

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said Met Office.

Night temperature may fall slightly and

day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:37pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Country's highest temperature 29.5

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 11.3 degrees in Rajshahi.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius
Max: 23.9 16.4
Chittagong 28.0 15.9
Rajshahi 19.8 11.3
Rangpur 22.2 15.7

Humidity in percentage
Morning 89 68
Evening 87 48
Khulna 24.3 15.1
Barisal 26.0 13.7
Sylhet 28.5 13.8

Temperature in Celsius
Max: 88 75
Min: 92 84
Humidity in percentage
Morning 65 56
Evening 71 67

Palestine, Brunei congratulate Hasina for re-election

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The sultan of Brunei and the president of Palestine congratulated Sheikh Hasina for assuming the office of the prime minister of Bangladesh.

According to a foreign ministry press release, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Haji Hassanal Bolkiah congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her re-election.

In a separate message, President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas also congratulated Hasina.

Both the leaders expressed their interests in continuing to work with Bangladesh.

ZUBAIR MURDER CASE
Seven accused 'beat up' two of victim's peers near court

JU CORRESPONDENT

Seven of the 13 accused in the case over the murder of Jahangirnagar University (JU) student Zubair Ahmed allegedly beat up two of his friends before Dhaka Judge Court on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference at the Shaheed Minar on the campus, activists of "Shontrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar", a platform demanding justice over the murder, said the seven also issued death threats during the attack around 1:30am.

"You are successfully carrying out the movement but remember that if we are not hanged, more bodies

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The first rally organised by BNP in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyana after the January 5 polls causes a long tailback clogging Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. The photo was taken at Shahbagh.

PHOTO: STAR

UPAZILA PARISHADS 2nd phase of elections likely Feb 27

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

As part of its plan to hold elections to all 487 upazilas in six phases, the Election Commission (EC) mulls to begin the second phase on February 27.

In the second phase, the commission may hold elections to 117 upazila parishads, EC sources told The Daily Star.

The commission plans to hold elections to 64 upazila parishads in the third phase on March 3; 72 in the fourth phase on March 25; 65 in the fifth phase on March 31; and the rest on May 3, said EC officials.

On Sunday, the EC announced to hold polls to 102 upazila parishads on February 19 in the first phase.

As Secondary School Certificate and Higher Secondary

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Razakars yelled 'Yusuf Bhai Zindabad' after killings, torching of houses

Testifies prosecution witness in war crimes trial of AKM Yusuf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another prosecution witness yesterday corroborated the May 13, 1971 murders and arson carried out in Ranjipur village under Bagerhat sadar upazila by Razakar forces, historically known to have been founded by Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf.

The 22nd witness, Jugal Krishan Das of Ranjipur, who lost his paternal uncle that day, said after killing 50 to 60 people and

torching scores of houses, the attackers left chanting "Pakistan Zindabad, Yusuf Bhai Zindabad".

"For the first time, today I revealed Yusuf's name," said Jugal. When the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 asked why he had not done so, he replied, "Where should I tell this?"

The 21st witness, Dilip Das, also a freedom fighter, gave his deposition on Sunday,

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NEWS IN brief

Senior Indian external affairs official arrives in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A senior official of India's Ministry of External Affairs arrived in Dhaka on a three-day goodwill visit yesterday to familiarise herself with the foreign ministry officials.

Sripriya Ranganathan, joint secretary of the newly opened "Bangladesh, Myanmar Division", will discuss various bilateral issues, including pending ones, with the South Asia Wing, among others.

Tuition cut at private medical colleges demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors for Health and Environment, an organisation of left-leaning physicians, yesterday said private medical institutions should improve their education quality instead of charging huge tuition fees.

Most of the private medical colleges fail to attract students due to insufficient faculty members, infrastructure and exorbitant admission fees, said a statement issued by Kazi Rakibul Islam, general secretary of the organisation. Some colleges do not even have adjacent hospitals, it added.

Criticising such colleges, the statement further said some of those are now lobbying to relax the admission test procedure, although the test is essential to seek out the deserving students.

Body of criminal found in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The bullet-hit body of a listed criminal of Rangpur was found under a bridge in Nisbetganj area on Rangpur-Badarganj road in the city yesterday.

The deceased was Shakil Ahmed alias Tokai Shakil. He was wanted in 18 cases for murder, robbery and mugging.

Koheli Begum, Shakil's wife, claimed Rab and DB police had arrested Shakil at Rangpur Rail Station on January 14, and he had been missing since then.

Abdur Razzak, superintendent of police of Rangpur, and Lt Commander Md Motaher Hossain, deputy director of Rab-13, denied the allegation.

Razzak said the body had two bullet wounds in the head. The body was sent for an autopsy.

Four Jamaat-Shibir men arrested in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested four activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir during separate drives in Chittagong yesterday.

Imran Parvez and Abdul Aziz of Jamaat were arrested in West Dhemshe and Afzalnagar areas of Satkania upazila while another Jamaat activist Khairul Islam and Shibir activist Md Iqbal were arrested in different areas of Sitakunda upazila.

They were arrested in several cases filed for vandalism, arson and attacks on law enforcers, said police.

Bank official 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A bank officer allegedly committed suicide in his residence in Lalkhan Bazar area of Chittagong city yesterday.

Asif Hossain Hirok, 27, was a sales officer at Sholoshohor Branch of IFIC Bank, and used to live with his brother, Iqbal Hossain Hirok, and his family.

Iqbal said he found Asif hanging from a rafter in his room around 8:00am and informed Khulshi police.

Asif might have been frustrated over an amorous affair, he added.

An unnatural death case was filed with Khulshi Police Station.



Marking Shaheed Asad Day family members of the martyr placing a wreath at his memorial before Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Asad was killed in a firing by Pakistani forces before the hospital on January 20, 1969, while protesting their repression on the people in the then East Pakistan.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TWO JESSORE MPS EC likely to decide on their candidacy after Jan 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is expected to hear on January 27 the allegations against two Jessoré lawmakers-elect of violating the electoral code of conducts before the January 5 vote.

"We will take the final decision regarding their candidature after the hearing," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told reporters at his office yesterday.

Awami League leaders Sheikh Afif Uddin and Monirul Islam were elected members of parliament (MPs) from Jessoré-1 and Jessoré-2 constituencies respectively.

Afif unlawfully instructed the party men in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessoré on December 30 to cast ballots again and again for Monirul Islam on January 5.

"One hundred boys will always be in the queue. One will enter the booth and then stand at the end of the line again," he said.

Afif's campaign speech was taped and published in different newspapers. Following that, an electoral inquiry committee of that constituency investigated the incident and found it true.

On January 8, the EC issued show cause notices to the two MPs to explain why their

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Happy Birthday To DIA MONI

Many Happy Returns of the day

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