


DRY WEATHER LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.

Country's highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.6 degree Celsius at Rangamati and Sreemangal.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.0	20.9	62	63
Chittagong	28.8	20.0	85	73
Rajshahi	30.7	20.7	91	79
Rangpur	26.8	20.3	86	89

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Khulna	31.8	20.4	79	74
Barisal	31.0	19.5	85	89
Sylhet	27.1	18.8	83	84
Cox's Bazar	30.5	21.0	65	63

NEWSIN brief

Fire guts 31 shops in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-one shops of scrap fabrics were gutted in a fire in the capital's Mirpur-12 yesterday.

Fire fighters doused the fire after an hour long effort at 4:35pm.

All the shops were made of wood, corrugated tin and bamboo which made the fire spread easily, said Assistant Director of Fire Service and Civil Defence Rafiqul Islam.

The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit, he added.

25 govt officials leave for Korea for nursing education training

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-five officials from different government agencies left Dhaka for Korea on Friday to participate in a two-week Health Care Management Training.

The agencies include the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate of Nursing Services, Economic Relation Division and Planning Commission.

The workshop, under a project styled "Establishment of National Institute of Advanced Practice Nurses in Bangladesh" supported by Korea International Cooperation Agency with US \$13.75 millions, aims at sharing Korea's nursing education and health care system.

Post Graduate Physiotherapy Association formed

CITY DESK

An 11-member convener committee of Post Graduate Physiotherapy Association of Bangladesh has recently been formed at Dhaka Pain Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centers in the capital's Adabor.

Dr Md Shafiqul Prodhan has been made the convener, Dr Md Kamruzzaman the joint convener and Dr Md Monowarul Haq the member secretary of the committee.

Workshop on Korea Overseas Volunteer activities held in capital

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A workshop on Korea Overseas Volunteer activities in Bangladesh was held in a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Representatives from more than 31 government institutions participated in the workshop to share their experiences and knowledge about Korea International Cooperation Agency's (Koica) volunteer programme.

The purpose of the workshop was to collect idea from the organisations of Korean volunteers what are indispensable for upgrading World Friends Korea Volunteers Programme in Bangladesh, and to further strengthen the existing partnership of the two countries, said a press release.

Lee Yun-young, Korean ambassador to Bangladesh; Kim Bok-Hee, resident representative of Koica Bangladesh office; were, among others, present on the occasion.

DHAKA TODAY

Memorial meeting

Manna Dey Smriti Parishad will hold a meeting commemorating late cultural personality Manna Dey; Venue: VIP seminar hall, public library; Time: 5:00pm.

Rally

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad will stage a rally demanding declaration of Tk 8,000 as the minimum monthly wage for RMG workers; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

ELECTION MANIFESTOES Bapa to campaign for including environment protection issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) will campaign against and ask people not to vote for those political parties and candidates whose election manifestoes for the upcoming national election will not contain commitments to protect the environment.

The environment protection issues required in the manifestos will be announced soon and the persons/parties concerned will be asked to adopt those.

Bapa Secretary General Dr Abdul Matin said Bapa would conduct the campaign in Dhaka and places where it has organisational strength.

The campaign was declared at a press conference Bapa organised yesterday in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Bapa also announced organising an international conference focusing on "Environment Movement and Organisation" with Bangladesh Environmental Network (BEN), a group of Bangladeshi expatriates, at Dhaka

University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on January 3 and 4.

Environmentalists from home and abroad will share the aspects and experiences of actively conducting environment movements and protests.

Moreover, Bapa requested researchers and activists, interested in presenting their articles and abstracts at the conference, to send those to bapa2000@gmail.com within November 20.

Political parties should concentrate on environment and climate change issues which will be the most important challenges for Bangladesh, Bapa Vice President Prof Khandakar Bazul Haq read out from a written statement.

Due to environmental degradation, Dhaka has been categorised in different surveys as one of the worst cities to live in, added the statement.

Prof Firoze Ahmed, a former faculty member of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; and Dr Mahmudur Rahman, local co-coordinator of BEN, also spoke.

Constitution should be amended to protect adivasis' rights

Promode Mankin tells public hearing on the communities' plights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If a country's constitution can be amended 15 times, it is possible to do it again for the sake of protecting indigenous communities' rights, said State Minister for Social Welfare Promode Mankin yesterday.

He was addressing a public hearing on the communities' plights in the capital's Catholic Bishops' Conference in Bangladesh, jointly organised by Institute for Environment and Development (IED), Janaudyog and Kapaeeng Foundation with assistance from EU and Oxfam.

Six indigenous people representing Santal, Chack, Marma and Orao communities in Rajshahi, Naogaon, Dinajpur and Bandarban described how Bangalees grabbed their land over the years.

One of them, Bahamoyee Hasda, said the grabbers have already grabbed her croplands, recently planted trees in her courtyard and have been harassing and threatening to lodge false cases.

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Juta starts indefinite strike

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (Juta) yesterday started an all-out strike for an indefinite period, as Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain did not resign by Thursday.

Boycotting classes and halting the university transport services, the teachers took position in front of the administrative building at 7:00am, said Juta General Secretary Prof Sharif Uddin. They would be protesting until the VC quits.

At a press conference,

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Justice Debesh Bhattacharya's 99th birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Debesh Bhattacharya and Former MP Chitra Bhattacharya Foundation will hold religious and social events in Ellenga, Tangail today marking the 99th birth anniversary of eminent

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People crowd and haggle over fish prices in the capital's Malibagh Bazar yesterday. A buying frenzy has been sparked against the backdrop of another 60-hour hartal declared by the BNP-led 18-party alliance from tomorrow.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Greens reiterate concerns over Rampal project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unconvinced by the government's assurance to ensure that the proposed coal-fired power plant in Rampal has minimal environmental impacts on the nearby Sundarbans, experts and environmentalists reiterated their concerns yesterday.

They said the government was saying the world's largest mangrove forest would be safe, as it would lie 10km off, but what impacts it would have depends on the amount of coal to be burnt to produce 1,320 megawatts of power in the first phase and another 1,320MW in the second phase.

"The plant faces the biggest

confusion here," said M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) at a bilateral discussion between the citizens' group and government representatives, organised by the CAB at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Four experts--Prof Badrul Imam and Prof Tanjim Uddin of Dhaka University, Prof Mushfiq Ahmed of Rajshahi University, and Shamsul Alam of Daffodil University--represented the citizens.

On the government side were four officials--Monowar Islam, power secretary; Anwar Hossain, joint secretary of Power Division; Mohammad Hossain, director

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Jamaat-Shibir violence protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent cultural personalities and academicians at a gathering at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday protested the violence unleashed by Jamaat-Shibir activists recently.

During the meeting organised by Sammito Sangskritik Jote, Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, president of the organisation, demanded that Jamaat-e-Islami be designated as a criminal group for the violence they were causing.

"It is not enough to annul the election registration of the group. It must be banned from doing any activities," he said.

Popular folk singer Fakir Alamgir said, "In 1971, our politics was steeped in the culture of the people, which gave greater unity. We must strive for that again," he said.

Cultural activist Mofidul Hoque said Jamaat-e-Islami had persistently been against the achievements of 1971.

In addition, BNP too must be recognised as a collaborator of Jamaat-Shibir, stated eminent artiste Ramendu Majumdar.

"Their election campaign is inclusive of the interests of Jamaat-Shibir

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PHOTO: STAR

A visibly healthy Aduri at a press conference organised at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday marking her recovery and release. The 11-year-old former domestic help was rescued from a dustbin in the capital's DOHS Baridhara on September 23 in a severely malnourished state and with multiple injuries.

A healthy Aduri goes home today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaving behind the horrors she experienced working as a domestic help, a healthy Aduri leaves for her village home in Jainkathi, Patuakhali today with dreams of attending school, playing with toys and going fishing with her siblings.

Dressed in a yellow, pink and blue frilled frock and with matching pink leggings and sandals, the 11-year-old expressed these simple wishes to The Daily Star at a press conference at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Rescued from a dustbin in the capital's DOHS Baridhara on September 23 in a severely malnourished state and with multiple injuries, she recuperated at DMCH's One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC).

Announcing Aduri's full recovery and release from DMCH and handing her over to her mother at the press conference, DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Mostafizur Rahman said, "She weighed only 17 kilogrammes when she first arrived here. Now she weighs 25 kilogrammes."

However, the child might have to bear some scars of the torture for the rest of her life, OCC Coordinator Dr Bilkis Begum told The Daily Star.

Aduri was not in the least worried about those scars. She pushed back the blue headscarf, which hid some of them, to show everyone gold earrings she received as a gift at OCC.

"I hope police beat her the way she had beaten me," she said over her employer Nourin Jahan Nodi's arrest.

Aduri's mother Shafia Begum sought financial assistance to bring up her nine children, two of whom still work as domestic helps.

Contributions can be sent at Shafia's Janata Bank Savings Account number 25605 at the DMCH branch.

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