



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.8 | L 27.8

MYMENSINGH H 32.6 | L 26.0

CHITTAGONG H 33.0 | L 26.0

SYLHET H 33.8 | L 27.4

RAJSHAHI H 33.8 | L 26.2

RANGPUR H 33.8 | L 26.2

KHULNA H 34.0 | L 27.5

BARISAL H 33.3 | L 26.5

COX'S BAZAR H 32.6 | L 25.8

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong & Sylhet with moderately heavy to heavy falls in next 24 hours, reports UNB quoting Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am.



After the Eid-ul-Azha vacation, Dhaka city is yet to get its crowds back, and the streets say it all. At Moghbazar, traffic is thin on the flyover and the otherwise busy intersection under it. The photo was taken yesterday, the second day after the Eid holiday is officially over.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

BNP cannot deny involvement: Quader

Govt trying to manipulate the verdict, says Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government is not interfering in the trial of August 21 grenade attack case.

BNP on the other hand alleged that Awami League's top leaders are making "reckless remarks" involving Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman over the August 21 grenade attack case, as part of its plot to influence the verdict.

Talking to reporters at Patenga, Chittagong, Quader said, "It [August 21 grenade attack] was a brutal incident, killing 22 people including Ivy Rahman. The whole country knows that the attack was planned by Hawa Bhaban."

The minister was in Chittagong to oversee the ongoing construction work of a tunnel under the river Karnaphuli.

Quader said, "It is the court which will decide who was involved in the killing. Our

judiciary is independent. We are not interfering in any way in this regard."

The AL leader said many leaders of BNP are likely to be found involved in the grenade attack. Therefore it can be said that they might be in trouble to some extent if they are convicted, as the national election is coming up.

Quader also said BNP cannot deny its involvement regarding the grenade attack.

Meanwhile, speaking at the party's Nayapaltan central office, Senior Joint Secretary General of BNP, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, "People are wondering whether the government is going to implement its own verdict through the court. Their (govt high-ups) comments give people an impression that a dictated verdict is going to be delivered."

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Obaidul Quader are making careless remarks about Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman to influence the trial of August 21 grenade attack case. Their comments are an

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Hajj pilgrims to start returning home from Aug 27

BSS, Dhaka

Hajj pilgrims would start returning home from August 27 till September 26 after performing hajj in Saudi Arabia.

The first return flight carrying the pilgrims will leave for Dhaka from Madina on August 27.

According to Dhaka and Makkah hajj offices, this year a total of 1,27,298 people, including members of hajj management, went to Saudi Arabia through 371 hajj flights. The pilgrims were to perform hajj through 528 agencies approved by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Medical centres of Saudi Arabia provided treatment to 51,881 hajj pilgrims.

This year, 86 Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims, including 13 women, died in Saudi Arabia. Among them, 49 died in Makkah, seven in Madina, two in Jeddah, 18 in Mina and 10 in Arafat, said Makkah Hajj Office.

Dhaka still in festive mood

Residents enjoy a traffic-free city

MATHEWS CIRAN

Even though Eid vacation is over, the festivity has not lost its charm yet in the capital.

Those who did not leave the city still got to enjoy a Dhaka free from traffic jams, noise and crowd yesterday.

This year, along with the three-day Eid holidays, most of the holidaymakers got additional two days off -- Friday and Saturday.

As a result, the capital remained relatively crowd and traffic-free. And Dhaka residents utilised the opportunity to the fullest by flocking to the available recreational spots, shopping malls, restaurants or just drove around the city with their near and dear ones.

Many also thronged movie theatres with their family members.

"My office resumes tomorrow [today]. So, we decided to watch a movie today [yesterday]," said Ferdousi Annie, a private job holder. She went to Jamuna Future Park with her husband Md Parvez, a businessman, in the afternoon.

"I wish there were more holidays like Eid," said Annie

smilingly.

Md Kamruzzaman, a ticket seller at the mall's multiplex, said, "The number of people started increasing from the third day of Eid."

For many, yesterday was the perfect day to hang out with family and friends as they were busy with Eid activities for the last few days. In the evening, a large number of people were at

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PHOTO: STAR

Khaleda urges nation to remain vigilant

Mirza Fakhrul conveys message after meeting BNP chief in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has called upon the nation to remain vigilant of the country's situation and continue movement for the restoration of democracy.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir conveyed her message to reporters yesterday after meeting Khaleda Zia at the Old Dhaka Central Jail.

The BNP leader said although Khaleda Zia is physically unwell, her morale remains strong.

"Her condition has not improved since I last saw her. I think she is enduring serious pain," Fakhrul said.

Fakhrul said he met the BNP chief at the guestroom of the building she is confined in and exchanged greetings with her.

Fakhrul said Khaleda had been waiting for food from home on Eid day. However, she had some food served

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Rab arrests madrasa teacher for kidnapping former student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), on Friday, arrested a madrasa teacher from Dhaka's Airport Railway Station area in connection with kidnapping a child.

The arrestee was identified as Mainul Islam, 24, a teacher of Sayedatul Abrar Madrasa in Noakhali's Sonapur area. Mainul kidnapped Md Sameer, 8, one of his former students, in Dhaka, ASM Shakhawat Hossain, senior assistant director of Rab-3, told The Daily Star.

Based on information, a team of Rab-3 rescued the 8-year-old from captivity around 4:00pm on Friday, said the Rab official.

According to Rab, Mainul came to Dhaka on Thursday afternoon and abducted Sameer from a field near the boy's house in Modhubagh area.

Before leaving the spot, Mainul left a ransom note demanding Tk 50,000 inside the microbus that the boy's father Kawsar Ahmed drives. The note also contained two cell phone numbers, said Rabiul Islam, senior assistant superintendent of Rab-3.

The arrestee also demanded ransom from Sameer's father over SMS and phone call.

According to the senior assistant superintendent of Rab-3, Mainul said he would hand Sameer over to the



Mainul Islam (centre) at Rab-3 office in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

family only after his mother brings the money alone. Mainul kept Sameer at his friend's home in Dhaka.

Once the boy's father sought help from Rab, the elite force members started investigation and lured the kidnapper by assuring him of the ransom through Kawsar. Mainul agreed to meet at Airport Railway

Station and that's where Rab arrested him, said Rabiul.

Mainul used to study at a madrasa in the capital's Mohammadpur area. During that period he taught Sameer.

Rab later handed Mainul over to Hatirjheel Police Station and a case was also filed regarding the incident, Rabiul added.

EC to hold meeting on RPO amendment today

BSS, Dhaka

Election Commission (EC) is set to hold a meeting today to bring amendment to the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

The meeting will be held at EC Secretariat at Agargaon in Dhaka with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda in the chair.

At the meeting, the EC will take final decision about proposals forwarded to it on RPO amendment

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Renewable energy is the future

Scientists, activists urge govt to move towards it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scientists and environmentalists yesterday urged the government to move towards renewable energy, especially solar and wind power, as it is the only solution to electricity in future.

All reserve of fossil fuel, such as gas, oil and coal, which are the key ingredients for conventional power generation, will run out in the next few decades, they said.

Therefore, most of the countries -- including the US, Germany and India -- are moving towards the renewable solution, and they are doing it successfully. Bangladesh should follow their path, they added.

The experts made the remarks at a seminar organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), National Committee to Protect the Sundarbans and Blue Planet Initiative at Dhaka's Jatiya Press Club.

Renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. It often provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services.

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