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Heatwave likely to continue for a week



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mild to moderate heatwave that the country is experiencing currently will likely to continue for a week, said Meteorological Department.

On Wednesday, Rajshahi saw the highest temperature 38.6 degree Celsius while Dhaka's mercury was 37.2 as per daily bulletin of the Met Department. The lowest temperature 23.3 degree Celsius was recorded in Tetulia, Rangpur.

Abul Kalam Mollik, a meteorologist, told The Daily Star that sunshine duration increased in absence of cloud and there is less pace in the air.

"The heatwave is likely to continue for a week. The temperature could vary from 36 to 40 degree Celsius. The moisture content in the air is less than 60 percent which turned the air dry resulting in no sweating....," he added.

Mohammed Ibrahim who sells clothes on a rickshaw-van at the capital's Panthapath told The Daily Star that the rising temperature is making their job difficult as he has to spend most of his days on the street.

"Although the temperature is mild in the morning, it gets hotter as the day progresses," he added.



People getting on the metro rail at Agargaon station yesterday. From now on the metro rail will run from 8:00am to 8:00pm six days a week. As per the new schedule, weekly closure will be changed from Tuesday to Friday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Metro to run from 8:00am to 8:00pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on the metro rail will run from 8:00am to 8:00pm six days a week.

Mahfuz Rahman, manager of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), confirmed to The Daily Star that the metro rail started following the new schedule from yesterday morning.

As per the new schedule, weekly closure of the metro rail will be changed from Tuesday to Friday.

Trains will run every 10 minutes from 8:00am to 11:00pm (peak hours), every 15 minutes from 11:01am to 3:00pm (off peak), every 10 minutes from 3:01pm to 6:00pm (peak), and every 15 minutes from 6:01pm to 8:00pm (off-peak), he added.

Earlier, the operating hours of Dhaka Metro Rail was from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

Metro rail services will be closed on the day of Eid-ul-Azha, according to DMTCL.

Pay Tk 12cr tax on gifts to 3 charitable trusts HC asks Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus will have to pay Tk 12 crore as tax on the money he gifted to his three charitable trusts.

The bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir gave the verdict after dismissing three applications filed by Yunus challenging the tax liability imposed on the money gifted by him to the trusts.

Details of the verdict could not be known as its full text has not been released yet.

According to the case documents, Yunus donated Tk 76.73 crore to three trusts -- "Professor Muhammad Yunus Trust", "Yunus Family Trust" and "Yunus Centre" -- in the tax years 2011-2012 and 2013-2014.

The commissioner of taxes imposed a "gift tax" worth Tk 15.4 crore on the donated money.

Yunus filed appeals with the Tax Appellate Tribunal challenging the imposition of taxes on the donated money. However, the Tax Appellate Tribunal upheld the decision of the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes (DCT). Before filing the appeals, he deposited over Tk 3 crore to the tax office.

After hearing the applications, the HC on April 2, 2015 stayed the operation of the government notifications issued for realising the demanded tax. Recently the attorney general's office took an initiative for holding hearing on the applications.

Accordingly, the HC held hearing on the matters yesterday.



Dengue danger is IMMINENT

Cases cross 1,000 mark in May, breaking previous records

HELEMUL ALAM

The number of dengue patients crossed the 1,000 mark in May this year, which is five times higher than the same month in 2019. In 2019, the country saw over 1,00,000 dengue patients, the highest in the country since its first outbreak in Bangladesh in 2000.

According to the DGHS, the number of dengue cases in May was 163, 273, 10, 193, 52 and 114 in 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 respectively. This year, the number rose to 1,036. A total of 13 patients have died after being infected with the mosquito-borne disease.

Stressing the need for hot spot management, entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said the authorities will have to conduct drives in the areas from where dengue patients are coming. Killing adult mosquitoes is now very important as mosquitoes in those areas are infected with dengue virus, he added.

"Raising awareness and anti-mosquito drives are crucial. Getting tested for dengue and staying inside a mosquito net after catching fever are also compulsory measures," he added. "Apart from the city corporations, it is the role of every citizen to be aware of

dengue mosquitoes. They must check their houses and yards at least once a week to check for any stagnant source of water. Moreover, those who get affected

Year	Number of Cases in May
2023	1,036
2022	163
2021	273
2020	10
2019	193
2018	52
2017	114



a second time must be hospitalised, as they are more vulnerable."

According to DGHS, at least 95 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning. The total number of dengue patients rose to 2,022.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said, "Dengue is still under control but it may spread further if necessary measures are not taken immediately. Windows and doors

must remain shut in the morning and evening as Aedes mosquitoes normally bite during these times. Mosquito repellents can prove to be beneficial."

Nazmul also mentioned some symptoms and said when the signs are noticed, the patient must be hospitalised. These signs include severe stomach pain, vomiting, breathing problems, blood in nose, gums, vomit or stools, weakness and a significant decrease in platelet counts, he said.

"A patient can reach a critical stage within 24 to 48 hours of showing these signs. Immediate treatment can cure most patients in this stage. Patients with heart, kidney, and liver complications, cancer patients and pregnant women have to be taken under special supervision by the hospitals," said Nazmul.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said it is not possible to control dengue by only applying insecticide.

Addressing a programme at Basabo, he said they are distributing leaflets to all households to make people aware.

Govt bans first-class travel for employees

STAR REPORT

The government has issued a directive banning first-class travel for all government employees till further notice under expenditure rationalisation initiatives.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signed a directive in this regard on Tuesday.

Earlier, responding to a question at the parliament, Hasina said her government has taken all possible initiatives necessary to keep the country's economy vibrant despite the global economic recession caused by the Ukraine-Russia war and the pandemic.

The premier highlighted various measures including government expenditure rationalisation, social protection, subsidies in electricity, energy and agriculture sectors, export incentives taken by her government.

In November last year, the government banned foreign travels of all public employees until further notice in an austerity measure. Some of the restrictions on expenditure, however, were relaxed in March this year.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, ZUBAIDA Deposition continues amid chaos at court



COURT CORRESPONDENT

One more prosecution witness gave his deposition before a Dhaka court in a graft case filed against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman yesterday.

The witness gave his deposition amid chaos as a faction of pro-BNP lawyers tried to foil the trial proceedings. They gathered in front of the packed courtroom and shouted slogans. But prosecution lawyers drove them away, assistant Public Prosecutor Hemayet Uddin Khan told The Daily Star.

The pro-BNP lawyers later held a rally on the court premises around 3:00pm, shouting slogans for the withdrawal of the "false" case.

Meanwhile, Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court recorded the statement of Md Shah Alam, deputy administrative officer of Dhaka deputy commissioner office. On Tuesday, two prosecution witnesses gave statements amid chaos at the court.

On September 26, 2007, ACC filed the case with Kafilur Police Station against the two and Zubaida's mother on charges of amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through illegal means.

TURAG BANKS Eight illegal structures demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday demolished eight illegal structures on the bank of Turag in Dhaka's Birulia.

The establishments -- warehouses of Maliha and Metro Courier -- occupied 5 acres of land, said AKM Arif Uddin, a director (land and estate) of BIWTA.

The unauthorised construction on the riverbank obstructed the river's natural flow, said BIWTA officials. The eviction drive took place from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

AKM Arif Uddin said as part of the ongoing efforts, the authority is planning to construct walkways along the riverbank.



Ignoring a sign that reads "No Parking", an array of cars can be seen parked on a road near the Dainik Bangla intersection in the capital's Motijheel area. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Polls can't be fair under AL govt Alleges Fakhru



UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said it is now a fact that elections can never be free, fair and credible under the current Awami League government.

Addressing the biennial general meeting of a faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists at Jatiya Press Club, he also said if the election is not participatory, it will not be accepted as per the country's constitution.

He alleged the government has already snatched the people's freedom of expression and voting rights to cement its power.

Fakhru also said it is now recognised in the world that there is no place for independent journalism in Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh is now completely in the hands of an authoritarian ruler, he said freedom of the press, the main pillar of democracy, has been regulated here by the regime to meet their needs.

"They (govt) are hindering people's freedom to dissent and the right to vote by applying excessive force to establish a one-party rule," he added.

PRAYER
TIMING



JUNE 1

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:40	12:45	5:00	6:45	8:15	
JAMAAT	4:40	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION