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Rain likely as low-pressure area forms in the Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department predicts light to moderate rainfall in all divisions, including the capital, over the next 48 hours, beginning at 9:00am today.

"Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Chattogram, Barishal, and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country," said a met office bulletin yesterday.

A low-pressure area has formed over the northwest Bay and adjoining areas. The axis of the monsoon trough runs through Bihar,

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An excavator of the Dhaka North City Corporation removing waste from the Ramchandrapur canal in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. The move came a day after the corporation knocked down illegal structures of Sadeeq Agro for encroaching on the canal. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

3 die in Ctg market fire

5 shops gutted; electrical short circuit caused the blaze

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Three people were killed in a fire that broke out at the six-storey Mohammadia Plaza in the port city's Riaz Uddin Bazar area early yesterday.

Mobile phone repair and accessory shops occupied the first three floors of the building, while its employees and other bachelors lived on the floors above.

The deceased were identified as Md Ridwan, 45, Md Shahed, 18, and Ismail Hossain, 19, of Satkania upazila, said police.

Kotwali Police Station Sub Inspector Toma Akter said Ridwan and Shahed worked at shops in the market and lived on the floors above; while Ismail was Shahed's friend, who was staying the night in his room.

The victims died due to asphyxiation, said a physician of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

A 35-year-old woman and a nine-year-old girl, who lived in the residential building next to the market, fell sick after inhaling smoke from the fire and were admitted to CMCH's burn and plastic surgery unit.

Later, the woman was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU) as her health condition deteriorated, said Rafique Uddin Ahmed, head of the burn unit.

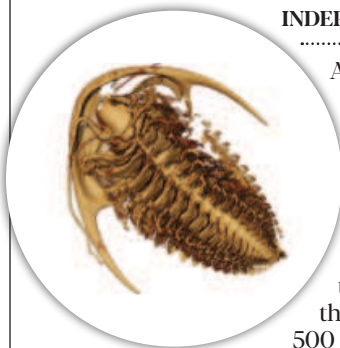
"The two injured suffered inhalation injuries."

The fire originated from a shop on the ground floor around 1:35am due to an electric short circuit, said Abdur

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500-million-year-old sea creature discovered

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A sea creature that lived 500 million years ago has been discovered in a "remarkable state of preservation" by scientists.

Even though trilobites swam the oceans some 500 million years ago, researchers said the animals still look as though they "died yesterday".

The creatures met their end after becoming completely encased in ash after a volcanic explosion, preserving soft tissue and other parts of the body in pristine condition.

Dr Greg Edgecombe, a palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum, said: "I've been studying trilobites for nearly 40 years, but I never felt like I was looking at live animals as much as I have with these ones."

"I've seen a lot of soft anatomy of trilobites, but it's the 3D preservation here that is truly astounding," he added.

Trilobites are some of the most widely studied fossil marine animals, with more than 20,000 species identified over the past 200 years.

Dr Edgecombe said studying trilobites is important because they provide scientists with "one of the most comprehensive datasets" for analysing the evolutionary history of an extinct species.

The creatures were also geographically diverse, making them excellent index fossils for geologists calculating the age of the rocks in which they are found.

Two brothers among three killed in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers were among three people who died early yesterday hours after being injured in accidents in Dhaka's Cantonment and Khilkhet areas.

The deceased were identified as Sifatur Rahman Safin alias Rahul, 21, a delivery man, his brother Md Rafi, 18, a transport worker, and Allaz, 25, an employee of an event management organisation.

In Cantonment on Thursday night, the two brothers were heading towards Kalshi area from their house in Mirpur Bawniabandh area to refuel their motorcycle, their uncle Monir Hossain said.

On their way, a speeding truck hit their motorcycle near ECB Chattar area around 11:30pm, leaving them critically injured.

Passersby took them to Kurmitola General Hospital. From there doctors referred them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Rahul was pronounced dead shortly after midnight while Rafi succumbed to

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FAMINE IN GAZA Children dying of starvation in parents' arms



CNN ONLINE

Younis lays disorientated on a green mattress in Nasser Hospital, in southern Gaza. His long brown eyelashes rest delicately on his pale sunken face, as he drifts in and out of sleep.

The 9-year-old Palestinian boy lies in his mother's arms, clearly wasted from severe malnutrition and suffering from dehydration. His blue jogging bottoms hang off his

emaciated legs, as his tiny ribcage protrudes from his billowy orange T-shirt.

"I call on people with conscience to help me find health care for my son, so that he can go back to normal," his mother, Ghanima Juma'a, told CNN last week at the hospital in Khan Younis. "I am losing my son in front of my eyes."

Two months ago, the family was forced to flee the southern

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Israeli warplanes strike north Gaza

Numerous casualties reported

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israel's military on Friday said it was conducting raids backed by air strikes in northern Gaza, killing "dozens" of fighters in an area where it had declared the command structure of Hamas dismantled months ago.

The operation in Shujaiya, on the edge of Gaza City, caused numerous casualties, witnesses and medics said on Thursday when it began.

Renewed fighting in Gaza's north followed comments on Sunday by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he said the "intense phase" of the war was winding down after almost nine months.

Experts say they foresee a potentially prolonged next phase.

Omer Dostri, a military expert at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, said he expects the army to reduce its ground presence and to increasingly use drones and fighter jets "to further dismantle Hamas".

Yesterday in the Shujaiya area, an AFP correspondent witnessed an air strike and saw smoke rising. Artillery fire boomed.

In a statement, Israel's military said that, overnight Thursday, troops "started to conduct targeted raids" in the Shujaiya area as part of an operation that began earlier in the day.

Intelligence had indicated "the presence of terrorists and terrorist infrastructure in the area of Shujaiya", the military said, in its first details of the operation.

As troops went in, warplanes struck dozens of Hamas targets, it said, following other "significant"

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Israeli forces targeted the headquarters of Gaza's civil defence agency while advancing in western Rafah.

COPA AMERICA Bielsa wants more from 5-star Uruguay

AGENCIES

Marcelo Bielsa believes Uruguay have more to do to mark themselves out as one of the favourites to win the Copa America, despite crushing Bolivia 5-0 to make it two wins from two games.

Facundo Pellistri, Darwin Nunez, Maximiliano Araujo, Federico Valverde and Rodrigo Bentancur all scored as Bielsa's team ran riot in their second Group C game on Thursday.

It was Uruguay's biggest win in the Copa America since 1959, when they beat Argentina by the same scoreline in the group stage.

Having opened their campaign with a 3-1 win over Panama, they have won their first two matches at a Copa America tournament for the first time since 1995, when they went on to lift the trophy.

A figure of 2.74 expected goals (xG) from 18 shots to Bolivia's 0.06 (four shots) spoke to Uruguay's dominance,

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An injured girl reacts while lying on a stretcher on the ground as women mourn the death of their relatives at the Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah yesterday, following Israeli bombardments in the central Gaza Strip. PHOTO: AFP

Climate change boosted deadly Saudi hajj heat by 2.5C

REUTERS, London

The heatwave in Saudi Arabia blamed for the deaths of 1,300 people on the hajj pilgrimage this month was made worse by climate change, a team of European scientists said yesterday.

Temperatures along the route from June 16 to 18 reached 47 degrees Celsius (117 degrees Fahrenheit) at times and exceeded 51.8 C at Makkah's Great Mosque.

The heat would have been approximately 2.5 C (4.5 F) cooler without the influence of human-caused climate change, according to a weather attribution analysis by ClimaMeter.

ClimaMeter conducts rapid assessments of the role of climate change in particular weather events.

The scientists used satellite observations from the last four decades to compare weather patterns from 1979 to 2001 and 2001 to 2023.

Although dangerous temperatures have long been recorded in the desert region, they said natural variability

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