

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Jessor and Kushtia till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country,

Met Office said. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Country's highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 09.7 degree Celsius in Ishwardi.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius

Max: 27.8 Min: 13.0

Dhaka 79 55

Chittagong 94 72

Rajshahi 92 76

Rangpur 73 65

Humidity in percentage

Morning Evening

Khulna 27.2 11.2

Barisal 26.4 10.2

Sylhet 30.1 14.6

Cox's Bazar 28.2 16.8

Temperature in Celsius

Max: 95 Min: 47

99 74

61 56

96 79

Humidity in percentage

Morning Evening

95 47

99 74

61 56

96 79

NEWS IN brief

Bomb attack on Gonojagoron Mancha convoy in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Gonojagoron Mancha spokesperson Imran H Sarker said the glasses, including a windshield, of the mancha's convoy were damaged as criminals hurled bombs on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Ranirbandar area yesterday evening.

He was addressing a rally on Dinajpur Institute premises. Imran claimed that the culprits exploded the bombs as the convoy reached the area in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur.

Poba against easier licence renewal for professional drivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) yesterday expressed its concerns over Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's recent decision to make renewal of professional drivers' licences easier.

The decision may increase road accidents, said a press release yesterday. Through a gazette notification on December 31 last year, BRTA decided to renew drivers' licences without the assessment board's approval.

According to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, every year a professional driver must undergo field level examination for renewing a licence.

Woman hacked to death by 'husband' in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *N'ganj*

An elderly woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband at Lashkardi in Araihazar of Narayanganj yesterday morning.

Police arrested the husband Sirajul Islam, 70, in this connection. Araihazar police Officer-in-Charge Md Alamgir said Shamsunnahar had an altercation with Sirajul over a trivial matter three days ago.

Yesterday morning, Sirajul attacked her with an axe and a brick when she was asleep.

Body found in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Savar*

The body of an unidentified woman was found floating on Begunbari Khal at Tayabpur in Ashulia of Savar on Friday night.

Md Ruhul Amin, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station, said after being informed by locals, law enforcers recovered the body. "She was hacked to death, and the murderers dumped her body in the canal after killing her," he said. The body was sent for an autopsy. A case was filed.

IUB spring trimester orientation held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An orientation programme for the new Independent University, Bangladesh students of spring trimester was held on IUB Dhaka campus yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman welcomed the students.

School of Business Dean Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, School of Engineering & Computer Science Dean Ali Shihab Sabbir, School of Environmental Science and Management Dean M Ali Hossain, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Acting Dean Mahbub Alam, School of Life Sciences Dean Rita Yusuf, and Registrar Tanvir A Khan spoke.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Viqarunnisa Noon School & College with the assistance of JICA will arrange a workshop on earthquake; Venue: the school campus; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Thikana Bangladesh will hold a discussion on "The current politics"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.



For participants in the upcoming Biswa Ijtema, temporary bamboo structures being erected on the vast tract of land along the Turag river in Tongi outside the capital yesterday. The first phase of the Muslim congregation, billed as largest after Hajj, will begin on January 24.

PHOTO: STAR

BBC BANGLADESH SANGLAP
Punishment for anti-Hindu pogromists demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday said the people responsible for attacking Hindus around the country should be punished regardless of their political stripes.

Such attacks were a shame for the nation, she told the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, a debate on contemporary affairs, in the capital's Bham auditorium.

In response to a question from the audience, BNP Standing Committee Member Mahbubur Rahman, another of the four panellists, termed Hindus a "pawn on the chess board".

"After elections, one party wins while the other loses. But Hindus always remain the loser. They are never accepted by the win-

ners," he said.

Architect Mobasser Hossain said persecution of the minority Hindus were to grab their properties.

Talking over whether sealing the press of the Bangla daily Inquilab by the government recently rings any alarm for other houses, Mahbubur said others might feel a pressure for this.

Matia, however, called the action a temporary measure and said the newspaper had published an article intentionally at a time when Hindus were being attacked nationwide.

In its Thursday issue, the Inquilab claimed India's participation in the joint force drive against criminals in violence-hit Sathkhira but issued an apology yesterday.

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Jamaat a terrorist organisation

Commerce Minister Tofail tells media in India, appears to brush aside western demands for fresh elections

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *New Delhi*

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday termed Jamaat-e-Islami a "terrorist organisation" and appeared to have ruled out possibilities of fresh parliamentary elections in the near future as demanded by some western countries.

Wrapping up his four-day visit to India, the first by a Bangladeshi minister since the January 5 elections in Bangladesh, Tofail said the BNP-led opposition had not backed out from its three key demands.

The three are for Sheikh Hasina's resignation as prime minister, installation of a neutral caretaker government, and a guarantee of victory for the opposition on joining fresh polls, said the senior Awami League (AL) leader.

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Talking to mediapersons after meeting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Kazi Zafar to join BNP's anti-govt movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Zafar Ahmed-led Jatiya Party will jointly wage movement with the BNP-led 18-party alliance demanding a free, fair and inclusive national election under a non-party administration.

"We will also join the opposition's rallies on January 20 and 29 in the capital," he told reporters after meeting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office last night.

Meanwhile, BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has accused the government of using joint forces to kill opposition leaders through extrajudicial means.

AL man shot dead during factional clash in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

An Awami League activist was shot dead and 15 others sustained injuries during a factional clash at Tikari Bazar village under Jhenidah sadar upazila last night.

The deceased, Arif Hossain, 22, was son of Toyeb Ali of the village.

Locals said there was a long-running conflict between AL-backed Fursundi Union Chairman Sahid Sikder and AL leader

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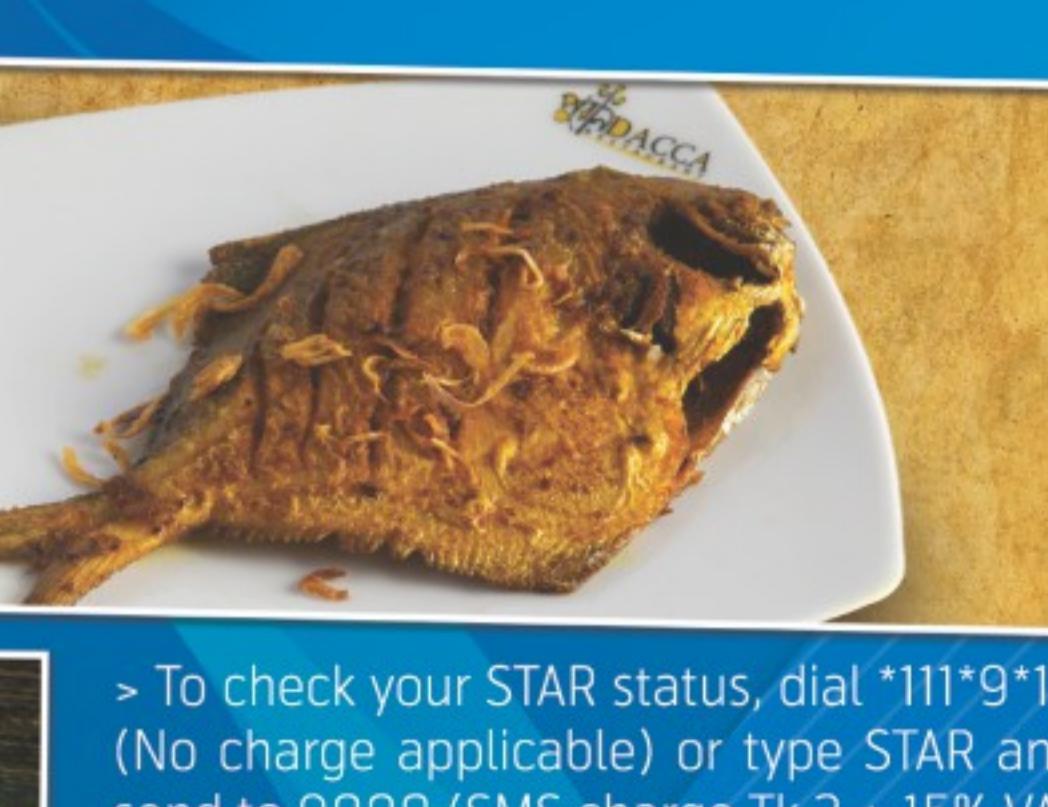


PHOTO: COURTESY

Aameer Alihussain, 2nd from right, managing director of BSRM Steels Ltd, exchanges MoU document with Russell T Ahmed, CEO of champs21.com, in Chittagong city on Thursday. BSRM has become an associate partner of the 3rd season of The Daily Star Spelling Bee, a competition participated by school children. BSRM will donate books to an underprivileged school every time a contestant scores full marks in a segment of the TV Show. Also present were M Firoze, far right, head of Marketing & Product Development, and Zohair Taher Ali, 2nd from left, finance director, of BSRM Steels Ltd; and M Ashraf Ullah, far left, assistant manager of Business Development of champs21.com.

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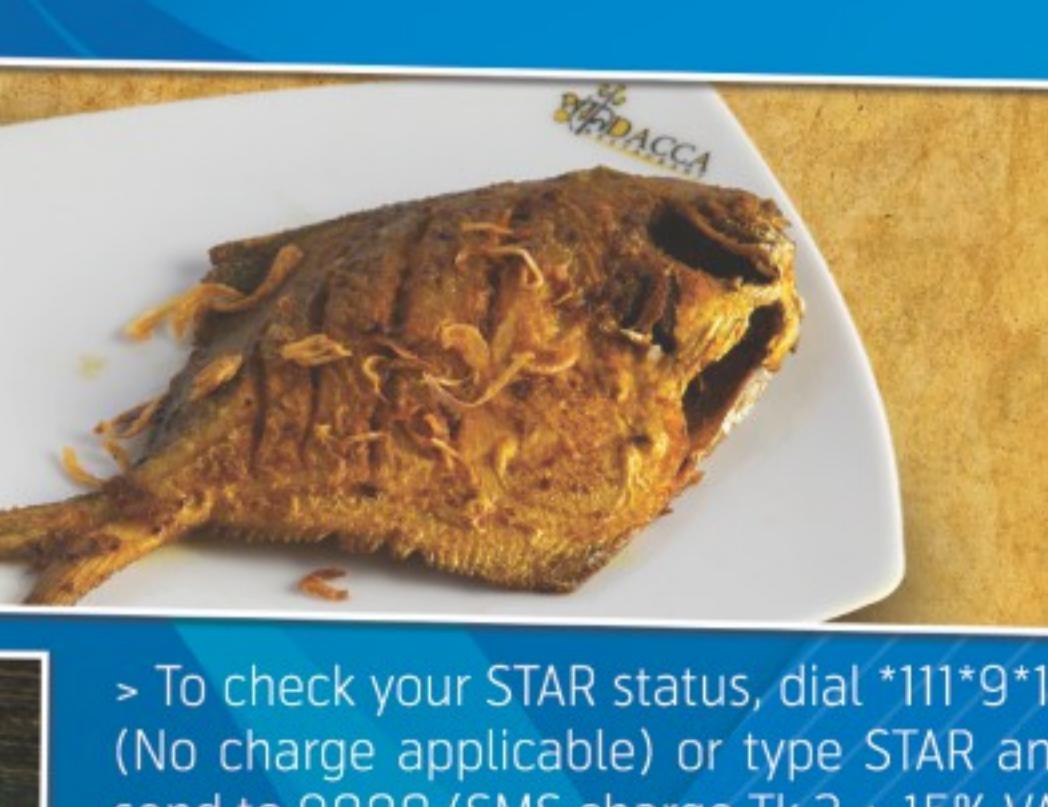
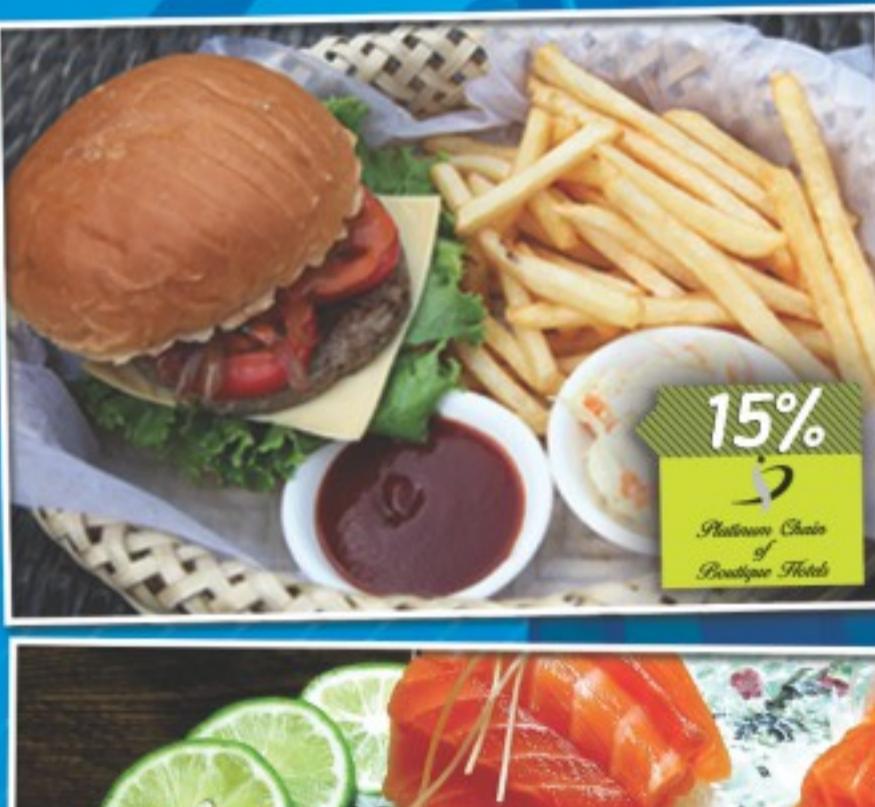
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