

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



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

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Chances of rain or thunder showers over the Southern part of the country are likely.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:10pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.8

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 12.5 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	29.6	16.7	57	72	Khulna	29.0	17.0	77	81
Chittagong	26.4	17.1	94	72	Barisal	29.5	16.0	80	86
Rajshahi	29.0	14.6	84	81	Sylhet	28.8	16.7	72	71
Rangpur	28.2	15.6	74	70	Cox's Bazar	30.0	18.0	76	71

NEWSIN brief

NU exams rescheduled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

All exams under the National University scheduled for today have been rescheduled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Honours fourth year exams (2011) will be held at 8:30am on Friday, and BBA fourth semester exams (2012) and ECE part-4 eighth semester final exams (2011) will be held the same day at 2:00pm. MBA first semester exams (2011) will take place on December 10 at 10:00am. Detailed information is available on www.nubd.info, said a press release.

Bangladesh Navy ship with relief heading towards Philippines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Navy ship loaded with relief materials is heading towards typhoon-hit Philippines.

Scheduled to anchor at Manila port Friday, the ship "BNS Somudro Joy" is carrying 36,000kg of goods worth Tk 1 crore, said a BN press release yesterday.

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms on record, struck Tacloban city of Leyte province in the central Philippines November 9, killing several hundred people. The relief materials include dry food, milk, drinking water, lifesaving medicines and clothes.

Fire breaks out in cinema hall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A fire broke out in a cinema hall in Kaliakoir upazila headquarters of Gazipur yesterday morning.

Kaliakoir fire service station officer Apurba Bal said the fire might have originated from a burning cigarette.

However, Masud Alam, owner of the cinema, "Sagar", claimed that it originated from an electric short circuit.

The fire fighters from Kaliakoir rushed to the spot and doused the blaze within three hours.

Necessary equipment, including relay machine, screen and seats were totally burnt, said Apurba.

Govt officer's house robbed at Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Four robbers impersonating Detective Branch of police robbed a government official's house in Shoronika residential area of Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, on Monday night.

Police said the youths told Shirazul Islam, an officer at education ministry, that they had come to raid the house. Holding the family members at gunpoint, they looted 24 tolas of gold ornaments, five mobile phones, and some money.

A case was filed.

Two arrested with 140kg of cannabis in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested two persons with 140kg of cannabis in the capital's Shahjahanpur area.

The arrestees are Anwar Hossain, 22, an alleged drug trader and Mohammad Mintu, 25, a private car driver.

On a tip off, a team of Rab personnel intercepted the private car in Shahjahanpur and arrested the two. They also seized the car, said Rab sources.

Meanwhile, Rab-3 officials arrested Ali Hossain and Aysha Begum with two foreign pistols and three bullets in the capital's Shabujbagh area.

US embassy to be closed tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Embassy in Dhaka, including its Consular Section and the Archer K Blood Library and Student Advising Center under American Center, will be closed tomorrow on the occasion of Thanksgiving Day, an American national holiday.

On emergency services for American citizens, duty officer's can be contacted at 885-5500 over the phone, said a press release.

Jucusu polls suspended

Confinement of pro-VCs goes on

JU CORRESPONDENT

In the face of students' protest, the election to Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (Jucusu) was suspended for an indefinite period yesterday.

JU students have been demonstrating for the last couple of days against allowing MPhil and PhD researchers to contest and vote in the poll slated for January 2.

In a press note, Chief Election Commissioner of the Jucusu poll Prof AKM Shahnewaz said that considering the parliamentary election scheduled for January 5, they decided to suspend all activities involving the Jucusu poll from December 1.

Meanwhile, the confinement of Pro-Vice Chancellor (education) Prof MA Matin and Pro-VC (admin)

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232 gold bars seized in Dhaka, Ctg, Benapole

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 232 smuggled gold bars worth approximately Tk 11.78 crore were seized by law enforcers in different entry and exit points of the country on Monday and yesterday.

Customs officials in the capital yesterday seized 160 gold bars weighing 27kg and worth about Tk 8 crore in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. No one was arrested in this connection.

The gold bars were found in a bin in one of the toilets of a flight of Regent Airways that landed at the airport from Malaysia, said Wazed Ali, an assistant commissioner of customs.

So far, gold worth over Tk 32 crore has been seized this month at the airport in the capital, said Abdul Aleem, another assistant commissioner.

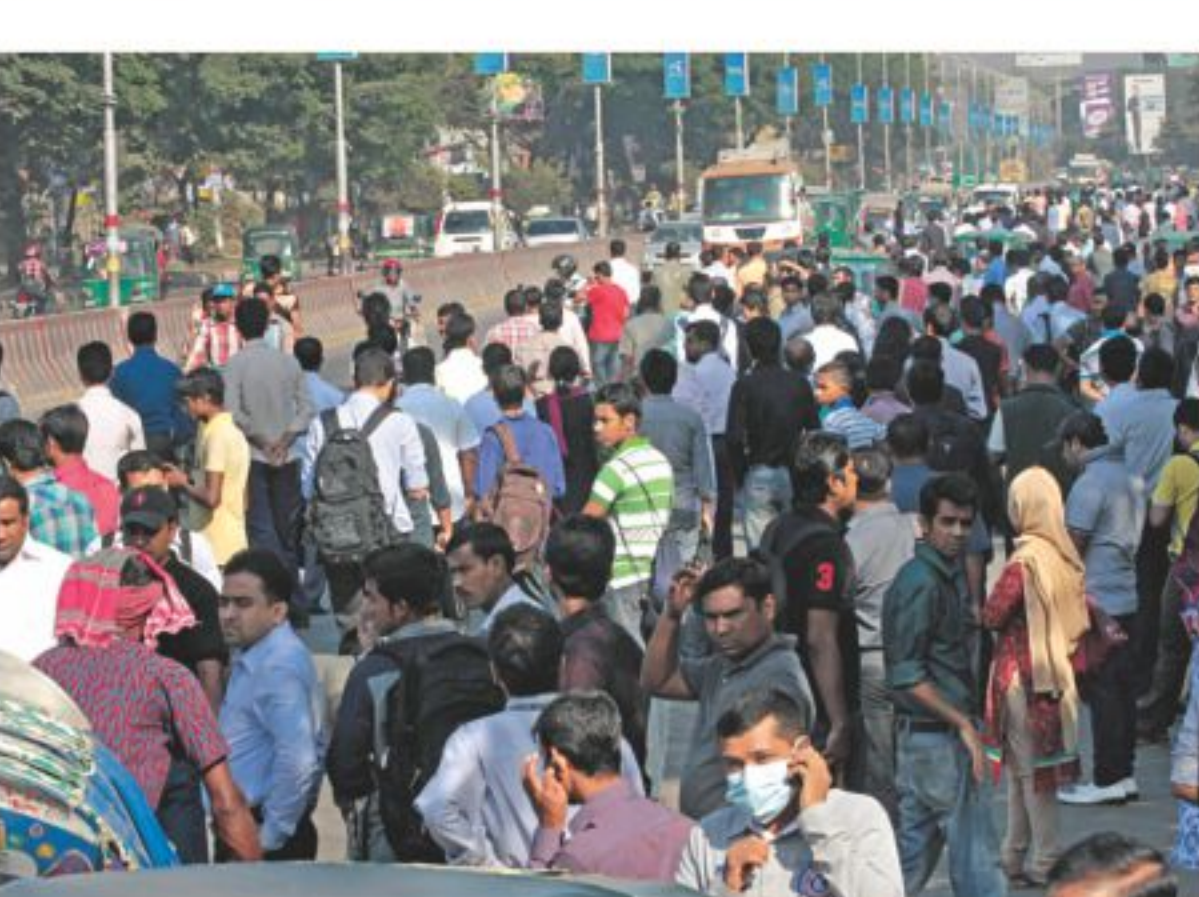
In Chittagong, customs officials yesterday morning found 60 gold bars weighing 7kg in the luggage compartment of a flight of Biman Bangladesh that landed at Shah Amanat International Airport from Doha.

The gold bars were worth around Tk 3 crore and no one was arrested in this connection, Parvez Al Zaman, an assistant commissioner of customs, told The Daily Star.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials arrested a person with 12 gold bars weighing around 1.4kg in Putkhali bordering area under Benapole Port Police Station on Monday night.

The arrestee is Kamrul Islam, 31, said Majharul Islam, commanding officer of 23-BGB battalion, adding that the gold bars were worth about Tk 78 lakh.

The arrestee was handed over to Benapole police and a case was filed in this connection.



FIRST DAY OF OPPOSITION'S 48-HOUR COUNTRYWIDE BLOCKADE

Clockwise from top left, two pro-BNP activists brandish pistols in a procession of the 18-party alliance at Pachrupee of Narayanganj's Araihaaz upazila yesterday, the first day of the opposition's 48-hour countrywide road-rail-waterway blockade. A blazing bus in Chittagong city's Tiger Pass area following an arson attack by miscreants last evening. Crowds of waiting passengers fill the Airport road in Khilkhet with few public transports on the streets of the capital. Opposition activists block the Dhaka-Barisal highway in Barisal city with logs forcefully taken from the roadside sawmills. Two armed Border Guards keep watch on people's movement from the top of a loaded truck in Aminbazar of the capital. The capital's Gabtoli intercity bus terminal completely devoid of passengers and ticket buyers.



Khokon tortured 17 villagers in Faridpur

Victim tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A victim yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that fugitive war crimes accused and BNP leader Zahid Hossain Khokon with the help of his associates abducted 17 villagers of Bangram of Nagarkanda Thana, Faridpur on April 27, 1971.

The victim Yunus Mollah said Razakar commander Zafar, who was Khokon's elder brother, caught him while he (Yunus) was attempting to flee home.

"Khokon hit me with the rifle butt and I fell to the ground. Then they forced me to do squats and again struck me on the right side," said Yunus, now 69.

The fifth prosecution witness against Khokon said the war crimes accused and his associates caught 19 villagers and released two of them after beating. The remaining 17, including the witness, were brutally tortured at the Nagarkanda police station.

A local chairman and Peace Committee leader Abdus Salam told the detained villagers that they would be freed if they paid Razakars Tk 10,000. Two days later, all of them got released after the ransom was paid.

The fourth prosecution witness Abdul Hye Mullah who also testified at the tribunal-1 yesterday corroborated the incident narrated by Yunus. A resident of Bangram, Hye managed to flee home shortly before the raid.

In his deposition, Hye said Khokon's elder brother was killed in a fight between the freedom fighters and Pakistani army and their collaborators.

After Zafar's death, Khokon became commander of Nagarkanda Thana unit of Razakar, an auxiliary force to Pakistani occupational army during the 1971 Liberation War.

On May 30, 1971, Khokon and his associates killed 16 persons of Kodalia village, said Hye.

Following their testimony, state-appointed defence counsel Abus Shukur Khan cross-examined the witnesses.

The proceeding was adjourned until today.

MOBARAK'S CASE

The tribunal yesterday fixed three defence witnesses to testify for the war crimes accused Mobarak Hossain, a former local Awami League leader of Brahmanbaria. The

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Legal notice served on EC for changing poll schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the Election Commission and the government to cancel the schedule of the 10th parliamentary election within 24 hours.

Eunus Ali Akond sent the notice to the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the cabinet secretary, saying the SC directives regarding holding the elections and dissolution of parliament were not followed before declaration of the schedule.

CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed announced on Monday that the election would be held on January 5 next year.

According to the SC's judgement in the case on the 13th amendment to the constitution, the parliament was supposed to be dissolved within a reasonable period, which may be 42 days, before declaration of the schedule, he said.

Eunus also pointed out that the SC in the same judgement on May 10, 2011 declared the caretaker government system illegal and unconstitutional, but it observed that the next two (10th and 11th) parliamentary elections might be held under the system. None of the two directives was followed, he said.

Eunus said he would file a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directive on the EC and the government to cancel the schedule, if they did not do so in 24 hours.

ELECTORAL CRISIS US, China stress talks

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jun yesterday hoped that the major political parties in Bangladesh would find a solution to the current crisis through a peaceful dialogue.

As a developing country, he said, China fully understands that social and political stability is a must for nations' development. And also as a near neighbour, "we follow closely what is happening in this brotherly country", he added.

"We strongly believe a stable, peaceful, prosperous and 'independent' Bangladesh is a fundamental interest of the Bangladeshi people," Li Jun told reporters after meeting new Foreign Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali at the foreign ministry.

The envoy said he was encouraged by the foreign minister's introduction that the dialogue was still on.

Earlier in an email reply, he said, "We hope the reported dialogue between the secretary generals of the two parties could reach a constructive outcome, and we believe that peaceful dialogue is the only way to resolve the current political crisis."

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Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Engineer Abu Bakar Siddique, father of Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Abu Bakar, former director generation diesel of Bangladesh Power Development Board, died in Dhaka on this day in 2006, said a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held on the occasion. His family members have requested all to pray for salvation of his departed soul.



One hundred and sixty smuggled gold bars, weighing 27kg and worth about Tk 8 crore, seized by customs officials from a toilet bin of a Regent Airways flight from Malaysia, which arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH