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Heatwave may continue for few more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing heatwave in the country is expected to continue for a few more days.

Sylhet experienced its hottest day in the last 66 years. Sylhet's temperature was recorded at 38.9 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

"Such a high temperature was last recorded in the district in July, 1956," said Sayeed Ahmad Chowdhury, a senior meteorologist with the Sylhet met office.

"The temperature was 36.3 degrees on Tuesday while it was 37.3 degrees the following day."

The capital experienced a slight drizzle yesterday while the residents of Chattogram, Mymensingh, and Barishal were relieved by rainfall, said the met department in its bulletin yesterday.

Meanwhile, mild to moderate heatwaves prevailing in Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Sylhet divisions and the districts Dhaka, Tangail, Rangamati, Cumilla, Chandpur, Feni, and Chuadanga may continue.

The highest temperature in the country was recorded in Rajshahi at

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As many Eid holidaymakers are yet to return to the capital, public places are less crowded. With customers sparse, three children are seen trying to sell burflowwers to one couple at TSC of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

2 univ students die as car, bus collide

Eight more killed on roads across country

STAR REPORT

Two students of East West University were killed in a road accident in Narayanganj yesterday when the driver of their car lost control, causing the vehicle to veer into the wrong lane and collide head on with a bus.

They were among 10 killed in four road crashes in four districts on the day. Ten others, including a three-year-old girl who was riding pillion with two others on a motorcycle, were injured in the incidents.

The students killed in the Narayanganj road crash were identified as Mahima Rahman and Rahat Mahmud, both 22 years old.

Police said five students were heading towards Narayanganj's Panam Nagar area on a car. Its driver lost control when they reached Sonargaon upazila around 11:00am.

All five students were injured when their vehicle collided with the bus, said Nobir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur Highway Police Station.

Locals rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Mahima died of her injuries in the afternoon, said the hospital's doctors.

Contacted, the university's Registrar Mushfiqur Rahman said Rahat also died of his wounds around 3:00pm at the Trauma Centre in the capital, and his namaz-e-janaza was held after Esha prayers yesterday.

Early in the morning on the Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila, a pickup driver and

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88pc female migrants get no job contracts

Finds study by Okup

JAMIL MAHMUD

Parul Begum (name changed), a single mother of two, thought she caught a break when she got the offer to work as domestic help in Qatar for a monthly salary of Tk 40,000.

In May 2017, she set off for Qatar – without a job contract and just a verbal promise from her recruiter and employer.

But a rude awakening awaited the 42-year-old female migrant from Munshiganj in Qatar: her employer barely gave her any food and ordered her to work in another house as well.

This compelled her to quit in a month and return home at her own expense – and without her wage for the month.

Parul is not alone; many impressionable migrant workers like her in Bangladesh went through a similar nightmare, finds a report titled "Access to Justice for Bangladeshi Migrant Workers: Opportunities and Challenges" by Oviyashi Karmi Unnayan Program (Okup).

Between 1991 and May this year, about 10.5 lakh female

workers migrated to different countries, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

The community-based migrant workers' organisation conducted a field-level survey last year on 262 female migrants for the report.

The majority of the survey respondents migrated between 2015 and 2019 and returned home between 2018 and 2019.

About 88 percent of the female migrant workers were not provided with a written job contract. They were briefed on the employer, job responsibilities, wages and benefits through informal discussions.

Nearly 45 percent of the returnee women said they had not received the same amount of wage and benefits that they were promised by the agents or sub-agents, the report said.

Just a handful of the women interviewed knew what a job contract was.

Among those who had a written job contract before migration, about 47 percent received the document a few hours before their flights.

Without a written job contract,

migrant workers lose their bargaining capacity and self-protection, said Rahnuma Salam Khan, a government official who worked as the national programme officer at ILO Bangladesh's migration office.

"It's like a lifeline," she said, adding that if the contract is in the possession of someone else the migrant worker may face 'forced labour'.

Also, if a legal issue emerges, it will be difficult for the migrant to make a move without the document, she said, while urging migrant workers to gather ample knowledge about issues regarding their migration.

Recruitment agencies and their representatives such as sub-agents or intermediaries are supposed to ensure that migrant workers have a written job contract, said Shakirul Islam, chairperson of Okup and also the lead researcher of the study.

"But they do not. Migrants mostly remain in the dark about the job contract," he added.

The government's 2007 policy for "sending female domestic

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19 Bangladeshis pass away in hajj pilgrimage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 19 Bangladeshi pilgrims have so far died in Saudi Arabia this hajj season, according to the website of Religious Affairs Ministry.

It said between July 4 and July 14, seven Bangladeshis died.

The names of the seven are: Mustafigur Rahman, 61, from Tangail, Azizul Haque, 65, from Kushtia, Shahjahan Siraj, 58, from Chapainawabganj, Foyzur Rahman, 50, from Sylhet, Sirina Akhter, 60, from Brahmanbaria, Abdul Mottalib, 58, from Naogaon, Rafiqul Islam, 52, from Naogaon.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims have started returning to the country with the maiden post-hajj flight of Biman arriving in Dhaka Thursday night with 416 pilgrims.

Ten more flights of Biman, Saudia and Flynas were scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) last night.

Air Vice Marshal M Malidur Rahman, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh accompanied by top officials of HSIA, Biman and representatives of religious affairs ministry welcomed the pilgrims at the airport.

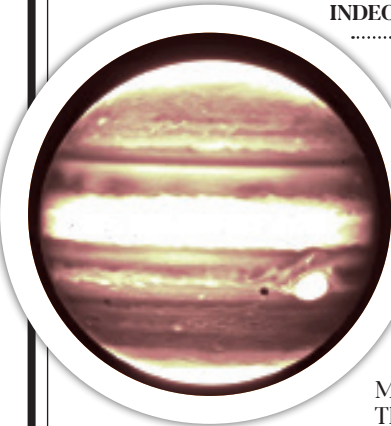
The post-hajj flights will continue until August 6, said Tahera Khondoker, general manager (public relations) at Biman.

A total of 60,146 Bangladeshi pilgrims went to

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Webb Telescope captures Jupiter, Europa

INDEOENDENT.CO.UK



Nasa has released the first James Webb Space Telescope images from our own Solar System, capturing the gas giant Jupiter glowing in infrared light.

Also visible are Jupiter's moons Europa, Thebe and Metis.

The images, posted Thursday evening on a Nasa blog, are not as highly processed as the five images of distant galaxies and nebulae the space agency shared with the public on Tuesday.

Instead, the Jovian images come from data collected during Webb's commissioning phase during the spring, when operators pointed the telescope at different objects to make sure everything was working properly.

Nevertheless, the images give an indication of the wide range of science Webb can pursue, studying not only distant galaxies, but planets in our own cosmic backyard. And despite coming before official science observations of Jupiter, scientists said the image is striking in its clarity and resolution.

"I couldn't believe that we saw everything so clearly, and how bright they were," Stefanie Milam, Webb's deputy project scientist for planetary

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UK TORY LEADERSHIP RACE

PM hopefuls to face off in TV debate

REUTERS, London

The five remaining contenders to be Britain's next prime minister were set to go head to head in the first of three televised debates yesterday, hoping a good performance will boost their chances in a battle that so far has no clear frontrunner.

An initial field of 11 challengers has been whittled down following two days of votes by lawmakers from the ruling Conservative Party, but no individual has yet emerged as the obvious successor to Boris Johnson who announced he was stepping down following a series of scandals.

While ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak has topped those two votes, he faces stiff competition from foreign minister Liz Truss, who has the backing of a number of senior figures, and junior trade minister Penny Mordaunt, who polls suggest is the most popular with party members who will decide the winner.

Former equalities minister Kemi Badenoch and Tom Tugendhat, chair of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, also remain in the running and will hope that a strong showing in the televised debates will inject momentum into their campaigns.

"Tonight is the big event because what this is actually about is not just Conservative members, as important

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Vehicular movement on Bangabandhu Bridge's east approach road in Tangail has been almost standstill yesterday due to heavy traffic and a truck flipping over. People returning to Dhaka after Eid holidays waited hours in the heat . The photograph was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

13km tailback on approach road for Bangabandhu Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Thousands of people suffered for hours under the scorching sun in tailbacks on Bangabandhu Bridge approach road at Elenga of Tangail yesterday.

A minor crash in the morning and a bus breaking down in the afternoon made the situation much worse, especially since there was a rush of vehicles heading towards Dhaka from the northern districts.

Many people were returning to the capital yesterday after Eid holidays.

Around 10:00am a tire blowout caused a truck to turn upside down almost blocking the road in Analiabari area, police said.

It took the authorities one and a half hours to restore traffic movement by removing the vehicle from the road, said Ataur Rahman, in charge of Elenga Highway Police Outpost.

A bus went out of order on the road later in the day, causing the tailback to reach miles.

At the beginning of the Eid vacation, people going to their hometowns suffered for hours in tailbacks on the same road.