

Dry weather likely

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

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain unchanged over the

country, said Metoffice.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:21am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at

Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.4 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	28.6	17.4	67	62	Khulna	28.5	15.8	75
Chittagong	26.7	17.5	78	74	Barisal	28.5	15.6	79
Rajshahi	28.0	14.0	84	77	Sylhet	29.5	15.5	80
Rangpur	28.8	15.8	72	75	Cox's Bazar	30.0	16.5	61

NEWS IN
brief

Gonoforum rejects election schedule

UNB, Dhaka

Gonoforum last night rejected the election schedule announced by the Election Commission.

"It is unacceptable as well as a mockery to announce the polls schedule without restoring the election-time non-party government," said Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain and General Secretary Mostafa Mohsin Mamt.

In a statement they also said the election schedule pushed the nation towards confrontation, division and anarchy. "The polls schedule is inconsistent with people's expectations."

Today's Ecne meeting cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday cancelled today's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) due to announcement of the schedule of the 10th parliamentary election.

"According to the electoral code of conduct, the government cannot pass any project after announcement of the schedule," said Enayat Hossain, joint chief of the planning ministry.

He said the meeting was cancelled upon the direction of the prime minister.

40 gold bars recovered in Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials yesterday recovered 40 gold bars weighing around 4.67kg from Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong.

They found the bars in four handbags abandoned in an aircraft of Biman Bangladesh that landed at Chittagong from Dubai at 11:00am, said Parvez Al Zaman, assistant commissioner of airport customs.

The gold bars are estimated to be worth Tk 2 crore, he said, adding that no one was arrested in this connection.

Two die as trains hit them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified men died in separate incidents after being hit by trains in the capital yesterday.

In Dakhkhinkhan area, a sexagenarian, clad in a chequered lungi and a black and white sweater, died after a train hit him at a level crossing.

Meanwhile in Nakhal Para area, a 45-year-old man, wearing a blue chequered lungi and a navy-blue panjabi with a jacket, died after a train knocked him down.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Woman found dead in Gazipur forest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An unidentified woman, aged around 20, was found dead at a Gajari forest in Surir Chala of Kaliakair upazila in Gazipur yesterday.

The body with a scarf tied around the neck was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said Kaliakair police.

Police suspect that she was strangled with the scarf. A case was filed.

Body of drowned boy recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The body of a schoolboy was recovered from the Shitalakkhya river in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur yesterday, hours after he drowned there.

The deceased was Shohag, 8, son of Md Aslam, a class-I student of Baligoan Model Government Primary School.

Md Kamru Ahsan, upazila nirkhali officer, said Shohag went to bathe in the river in Balughat area in the afternoon.

Divers from Dhaka Fire Service and Civil Defence recovered the body around 4:00pm.

DHAKA
TODAY

Seminar

Sundarban Rokhha Jatiya Committee will organise a seminar, "Rampal thermal power plant beside the Sundarbans: Legal basis"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 7:00pm.

Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Officers Club will organise a seminar, "Safe motherhood: Safe society"; Venue: its premises; Time: 7:00pm.

country, said Metoffice.

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Country's highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at



Patrol teams of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at the capital's Shahbagh around 8:30pm last night, shortly after the election schedule was announced by the chief election commissioner. The deployment aims to stave off violence ahead of the poll when the opposition, rejecting the schedule, called a 48-hour road-rail-waterway blockade beginning 6:00am today.

PHOTO: STAR

NEXT GENERAL POLLS

Bangladesh Islami Front to contest in hundred constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders of Bangladesh Islami Front yesterday said they will contest in 100 constituencies in the upcoming polls with "candle" as their symbol.

The upcoming election is very significant to fight against "anarchy" created by Hafajat-e Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami, said MA Mannan, president of the party, at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club.

They urged the opposition BNP to join the "all-party government" and the government to form an independent and strong election commission.

Body recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a man with the legs tied with a rope from a residential hotel in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

The body of Mohammad Helal, 25, of Ullahpara in Sirajganj, was found in the bed of a room on the fifth floor of Hotel Madina. Helal had booked the room on Sunday.

Police detained hotel manager Shaheen and security guard Nazrul for interrogation.

Abu Bakar Siddique of Banani Police Station told The Daily Star that a pedestrian found the key to Helal's room on the road on Sunday night and handed it over to traffic police, who then called the hotel authorities (the phone number was

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Pry exam question papers leaked in some areas

Admits Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said they have information that the question papers of the ongoing primary terminal examinations have been leaked in some areas.

"Apart from media reports, we have heard about the question paper leak. We are embarrassed and shocked. The question papers were leaked in a few areas," he said while briefing reporters at the secretariat about the alleged leak of question papers.

Guardians in Dhaka and other areas complained that the question papers were leaked in and outside Dhaka on the very first day of the terminal examinations 2013 began on November 20. More than 29 lakh class V students from schools and madrasas are sitting for the exams.

On November 23, the ministry formed a probe committee to investigate the allegation and submit its report within 15 working days.

Nahid said if the probe committee finds proof of any leak of the question papers, stern action will be taken against the people involved in it.

About the cancellation of the exams, he said the probe report will suggest what measures will have to be taken in this regard.

The minister said they have collected information from all the divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and district education officers about the allegation of question paper leak in their areas.

"Many districts even did not know about the question

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CRISIS AT JU
Pro-VCs fall ill for confinement

JU CORRESPONDENT

The two pro-vice chancellors of Jahangirnagar University fell sick yesterday due to confinement in their offices for the last six days by some teachers who are demanding an immediate VC panel election to replace the incumbent, Prof Anwar Hossain.

Pro-VC (admin) Prof Afasar Ahmed and Pro-VC (education) Prof MA Matin are suffering from weakness for food poisoning and prolonged stay in confined places, according to the doctors who treated them. Of the two, the former was bedridden and administered saline.

Apart from confining the pro-VCs, the agitating teachers observed a token hunger strike at the administrative building yesterday.

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HC stays remand of SQ Chowdhury's lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed a lower court's order allowing remanding of Fakhrul Islam, a lawyer for convicted war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, in connection with his alleged involvement in leaking the draft verdict on the BNP lawmaker.

The HC also asked the authorities concerned to send Fakhrul to jail immediately and allowed the investigation officer to interrogate the accused at the jail gate. It also asked the government to explain in four weeks why the remand order should not be cancelled.

A Dhaka court on November 24 allowed the police to place Barrister Fakhrul on remand for four days.

Yesterday, an HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam came up with the order and rule after hearing a petition filed by Fakhrul seeking cancellation of the remand order passed by the lower court.

The draft verdict was leaked a day before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed down death sentence on SQ Chowdhury on October 1 for committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the 1971 Liberation War.

Detectives arrested Fakhrul at his office in the capital's Kakrail on November 20.



Pedestrians resort to their handkerchiefs and hands passing by this spot in the capital's Notun Bazar yesterday which has been turned into a garbage collection point by Dhaka North City Corporation.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SC stays illegality of Salam's JS membership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court's chamber judge yesterday stayed till further order a High Court verdict that declared illegal the parliament membership of Maj Gen (retd) Abdus Salam, who was elected from Mymensingh-9 on Awami League nomination.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, the chamber judge, passed the order after a hearing on a petition filed by Salam seeking stay on the HC verdict.

The judge also sent the petition to the full bench of the SC's Appellate Division and fixed November 28 for its hearing.

Syed Mamun Mahbub, a lawyer for Salam, told SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Photojournalist Jahid Saimon of banglanews24.com undergoes treatment for splinter injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night. He was carrying out his professional duties near Mohakhali Flyover in the capital when miscreants hurled a cocktail at him right after the announcement of the polls schedule last evening.

Zonta International, Bangladesh launches 16-day campaign against violence on women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh chapter of Zonta International, a platform of professional women and women leaders, yesterday launched a 16-day campaign to end violence against women and girls.

Marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women yesterday, Zonta International launched the worldwide campaign, which will continue till December 10, said Shahrur Rahman, area director of Zonta Bangladesh and Nepal chapters.

"Around 90 percent of women of our country are victims or will become victims of domestic violence. We will not tolerate this anymore," she said at the launching ceremony at a hotel in the capital.

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CTG ARMS HAUL
Defence's allegation false, baseless
States prosecution at beginning of closing arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A prosecution lawyer in the Chittagong arms haul cases yesterday started placing closing arguments, terming false and baseless the defence's allegation that the charges were politically motivated.

As per the further investigations following a Chittagong court's 2008 order, charges were brought against some particular influential people, including high-ups of the then BNP-led 4-party alliance government, based on specific allegations, said Advocate Kamal Uddin Ahmed.

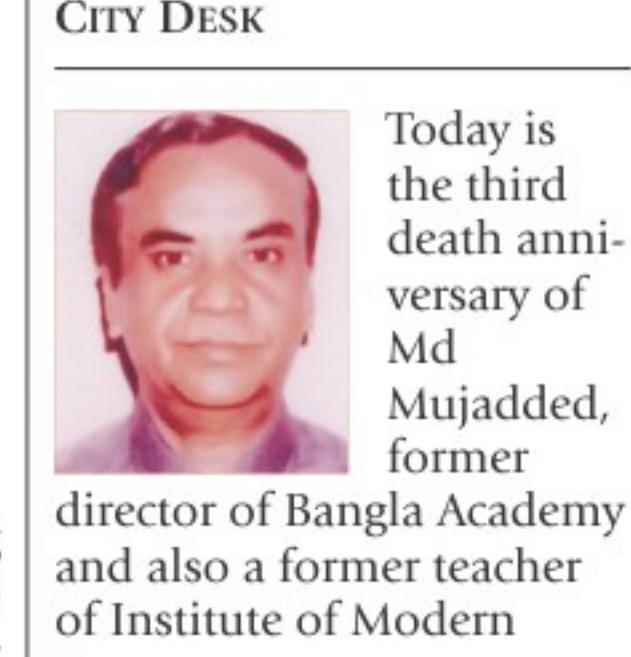
Placing a brief background of the

cases, he referred, before Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1, to the confessional statement of the prime accused, Hafizur Rahman, an alleged local smuggler.

Kamal said Hafizur mentioned the direct involvement of "Hawa Bhaban", officials of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence and National Security Intelligence and United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) leader Pares Barua.

"Hawa Bhaban" was known as the alternative powerhouse run by the BNP chairperson's son, Tarique Rahman.

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Today is the third death anniversary of Md Mujaddid, former director of Bangla Academy and also a former teacher of Institute of Modern Languages.

On this occasion, his family will arrange a daylong programme including a qurankhwanai, a milad mahfil and a special prayer at a mosque.

Besides, food will be distributed in orphanages and among the destitute.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.