

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 32.4 | 26.0 MYMENSINGH 32.3 | 27.0 CHITTAGONG 27.0 | 25.2 SYLHET 33.4 | 26.3 RAJSHAHI 32.4 | 26.0 RANGPUR 32.5 | 27.0 KHULNA 28.0 | 26.0 BARISAL 30.4 | 25.8 COX'S BAZAR 28.3 | 25.0

Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am, said Met office.

GAUZE IN ABDOMEN
HC summons
Patuakhali
civil surgeon
on Aug 1
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned three people including Patuakhali's civil surgeon directing them to appear before it on August 1 for their explanation on an incident of bringing out gauze from the abdomen of a woman more than three months after an operation.

Two other people, who have to appear before the HC, are the head of the Gynaecology department of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal and the proprietor of Niramoy Clinic in Baufal of Patuakhali.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque passed the order on a suomoto (of its own) move following a report headlined "Sare tin mas poro pet theke ber holo goj (gauze brought out from abdomen after three and a half months)" published in the Prothom Alo on July 22.

According to the report, the gauze was brought out from the abdomen of one Maksuda Begum, 25, wife of Russel Sardar from Bilbilas village in Baufal upazila, through an operation on July 12 after she was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Earlier in March, Maksuda gave birth to a baby girl at Niramoy Clinic in Baufal through a caesarean section, and after a month, she felt severe pain in the abdomen.

Maksuda's digestive tract has been infected, as the gauze remained in the abdomen for a long time, the report said, quoting a doctor of the hospital.

Lawyer Shahid Ullah placed the newspaper report before the HC for an order.



The plying of boats in flooded roads is not new to Chittagong city. But yesterday's waterlogging perhaps broke all previous records, with water rising as high as five feet at places, and some of the residents, habituated with the problem, calling it unbearable. The photo was taken in Agrabad, one of the worst-hit areas. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Life 'worse than hell'

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

PORT CITY WATERLOGGING

Roads are under deep water, houses and offices flooded, businesses hurt, livelihoods affected. What else can waterlogging do to the people of Chittagong city?

"It has made our life worse than hell," said Akter Hossain, a resident of Bakalia, one of the several areas of the city perpetually plagued by the problem. "People can't cook food, can't eat, can't go out, and can't even take rest inside home."

In the last six months, the parts of the city prone to waterlogging were flooded at least six times, due to rain and tidal surges. But the latest spell, which began three or four days ago, is the worst, some residents say.

"We've got used to two or three feet deep water during the rainy season. But today, suddenly, the water rose as high as five feet in Chakta, Khatunganj, Bakalia, Chamr Gudam areas," said Jamal Hossain, managing director of Jamal and Brothers at Asadganj, one of the trading

hubs of the city, as he spoke of the situation yesterday.

"Usually the water surge from Chakta canal keeps the areas inundated for around 10 to 12 days a month during monsoon, especially on the occasions of full and new moon. We were habituated to that. But what happened today was completely unexpected."

The businessman said 90 percent of the dry fish businesses, numbering around 350, incurred losses because their stocks were damaged due to flooding. "Traders now fear whether water would further increase during the next tide at night."

Due to heavy rainfall, coupled with tidal flows, Halishahar, Bakalia, Chandaon, Agrabad, Bayezid, Muradpur, Chawkbazar, KB Aman Ali Road, and Cement Crossing areas

went under knee to chest deep water yesterday.

Meghnath Tounchanya, assistant meteorologist of Patenga Met Office, said 9.8 millimeters of rain was recorded in 24 hours until 3:00pm yesterday.

Talking about the situation at his office in Halishahar, Additional Superintendent of Police of Chittagong Rezaul Masud said, "Today the condition was worse than the previous few days. The whole police lines area went under waist deep water."

The officer said, "Since the beginning of June, we have seen flooding caused by tidal surges and heavy rains... The office rooms at the ground floor went under knee to waist deep water. Documents and electronic gadgets are getting damaged. People coming for urgent services have to go back. Policing has been hampered."

Meanwhile, according to officials, two international flights could not land as per schedule at Shah Amanat International Airport due to inclement weather.

3 hurt in CU BCL factional clash

CU CORRESPONDENT

Three activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University (CU) unit were injured in a factional clash on the campus on Saturday night.

All the injured, Eman, Sabuj and Faisal, are history students and took primary treatment at CU Medical Centre.

The clash started as supporters of BCL CU unit's suspended committee's General Secretary Fazly Rabby Sujan prevented some followers of former BCL CU unit leader Md Rakib Hossain from entering Suhrawardy Hall around 11:30pm on Saturday, said Md Akhteruzzaman, in-charge of CU police outpost.

Then, the two groups threw stones and brickbats at each other, injuring the three, he added. Later, police brought the situation under control.

Sujan said the incident occurred due to a misunderstanding, which was later resolved.

Rakib could not be reached over the phone despite repeated attempts.

N'GANJ SEVEN MURDERS

Uphold trial court verdict

Attorney general prays to HC
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday prayed to the High Court to uphold the trial court verdict in the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder case in which 26 people, including 16 former Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members, were sentenced to death and nine others jailed.

While placing his concluding arguments before the HC on the death references and appeals in the case, he said the offence was committed by the accused Rab personnel in exchange for money paid by former ward councillor Nur Hossain Nur.

He said detail record has clearly proved that Nur Hossain and Rab official Tareque Sayeed Mohammad (now dismissed) constantly maintained communication with the killing squad led by Maj Arif Hossain (now dismissed) and Lt commander Masud Rana (now dismissed).

Therefore, the trial court verdict does not require any interference by the HC, the attorney general said.

Assistant Attorney General Bashir Ahmed argued that Nur Hossain, Tareque Sayeed, Arif Hossain and Masud Rana were in the commanding position in committing the incident of killing seven innocent people.

The brutal and gruesome murders were committed in a preplanned way, he said, adding that death is the appropriate sentence for them.

The bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad Singh and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam will resume hearing today on the death references and appeals.

The judges began the hearing with Deputy Attorney General Abdul Mannan Mohan reading out from the paper book of the case on May 22.

Defence counsels -- Advocate Mansurul Hoque Chowdhury, Advocate SM Shahjahan, Advocate SM Abdul Mobin and Advocate Ahsan Ullah -- earlier placed arguments defending the accused.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A rickshaw-puller passing through a road with his passenger using an umbrella to protect herself from a sudden rain yesterday. The photo was taken on the Dhaka University campus.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Owning a jungle, illegally

Latest landslide brings to light the grabbing of 822 acres of khas land in Sitakunda hills
MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

Two days after a landslide killed five people in Sitakunda, the upazila administration has filed a report, mentioning that two associations of locals are illegally controlling 822.92 acres of khas land (government-owned).

The land was created after razing 45 hills, some of them completely, in Jungle Salimpur, a hilly jungle area in Sitakunda. The associations are Chattogram Mahanagar Chhinnamul Bastibasi Sangram Samannay Parishad and Alinagar Samabay Samiti Ltd.

Jungle Salimpur houses 10,950 families and is split into two zones -- Chhinnamul with 8,950 families and Alinagar with 2,000. Of the 45 hills, 42 fall in Chhinnamul and three in Alinagar area. On Friday, a landslide in Chhinnamul area killed five people of a family.

At a meeting on July 10, the upazila administration was asked to file the report to help rehabilitate the risky hill dwellers in Jungle Salimpur. Yesterday, the upazila administration submitted the report. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the report.

Two 'fugitive JMB men' held
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have arrested two fugitive operatives of banned militant outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The detainees, Md Shoheb Sheikh alias Shoaib, 31, and Rafiqul Islam alias Rafiq, 30, are both accused in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act on May 31 with Tejgaon Police Station, according to a Rab press release.

A foreign pistol, four bullets and a machete were seized from their possession during the drive, it added.

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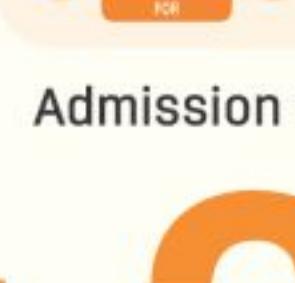
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