

LITTLE CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places till

6:00pm today.
Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:36pm and rises tomorrow at 5:14am.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 19.5 degrees at Srimangal.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage							
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening						
Dhaka	34.2	24.4	69	69	Khulna	35.6	24.5	66	69						
Chittagong	32.3	27.0	75	80				Barisal	33.7	25.6	80	75			
Rajshahi	34.9	24.0	65	73							Sylhet	27.8	21.5	100	79
Rangpur	30.0	23.5	88	81											

NEWSINbrief

Drilling starts at Bakhraabad gas well

UNB, Comilla
Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd (BGFCL) has started drilling at the 9th well of Bakhraabad Gas Field at Muradnagar in Comilla.
Petrobangla Chairman Dr Hussain Monsur inaugurated the drilling operation yesterday.
Officials said the drilling will be ended within three months. It is expected to produce 15-17 million cubic feet of gas everyday.

Restaurant boy stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A restaurant boy was stabbed to death by schoolboys at Satarakul in the capital's Badda yesterday.
Tonmoy Ahmed Tomal alias Mahfuz, 12, resided at Nurachala of Badda with his mother.
Badda police arrested Rafiqul Islam, 12, and Shakil, 11, who are students of class-VI at a local school.
Quoting them, police said a group of six boys took Amzad to Balur Math area and stabbed him as Amzad beat one of their friends a few days ago.

Ahle Sunnat changes rally schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Against the backdrop of the government's one-month ban on demonstrations, Sunni Islamist organisation Ahle Sunnat Wal Jama'at yesterday declared to relocate and reschedule their May 25 Dhaka rally to Chittagong for June 15.
Addressing a press conference in Chittagong Press Club, they reiterated their 12-point demand including arrest and punishment of the killers of one of their activists, Mohammed Saiful Islam, and of "atheist bloggers who defamed Islam".

Boy 'commits suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A teenage boy allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling in a room of their residence in the capital's Uttar Badda yesterday night.
The deceased Shahin Akand, 13, was a garment worker.
Shahin's mother Shahana Begum, also a garment worker, said she found her son's body hanging from the ceiling around 8:00pm when she returned home from

Mother killed, infant hurt in Ctg mugging incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A mother was killed and her daughter injured in a mugging incident on Agrabad Access Road in Chittagong city yesterday.
The deceased is Anjuman Ara Begum, of the city.
According to her family, Anjuman along with her five-month-old daughter Ishrat fell from a moving battery-run rickshaw when muggers from inside a running CNG-run auto-rickshaw pulled her handbag.
The duo with head injuries were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Anjuman dead.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution will hold a discussion marking World Metrology Day-2013; Venue: its premises; Time: 3:00pm.
Lecture
The Department of Law, Dhaka University and the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust will organise a lecture by Rashida Manjoo, United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhawan; Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable
Research and Development Collective will hold a roundtable on "Unemployment of bidi labourers and the upcoming budget"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF ZIAUR RAHMAN BNP to hold 14-day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The main opposition BNP has organised a 14-day programme to observe the 32nd death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman.
After a meeting with chiefs of the party's different wings at BNP central headquarter in the capital's Nayapaltan, BNP spokesperson Shamsuzzaman Dudu yesterday briefed reporters about the 14-day programme, which will begin on May 27.
Zia, founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was assassinated on May 30, 1981 by a group of disgruntled army officers at the Chittagong Circuit House.
Dudu yesterday said their 14-day long programme includes several discussions, drawing competitions, blood donation programmes and food distribution programmes.
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will also be present in some of the programmes, he said.
Dudu also lambasted the government for playing "dual policy" and not permitting the opposition parties to hold rallies.
He said the government gave permission to its 14-party alliance to hold rallies but barred the opposition parties from holding rallies.
"We will answer them [government] with a strong movement with support of the people," Dudu said.
He said the country has fallen into a state of anarchy and that it has been doing whatever Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina desires.



The Canadian high commissioner to Bangladesh and the ambassadors of Japan, Germany and European Union meet BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

BANGLADESH-INDIA RAIL LINK Officials of two countries meet tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Railway officials of Bangladesh and India will hold a two-day meeting in Dhaka from tomorrow to expedite the work to set up a rail link between Tripura's capital Agartala and Bangladesh's Akhaura.
The two countries had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 16 to set up the railway line at a cost of Rs 271 crore.
India will bear the entire cost of the construction of the 15km track, of which 5km falls in the Indian side and the rest in Bangladesh.
The survey for the 15 km track was completed several months ago and is now waiting for laying tracks on both sides of the Indo-Bangla international border, officials said.
According to the railway officials, the two-day meeting of the steering committee of the officials of India and Bangladesh would review the project and also expedite the construction work of the railway link. India is eager to link Agartala with Akhaura as it is an important railway junction which is connected to the Chittagong seaport, as well as the capital Dhaka and a major city Sylhet.
Currently, there are four ongoing rail link projects being funded by the two countries. These are: Chilahati (Bangladesh)-Haldibari (India), Birol (Bangladesh)-Radhikapur (India), Akhaura (Bangladesh)-Agartala (India) and Shahbazar (Bangladesh)-Mahishashan (India).
There is also an ongoing feasibility study to examine the establishment of a rail link between Feni (Bangladesh) and Belonia (India).
Meanwhile, Dhaka and New Delhi are also discussing expanding the existing railway links and starting a second international passenger train namely "New Maitree Express (Friendship Express)" to start from Kolkata and connect the town of Khulna and Jessore in Bangladesh running through the Petrapole-Benapole border on the Indian side.
Officials said there were a series of meetings with the railway officials about the running of the second international express to Khulna and Jessore. They are also looking at increasing the frequency of the existing Maitree Express or Dhaka-Kolkata International Express.

Speaker ready to sit with opposition MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said she will sit with the main opposition MPs separately if needed so that they continue their presence in the parliament.
The newly-elected speaker said this in a views-exchange meeting with members of Parliament Journalist Association at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhawan.
Some senior BNP leaders last week said the opposition MPs will return to the parliament's upcoming session, the budget session, set to begin on June 3.
However, the ruling-Awami League called upon the opposition to be present in the whole sitting of the budget session instead of only returning to save their membership.
Out of the total 369 working days, the BNP-led opposition MPs was so far only present in 54 sitting with BNP Chairperson

present in only eight working days. On an average, the opposition MPs were absent for 81 to 83 consecutive working days.
According to the constitution, an MP will lose his/her membership if he/she is absent for 90 consecutive sittings in parliament without permission from the Speaker.
While exchanging views with reporters, Shirin yesterday said, "After taking oath as Bangladesh's first woman speaker, I invited opposition MPs through the media to return to parliament."
"Also through the media I have come to know that they [opposition] are returning to the House. I thank and welcome them for their decision," she said.
Asked whether she will mediate dialogues between the government and opposition, Sharmin said roles of the two political parties are important to this end. "But I can play the role if the dialogue takes place inside the parliament," she said.

WHY?

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৮ম সিটি ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা পুরস্কার
এবার আরও ১টি ক্যাটাগরি সহ যে ৫টি ক্যাটাগরিতে এবং যেসব বিবেচনায় পুরস্কার দেয়া হবে তা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলোঃ

১। বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ কৃষি ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা
কৃষিতে দুইটি স্থাপনকারী কোন উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ ব্যবহারের অভিজ্ঞতা, সৃজনশীলতা/উদ্ভাবনী কৌশল, উপাদান পণ্য বা উদ্যোগের ধরণ, পণ্যের রপ্তানীর সম্ভাবনা।
পুরস্কারের মূল্যমান : ৩৫০,০০০/=

৪। বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা
ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ গ্রাহকের সংখ্যা, ঋণ আদায়ের হার, প্রতিষ্ঠানের অভিজ্ঞতা, প্রতিষ্ঠানের লক্ষ্য, ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তার স্বাবলম্বীতা অর্জনে প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবদান।
পুরস্কারের মূল্যমান : ৩৫০,০০০/=

২। বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ মহিলা ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা
দুইটি স্থাপনকারী কোন উদ্যোগ, ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ ব্যবহারের অভিজ্ঞতা, উদ্যোগের সম্প্রসারণ ও প্রবৃদ্ধি, উপাদানশীলতা, নিয়োজিত কর্মীর সংখ্যা, পণ্যের রপ্তানীর সম্ভাবনা।
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৫। বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ সৃজনশীল ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ সংস্থা
দুইটি স্থাপনকারী ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ ও ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ সংশ্লিষ্ট সৃজনশীল কার্যক্রম/ পণ্য এবং এর ফলাফল যার মাধ্যমে ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ গ্রাহক এবং পরিবারভুক্ত সদস্যগণ উপকৃত হচ্ছে এবং সম্ভাব্য সম্প্রসারণ, প্রবৃদ্ধি ও উপাদানশীলতায় ভূমিকা রাখছে।
পুরস্কারের মূল্যমান : ৩৫০,০০০/=

৩। বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তা
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পুরস্কারের মূল্যমান : ৫০০,০০০/=

আগ্রহী ক্ষুদ্র উদ্যোক্তাগণকে তাদের নিজ নিজ এলাকায় সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা / গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক অথবা জেলা প্রশাসকের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করতে এবং ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থাকে তাদের আবেদন করে মনোনয়ন পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ২০ মে ২০১৩।

ক্রেডিট গ্র্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট ফোরাম (সিডিএফ)
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প্রত্যেক ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা ৫টি ক্যাটাগরির মধ্যে নিজ ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থার জন্য ২টি (৪ ও ৫ নং ক্যাটাগরি) এবং অন্য ৩টি শ্রেণিতে মনোনয়ন পাঠাতে পারবেন। প্রত্যেক জেলা প্রশাসক ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থা ছাড়াও অপর ৩টি শ্রেণিতে মনোনয়ন পাঠাতে পারবেন তবে, তাদেরকে অবশ্যই ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ প্রদানকারী সংস্থার সদস্য হতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত ওয়েবসাইট দেখুন অথবা উপরে উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।
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Salahuddin shown arrested again

COURT CORRESPONDENT
BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed was again shown arrested yesterday in a case filed for torching vehicles and blasting cocktail in the capital's East Razabazar during a road blockade by the opposition on December 9 last year.
Police prayed for a seven-day remand to quiz the BNP leader. The court fixed May 22 for hearing on the remand prayer.
Salahuddin Ahmed was re-arrested on Thursday after he was released on bail in connection with four cases filed for vandalism and assault on police.

Rana Plaza owner, factory directors have Tk 4.13cr in banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rana Plaza owner Sohel Rana and the 21 directors of five garment factories in the now-demolished building have Tk 4.13 crore in their bank accounts.
Of the amount, Tk 72.81 lakh was found in Sohel Rana's accounts with two banks, according to Bangladesh Bank sources.
No money was found in the bank accounts of 10 directors and only Tk 1 was found in another director's account.
Following a High Court order, the central bank asked all commercial banks not to disburse any money from the accounts of the directors. The BB also asked the commercial banks to send to it account details of Sohel Rana and the directors.