

SLIGHT CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rangpur, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met

Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am.

Country's highest temperature 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.0 degrees at Sayedpur.

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	30.6	23.2	75	65	Khulna	32.0	22.5	79	75
Chittagong	28.8	22.8	85	80	Barisal	31.2	22.0	81	86
Rajshahi	30.7	21.4	93	79	Sylhet	30.4	22.2	86	80
Rangpur	29.6	21.5	84	80	Cox's Bazar	30.5	23.4	86	79

Cabinet approves PPP bill

Gives nod to four other bills, a strategy paper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday approved in principle a draft of "Public-Private-Partnership Bill, 2013" to promote private sector investment in the country's development.

"The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) placed the draft to give the existing public-private partnership (PPP) policy a legal shape," said Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan.

He was talking to journalists after the Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at Bangladesh Secretariat.

He said the bill has the scope for accepting unsolicited proposals. "It defines various terms and conditions for processes on, among others, negotiations, determining private partners, and cancelling and extending agreements."

Musharraf said a PPP office would be set up once the law was passed. Currently, there is a PPP cell at the PMO with 35 projects in hand.

The Cabinet also approved "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bill, 2013". A previous ordinance on the board enacted during a former military rule was annulled by the High Court.

The board can now approve projects worth up to Tk 2 crore whereas it could earlier approve those worth up to

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Armed with sharp weapons and sticks, the ruling and opposition activists take on each other in Puran Bazar area of Chandpur district town yesterday, the second day of the 60-hour countrywide hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance. Inset top, armed in a similar fashion, opposition activists of BNP call up forces readying for an attack on the ruling Awami League's activists in Halishahar Boropole area of Chittagong city. Inset bottom, armed AL activists go on the offensive right before the eyes of a seemingly nonchalant law enforcer in Boropole.

PHOTO: STAR

President joins World Islamic Economic Forum in London today

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid reached London yesterday morning to attend the three-day 9th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) that begins at London ExCel Centre today to encapsulate the emergence of new economic linkages among nations across borders and cultures.

According to the Bangladesh High Commission in UK, the arrival of the president was delayed for two hours due to stormy weather. He arrived at Heathrow Airport by an Emirates flight at 9:15am.

The president, who is being accompanied by a 33-member delegation, including his wife, was received by Bangladesh High Commissioner in London Mijarul Quayes and his wife.

Some 17 heads of states and governments, 11 ministers, five central bank governors, and more than 1,500 chief executive officers, academics, regional experts, health professionals, business leaders, policy makers and innovators from 120 countries will meet for the first time outside the Islamic world to boost trade partnerships between

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Form all-party govt quickly to hold polls

AL-led 14-party urges prime minister, EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League (AL)-led 14-party combine yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Election Commission to quickly form an all-party poll-time government and initiate the election process respectively.

Addressing a meeting of the alliance at the AL president's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi, it also urged the premier to quickly hold a dialogue with BNP Chairperson and opposition leader Khaleda Zia.

The meeting decided to hold countrywide rallies on November 1 protesting, what it said, "anarchy, violence, vandalism and bomb blasts" carried out by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance during its 60-hour hartal, which started on Sunday.

Briefing journalists afterwards, the combine Convener Mohammad Nasim alleged that "BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat" under Khaleda's leadership was trying to foil democratic processes and prospects for a free and fair election.

"Khaleda Zia does not want a fruitful dialogue or a free and fair election. She wants to save the killers and defeated forces of 1971."

"Thus the BNP-Jamaat-Shibir-Hefajat has been trying to create

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Children of freedom fighters protest Khaleda's wish

They wipe down altar of Shikha Chirantan with their blood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children of freedom fighters washed the altar of the Shikha Chirantan at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan with their blood yesterday to protest opposition leader Khaleda Zia's remarks relating to the ongoing war crimes trial.

By "demanding release of the convicted war criminals", Khaleda Zia has desecrated the altar that symbolises the country's independence, they said.

Under the banner Amra Muktiyoddhar Shontan (AMS), they vowed that in the future, they would not allow any activity that goes against

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Govt staging drama over talks: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government was staging a drama in the name of dialogue but trying to put all the blame on the opposition.

"They never want dialogue, they don't want to compromise. But we sincerely want dialogue. And we think dialogue may take place after October 29," he told a press briefing at BNP's Naya Paltan office in the capital.

Fakhrul said his party was hopeful about talks but it must not be held before the end of the 18-party alliance's 60-hour hartal at 6:00pm today. The shutdown aims at installing a non-party administration to oversee the upcoming general election due before January 24.

He also accused law enforcers and ruling Awami League men of opening fire on their "peaceful" rallies and attacking their activists countrywide. "But the people staged a mass upsurge in the street resisting the attacks," he said, talking of the hartal, which began at 6:00am Sunday.

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Mozena, Pankaj meet twice in a week to discuss Bangladesh

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Dan Mozena and Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran met for the second time in a week yesterday and discussed Bangladesh's latest political situation and the prospect for a dialogue between the country's two major parties over the upcoming election.

Though US Embassy officials said it was part of Mozena's regular meeting with his counterparts, it was deemed crucial against

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Pro-BNP lawyers urge PM to resolve crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a body of pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resolve the ongoing "constitutional" crisis of the country.

Sheikh Hasina created problems by amending the constitution at her own will, and therefore, she has to solve the problems, said Rafiqul Islam Mia, president of the forum, at a press conference at the south hall of Supreme Court Bar Association in the capital.

Rafiqul Islam Mia said scrapping the caretaker government system has created a serious crisis in the country.

Meanwhile, Sammilita Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad, a forum of ruling AL-led 14-party alliance backed-lawyers, urged lawyers of the country to unite and resist those who are deliberately giving out misinterpretations of the constitution regarding the present government's legality.

The parishad made the appeal at a meeting held at the north hall of Supreme Court Bar Association.

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Ayub Ali, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, languishes in Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit with 10 percent burns yesterday after supporters of the opposition's 60-hour hartal hurled a cocktail at him in the capital's Shahjahanpur on Sunday night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nure Shafi Ahnaf, a class XI student of Residential Model College in the capital, is suffering from leukaemia.

Doctors at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital said Ahnaf should be immediately taken to India for chemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation—a treatment that would cost about Tk 1 crore.


His parents, both government employees, can

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Opposition men allegedly disconnected this rail track on the Lalmonirhat-Burimari route at Bengal Company Gudam area in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila yesterday, the second day of the 60-hour countrywide hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance.

PHOTO: STAR

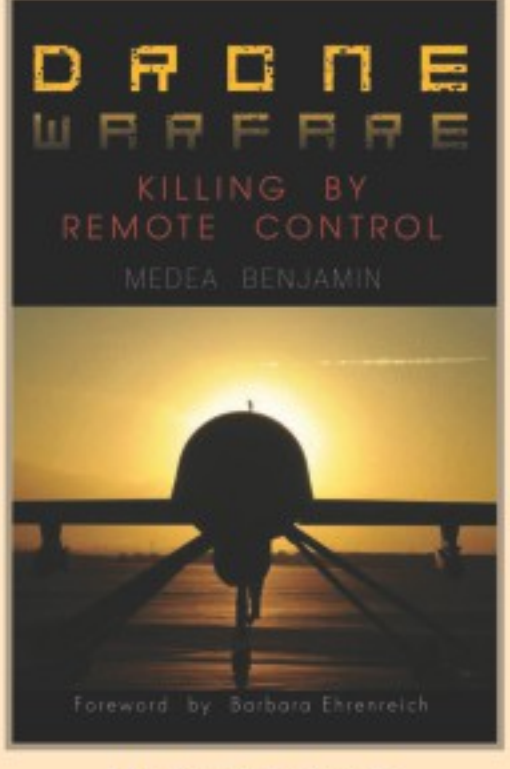


Expanding Horizons

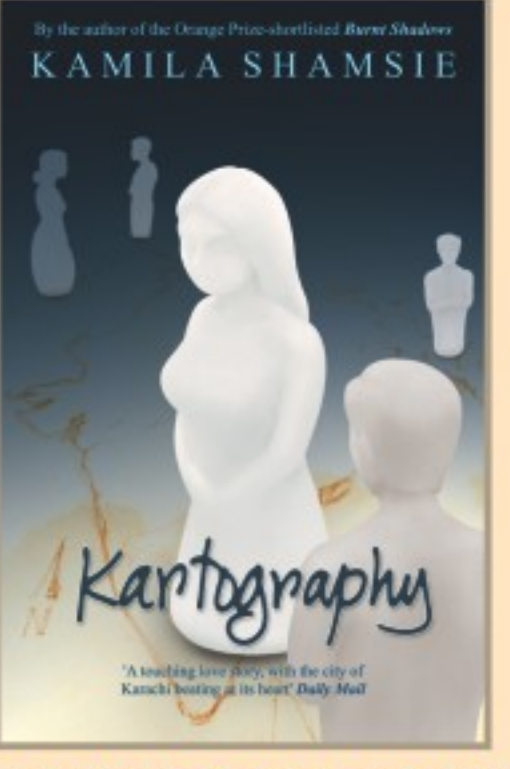
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