taken yesterday afternoon at Muradpur Road in south Dania where people have long been accustomed to waterlogging thanks to a poor drainage system.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



BNP wants election-time govt to dominate EC talks

UNB, Dhaka

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the Election Commission's roadmap or its dialogue with political parties would be pointless if an election-time supportive government system was not installed to hold the next general election.

"The Election Commission won't be able to conduct the election neutrally unless a non-party impartial supportive government is there," he said.

Moudud came up with the remarks while addressing a programme arranged by Senbagh Jatiyatabadi Forum, Dhaka at Jatiya Press Club, demanding the release of BNP chairperson's advisory council member Zainul Abedin Farroque.

About BNP's position on the EC's dialogue with political parties, he said though

their party had no confidence in the current commission, it would join the talks to place the party's recommendations and observations to it. "We'll participate in the dialogue for the sake of the people, not to give the EC recognition."

Mentioning that the country's Election Commission was almost as powerful as India's, he said, "But, we've no tradition or practice to hold a fair election as the Election Commission is under a partisan government."

The BNP leader said the EC would have no other alternative to acting at the behest of the government during the election, if it was held under a partisan government, no matter what roadmap or plans it worked out.

He criticised the prime minister and other ministers for seeking votes for their party symbol "boat" using the state facilities. "They're carrying out election campaign, but we're not even allowed to hold a rally."

PCJSS member held, arms seized

Arrestee Shai Hla Prue is also a union parishad member

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A joint team of army and police arrested a union parishad member along with illegal arms in Ruma upazila of Bandarban early yesterday.

The arrested is Shai Hla Prue Marma, 50, a member of ward 8 of Sadar union parishad in the upazila.

Lt Col Golam Arikul Alam, commander of Ruma zone, said they raided the house of Shai Hla Prue, also a member of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), around 3:30am and arrested him for possessing illegal arms and ammo.

During the drive, a foreign-made rifle, one pistol, seven bullets and a sharp weapon were seized from his residence, said Arikul.

Ruma Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shariful Islam said the arrestee was produced before a court yesterday and the court sent him to jail.

Meanwhile, PCJSS in a press release expressed deep concern at the arrest of Shai Hla Prue and demanded his unconditional release.

After flood, sufferings

UNB, Dhaka

Thousands of flood-affected people have been left without pure drinking water, food, shelter and sanitation in Jamalpur, Faridpur, Sirajganj, Kurigram and Bogra as water continued to rise in the five districts yesterday.

The flood situation, however, has improved significantly in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts.

Chairman of North Channel Union Parishad in Faridpur sadar upazila Mostakur Rahman said many people living in the shoal areas could not move to safe places as the water was rising rapidly.

WDB Deputy Assistant Engineer Jahirul Islam said the floodwater was entering the country's midland after

flooding the northern region.

In Jamalpur, all the seven upazilas were affected by the flood following a rise in the water levels of all the rivers in the district, rendering over 2 lakh people marooned.

Although some 3,780 people in Islampur, Dewanganj and Melandah upazilas took refuge in eight shelters, the flood victims were undergoing immense sufferings for lack of adequate food, safe drinking water and sanitation.

In Kurigram, the flood-hit people have been living inhuman lives for the last nine days due to lack of relief materials. Many did not get government aid as those were inadequate.

A large number of day-labourers in 550 villages of Chilmari were barely surviving with relief materials yet to reach them.

Local WDB Engineer Syed Hasan Imam said people were using makeshift boats to communicate from one place to another, while over 200 educational institutions and business establishments along with houses remained under floodwater.

In Bogra, Deputy Commissioner Nur-e-Alam Siddique said around 17,040 families of 93 villages in 14 unions were affected by the flood, while 71 primary schools, eight high schools, a college and two madrasas remained closed due to the disaster.

Besides, some 5,085 hectares of paddy field and 60km roads were damaged as they went under floodwater, he said.

Locals alleged that they were not getting relief materials due to corruption by the local administration.



Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake sign an agreement on visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders of the two countries at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday, in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and visiting Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena. The two countries yesterday signed 14 instruments to boost bilateral ties.

PHOTO: PID

Cable operators clash for dominance

Five injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

At least five persons were hurt in a clash between two groups of cable television providers to establish dominance over the business in Ashulia's Gazirchot area yesterday.

According to locals, Monir Hossen and Momtaz Hossen were jointly running the business at Gazirchot Ainal market for years.

Recently, one Rubel Hossen and his men allegedly threatened to take over the business. Momtaz filed a general diary with Ashulia Police Station in this regard.

Hearing that, Rubel and his men van-

dalised the business establishment of Momtaz and Monir. Later, both of the parties clashed, leaving five people including Monir and Momtaz injured.

Momtaz was taken to Enam Medical College Hospital as his condition became critical while Monir to a local hospital.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not contact Rubel as his phone was found switched off.

Abdul Awal, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said they were investigating the incident. Police picked up four people over the incident, he said.

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Outlawed party leader held

Dulla Sheikh leads a faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party was held with arms and sharp weapons in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna early yesterday.

The arrestee -- Md Dulla Sheikh alias Shamim, 25, son of Alauddin Sheikh of Mirpur village in the upazila -- is one of the operational commanders of a faction of the outlawed party named "Julhas Bahini", police said.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Aminpur Police Station Md Tazul Huda said a team of police led by Assistant Superintendent of Police Md Robul Islam had raided the house of Dulla Sheikh in Dhalarchar area when he was holding a meeting with his fellows.

During the drive, police detained Dulla Sheikh while his cohorts managed to flee. Police recovered a shutter gun, a rifle, four bullets and sharp weapons from the house.

Dulla is an accused in several cases, the OC said, adding that the arrestee was sent to jail through a court.

Three killed, 20 injured

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reports, one Nurunnabi, 65, was killed and at least seven others were injured as a bus and a truck collided head-on on Bogra-Rangpur highway in Baghopara area of Sadar upazila.

The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong adds, nine people were injured as a bus hit a roadside tree as the driver lost control over steering in Shantirhat area of Patiya upazila.

The injured passengers were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said police.

Police await Farhad

FROM PAGE 3

there around 7:00pm before handing him a bus ticket to Dhaka.

Police in their investigation found that during the period of his claimed abduction, the writer used his cellphone to speak with his wife 10 times and six times with another woman.

The Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque on Thursday in an official briefing said Farhad was not abducted and he might have made the claim to embarrass the government.

No official statement or detailed version of the incident has been provided by the writer and his relatives yet. The Daily Star made several calls on the cellphone of Farhad's wife yesterday without any success.



The authorities shut a staircase at the Mayor Hanif flyover in the capital the day after the Supreme Court upheld a High Court ban on such stairways on Monday. The construction firm, Orion Infrastructure Ltd, which built the flyover, set up staircases at several points for the "benefit of people". Bus stoppages were created on the flyover. Experts see such stairways as risky and say they would create obstructions for vehicular movement.

NEWS IN brief

Shilpkala Academy releases collection of 13,000 folk songs today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) will release a DVD containing 13,000 folk songs today.

BSA authorities will organise different programmes, including a seminar, open discussion and cultural programme, marking the DVD launching ceremony.

A seminar and open discussion titled "Folklore Culture Reservation, Preservation, Development and Responsibilities" will be held at 10:00am at the National Theatre Seminar Hall while a discussion and cultural programme will be held in the auditorium of the theatre at 4:00pm.

BSA has collected the songs under the project "Folklore Culture Reservation and Preservation" since 2016.

AL men looting relief meant for flood victims: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League people are looting relief goods meant for the flood victims in the northern and northeastern areas, alleged BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday.

He was addressing a press briefing at BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters, urging the party leaders and activists to stand by the flood-affected people immediately.

"Although the sufferings of the flood victims were depicted in the media, the government is not beside them. The ministers and lawmakers are staying in Dhaka," he said.

Rizvi alleged that the ruling party men siphoned off money from the country to Malaysia.