

## Metropolitan

## Weather

## Foggy weather may continue

Mainly dry and cold weather with partly cloudy sky is likely to continue over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Foggy weather is likely to continue over the country with slow and gradual improvement, met office said.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rajshahi division and the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Jessore, Kushtia.

Country's highest temperature 21.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and the lowest 8.2 degrees at Barisal.

The sun sets today at 5:29 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:44 am.

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Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad addressing a discussion meeting organised by Mahila Muktijoddha Sangsad on the eve of Bangabandhu's 'homecoming day' in the city yesterday.

Discussion held on  
Bangabandhu's  
'homecoming day'

By Staff Correspondent

A discussion meeting was held on the occasion of 'homecoming day' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the city yesterday. The programme organised by the Mohila Muktijoddha Sangsad held at the Sultan Kamal Women Complex auditorium at Dhanmondi.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury presided over the meeting while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad attended as the chief guest, a press release said last night.

State Minister for Education Zinatunnisa Talukder, noted educationist Dr. Neelima Ibrahim and Sahara Khatun took part, among others, in the discussion.

Wife of Italian  
PM visits JS  
Bhaban

Flavia Prodi Franzoni, wife of the visiting Italian Prime Minister, yesterday visited the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

She was accompanied by Foreign Minister of Italy Augusta Fantozi, Italian Secretary General Umberto Vattani and other senior officials.

They visited the parliament chamber where different aspects of the chamber were explained to them.

Inter-area azan,  
qirat competition  
of Army ends

The annual inter-area 'Qur'a and Azan' competition of the Bangladesh Army concluded at the Garrison Mosque, Dhaka Cantonment after the Jumma prayers yesterday, reports BSS.

The Dhaka infantry team won the title obtaining 936 points out of a total of 1200 points while the Dhaka signals team became runners-up with 922 points.

Havilder Md Altaf Hossain of the Dhaka signals team finished first in the Azan competition.

Sepoy Md Nasir Uddin of the Chittagong area team became first in Qirat competition.

Fantovzi meets Tofael

Italy keen to invest in port  
construction, leather sector

Italian investors are interested to invest in air and sea port construction and development, and leather and leather goods, fertiliser, telecommunication and medicare sectors in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

This was stated by visiting Italian Trade Minister Augusto Fantovzi while talking to Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at his official residence yesterday.

Accompanied by the representatives of top Italian companies, Fantovzi said the Italian investors are very much eager to enjoy the incentives offered to foreign investors.

He said the Italian investors have expertise and reputation for producing quality products. 'We want to expand export from Bangladesh as well as to produce some goods here to export to other countries'.

Welcoming the interest of Italy to expand bilateral trade, Tofael said Bangladesh is enjoying preferential market access to many developing and developed countries, including the European Union countries.

He said the Italian entrepreneurs can relocate their industries for higher return.

'We are planning to set up five fertiliser factories under joint venture and we really value the interest of Italian investors to

invest in this sector.'

Elaborating the potentials in Bangladesh's leather sector, the minister invited the Italians to invest in the Dhaka Leather Factory, located at Savar on 60 acres of land, and set up leather industries.

He said Bangladesh allows cent per cent equity participation and repatriation of profit and capital gain by foreign investors. All the foreign investments in Bangladesh are protected by law, he added.

Referring to the government's privatisation programme, Tofael requested Italy to participate in the programme.

In response, the Italian minister informed that he would send a group of small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

Industry Secretary KM Ejazul Huq and high officials were present in the meeting.

Training course on  
crime reporting  
begins today

Two training courses for journalists on 'Crime Reporting' begins at the National Press Club today, reports UNB.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru will inaugurate the two-day courses at 3 pm.

● What's on today . . . ●

**Seminar:** A seminar on 'Central bank independence and growth: A sensitivity analysis' will be held. Organiser: International University of Business Agriculture and Technology. Venue: IUBAT campus. House: 135, Rd: 9A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

**Lecture:** Chowdhury A K M Aminul Haque Memorial lecture will be held. Topic: Globalisation and developing society. Keynote speaker: Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly. Venue: NSU, 12 Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Time: 10:30 am.

**Boutique show:** A week-long boutique show organised by Heritage will begin. Drik Gallery, house no 58, road no 15A (New) Dhanmondi till January 16 from 3 pm to 9 pm.

**AGLHSES meet:** A special meeting of the organising committee for reunion of Government Laboratory High School Ex-students will be held. Venue: School premises, Dhanmondi. Time: 2 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka Central:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: 'Desh Upodesh.' House: 4, Rd: 16 (new), Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm.

Clearly

Different

3 cheats held

The Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested three alleged cheats from different parts of the city on Thursday, reports BSS.

A team of DB Police led by Inspector ABM Sultan Ahmed arrested Abu Akhter, Mohammad Jahangir and Ashraful Karim.

Police said the arrested persons are alleged to be the members of an organised gang of cheats.

Active in the city for a long time, they have already cheated lakhs of Taka from some businessmen by applying different techniques.

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