



Heatwaves in April getting longer

Says study based on data from 1981 to 2023; Met office issues heat alert for 3 more days

PINAKI ROY

Mild to moderate heatwaves in the month of April have gotten longer over the years, according to preliminary data of a research.

Between 1981 and 2023, the shortest duration of an April heatwave was two days and the longest was 23 days, says Meteorologist Muhammad Abul Kalam Mallik, who has studied temperatures of April over 43 years.

Rajshahi, Jashore, Pabna, Chuadanga and Satkhira saw the highest number of hot days in April.

Temperatures between 36 and 40 degrees Celsius are considered mild to moderate heatwaves.

However, the number of days seeing severe, 40-42 C, and very severe, over 42 C, have not risen.

Severe to very severe heatwaves stayed for six days at most, says Mallik, a meteorologist at Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

There were at least two days of mild to moderate heatwave in every April in the 43 years. In recent years, such hot days have sometimes persisted for more than three weeks.

The country is baking in extreme heat and this April has already seen four days of severe to very severe heatwaves.

According to the research which has not been published yet, districts in the northern, southern and southwestern part of the country were affected the most. Heatwaves prevailed for more than one third of April over some districts.

In the 43 years studied, there were 1,290 days in April. Dhaka saw 186 days of mild to extreme heatwave, Tangail 193, Satkhira 284, Rangamati 135, Bogura and Madaripur 146 each, and Faridpur 265.

Currently, a mild to very severe heatwave is sweeping over the country with the Met office saying that it will continue until the end of this month.

From 1981 to 1988, the number of hot April days was two; in 1988, it was five; in 1991, it was 10; in 1992, it was nine; in 1994, it was 16; in 1995, it was 23; in 2001, it was 17; in 2008, it was 16; in 2009, it was 17; in 2014, it was 23; and in 2023, it was 17.

When it comes to severe to very severe heatwaves, in 1989, there were three days; in 1992, five days; in 1995, four days; from 1997-2004, two days each year; in 2009-2010,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

HEATWAVES IN APRIL FROM 1981 TO 2023

Rajshahi - 467 days
Jashore - 454 days
Chuadanga - 441 days
Pabna - 403 days

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani was welcomed by President Mohammad Shahabuddin after he arrived at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: PID

Dhaka rolls out the red carpet for Qatar Emir

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A red carpet was rolled out for the grand welcome of Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani as he arrived at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday afternoon.

A special flight of Qatar Airways carrying the emir and his entourage landed at the airport around 5:00pm. Bangladesh is the second leg of the emir's visit to three countries -- the Philippines, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Emir Sheikh Tamim's visit came at the special invitation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PM'S THAILAND VISIT Connectivity, FTA, Rohingya issue to figure prominently

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Talks on free trade agreement, regional connectivity, and the Rohingya crisis, a problem shared by Thailand and Bangladesh, will prominently feature during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Thailand visit.

During her staying there from April 24 to April 29, the two countries will also discuss Bangkok's eagerness to sell LNG (liquefied natural gas) and exploration of oil and gas in the deep sea in Bangladesh.

This will be the first tour of the prime minister of Bangladesh to the Southeast Asian country since 2002. She will address the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

RELATIVES IN UZ POLLS Unfazed, AL MPs breach party directive

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The ruling Awami League issues some directives and makes some strategic decisions before local government polls, but its ranks hardly ever abide by those.

Another glaring example of this was set yesterday.

The ruling party had asked all its MPs to make sure no family members or relatives of theirs run in the upazila election, but almost all AL leaders concerned ignored the directive. Also, the decision to have nobody elected without facing any competition whatsoever was not entirely implemented.

Around 16 close relatives or family members of ministers and MPs were running for upazila chairman posts in the first phase of the election, scheduled for May 8.

As the window for withdrawing nominations closed yesterday, only one of them quit the race. Lutful Habib, a brother-in-law of State Minister for Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak, withdrew on Sunday.

This is not the first time ruling party leaders have refused to comply

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

3RD LOAN TRANCHE IMF team to focus on four key areas

Forex reserves, inflation, banking sector, revenue reforms to come up for talks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

During its visit to Dhaka, the International Monetary Fund's review mission will focus on Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves, inflation rate, banking sector, and revenue reforms.

The 10-member IMF mission is scheduled to reach Dhaka today, and from tomorrow, it will begin to hold meetings with the finance division, Bangladesh Bank, the National Board of Revenue, and other government bodies.

The mission will stay in Dhaka until May 8. The IMF has already sent more than 100 questions to the government officials.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



58-year-old Shah Alam, held by his wife, was waiting on the stairs in front of Mugda General Hospital for his son to come before going to the emergency department. A shopkeeper in Mugdapara, Shah Alam had suddenly collapsed while on-duty yesterday afternoon due to the severe heat that has gripped the nation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

EVM's fate up in the air after waste of public money

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The fate of the Electronic Voting Machines hangs in the balance as the related project ends in June, with no sign of the Election Commission initiating any new project or plan for the maintenance and storage of the existing machines so far.

The project to purchase 1.5 lakh EVMs was taken up in July 2018, ahead of the national polls in December that year, to reduce the use of paper ballots.

The machines, each with a lifespan of 10 years, were bought at a cost of about Tk 3,825 crore.

Six years down the line, this huge amount of public money is set to go down the drain due to "faulty project planning and a lack of adequate maintenance and provision of preservation" of the EVMs.

EC officials said that around 1.05 lakh EVMs, which cost Tk 2.35 lakh each -- more than 11 times the price of the machines used in India, are "out of order

and no longer useable" in elections.

In the process, Tk 2,467 crore of public money has already been lost.

The money wasted over the EVMs is almost three times the total budget for the 2018 national elections, which was Tk 700 crore.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir in a recent meeting of commissioners proposed forming a technical committee to identify the EVMs that are out of order and "destroy them", EC documents show.

Contacted, he told this newspaper that he meant that the out of order EVMs should be "disposed of" in line with the government policy of disposing unusable assets.

WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY

Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain, a former election commissioner, said, "This [purchase of EVMs] is a waste of public money, and it happened as there was no proper storage system to preserve

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BUSINESS

Tax receipts rise 15% in July-March

Tax collection by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) rose 15 percent in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, which is expected to help the government meet the condition set by the International Monetary Fund for its \$4.7 billion loan. Bolstered by rising VAT collection and increased income tax receipts, the NBR logged Tk 259,866 crore in total revenue in the July-March period of the current fiscal year.

STORY ON B1

UCSI University
BANGLADESH BRANCH CAMPUS

ADMISSION GOING ON
Undergraduate & Postgraduate

GET **20% TO 100% SCHOLARSHIP**
ON MERIT BASIS

#1 FOREIGN UNIVERSITY
Approved by Ministry of Education
Bangladesh & Malaysia

Learn More

09610919999, 16798
www.bangladesh.ucsiuniversity.edu.my

MORE NEWS

Debt servicing for foreign loans surges 49%
PAGE B1

50 yrs of learning from rises and slips in economy
PAGE 9

Train fares to increase from next month
PAGE 3

Drone, rocket attacks targeted US forces in Iraq
PAGE 7

BIZLI CABLES

XLPE ইন্সুলেটেড বিজলী আভারগ্রাউন্ড ক্যাবল নিশ্চিত করে নিরাপদ বৈদ্যুতিক সংযোগ

BIZLI CABLE BIZLI CABLE BIZLI CABLE BIZLI CABLE

XLPE ইন্সুলেট

ফ্রি কল ককন
০৮ ০০৭ ৭৭৭ ৭৭৭