

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country. Having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the

river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, said Met Office.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.2 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	25.0	16.3	86	76	Khulna	28.0	16.6	88	73
Chittagong	25.2	16.0	87	73	Barisal	27.5	15.6	98	89
Rajshahi	25.3	13.7	95	88	Sylhet	25.5	13.2	81	70
Rangpur	24.8	12.0	85	78	Cox's Bazar	28.5	15.5	76	61

NEWSIN brief

JCD calls hartal in Ctg for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Pro-BNP organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong district for today protesting the arrest of its Acting President Bazlul Karim Chowdhury Abed.

Joint Secretary of JCD central unit SM Salauddin at a rally in front of BNP Chittagong city unit office yesterday called for the hartal. Detective Branch of Police arrested Bazlul on Saturday in the capital.

Khairul new Dhaka Club president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khairul Majid Mahmud, managing director of Caldwell Development Ltd, has been elected president of Dhaka Club for 2013-2014. He won by 59 votes scoring a total of 279, said a press release yesterday.

In addition, newly elected ten members of the executive committee are Nilufar Karim, Gazi Helal Uddin Ahmed, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Rafiqul Haque Rabi, Firoz N Khan, HM Murshed, Nazim Uddin Ahmed, MA Kashem, AA Ibrahim and Humayun Kabir Khan.

Drug addict son stabs mother, brother in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged drug addict son stabbed his mother, younger brother and the caretaker of their house at Tolarbagh in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

Hasi Begum, 45, her son Faysal Karim, 22, a Daffodil International University student, and Md Sharif, 35, are being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested Arifur Rahman Mamun, 26, at the house.

Darussalam police said Mamun demanded Tk 60,000 from his mother for starting a business. As she refused to give the money, Mamun stabbed her and Faysal, and , later, Sharif when he went there hearing screams.

RMG factory closed for cracks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A garment factory at Baipail in Ashulia was declared closed yesterday as cracks developed on the ceiling of the top floor of the five-storey building which houses the factory.

Witnesses said the workers of Anzir Apparels Ltd came out of the factory around 3:00pm.

The factory was shut to avoid any untoward incident, Ashulia Industrial Police Director Md Mostafizur Rahman said.

Body of missing boy recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered the body of a teenaged boy from Bangabandhu Safari Park at Shreepur in Gazipur yesterday, six days after he had gone missing.

The deceased was Enamul Haque, 14, son of Ali Hossain of Indrabpur village.

The deceased's brother, Nazmul Islam, said Enamul had been missing since December 16.

The head was smashed, said police who sent the body to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Enamul was accused in a murder case filed with Shreepur Police Station, said police.

Decomposed body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police yesterday recovered the decomposed body of a man from his rented house in Arichpur area of Tongi in Gazipur.

The deceased is Shahin Hawlader, 32, hailing from Gopalganj.

Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, said on Wednesday, Shahin's second wife left their house key with the landlord telling him to give it to her husband. She has been missing since then.

Locals yesterday informed police of a bad odour emanating from the house, he added.

The body was sent for an autopsy.



Ashes, charred wood and tin are all that remain of three large-sized grocery shops at Fakirhat in Balipara, a village in Pirojpur's Zianagar upazila, following an attack by unidentified miscreants on November 7. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TAWFIQUE ALI

MKA's amnesia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the 10th parliamentary election will see the lowest number of contestants in Bangladesh's history, Awami League lawmaker MK Alamgir yesterday said more candidates will be contesting in the upcoming parliamentary election compared to the last one.

In this election, 540 candidates are contesting, while in the ninth parliamentary polls, 1,567 candidates contested, according to the Election Commission (EC) statistics.

Among the contestants of the upcoming polls, 154

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PAK RESOLUTION Speaker terms it unacceptable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said the Pakistan parliament's resolution condemning war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah's execution was "unacceptable" and "unexpected."

"All procedures of law as well as the verdict of the highest court were followed before the execution. Consequently, there is no scope for any country or any quarter to condemn or express dissatisfaction," she told journalists at the National Museum in the capital.

Taking a position against war crimes trial is

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Chinese vice minister due on Dec 26 to discuss political crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China is sending a senior foreign ministry official to Bangladesh to discuss the ongoing political situation with the top political leadership for concrete efforts to resolve the stalemate.

Diplomatic sources said Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Liu Zhenmin is expected to arrive in Dhaka on December 26 on a two-day visit to convey the message to the leadership of ruling Awami League and BNP that China wants an end to the crisis.

The officials said the Chinese foreign ministry has informed the foreign ministry of Bangladesh that the vice minister will discuss "all issues in detail as well as overall bilateral matters" with the leaders.

The visit is taking place within a span of two weeks when Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, China's special envoy of foreign ministry, led a mission to Bangladesh on December 11-12 and had meetings with high officials of the government and

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US again calls for meaningful talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States yesterday once again called for meaningful dialogue that allows compromise for resolving the current political stalemate centring the polls-time government and allows free, fair and credible elections to be held.

Solution to the impasse lies with Bangladeshis rather than outsiders, including the US, US Ambassador to Dhaka Dan W Mozena wrote during a chat on the US embassy's Facebook page.

It was in reply to a question on Washington's plans regarding the stalemate.

He wrote, "Once Bangladesh has charted a course forward to free, fair and credible elections, then America and Bangladesh's many other friends can help Bangladesh realize that course of action."

To another question, Mozena said, "Yes, there is a solution to the current political impasse:

"Violence from any quarter is not democratic practice, is not acceptable and must stop immediately. The government must provide the opposition political space to freely express

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ZIANAGAR UPAZILA OF PIROJPUR Jamaat-Shibir violence paralyses economy

TAWFIQUE ALI WITH HABIBUR RAHMAN from Pirojpur

Nearly all economic activities at Pirojpur's Zianagar upazila, a stronghold of the war crimes convict Delawar Hossain Sayedee, came to a standstill in the last two months due to mayhem by the opposition.

During an extensive tour through Zianagar, Indurkani, Kalaia, Sayeedkhali, Dhepsabunia, Bhabanipur, Balipara and Chandipur on Thursday, the villages looked ghostly with an uneasy calm and sparse presence of customers and traders at the bazars.

Around 500 local transports of rickshaw vans, rental motorbikes, Tomtoms (a locally devised transport), battery-run rickshaws and a dozen inter-district buses remain off the 15 kilometre Zianagar-Chandipur road, a vital thoroughfare across the upazila.

The last two months saw many murders, hackings, lynching, severing of tendons, gauging out of eyes and lethal undercover

attacks particularly in the villages of Balipara, Sayeedkhali (originally Southkhali) and Chandipur allegedly by Jamaat-BNP men.

This situation is prevailing despite increased drives by law enforcers, including Rapid Action Battalion and Border Guard Bangladesh, against miscreants.

"We carry out raids and searches in the morning, midday and midnight at different places every day to keep the criminals at bay," said Pirojpur Superintendent of Police SM Akhtaruzzaman.

"In addition, several police camps have been set up in different unions so that they cannot gather strength... We arrested nearly 80 suspected criminals in the past weeks alone," he said.

An elderly Hakim Hawladar, whom The Daily Star met at Kalaia, said, "Over 90 percent of the locals blindly love Sayedee because of his religious sermons."

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GET NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

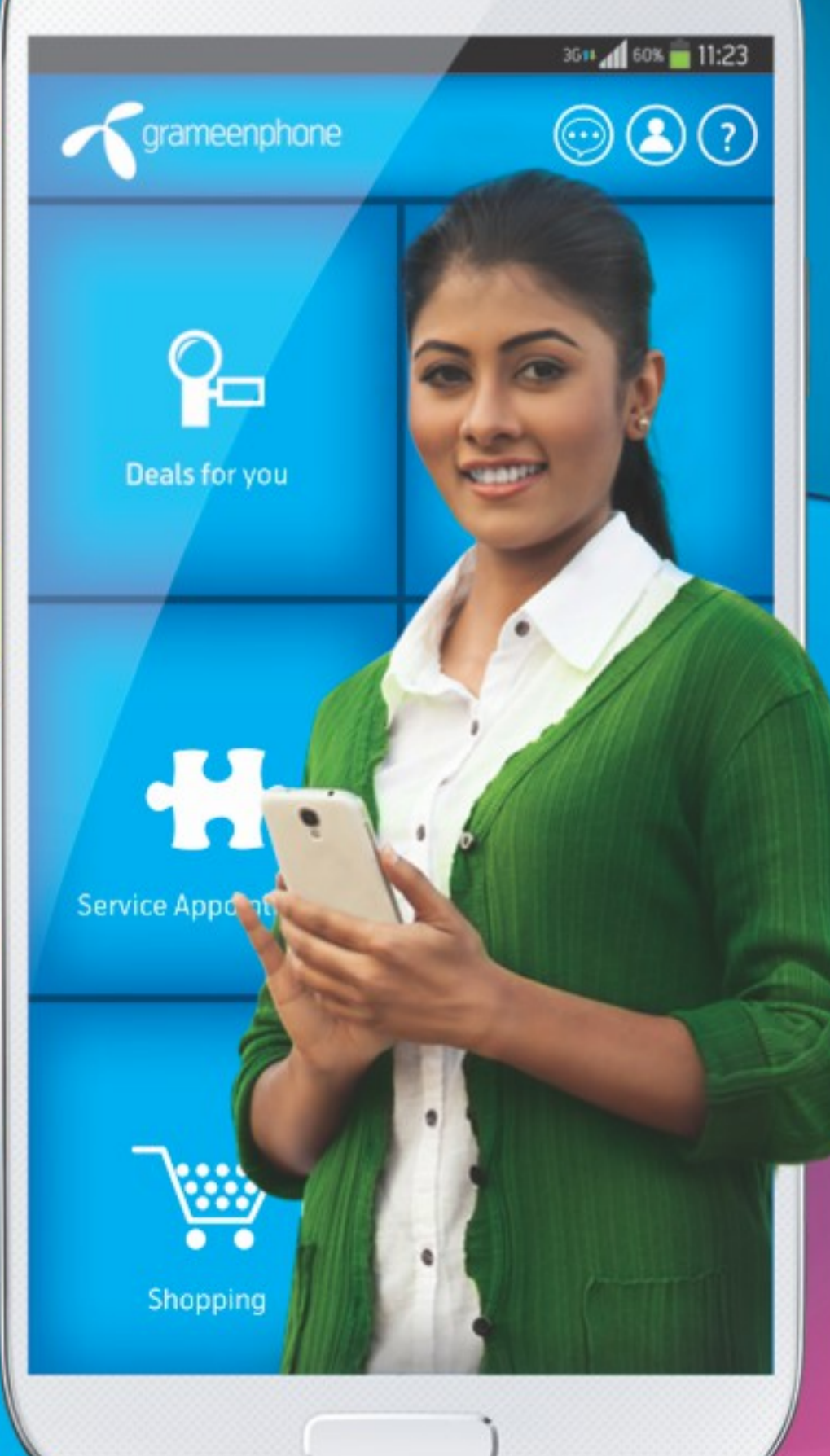
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