

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

the country, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:39pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.** Country's highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and

Sandwip and lowest 10.5 degree Celsius in 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	28.5	15.0	76	46	Khulna	27.0	13.0	95	53
Chittagong	29.6	15.2	75	60	Barisal	28.8	14.2	90	71
Rajshahi	27.5	13.7	98	62	Sylhet	30.2	14.9	69	41
Rangpur	27.8	14.3	70	70	Cox's Bazar	30.0	16.5	67	58

NEWS IN brief

Justice Kabir appointed law commission member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has appointed former chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1 Justice ATM Fazole Kabir as a member of the law commission for the next three years. Law Minister Anisul Huq said Justice Kabir was appointed as law commission member on Wednesday and the appointment letter was sent to him yesterday. Justice Kabir, who retired on December 31 last year, will now enjoy salary, allowance and other benefits equal to those of a High Court judge, he added.

Swechhasebak League man hacked to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Unidentified miscreants hacked a pro-Awami League Swechhashebak League activist to death in the capital's Moghbazar yesterday. The victim was Mahbubur Rahman Rana, 30. Ramna police said the incident occurred around 7:00pm. With injuries at the right side in the head, Rana was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, said DMCH outpost police. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

5 BCL men sent to jail for abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A Sylhet court yesterday sent five Bangladesh Chhatra League activists to jail in an abduction case. They are the city's ward-22 unit General Secretary Moshahid Khan and activists Sumon Ahmed, Badrul Amin, Chanchal Kumar Das and Mimbar Ali. Police said they kidnapped traders Shahin Ahmed, Lahin Mia and Maruf Ahmed and confined them to an Uposhahar house Tuesday night. Maruf and Lahin got released on paying Tk 50,000 to them. Later, police rescued the other.

Local Jamaat ameer arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
Police arrested an ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami at Gulzar Intersection in Chawkbazar area of Chittagong city early yesterday. Abdul Hannan, a Rukan (member) of Jamaat and ameer of its West Bakalia Ward no-17 unit, is accused in three cases filed with Bakalia Police Station for vandalism, arson and attacks on on-duty policemen, said police.

**CTG ARMS HAUL
Accused seek transfer of cases, IO's quizzing
HC fixes Jan 27 for order**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday fixed January 27 for passing order on four petitions filed by three accused of the Chittagong arms haul cases seeking permission to cross-examine the first investigation officer and for transfer of the cases to a new court. With all relevant proceedings, including recording of witnesses' statements, cross examinations and arguments, complete, a Chittagong court is set to deliver the verdict in the cases on January 30. Meanwhile, lawyers of six accused submitted written arguments before the Chittagong court, as per its January 13 order, claiming that the charges could not be proven and that their clients were innocent. Of the petitions, former National Security Intelligence (NSI) director general Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim and former deputy director Maj (ret'd) Liakat Hossain filed one each while former field officer Akbar Hossain filed two earlier this month. In the petitions, the accused said they were not allowed to cross-examine Ahadur Rahman as he was transferred to another police station. On seeking the transfer, Shah Monjurul Hoque, representing the accused, told The Daily Star yesterday that Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 Judge SM Mojibur Rahman had earlier passed contradictory orders. SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Doctors must work in villages for two years

Says Nasim
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Doctors in government service will have to work in the villages for at least two years or else will lose their jobs, warned health minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday. "If needed, we will enact a law to make the doctors work in their posts in rural areas," he said. At a views exchange meeting with the officials of the Directorate General of Health Services, held in its auditorium in the capital, Nasim urged the doctors, who have political affiliation, to refrain themselves from lobbying for transfers to Dhaka. He also warned that every single allegation of corruption against the officials will be investigated.

NGOs urge govt to scrap Bt Brinjal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Some NGOs working with environment and health related issues yesterday demanded that the agriculture ministry cancel its approval of cultivation of the genetically modified (GM) crop Bt Brinjal for health and environmental reasons. Under the banner of "Anti-Bt Brinjal Alliance", they protested the agriculture minister's role in encouraging farmers to cultivate the GM crop despite objections from some other government bodies. "We respect the agriculture minister as she is sensible to public issues. But she is now ignoring public health and environmental concerns for cultivation of the genetically modified Bt Brinjal," said Farida Akhter, executive director of Ubinig. Addressing a human chain formed in the capital's Shahbagh, she urged the agricultural minister to refrain from encouraging farmers to cultivate Bt Brinjal, the country's first GM crop. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury on Wednesday distributed saplings of Bt Brinjal among 20 farmers from four regions at the capital's Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Barc). She claimed the new variety would not require the use of pesticides, which reduces costs incurred by farmers. However, Farida Akhter claimed that the new variety poses a great threat to the environment as it was engineered with some of the more dangerous elements of pesticides. Representatives of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Kafrul OC, five other policemen withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station in the capital and five other policemen across the country were withdrawn on Wednesday night for different reasons. Deputy Commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Masudur Rahman announced it to the media yesterday. The withdrawn law enforcers are: Kafrul Police Station OC Wazed Ali, traffic sergeant Md Shafique of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, and Raipur Police Station's assistant sub-inspector Md Mohsin and constables -- Mostafazur Rahman, Shafiqul Alam and Pijush Chandra Pal. Wazed Ali was withdrawn for carelessness in carrying out his duties. Md Shafique was withdrawn as there is an allegation that SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

**SAVING BURIGANGA FROM POLLUTION
HC directs govt to take effective steps within 48 hours**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday directed the government to take effective steps within 48 hours to stop dumping wastes and chemicals into the Buriganga River in Shyampur and Demra. In response to a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the court asked the government to submit a report after complying with the order before it in 10 days. The HC also directed the director general of the Department of Environment and its director (enforcement) to appear before it on February 5 to explain why they have failed to save the river from pollution. It ordered the officers-in-charge (OCs) of Demra and Shyampur police stations to deploy police force on the riverbank at the areas to continuously monitor so that nobody can dump wastes and chemicals into the river and pollute environment in any manner. Deputy commissioner of Dhaka has been asked to take steps to conduct mobile court in the areas every month, so that legal action can be taken against the owners and staff of the industries who are liable for polluting water of the river. The HC asked the secretary to the ministry of shipping to form a committee with officials from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and the ministries of environment and industries to take effective steps to stop dumping wastages into the Buriganga. The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Representatives of some NGOs under the banner of "Anti-Bt Brinjal Alliance" form a human chain in front of the National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday protesting the introduction and cultivation of the genetically modified Bt Brinjal in the country.

**BODY IN COP BARRACKS
Victim was stabbed to death**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Autopsy on the beheaded body found in the traffic police barracks in the capital shows that the man was stabbed to death, said morgue sources yesterday. The victim, identified as one Nannu Mia, was stabbed thrice in the back and twice in the stomach, revealed morgue sources. The head was severed after Nannu Mia died. The head was found in a pond beside the police barracks. A quack doctor by profession, Nannu hailed from Jessore. Constable Mohammad Shawkat Hossain, the primary suspect, gave a confessional statement on Wednesday night that matches the autopsy report. Meanwhile, a Dhaka SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Rana Plaza collapse victims, families demand compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar
Surviving workers of Rana Plaza collapse and families of those who died formed a human chain at the site of the collapse in Savar yesterday to press home their six-point demand including proper compensation for victims. They formed the human chain under the banner of "Rana Plaza Garments Workers' Union". The speakers said they only received assurance of compensation but had not been compensated in the nine months since the tragedy. They also demanded that the government launch an operation to uncover human remains which are still buried under the rubble of Rana Plaza. The nine-storey Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24, 2013 killing over 1,100 people and leaving scores injured.

BCL leader 'assaults' JU teacher

JU CORRESPONDENT
A Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader allegedly assaulted his department's chairman and threatened to shoot dead two teachers who came to the victim's assistance yesterday. Department of Urban and Regional Planning Chairman Associate Prof Golam Moinuddin filed a complaint against Md Mamun Khan, publication secretary of AFM Kamal Uddin Hall unit BCL, with the acting vice-chancellor (VC) Prof MA Matin in this regard. A disciplinary body meeting was ongoing on the issue at the time of filing of this report around 9:30pm. Prof Golam Kibriya of Institute of Business Administration said Mamun punched and shoved Prof Golam before the government and politics department on the social science building around 4:30pm. When he and Assistant Prof Shazedur Rahman of the politics department came forward, Mamun had threatened and hurled abuses at them, he added. On information, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Afsar Ahmed, Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique and Proctor Muzibur Rahman had rushed to the spot and assured of taking legal action following the disciplinary body meeting. JU unit BCL President Mahmudur Rahman said they would take organizational action if the disciplinary body found the allegations true. The urban department sources said Mamun, disqualified from three of SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

IN FOND MEMORY



Mrs. Anwara Islam, died on 24 January 2006 - exactly the same day and date as her husband Mr. Sirajul Islam who died twenty four years earlier.

Please join us in praying to the Almighty Allah to grant them eternal peace.

Lubna, Akbar & Duree (Children)
Anika, Talita, Numair (Grand Children)
Amani, Tijaan & Jinaan (Great-Grand Children)

Ms Lubna Choudhury
Founder-Principal, B.I.T.



Sharbari Z Ahmed's
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Discussion
Mukhtir Mancha will hold a discussion marking Mass Uprising Day; Venue: TSC premises, Dhaka University; Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable
The South Asia Youth for Peace and Prosperity Society will organise a roundtable on "State of Democracy in Bangladesh" Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Warm clothe distribution
Shrinath Das-Krishna Das Memorial Foundation will distribute warm clothes among cold-hit people; Venue: Rajarbagh Bardeshwari Kalimata Mandir; Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Nationalist Front will arrange a roundtable discussion on "The current politics"; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

ZUBAIR MURDER CASE
Cancellation of accused's bail sought for assault on victim's friends

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The prosecution yesterday submitted a petition before a Dhaka tribunal to cancel bail of six accused in the Zubair Ahmed murder case for beating up two of his fellows before Dhaka District Judge's Court recently. The accused are Khandaker Ashikul Islam alias Ashik, Zahid Hassan, Khan Mohammad Rais, Rashidul Islam, Ishtiaq Mehbub Arup and Mahabub Akram. Judge ABM Nizamul Haque of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka heard the petition and fixed January 26 for passing an order on it. In the petition, Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam said Syed Nazmul Hossain of physics student and Razibul Islam of the Institute of Business Administration at Jahangirnagar University, on January 18 appeared before the tribunal to see the trial. The two, also activists of "Shontrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar", a platform demanding justice over the murder, were beaten by the accused while they were leaving the courtroom around 1:30pm on that day. The six accused, who were granted bail by courts on different dates, also issued death threats against them during the attack. So, their bail SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

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