

## Weather

## Light rain forecast

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the region of Pabna, Bogra and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports U.B. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the period, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 14.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:53 pm and rises on Wednesday at 6:32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius			Humidity percentage
	Max	Min	Morning	
Dhaka	25.6	19.2	78	50
Chittagong	30.2	18.2	63	50
Rajshahi	26.2	16.3	75	56
Khulna	26.0	17.0	85	60
Barisal	25.5	17.2	80	71
Sylhet	26.0	15.0	76	62
Cox's Bazar	31.5	19.5	61	58

## Free heart camp held

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West held three-day free heart camp recently at the Jatiya Press Club, says a press release.

The camp was conducted by reputed cardiologist Dr A K Bardhan, Head, Cardiology Deptt. of Woodlands Hospital Ltd., Calcutta and his colleague Dr Tushar Dhruva, a noted cardiac surgeon. Together they saw around four hundred poor patients free of charge. Members of the press club and their relatives suffering from cardiac diseases were also attended by the doctors.

About 150 patients were offered free facility for ECG by Popular Diagnostic Centre at the Press Club. North West Rotary Club members raised Taka thirty two thousand among themselves and donated thirty four thousand to the Missionaries of Charity of Islampur, Dhaka, which is the organisation of Nobel Peace Prize winner late Mother Teresa, in Bangladesh.

## FEMA hands over report on Tangail-8 by-election

A delegation of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) yesterday handed over its final report on Tangail-8 by-election of the Jatiya Sangsad held on November 15, 1999 to the Acting Chief Election Commissioner Mustaq Ahmed Chowdhury at the Election Commission office, says a press release.

The FEMA delegation was headed by Abul Ahsan, acting chairperson. Among others Feroz M Hassan, secretary general, Ataur Rahman, vice chairperson, Dr Shaukat Ara Hussain, chairperson, media committee, Burhanuddin Ahmed, election consultant of FEMA were present.

The report covers developments and incidents during the pre election, election and post election period and highlighted incidents of violence, intimidation and forcible seizure of polling booths in most cases by militants of the ruling party and in some cases with the help and active complicity of polling personnel and govt officials.

## Tk 8 lakh looted from UCBL staff

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 14: A group of armed robbers looted Tk 8 lakh from the staff of a bank on Barwaritola Road here on Sunday.

Officials of the United Commercial Bank Limited were carrying the money to the Sonali Bank. As soon as they started for the bank, the armed robbers intercepted their vehicle.

They snatched away the gun of a bank guard from inside the vehicle and looted a trunk containing Taka eight lakh.

Two robbers, identified as Ratan and Bar Ali of Hatisankarpur area in Kushtia town, were caught by the people while others fled towards the River Goral and crossed it.

The captured robbers were beaten up by the people and injured seriously. They were later admitted to a hospital.

Police recovered an amount of Taka two lakh eighty thousand from the possession of some villagers of the adjacent village situated on the other bank of the River Goral.

## Maid murdered

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district. She was working as a maid at the residence of Captain Mahmuda.

According to police Rahima might have been killed by the gang between 11 am and 1 pm yesterday.

Family sources said during the incident Mahmuda along with her husband went to BIRDEM hospital to visit her mother. They found Rahima hanging from ceiling when they returned home at about 2:30 pm.

Police said they recovered three cups from the servant quarters which were used to serve tea. The killers might have entered the house in the morning and spent some time there before killing the maid, police observed.

## Environment page in newspaper once a week suggested

Speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday emphasised on involving every section of the society to prevent further degradation of the country's environment, reports UNB.

Addressing the function as chief guest, Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Magrub Morshed urged all, including the journalists, to act in a way so that the general people become aware of the situation.

If you can't sensitise the society immediately on the environment issue, the situation would go beyond control, he said.

The workshop was organised by the Forum of Environment Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB).

Speaking as special guest, Jugantar Editor Golam Sarwar suggested that the newspapers should bring an environment page at least once a week to sensitise the society.

Earlier, Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam suggested that all the stakeholders, including the bureaucrats, student leaders, professional body leaders, business community, should be brought to such workshop or dialogue.

Presided over by the president of the organisation, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the workshop was also addressed by DOE director Reazuddin Ahmed.



Activists of four-party opposition alliance brought out a procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's dawn-to-dusk hartal and 36-hour hartal from tomorrow. -- Star photo

## Programmes postponed

## RU admission tests date changed

RAJSHAHI, Feb 14: The first year admission tests of various departments for the academic year 1999-2000 in Rajshahi University scheduled for February 15, 16 and 17 have been changed due to opposition called hartal, reports UNB.

The university authorities today in a press release said that the tests would now be held on February 22, 23 and 24.

According to fresh schedule, the admission tests of Chemistry, Finance and Banking and Physics will be held on February 22 while tests of Applied Chemistry, Management and Statistics on February 23 and Geography and Environmental Studies and Philosophy and Library and Information Science on February 24.

## Date extended

The on-going 5th Bangladesh Cub Camporee, organised by Bangladesh Scouts at the National Scout Training Centre at Monchak, Gazipur, has been extended by one-day till February 17, says a press release.

## DU exams postponed

Dhaka University authorities have postponed all traditional and course system examinations, scheduled to be held on February 15, 16 and 17, says a DU press release.

Fresh date for the examinations will be announced soon. However, other part of the examination schedule will remain unchanged.

Meanwhile, the final examination of the fourth year BBA course No 412 of the Marketing Department of Dhaka University will be held on February 18 instead of February 16, says a department press release.

The examination will begin at 9 am in the morning.

## CMP programme cancelled

CHITTAGONG, Feb 14: The Ekushey February Memorial programme of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) scheduled to be held at Lalghati Maidan tomorrow has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances, a CMP press release said here today, reports BSS.

The CMP has expressed regret for the cancellation of the programme.

## Seminar postponed

The seminar on "Integrated Approach to Sustainable Transport Policy," jointly organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners & URP Dept, BUET, scheduled to be held on February 16 at the BUET Seminar Hall has been postponed, says a press release.

The two-day national workshop on "Impact of Globalisation on Bangladesh," scheduled to begin today, will now be held on February 29 and March 1 due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

The workshop, organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), will be inaugurated by State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, said a BISS press release yesterday.

## Written test for Forest Dept posts postponed

Written test for recruitment in some posts of ADB-funded Forestry Sector Projects of the Forest Department scheduled for February 18 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

Fresh date of test will be announced in due time for re-announcement of examination or cross-examination. Many questions raised regarding the constitutional invalidity of the provisions of the Bill still remain unanswered.

As regards the proposed amendments, if and when any such amendments are made, their effect will have to be carefully examined.

Barrister Amirul Islam said though the President does not have the ultimate constitutional power to obstruct any legislation, he can act for good counselling and sometimes it has a great persuasive value.

About amendments to the law through promulgation of Ordinance, he said, "There are the unwritten words which are most important ingredients of the Constitution."

## FEMA meet postponed

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA)'s discussion meeting on 'Present Political Impasse' scheduled to be held on February 15 at the seminar room of IDB Bhaban has been shifted to February 19 due to unavoidable circumstances. The time and venue will remain unchanged, says a press release.

Organised jointly by CESTI of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB), the seminar will be held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka auditorium at 5:00 pm.

Adnan Zillur Morshed, an architect and a PhD student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA will present the keynote paper at the seminar. This presentation will show how the experience and symbolism of light — a quintessential modern condition — were translated spatially, visually and politically in the design of the future metropolis.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Cultural Affairs Secretary Sayed Abdur Rob, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Kalim Sharafi, Sayed Hasan Imam, Ramendu Majumder, Alamgir Kunkum, Asaduzzaman Noor, Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Sayed Arwar Hussain, Director General of National Museum Shamsuzzaman Khan and representative of different cultural organizations.

## CPD-ALRD dialogue deferred

CPD-ALRD dialogue on "Gender Perspectives on Land and Livelihood" by Professor Bina Agarwal, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi, scheduled to be held today at the BRAC Centre, has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

## BNP-Jamaat backed teachers demand removal of CU VC, pro-VC

From CHU Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Feb 14: BNP-Jamaat backed white panel teachers of Chittagong University (CU) demanded removal of the university to restore academic atmosphere on the campus.

The white panel leaders at a press conference at a city hotel today said the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor were not appointed according to university rule and during their period at least eight students were killed on the campus. They also threatened to go for greater agitation to press home their demand for removal of the VC and Pro-VC immediately.

Dr Muhammad Shamsuddin, joint convenor of the white panel read out the statement at the press conference. Prof M A M Munir Ahmed, Prof M A Saleh, Prof Dr Ahmed Fazli Hasan Chowdhury, Prof Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, Prof Sayed Md Atahar, Prof Dr Md Nurul Islam and Prof Md Mahub Ullah were also present in the press conference.

Meanwhile, Shibir-led All Party Student Alliance (APSA) continued their strike for the 15th day today. Classes and scheduled examinations were not held but offices at the administrative building remained open during the strike.

## Jurists

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unacceptable provisions which also infringe fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, such as the provision which allows conviction and severe punishments to be imposed on the basis of prior written testimony of prosecution witnesses who need not appear before the Tribunal for the purpose of examination or cross-examination. Many questions raised regarding the constitutional invalidity of the provisions of the Bill still remain unanswered.

As regards the proposed amendments, if and when any such amendments are made, their effect will have to be carefully examined.

Barrister Amirul Islam said though the President does not have the ultimate constitutional power to obstruct any legislation, he can act for good counselling and sometimes it has a great persuasive value.

About amendments to the law through promulgation of Ordinance, he said, "There are the unwritten words which are most important ingredients of the Constitution."

Prof Sultana joined as the member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) yesterday, says a press release.

Prof Sultana joined as a Lecturer of the Department of Botany at Eden College, Dhaka in 1964. She served as the chairman of the department from 1967 to 1996. She then joined the Dhaka College as the first female principal of the college and served there from November '96 to June '98. She was appointed the Director General (DG) of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and served there until appointment as the member of BPSC.

## Programme to observe Int'l Mother Language Day

The government will organize a three-day cultural programme at the Ramna Batamul from February 20 to observe the International Mother Language Day, reports BSS.

A decision in this regard was taken at a high level meeting held at the National Museum here yesterday with State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader in the chair.

On February 20 and 21, folk songs, patriotic songs, Nazrul sangee, Rabindra sangee, drama, jari gaan, lyrical and dance drama and recitation will be held with the participation of different cultural organizations of the country. On February 22, cultural bodies of small ethnic groups will take part in different programmes. The programme will remain open from 5 pm to 9 pm every day.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Cultural Affairs Secretary Sayed Abdur Rob, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Kalim Sharafi, Sayed Hasan Imam, Ramendu Majumder, Alamgir Kunkum, Asaduzzaman Noor, Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Sayed Arwar Hussain, Director General of National Museum Shamsuzzaman Khan and representative of different cultural organizations.

During the meeting, a 25-member governing body for conducting the three-day programme was formed.

## Anwarul Islam Bobby's death anniversary



The sixth death anniversary of renowned journalist Anwarul Islam Bobby will be observed today, says a press release.

He was the founding editor of the Daily Life of Chittagong, the medical journal 'The Pulse' and the now defunct The Morning Sun.

Special arrangements have been made to feed the poor on this day.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

## Prof Naiyar Sultana joins as BPSC member



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## Blatant lies: Kibria

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the minister's snub to the lawmakers.

In a press release issued after the meeting, the committee said the minister's absence from the meeting was tantamount to ignoring the committee.

Talking to UNB in the afternoon the finance minister criticised the contents of the press release and said he never thought of ignoring parliament or any of its standing committees.

"I uphold that parliament is the symbol of our national sovereignty," he said.

Regarding the controversy over a letter written by him to the chairman of the committee, Kibria said he wrote the letter properly consulting the Attorney General.

"However, you can have differences of opinion about a legal matter and that is the reason why I wrote the letter. Now, this is up to the Speaker what he decides. His decision will be the final."

According to sources, the finance minister questioned the authority of the standing committee as to whether it has power to order of decide on any individual matter.

The finance minister issued the letter when the standing committee ordered the ministry to implement decision over an individual loan case of a defaulter group.

Rejecting the Finance Minister's contentions, the standing committee on Sunday noted that under Section 75 and 76 of the Constitution and 246 and 248 of the rules of procedures any parliamentary committee on a ministry could review and examine anything of any department under the ministry it looks after.

Rebutting the accusation that he (Finance Minister) did not inform the committee about his absence from the meeting, the minister termed it a total lie.

"My PS informed the PS to the Chairman about it giving the reason why I would not be able to be there."

Regarding accusation that the Finance Minister made controversial statements on the entire matter, Kibria asserted he did never make any such statement.

"It is baseless. I never gave statement to any newspaper or news agency on the matter... It was not fair to refer to wrong and baseless information to accuse me," he said.

About the complaint that he had cautioned the members of the committee attending the meeting, the finance minister said, "the blame is very unfair."

## Sylhet jail

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early repatriation, the rebel prisoners came down at 1:30 pm and the situation came under control.

An enquiry committee headed by the Additional District Magistrate has been formed in this regard.

## EPB Textile

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so far, while the rest should be finalised shortly, said a high bureau official.

Meanwhile, the deadline for allocation of the 5 per cent reserve quota has been extended to February 29.

The government decided earlier to cancel the 5 per cent free quota system this year, but changed its mind under pressure from the BGMEA.

## Block Bidding

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reasons.

Besides, the government is likely to complete negotiations with US company Unocal over Block by early next month so that at least one Production Sharing Contract (PSC) could be signed with a US company during the visit of President Bill Clinton.

## Clinton to visit Dhaka University

By DU Correspondent

US President Bill Clinton will visit the Dhaka University during his Bangladesh trip on March 25, said DU Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury disclosed this last night.

A fax message of the Director of National Science Foundation of United States, Dr Rita to Colwell said Clinton's visit to DU has been included in the primary itinerary of the US leader, Prof Azad said.

Dr Rita is expected to be included in the 150-member US delegation.

## PM: Local body polls

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grassroots level.

Realisation of these goals would be expedited if the Zila Parishad and Upazila Parishad polls are held soon, she added.

Hasina said the government wants to strengthen the local bodies for decentralisation of power. In this connection, she mentioned that some 14,000 women have been elected to the union parishads across the country.

UNB adds: Referring to her government 'pro-people' policy and 'relentless efforts' to improve the lot of commonman the Prime Minister said whenever steps were taken to change the lot of farmers and toiling masses at grassroots level, conspiracy started.

"We want to ensure at least two square meals a day, peace and security for the deprived masses," she said, adding to make the nation capable and productive it requires adequate food and nourishment.

She called for setting up

fortunate."

"I did not talk with any of the members on the issue over telephone. Rather, one of the members went to my residence to discuss the issue."

The finance minister said in the past he normally took part in the meetings of the committee and would continue to do so in future.

## Cabinet Bill

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women have adequate representation in the country's next parliament," the Law Minister said.

"Equally obliged to do so, the Opposition should come forward to help passage of the Bill."

When his attention was drawn to the women organisations demanding increase in the reserved seats and direct election to those, the Law Minister said the government was flexible in this matter. "Our Prime Minister has clearly said that she is ready to consider any such proposal on the basis of consensus reached by political parties having representation in Parliament."

## 12-hr hartal

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The BNP secretary general also warned of a tougher agitation if the government did not hand over power to a caretaker government immediately. He said the Public Safety Act will curtail human rights and hamper the rule of law and the freedom of the judiciary. This government has introduced this 'black law' only to stay in power, he added.

Protesting police attack on Sunday's procession, he said, tear-gas shells were lobbed targeting opposition leader Khaleda Zia which could take her life.

He demanded withdrawal of false cases against opposition leaders and activists. The government attacked the procession but cases were filed against opposition leaders and activists, he added.

Meanwhile, convener of city BNP and the All-Party Action Committee (APAC), Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, yesterday urged the people to make today's hartal a success.

Khoka said 'Awami terrorists' will be punished if any attempt is made to interrupt picketing or procession during hartal hours.

APAC units held rallies and brought out processions at Motijheel, Lalbagh, Kotwali, Dhamondi, Gulshan, Demra, Sutrapur, Shabujbagh, thana areas yesterday. Besides, processions were also brought out at Teigaon, Mirpur, Pallabi, Kafrul, Mohammadpur, Cantonment and Shyamspur thana areas in support of today's hartal.

Exemption: Hospital, ambulance, medicine shop, newspaper office, restaurant, vehicle carrying journalists, law enforcers, emergency water-gas-electricity supply will remain out of the purview of the hartal.

## Khaleda

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said Shahabuddin Ahmed is President of the country and not of a party and he is not accountable to any individual or party.

"It is not wise for him to surrender to pressure from any one and he should take decisions accordingly."

Replying to a question on the government's reported commitment to the President to amend the Bill's provisions concerning bail, Khaleda said not only those provisions, some other sections of the Bill are also harmful.

"We have raised our voice against this black and repressive Bill because it was passed to protect the interests of the ruling Awami League and to repress on the people," the BNP chief said.

The entire nation and all opposition parties, she said, have united against the government and the 'black law'.

## Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday welcomed the President's verbal request to the Prime Minister to scrap the 'controversial' clause of Public Safety Act relating to granting bail, that had denied court's jurisdiction.

"I welcome this desire of the President," the JP chairman said.

Ershad said it is understandable that the President would not have signed the bill, had there been no pressure on him.

"It clearly manifests that it is an anti-people legislation," said the former president.

Vice-Chancellor of AMA International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) Carmen Z Lamagna, founder director Hasanul A Hasan, Ishtiaque Abedin, Dean, in charge of School of Business, Dr Anwar Hossain opening the MBA evening programme on Saturday.

Workshop on Environmental Journalism Organised By: Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh with support from Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 14-15 February 2000

Environment Secretary Syed Marghub Murshed addressing the inaugural session of the two-day workshop on 'Environmental Reporting', organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at the National Press Club yesterday.