

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Madaripur, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Pabna, Comilla and Srimangal, Met Office said. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river

basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.**

Country's highest temperature 27.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Shitakunda and lowest 7.4 degree Celsius at Sreemangal. The highest and lowest temperatures 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	25.7	11.2		65	53	Khulna	25.6	12.0		78	68
Chittagong	24.1	12.6		77	83	Barisal	25.7	11.0		89	79
Rajshahi	25.3	09.5		88	70	Sylhet	26.7	11.1		80	65
Rangpur	24.7	11.2		92	73	Cox's Bazar	26.5	12.8		70	71

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid with some school students holding new books in their hands at the inauguration of free textbook distribution ceremony at Gono Bhaban yesterday.



PHOTO: BSS

PM inaugurates textbook distribution among students

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the distribution of free textbooks among school students with a pledge to do whatever necessary for the improvement and flourishing of education in the country. Hasina inaugurated the distribution of free textbooks up to secondary level through giving books to some students of class I-IX of different schools and madrasas at a ceremony at Gono Bhaban, her official residence. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, among others, spoke on the occasion. The education ministry will hold the much-awaited

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JSD vows to work from both within, outside govt

Announces 31-point manifesto
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) candidates win in the next parliamentary elections, they will work for the country from both within and outside the government and parliament, party chief Hasanul Haq Inu said yesterday. The president of the JSD made the statement during announcement of party's manifesto at the party office on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue. Sharif Nurul Ambia, general secretary of the JSD, a component of the 14-party alliance government, read out their manifesto of the election set for Sunday. As in the last national election, four leaders of JSD got nominations as 14-party alliance candidate who are contesting with the "boat" symbol, while 19 others are contesting with JSD symbol "torch". As a party, it is also supporting

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PROCESSION ON SC PREMISES

Pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers defy ban

Also deny Tuesday's consensus with pro-AL lawyers about not staging protest there

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawyers brought out a procession on the Supreme Court premises yesterday, ignoring the previous day's decision of not holding such programmes there and defying a 2005 High Court prohibition. Around 1:00pm, they paraded around the SC building and ended up on the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) premises, voicing their support for BNP's indefinite blockade to resist the "one-sided" January 5 election. Chief Justice Md Muzammel

Hossain termed the demonstration there "unfortunate", SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star. In May 2005, the High Court banned all kinds of agitation on the SC or any court premises and boycott of court, he said, adding that such demonstrations were also prohibited by the Supreme Court rules. "I think that the lawyers, who are holding rallies and brining out processions on the Supreme Court premises, are aware of the 2005 High Court order and the Supreme Court

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SUNDAY'S INCIDENT AT SC SCBA protests DMP chief's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), which is currently dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday strongly criticised Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed for his remarks about the clash on the SC premises on Sunday. The DMP boss said on Monday that the opposition men used the national institutions (Supreme Court and Jatiya Press Club) as a "political shield". "They hired cadres, who demonstrated inside the Supreme Court compound. I would urge the court to

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REMARK ON GOPALGANJ Another case against Khaleda dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A second case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her remarks on Gopalganj district was dismissed hours after it was filed yesterday. Her remarks on Sunday that "Gopalganj will cease to exist" caused quite a stir across the country. Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka Mohammad Asaduzzaman Nur dismissed the case yesterday, saying a magistrate's court has no jurisdiction to try a person accused of violating the constitution, the charge brought in the case. Mojibur Rahman Mollah, founder president of Bangladesh Awami

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A train driver wearing a helmet in case rocks or stones are thrown at him on the way amid the ongoing political violence, when the railway has been a major target of sabotage recently. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday, the first day of the opposition alliance's indefinite blockade.

Police, Rab foil JP discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion and police yesterday drove leaders and activists of Jatiya Party (HM Ershad) out of a convention centre at the capital's Gulshan where they were to hold a discussion around 10:00am marking the party's 27th founding anniversary. Police reasoned that the party did not take any permission to hold the programme. JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Howlader, however, said, "We know that there is no need for permission to hold an indoor programme." The law enforcers even took away the banner, said JP's Dhaka city north unit President HM Faisal Chishti. Wishing anonymity, a JP presidium member said the government acted like a fascist. GM Quader, another JP presidium member, who was supposed to attend the meeting alongside Howlader, strongly criticised the government for such an act.

VoIP equipment of Tk 50 lakh seized Two arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested two persons with a huge amount of voice over internet protocol (VoIP) equipment worth around Tk 50 lakh for operating the system illegally in the capital's Mohammadpur Tuesday night. The equipment include 14 bank channels, 132 antennas, 2,772 SIM cards of different telecom operators, two computers, and nine mobile phones. The arrested are Firoz Alom, 25, son of Moksed Hawlader; and Sohel Rana, 22, son of late Abdul Khalek. However, Mithu Hawlader, 25, the mastermind behind the incident, managed to flee, Rab said. The trio hailed from Kazlakati in Bakerganj upazila of Barisal. Acting on a tip-off, Rab held them in a room on the sixth floor of a seven-storey building at Jafrabad, said Lt Col KM Azad, commanding officer of Rab-2. Based on their information, the battalion raided a nearby house of one Mithu and recovered more VoIP equipments. None was arrested there.

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Kamal Uddin new UAPF chairperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKM Kamal Uddin Choudhury, former secretary and ambassador of Bangladesh, has been elected the chairperson of University of Asia Pacific Foundation (UAPF) for 2014-2015, said a press release yesterday. A 32-member body of Board of Governor was formed following an Annual General Meeting yesterday. Other office bearers are Senior Vice Chairperson Qayum Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chairpersons KM Akhtaruzzaman and Kazi Mohd Mozibur Rahman, and Treasurer Ishtiaque Ahmed.

BANGLADESH ISSUES CPB, BSD slam US, India's 'interference'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is a "disgrace" that countries like the United States and India discuss Bangladesh's "internal matters", said leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) at a rally yesterday. Letting "imperial powers" intervene in the nation's politics goes against the main values of the Liberation War, said Monjurul Ahsan Khan, former president of CPB. The rally was held in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital to observe what the left-leaning parties call "Anti-imperialism Solidarity Day." "If we want to uphold the legacy of the Liberation War, we should be alert against imperialism," said Khalequzzaman, convener of BSD. Different left-leaning political parties also paid respect to the memorial sculpture of Shaheed Matiul Islam and Mirza Kader at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The leaders of the parties said Shaheed Matiul Islam and Mirza Kader were killed on January 1 in 1973 when the police fired on a procession protesting the US invasion in Vietnam.

NEWS IN brief

Bangladesh set to win Global Green Award 2014

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been selected for the "Global Green Award 2014", said Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud at a press briefing at the Secretariat yesterday. He said Paris-based Otherways Management Association has recently decided to give the "Global Green Award" this year to the Environment and Forests Ministry of Bangladesh for its outstanding contribution to sustainable development of environment. The award will be handed over at a function in Berlin on March 31, Hasan Mahmud said.

Gazipur Medical College starts first academic session

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Gazipur Medical College formally started its academic activities for the first time yesterday. MM Niaz Uddin, secretary to the health ministry, in his inaugural speech in Bangataz Auditorium in Gazipur town, said a modern Intensive Care Unit will be set up in Gazipur Medical College Hospital this year. One of the 23 government medical colleges in the country, Gazipur Medical College has started journey with 20 teachers and 50 students. The college, built at a cost of Tk 596 crore, was inaugurated on November 1 last year.

DMP launches its news portal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday officially launched its online portal: dmpnews.org for quick access to its news relating to crimes and traffic situation mainly. DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed inaugurated the website in the capital's DMP Media Wing Centre on Mintoo Road. The portal, which has been running on a test-basis for the last eight months, will contain updated information about unidentified bodies, missing persons as well as lost and found stuff.

Two killed in Satkhira road crash

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two people were killed and another injured in a road accident within a short span of time on Satkhira-Jessore highway in Kolaroa upazila yesterday. A Satkhira-bound bus hit a human hauler near Jugibari-Chhoighoria crossing leaving its driver Eshak Ali Sardar, 52, of Sadar upazila, dead on the spot, said witnesses. A short distance away, Mezbahar Dalal, 32, of Kolaroa upazila, was killed and his younger brother Amin, 17, injured when the same bus hit the engine-run van carrying them.

4 Gazipur brick kilns fined Tk 8 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined four brick kilns in Konabari of Gazipur Tk 8 lakh for violating environment laws. They are Hazi Bricks and Co, Ismail Bricks and Co, Khan and Co, and Dhaka Bricks. After a hearing at DoE Dhaka headquarters, Director M Alamgir fined them Tk 2 lakh each, said a press release signed by Assistant Director Md Hafizur Rahman. The factories did not renew the environment certificates and were using 120 feet high chimneys which should be taller, said Hafizur.



Human chain

Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity will form a human chain demanding that the image of the Supreme Court be upheld; Venue: Supreme Court Ainjibi Samity

Bhaban; Time: 12:00 noon.

Rally

Bangladesh Tanti League will stage a rally protesting BNP-Jamaat's violent political activities; Venue: Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 10:00am.

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