

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



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

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39am. Country's highest temperature 28.5

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 10.3 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 26.6	17.0	82	73	Khulna 28.5	16.0	90	65
Chittagong 25.8	14.0	89	80	Barisal 27.8	15.5	95	80
Rajshahi 26.6	14.8	95	90	Sylhet 24.0	14.2	85	79
Rangpur 23.3	14.0	83	82	Cox's Bazar 27.8	14.2	67	61

NEWSIN
brief

Milad mahfil for Zohra Tajuddin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A milad mahfil will be held today seeking salvation of the departed soul of Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, wife of the first prime minister of Bangladesh government in exile, Tajuddin Ahmad. Her family members have requested all of their relatives, political colleagues and well-wishers to attend the mahfil to be held after Maghrib prayers at Banani DOHS Community Center in the capital. Zohra, also a presidium member of the ruling Awami

UK, US, German missions closed Dec 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed tomorrow and Thursday for Christmas. The office will reopen on Sunday. The American embassy, including the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the Education USA Student Advising Center, will be closed tomorrow on the occasion of Christmas Day. The German embassy will remain closed from today until Thursday and also on December 31 and January 1 for Christmas and New Year holidays. The Embassy's visa section will be closed for nine days from today and will reopen on January 2.

Monirul new envoy to Morocco

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Md Monirul Islam, currently serving as consul general at Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York, as the new ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Morocco. A career diplomat, Monirul Islam belongs to the 10th batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

Artwork exhibition on river in January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

HSBC and British Council will jointly organise an annual artwork exhibition, "Rivers of the World", in January in the capital and Sylhet to raise awareness about preserving rivers. HSBC has recently signed an agreement with British Council in this regard, said a press release. The Surma river will be highlighted in the upcoming exhibition participated by students.

Mathematical Society AGM postponed

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Mathematical Society has postponed its annual general meeting and election, which were scheduled to be held on December 28, due to unavoidable reasons. A statement of the society also said a new date will be announced later on.

Momtaj president, Delwar general secretary of Pakundia Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Momtaj Uddin Ahmed Bhuyan, former professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), has been elected the president of Pakundia Samity in the capital, said a press release yesterday. AKM Delwar Hossain, president of The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), is the new general secretary, it added. Thirty-one other members have also been elected for the executive committee of 2014-2015 session.

Marico Bangladesh hands over pick-up van to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marico Bangladesh Ltd, a consumer goods (FMCG) company, has recently handed over a pick-up van to Dhaka Airport police. The donation was a part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, said a press release. Aditya Shome, managing director of the company; Iqbal Chowdhury, head of finance and corporate affairs; and Siddharta Das, head of human resources; and Nisharul Arif, deputy police commissioner of Uttara, Dr Quamruzzaman, additional deputy police commissioner of Uttara; and OCs (Airport police) Jashim Uddin Molla and Shamsuddin Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury; were present during the handover.



Discussion
Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will organise a discussion marking "Promulgation of development and technology-based politics to make Bangladesh's independence meaningful and worthwhile"; Venue: its premises; Time: 11:00am.
Rally
Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati will organise a protest rally demanding identification of the skeletal remains recently found in the Rana Plaza debris; Venue: before Rana Plaza, Savar; Time: 10:30am.

MURDER OF SIX
Slain 'pir' had enemies

Say family, neighbours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The "pir" who was slain along with five others in his house in the capital's Gopibagh on Saturday had many enemies, according to family members and neighbours. In 1997, he was driven away from his village home in Bhuapur, Tangail by neighbours he conflicted with, reported our Tangail correspondent yesterday, quoting his fellow villagers. "We could rarely stay in the same house for a long time--my father's preaching got spread and the community drove us out," said Abdullah, the surviving son of the pir. "Just before we came to this house, we lived in another place in Gopibagh, which we had to leave because one of our neighbours used to have constant clashes with father," he added. The pir, Lutfar Rahman Faruque, 60, often got threats, claimed Abdullah, but he could not specify instances.

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SEVERE MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT CRISIS AT CMCH
Burn unit struggling to deliver services

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Already burdened with severe manpower crisis and inadequate equipment, Chittagong Medical College Hospital's (CMCH) burn unit is now struggling to deal with the winter influx of patients and victims of arson during political programmes. Doctors say there are more fires and injuries in the dry season while six political violence victims had been admitted there since November 26, of whom only one remains admitted as the others passed away or were shifted to other hospitals. The number of patients in the 26-bed unit yesterday was 48, many of whom were accommodated on the floor. There are just six doctors working in different shifts round the clock, seven nurses on deputation from other wards and no interneer doctors, making it impossible to deliver proper healthcare services. "A burn unit must be well equipped as

treatment for burns is quite different," Associate Prof Dr Mrinal Kanti Das, head of the unit, told The Daily Star recently. "There are many steps and delay in any one could be fatal," he said. Initially the patients need saline, antibiotics and bandages to clean wounds and prevent infections. But at the year's end, stocks of these run low until fresh supplies arrive, say doctors. Severe burns require administering anaesthetics from the operation theatre of the unit, which is ill-equipped and has no designated staff. Moreover, the unit does not have an intensive care unit (ICU), meaning a sterile environment with lifesaving equipment including resuscitators, vital in treating patients there. "Many patients come with respiratory pipe inflammations, needing ICU support,"

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The city corporation authorities dug the trench in the middle of the road in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club about two weeks ago and never returned to the site to install sewerage pipes since then, while commuters suffer for this every day. The photo was taken at 3:50pm yesterday.

Girl raped by 'uncle' dies of bleeding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a 10-year-old girl who, Dhaka Medical College morgue sources presume, bled to death after being raped allegedly by her maternal uncle in the capital's Khilgaon yesterday. Police detained the uncle, Amir Hossain, 38, who had slept in the room the body was found, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge, Khilgaon Police Station. Since the age of two, Antara Akhter, a class III student, alongside her only sibling Mitu, 18, had been living in the two-bedroom tin-shed house of her childless maternal aunt Fatema Begum's family.

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VOIP EQUIPMENT SEIZURE
15 arrested foreigners' passports fake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passports of 15 of the 37 foreigners arrested with a huge quantity of illegal VoIP equipment in an Uttara house in the capital on Sunday night, are fake, said a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) official yesterday. Rab 1 Commander Lt Col Kismat Hayat added that the foreigners, five Chinese and 32 Taiwanese, had claimed to have arrived after getting job offers through the internet. "Interrogations are ongoing with the help of an interpreter," he said. Hayat said the illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) business was being run using land lines, international gateways or internet service providers which, still to be identified, is capable of handling a huge number of international calls. A Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) official said they found 88 active land phones at the crime scene. The accused hid the connections and some equipment and so finding how they were running the business has become hard, he said. However, Mir Mohammad Morshed, director of public relation and publication of the state-run Bangladesh

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Birth anniversary of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah observed

CITY DESK

A day-long free medical camp was set up on Nalta Central Ahsania Misson premises in the capital's Uttara on Saturday marking the 140th birth anniversary of Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R), an educationist and social worker. Several other events, including a milad and discussion, were also organised, said a press release. Abdul Majid, former chairman of National Revenue Board; Alhajj Md Selimullah, president of the mission; M Ehsanur Rahman, executive director of Dhaka Ahsania Misson; Alhajj SM Tofajjal Hossain,

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BANGLADESHI'S DEATH IN IRAN
Six compatriots on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six of the 29 migrants who returned on Sunday after being held captive in Iran for three months were yesterday taken on a two-day police remand, granted by a metropolitan magistrate, over the death of a compatriot. Working in the UAE and Oman, the 30 were promised jobs in Greece, Turkey and Italy, taken to Bandar Abbas in Iran in September and held captive and tortured while ransom was being collected from families of the 29. The victims escaped at the end of November and took refuge at a Bangladesh embassy official's residence in Tehran where the six allegedly beat Jewel Mollah dead on December 14. The six were arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport based on a murder case Jewel's father Shajahan Mollah filed. Criminal Investigation Department (CID) who started investigations on the abduction from November 16, claimed that, as per the embassy's information, the six had beaten Jewel for coercing them into accepting the kidnappers'

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CANDIDACY CANCELLATION
EC asks B'baria DC to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday issued a show-cause notice to the returning officer (RO) of Brahmanbaria over allegations that he had forcibly cancelled candidature of a Jatiya Party leader. Rezaul Karim Bhuiyan, a candidate of Brahmanbaria-3, said he survived scrutiny and did not withdraw his candidacy but found his name absent on the list of valid candidates. The RO, who is also deputy commissioner (DC) of the district, was not available for comment. "We have asked him (DC) to explain the matter. After getting the reply, we will be able to say what actually happened," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told The Daily Star.

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RANA PLAZA RUBBLE
More human remains found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Street boys scavenging in the rubble of Rana Plaza unearthed human remains for the third time yesterday. They found two human bones and a few long hairs from the rubble in Savar. The street urchins said they saw many other remains, which could not be reached as those were buried under iron rods. Dipol Chondra Saha, inspector of Savar Model Police Station, said the bones and hairs will be sent for DNA tests at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. On Sunday, one skull was found in the debris, while on December 13, several skeletal remains, including a skull, an identity card and a mobile phone, were recovered from it. Remains of one Obaidul, sewing assistant at New Wave Bottoms garment factory, which were found on December 13, were collected by family members after a DNA test. Many family members of missing persons have thronged the site waiting to see if remains of their loved ones could be found. According to records of Bangladesh Army, which led the rescue, 159 victims are still missing. Maj Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwady, the chief coordinator of the rescue operation, said the collapsed site would be handed over to the district administration this morning. The nine-storey Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24.

JAMAAT-SHIBIR VIOLENCE
Funds for Nilphamari victims sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor has initiated a fund raising programme titled "Jagrato Nilphamari" to help the victims of recent Jamaat-Shibir mayhem in the district. Noor, also an eminent cultural personality, requested all to extend their supports for the victim members of Hindu community and his party in the district, says a press release. Contributions could be sent: Jagrata Nilphamari, A/C: 017312100041907, Mercantile Bank Limited, Nilphamari Branch. On December 14, Jamaat-Shibir men attacked Noor's motorcade while he

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SAARC Development Fund

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

The SAARC Development Fund invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing legal consulting service to activate the Economic and Infrastructure Windows of the SAARC Development Fund. This consultancy service is funded by the World Bank.

Last date of submission of expression of interest is January 3, 2014.

For the REOI document please visit our website www.sdfsec.org or contact us at info@sdfsec.org or at +975-2-321152/321153.