

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today said Met Office. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:34pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 26.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

in Sylhet and lowest 10.0 degrees in Kutubdia. 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	21.6	14.2	86	75	Khulna	16.5	13.8	88	89
Chittagong	21.5	14.4	96	67	Barisal	17.2	10.5	86	88
Rajshahi	16.2	12.5	95	90	Sylhet	26.2	15.3	86	79
Rangpur	17.0	12.2	97	91	Cox's Bazar	25.0	16.0	96	75

NEWSIN brief

2 hurt in crude bomb blasts in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two men were injured as unidentified miscreants exploded around five crude bombs on a street in the capital's Purana Paltan yesterday. Kamol Dhar was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while Masud was undergoing treatment at Islami Bank Central Hospital. Paltan police Sub-inspector Jahangir Hossain said they were investigating the incident.

JP starts selling nomination papers for women's JS seats today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jatiya Party will start selling nomination papers for 50 reserved seats for women in parliament today. The nomination papers can be collected till Sunday for Tk 5,000, said a JP press release yesterday. The women aspirants will be interviewed by a board led by Chairman HM Ershad in his Banani office Monday. The aspirants will have to collect nomination forms from JP Treasurer Maj (retd) Khaled Akter.

Hearing on Sayedee's appeal against death penalty continues for 21st day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday continued hearing for the 21st day on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee's appeal against the International Crimes Tribunal-1 verdict which sentenced Sayedee to death for war crimes. During the hearing, defence counsel SM Shahjahan read out from the documents produced before ICT-1, which pronounced the verdict on February 28 last year. He appealed against the verdict with the SC on March 28. The court will hold further hearing on January 19.

Buet move to cut century-old tree protested

DU CORRESPONDENT
Green activists yesterday protested the Buet's move to cut down a century-old tree on its campus. They raised the demand at a human chain formed by several organisations, including Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Nirapod Development Foundation, on the campus. They urged the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology authorities to cancel the decision. Buet Chief Engineer MM Abdul Alim said they found the tree dangerous for a nearby building.

Indictment in Himu murder case deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A Chittagong court yesterday for the third time deferred the charge framing of Himadri Majumder Himu murder case till January 26 as the prosecution and defence lawyers prayed for more time. Himu, an A-level student, died on May 23, 2012, 26 days after he had been pushed off the roof of a four-storey building in the port city's Panchlaish by the accused reportedly for his anti-drug activities.

Ctg Samiti greets new ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chattagram Samiti-Dhaka greeted three ministers and two state ministers of the new cabinet on Tuesday and Wednesday. The three are ICT Minister Abdul Latif Siddique, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, and Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, said a press release. The two are State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed and State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Bir Bahadur.

Peace rally

Islami Samaj will stage a peace rally protesting the attacks on the minority communities; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Meeting

Bangladesh Buddha Front will hold a meeting protesting the violence against the Hindu community; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion on "The current politics"; Venue: The Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 11:00am.



Under the protection of influential locals, land grabbers have encroached upon a huge portion of the Shitalakkhya River in Kanchpur area outside the capital and are trading sand on the captured land, narrowing the channel gradually. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Road crashes kill 10

CITY DESK
Ten people were killed and 18 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Wednesday. Our staff correspondent reports, a person died after an unidentified speeding vehicle ran him over yesterday in the capital's Badda. Mahbub Sardar, 50, resident of Adarshanagar, a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail
Today is the 11th death anniversary of Amal Sen, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and former president of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh. On the occasion, Amal Sen Smriti Sangrakkhon Committee organised a two-day programme at Bakoli village in Narail Sadar upazila. A two-day Amal Sen Mela (fair) will begin on Bakri High School premises today.

AKM Golam Quader

CITY DESK

Today is the eighth death anniversary of AKM Golam Quader, a freedom fighter and former officer of Bangladesh Biman, said a press release. He was also a businessman, social worker and a philanthropist. On the occasion, a milad and a doa mahfil will be held today after Juma prayers in his Nurpur residence in GM Haat at Phulgazi in Feni. His relatives and friends have been requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Tortured in Al-Badr camp in presence of Mir Quasem

Victim tells war crimes tribunal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A prosecution witness yesterday testified that he was tortured at an Al-Badr camp in Chittagong in presence of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali during the Liberation War. Sanaullah Chowdhury, the second prosecution witness in Quasem's case, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Quasem even interrogated him during his 12-day captivity at that camp in the city's Dalim Hotel. The 67-year-old witness said bodies of four to five captives, who were tortured to death at the camp, were dumped into the Karnaphuli river in the last part of the nine-month long war in 1971. On December 11 last year, Syed Mohammad Amran, a freedom fighter who endured torture for 16 days at the same camp, testified that four to five detainees were killed inside the Quasem-controlled camp. Quasem, a member of Jamaat's central executive council, is facing 14 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed in Chittagong during the war. Quasem was the general secretary of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat. According to the prosecution documents, Chhatra Sangha was later turned into Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, in 1971. Sanaullah in his testimony said he used to work as an office assistant of Chittagong Deputy Commissioner's office and live in a rented house.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Two BCL men hurt in clash between two units in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were hacked and two motorcycles were torched during a clash between two units of the pro-Awami League student body in Chittagong city last evening. One of the injured, Mejbah Uddin, 29, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, and the other, Md Atik, to a private hospital, said police and BCL sources. The clash broke out on the Chittagong Circuit House premises around 8:35pm soon after Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed left the place following a meet-the-press, said Nejarat Deputy Collector of Chittagong Ashrafal Alam. Md Imtiaz, president of Government City College BCL, said a group led by Nurul Azim Roni, general secretary of Chittagong city BCL, attacked their activists but he did not know why. The Daily Star tried to reach Roni by phone for comments to no avail. As the fighting broke out, two units of fire fighters rushed to the scene and prevented the blaze from spreading, said Jasim Uddin, deputy director of fire service of Chittagong.



Samprodayikotabirodhi Sangbadik Mancha observes a token sit-in before the capital's National Museum yesterday demanding severe punishment for the perpetrators who have been striking terror across the country including attacking the minority communities.

PHOTO: STAR

Indian envoy hopes for more health sector cooperation

He hands over brachytherapy, ultrasound machines to BSMMU
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Handing over two machines to BSMMU, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran yesterday expressed hope that cooperation between Bangladesh and India in the health sector will be strengthened further in the coming days. He was inaugurating the machines with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Vice-Chancellor Pran Gopal Dutta in the capital's BSMMU. The machines, one for brachytherapy which is used for internal radiotherapy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Transport sector on verge of destruction for political instability

States Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Political instability has pushed the country's transport sector towards the verge of destruction, said a section of transport owners yesterday. During the political violence since October 2012, around 1,000 vehicles, including buses, trucks, lorries and pickup vans, were torched while 3,500 more were vandalised, resulting in a loss of around Tk 130 crore, they told a press conference. Meanwhile, arson attacks claimed lives of 55 transport workers while many more sustained injuries, said K Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity that organised the programme in Dhaka Reporters Unity. The sector, 98 percent of which is owned by private companies, counted a loss of around Tk 300 crore every day due to blockades or hartals, adversely affecting over 2.5 million families whose livelihoods depended on the sector's earnings, he said. "The transport sector is facing a crunch because of the unstable political culture...during agitations it was seen that the transport sector became the main target of pickets," he said. Enayet urged the political parties to reach consensus and stop such violence. "If such political culture continues, none would dare invest in the sector," he said.

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