



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 32.2 L 26.7	H 31.0 L 27.0	H 32.1 L 26.5	H 28.5 L 25.4	H 35.2 L 26.6	H 33.5 L 26.5	H 33.0 L 26.0	H 32.6 L 27.0	H 30.1 L 25.0

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at most places over Bangladesh, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderate heavy to very heavy falls over the country till 8:00pm today, reports UH. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am. Met office said.

11 DU students held for tearing Nat'l Mourning Day posters

DU CORRESPONDENT
The Bijoy Ekkator Hall authorities of Dhaka University yesterday caught 11 students for tearing down several posters of National Mourning Day at the dormitory.
Later, Asif Hossain, Ri'az Uddin, Azim Uddin, Mahmudul Hasan, Moksdel Alam, Monir Hossain, GM Bayazid Islam, Arafat Islam, Ehsan Ahmed, Redaidul Haque Bhuiyan and Shahin Uzzaman were handed over to police, said Prof AIM Shaiful Alam Bhuiyan, provost of the dormitory. All of them reside in the dormitory, he said.
"We identified them after scrutinising the CCTV footage," he said.
"We will recommend the university administration to take academic actions against them," he added.
The students were being interrogated at Shabbaj Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Abul Hasan.
The students made a blunder by tearing the posters containing Bangladesh's picture, said DU Proctor Prof M Amzad Ali.
The hall authorities can take further actions against them with the help of law enforcers, he added.
No case was filed till last evening.



Clockwise from top, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in silence after placing wreaths at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhannondoi in the capital. Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana sprinkle flower petals on the graves of their family members at Banani Graveyard. People from all strata of life throng Road 32 in Dhannondoi to pay tribute as the nation observed National Mourning Day yesterday with due solemnity.

Govt relief supply 'inadequate'

Alleges Fakhru
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
Terminating the relief supply to flood-hit people in northern part of the country "inadequate", BN Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded that the government stand beside the affected people with sufficient relief materials.
He made the comments while visiting the flood-affected areas in Dinajpur.
He also urged his party victims to help the flood victims without any interest.
Recalling the 1991 flood in Dinajpur and surrounding districts, BNP secretary general said floods were also disastrous then, but there was no relief shortage.
The then prime minister Khaleda Zia even visited the district, he said.
But the Awami League leaders are not with the affected people, Fakhru said, alleging that the ruling party people were busy looting the relief materials.
He distributed relief among people at Bangibechhaghat under Dinajpur Sadar upazila and at Birganj Government College in Birganj upazila.
AZ Rezwanaul Haque, convener of the district BNP unit, along with other party men was present.

NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

Homage to Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
With a call to bring back the fugitive killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the nation yesterday observed National Mourning Day, marking his 42nd anniversary.
The government, ruling Awami League (AL) and its front and associate bodies and different socio-cultural, political and professional organisations organised elaborate programmes, highlighting the darkest part of national history and mourning Bangabandhu's death along with most of his family members.
On August 15, 1975, Bangabandhu and his wife were brutally murdered by a military clique. His two daughters survived as they were in West Germany then.
As a mark of respect to the martyrs of the August 15, the national flag flew at half-mast at all government, semi-government, autonomous offices, education institutions and Bangladesh missions abroad.
Wearing black badges, hundreds of people from all walks of life had thronged the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on Road 32 in Dhannondoi since morning to pay their respect to the father of the nation.
After paying tribute to Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said no

dialogue will take place with BNP until the party chief Khaleda Zia would stop observing her fake birthday on August 15.
Quader also said the government is trying to bring back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu.
While Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, at the same place, said, "We [government] have almost identified the specific location of fugitive killers of Bangabandhu. Diplomatic efforts are on to bring them back to the country," he said.
The government will execute the trial of all these killers, including Noor Chowdhury, after bringing them back, he added.
State-run Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV channels broadcast special programmes while newspapers brought out special supplements highlighting the life, struggle and missions in different countries observed the day with fervour amid different programmes.
Though the day was a public holiday, different ministries, divisions, institutions observed the day with special programmes.
The AL and its associate bodies distributed food among destitute people across the country. Bangabandhu's speeches and patriotic songs were played on loudspeakers.

Bangabandhu the epitome of sacrifice

Say eminent educationists
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was involved in policies of sacrifice throughout his life for betterment of the people, eminent educationists said yesterday.
"Democracy, nationalism and secularism were his main political ideologies, on which the nation was built, they said.
They made the remarks at a lecture programme organised by Bangla Academy in its auditorium, marking National Mourning Day.
Bangabandhu devoted his entire life for betterment of the people, said Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Anisuzzaman.
"If Bangabandhu wished, he could be the president of the then Pakistan, but he chose the path of movement given peace and prosperity of the people, and went to prison," he said.
"We can learn many things from the life of Bangabandhu as his views and thoughts are necessary to move the country towards development," said Prof Anisuzzaman. Those who killed Bangabandhu did not want independence of Bangladesh, he added.
National University Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Harun-or-Rashid said Bangabandhu was a Bangalee, and he believed in Bangalee nationalism.
"He did not do politics for gaining power as his aim was to establish rights of the Bangalees. He believed in politics

Bangladesh missions abroad observe the day

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh missions abroad observed National Mourning Day and the 42nd death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with due solemnity and special programmes yesterday.
The programme began with hoisting the national flag at half mast in the morning.
Memorial discussions were organised which were attended by the officials of the missions and Bangladesh expatriates residing in the respective countries, according to messages received in Dhaka from various missions abroad.
They vowed to promote Bangabandhu's message of freedom, nationalism, secularism and peace.
Officials observed one minute silence to pay homage to the Father of the Nation.
The messages of

Hajj pilgrims to reach KSA by Aug 28

Hope govt, agencies
UNB, Dhaka
As the remaining 62,198 hajj pilgrims need to reach Saudi Arabia by August 28, perform this year's hajj, the government and hajj agencies are putting their full efforts into implementing the job, ferrying some 4,785 hajj pilgrims every day.
The authorities concerned said they are confident that they will be able to overcome the challenges as they have already taken effective steps to carry about 4,500 pilgrims daily in 10 scheduled flights of Biman and Saudi Airlines and 285 others in regular and additional flights of the national flag carrier to ensure that all the 1,27,198 pilgrims reach Saudi Arabia in time.
"We're working as per the High Court order to resolve the complexities relating to sending hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in due time," Religion Affairs Secretary Abdul Jall told the news agency.
The problem has arisen because of frequent cancellation of flights due to visa complications and other problems.
He said the government has already resolved the visa complications through discussions with the Saudi authorities. "The Saudi Embassy will accept passports from hajj agencies until August 17, and will deliver all the passports with visas by the following day."
Of the total 1,27,198 hajj aspirants, Jalli said, the passports of 1,26,000 were submitted to the Saudi embassy for visas. Around 1,23,000 passports have already been delivered with visas. "The remaining passports will be delivered with visas by August 18."
Besides, he said, about 65,000 pilgrims have already been carried to Saudi Arabia by yesterday morning.



Workers on Shb river levee yesterday cutting topsoil. In their effort to repair breaches of the levee at Ghasigram Village, the Water Development Board is filling up plastic bags with the soil to dump into the damaged portions of the embankment.

Chopping a branch you're sitting on!

WDB repairs levee by cutting its topsoil
ANWAR ALL, Rajshahi
More areas were inundated yesterday in Rajshahi's Mohanpur upazila due to the damaged embankment of the Shb river at Chasigram village.
Meanwhile, in an unprecedented move, the local administration under the supervision of Water Development Board (WDB) started repairing the breaches with topsoil from the same embankment.
During a visit to the embankment at Dhurul union yesterday noon, this correspondent found over a dozen of labourers cutting soil on a length of nearly 500 yards of the embankment and filling up plastic bags with the soil.
The WDB hoped to dump around 3,000 such soil-filled bags into the damaged portion of the levee.
Locals expressed concern over the move, saying cutting soil from the levee to repair its breaches will further damage it.
Prof Golam Sabir Sattar of geology and mining department at Rajshahi University said cutting the topsoil of the embankment during rainy season will be quite another blow to the already damaged structure.
He also said the flooding was man-made as the flood control gates of the levee malfunctioned due to the destruction created by fishing nets set by local fishermen.
"Filling bags with soil instead of sand is foolish," he said, adding that soil particles are finer and more prone to be washed away than sand particles.
The WDB could dump stones or concrete blocks or sand-filled geotextile bags to control the flood water through the breaches in the levee, he said.
Most importantly, "any type of work on the embankment can be disastrous because the levee is now vulnerable with water flowing on both its sides," said Sattar, who wrote articles on the country's flood control activities.
However, Abdur Razzak, a WDB section officer present at the scene of the levee work yesterday, claimed, "It will not affect the embankment" as they were shaving off only 3 inches of the surface of the levee.
They had to use the soil since sand was not available in the closest vicinity, he said, adding that transporting sandbags within a short time was another obstacle.
Talking to this correspondent last night, the WDB official said they were piling plan



PHOTO: ANWAR ALL