

Dry weather likely

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.		over the country, Met office said.		Bogra and lowest 14.5 degrees at Dinajpur and Srimongal.		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged		The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:26am tomorrow.		Country's highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and		Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:		Max: 29.4 Min: 18.8		Morning 68 Evening 64		Max: 29.5 Min: 17.4	
								Dhaka 29.4 18.8		Chittagong 28.2 19.2		Khulna 29.5 17.4	
								Rajshahi 28.6 16.1		Barisal 28.6 17.0		Sylhet 29.8 18.0	
								Rangpur 28.6 16.2		Cox's Bazar 29.5 20.2		Morning 80 Evening 73	
												Morning 91 Evening 85	
												Morning 74 Evening 71	
												Morning 74 Evening 74	

NEWSIN brief

NU exam suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

The authorities of National University yesterday suspended BBA third year sixth semester final exam (2012) which was scheduled for today due to unavoidable circumstances.

New schedule for the exam will be announced later, said a press release.

MJF concerned as CHT peace accord yet to be fully implemented

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), a development organisation promoting human rights and good governance, along with its 15 associate organisations yesterday expressed concern as the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord has not yet been fully implemented.

In a joint statement, they said the important departments, including law and order; forest and tourism; secondary education, police and land management, are yet to be handed over to the three hill district councils.

The organisations urged the government to implement the peace accord immediately.

Jatiya Party reshuffles nominees in 10 constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party yesterday reshuffled its nominees in 10 constituencies for the upcoming national election.

The changes were made in Sirajganj-2, Sirajganj-4, Sirajganj-6, Kishorganj-1, Dhaka-16, Narsingdi-2, Maulvibazar-1, Maulvibazar-2, Chittagong-10 and Chittagong-14 constituencies, said a press note.

Earlier, the party on Friday announced its nominees for 299 constituencies in the upcoming national election to be held on January 5.

A total of 1,498 nomination seekers collected JP nomination papers.

Man found dead in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A man was found dead at Poba upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The deceased was Humayun Kabir, 35, of Gaibandha, local representative of Radiant Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Poba police recovered the body with several injury marks beside a road at Afi Nepalpara village, 12km from the city.

He went missing after he left his Guripara residence for office on a motorbike on Saturday. But police did not find his motorbike.

Robber beaten to death in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

An alleged robber was beaten to death by a mob at Golakandail in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj early yesterday.

The body of Ripon Chandan Barman, 27, of Sonargaon upazila, was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Quoting locals, police said a gang broke into the house of Lokman Sarker in Kasabo area around 3:00am and beat up the family members as they tried to resist them.

Sensing the presence of the robbers, locals came forward and managed to catch Ripon and beat him to death. Others escaped after exploding several cocktails.

Youth falls to death in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

A youth died after falling from a running train at Tongi in Gazipur city yesterday.

Security guard at Nimtoli rail gate said the youth, aged about 32, fell from the roof of "Kishoreganj Express" in Majhukhan bridge area 11:30am.

He was declared dead at Tongi hospital.

Meanwhile, Bhairab Government Railway Police recovered the body of another unidentified youth from Banmala area. Police suspect that muggers might have pushed the youth off the roof of a train.

Separate cases were filed. The bodies were sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.



Truckers Mehedi Hasan, left, and Mohammad Milu at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. They fell victim to arson attacks on Saturday, the first day of the BNP-led 18-party opposition's fresh 72-hour blockade.



Truckers Mehedi Hasan, left, and Mohammad Milu at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. They fell victim to arson attacks on Saturday, the first day of the BNP-led 18-party opposition's fresh 72-hour blockade.

BLOCKADE ARSON ATTACK

Truckers in anguish at DMCH burn unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trucker Mehedi Hasan is fighting for life, screaming in agony at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He is another victim of an arson attack of the opposition's fresh 72-hour-blockade starting Saturday.

Fearful of the violence during the opposition's road, rail and waterway blockade, Mehedi, a local trucker of Kristopur of Faridpur, was driving around to find a safe place to keep his vehicle on Saturday around 8:00pm.

When he reached Harisha Ray area, pickets hurled a bottle of flammable liquid. The burning bottle fell on his lap and moments later ignited the cabin, leaving him with 64 percent burns.

After being treated at a local hospital, Mehedi was admitted to DMCH at the dead of the night on Saturday.

The Daily Star found the 20-year-old at the burn unit's High Dependency Unit around 1:00am, staring at his elderly mother with eyes brimming with tears.

The mother, Shaheda, cried out, "My son had never engaged in politics. Then, what was my son's fault? Why is he suffering such pain?" She fell silent, only her sobs could be heard.

Another trucker, Mohammad Milu, with seven percent burns to his face was lying on the next bed.

Pickets ignited his banana-laden truck near Ghorashal Bridge around 9:00pm while he, with another truck following behind, was on way to Sylhet from Bogra, taking frequent breaks on the way. His helper Rubel Ali is also admitted to DMCH with minor burns.

"I came to know about the blockade

NOMINATION PAPER FILING

EC to extend deadline if BNP joins polls: Inu

BSS, *Dhaka*

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) will reconsider the extension for nomination paper submission deadline, if the main opposition party wants to join the upcoming general election.

"The path of dialogue is still open. Talks may be held anytime, if the opposition wants," the minister told the inaugural function of handicraft exhibition at Bangladesh National Museum in the capital.

He alleged that bypassing the invitation of dialogue, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has directed her party's leaders and activists to launch violent politics. That is why the opposition party men are killing people by setting fire on the buses, he said.

The minister said militant and fundamentalist forces are the main threat to the country's development and that all pro-liberation forces should unite to foil any ill attempt of the evil forces.

About the handicraft industry, Inu said, "We have huge potentiality of handicraft products at the international

Left parties condemn ruling AL, opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different left political parties yesterday condemned the ruling party for attempting to hold a "one-sided election" and the opposition for violence across the country.

Demanding postponement of the election, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of eight left-leaning parties, also announced a protest rally for today in front of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital, according to a statement.

They also criticised the opposition for its "calculated acts of arson and

CRISIS OVER POLLS-TIME GOVT

JSD (Rob) urges president to initiate national talks

UNB, *Dhaka*

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob) yesterday urged President Abdul Hamid to take an initiative to hold a national dialogue involving all political parties, professional bodies and civil society members to resolve the current political crisis.

The party made the request when a six-member delegation led by its President ASM Abdur Rob meet Hamid at Bangabhaban, President's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told journalists after the meeting.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed the country's current political situation and portrayed a scenario on losses of lives and properties in the ongoing political violence.

They also urged the president to initiate the national dialogue to reach a permanent solution to the current political problems.

The president informed the delegation that earlier a



Pickets set a bus on fire in the capital's Bangshal area on the second day of the blockade yesterday.



Hawkers pass idle time outside the capital's New Market with no customers in sight on the second day of the blockade yesterday.

Save lives from political violence

Citizens' group urges govt

UNB, *Dhaka*

Urging the government to protect public life from the ongoing political violence, speakers at a citizens' rally yesterday said although various political programmes are being announced to "realise the rights of the masses", the working people and women and children are becoming the worst victims of these programmes.

They said despite the government's steps to ensure law and order in the country, 20 people were killed in separate incidents of violence last week during the countrywide blockade enforced by the BNP led 18-party alliance.

Nagorik Sanghati, a civil society organisation, arranged the rally before Bangladesh National Museum in the capital, protesting arson on buses and killing people in the name of political programmes and the government's failure to protect public life.

Chaired by General Secretary of Nagorik Sanghati Sharifuzzaman Sharif, the rally was addressed, among others, by former general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) Dr Akhteruzzaman, filmmaker Mashiuddin Shaker, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) Mihir Biswas and Engineer Sardar Amin.

4 to die for killing computer engineer

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four muggers to death for killing Suman Kumar Dutt, a computer engineer and businessman, in the capital's Mohammadpur in 2011.

The condemned convicts are Md Abdul Karim Sardar, his brother Md Rashed Sardar Raju, Md Deen Islam and Md Nasir Hossain Gazi.

Judge ABM Shazedur Rahman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 also sentenced Md Asaduzzaman Khan Sajib to two years rigorous imprisonment for stealing valuables from the victim's shop and keeping those in his possession.

The court acquitted Md Shamim Fakir as the charge brought against him was not proved.

Of the convicts, Raju is absconding. The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his surrender or arrest, the court said.

According to the prosecution, the