

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, said Met Office.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Tangail, Srimangal, Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore and Chuadanga and it may continue for next

24 hours.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:41pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.

Country's highest temperature 27.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 08.0 degrees in Ishwardi.

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	23.8	14.0	71	64	Khulna	21.4	13.0	64	60
Chittagong	25.0	16.2	58	54	Barisal	24.8	11.8	78	68
Rajshahi	21.2	09.2	89	72	Sylhet	26.6	13.5	100	83
Rangpur	15.0	11.5	100	89	Cox's Bazar	27.2	17.2	70	58

NEWSIN brief

Bhutan, Kenya congratulate Hasina on re-election

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta have congratulated Sheikh Hasina for assuming the premiership of Bangladesh.

In a message, Khesar reiterated his commitment to continue bonds of friendship and partnership between the two countries, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

Rickshaw puller dies after scuffle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw puller died following a scuffle at an aquarium shop in the capital's Sayedabad on Sunday night.

The deceased was Mustafizar Rahman, 35, of Rangpur.

His son Hasan, 14, who works at the shop, complained to Mustafizar that his co-worker, Rubel, slapped him.

Then Mustafizar went to the shop and was also slapped during a scuffle, said police.

He was rushed to a nearby pharmacy where he died after a while, police added.

Police arrested Rubel, another worker, and a nearby auto repair shop owner for further details.

A murder case was filed. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday for an autopsy.

Fire guts car, 3 motorbikes in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A car, three motorbikes and a few rolls of cloth were damaged when a fire broke out in the underground car parking of eight-storey Khaddar Bazar Shopping Complex in the capital's Gulistan early yesterday.

Fire fighters doused the blaze an hour after the fire started around 3:50am presumably from an electric short circuit, said fire service officials.

DB arrests 3 pro-AL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested three men of the ruling Awami League's front and associate organisations in Central Boat Terminal area of Narayanganj's Bandar upazila yesterday.

Jubo League activists Abu Sufian, 40, loyal to Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, and Sakawat and Bangladesh Chatra League Bandar Thana unit Organising Secretary Mahbubur Rahman Komol were arrested around 1:30pm.

The arrest was over a case filed with the capital's Gulshan Police Station, confirmed DB (north) Deputy Commissioner Shaikh Nazmul Alam.

POLLUTING NAROD RIVER Realise compensation from Pran Agro Ltd HC directs government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately take steps to stop dumping of wastes into the Narod river in Natore and its pollution.

In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the authorities concerned to assess how much damage of the river occurred due to dumping of wastes by the factories of Pran Agro Ltd.

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A single-deck launch flipped to its side and partially sank in the Lohalia river near Patuakhali terminal around 6:00 last evening after colliding with a double-deck Dhaka-bound vessel. Three of around 50 people on the small vessel went missing, and the rest safely swam to the shore, about 250 metres from the point of the accident. The small local vessel was to unload boxes of fish onto the big one to send those to the capital. The photo was taken when the salvage operation was going on. In the meantime, the double-deck passenger launch, which escaped damage, left for Dhaka around 8:30pm.

PHOTO: STAR

Hindus want to see pogromists punished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of different universities yesterday demanded passage of a special law with the provision of the capital punishment to try the perpetrators of violence against Hindus.

Joining a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club to protest the post-election atrocities, they said Hindus were living like "aliens" in their own homeland.

"We don't want to see cases filed against hundreds of 'unknown' people. We want the perpetrators to be identified and punished," said Chandan Sarkar, associate professor of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology.

While violent attacks on Hindus centring on the national election have been recurrent, the culprits are enjoying impunity, he told the programme, organised by Sudhir Kanti-Anima Sengupta Foundation (SKASF) and Public-Private University Teachers and Students.

Subhash Kumar Sengupta, chairman of SKASF, said no government since the country's independence had been able to provide security to Hindus.

"We don't want politicians to use us as political weapons," he said, adding that Hindus should not be the target of violence just because the government had held an election.

Bangladeshis in UK offer prayer for persecuted Hindus

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

Hindu groups in the UK organised a prayer service and fund raising campaign for the minority community in Bangladesh which has suffered extensive post-election violence.

The prayer service started at Kingsley Hall in East London with Narayan Puja followed by Nam Kirton, Arati and a special prayer.

Hindus from London and faraway places from Bradford and Burnley took part in it, while people from other faiths joined the congregation to show their solidarity.

The congregants demanded safety for Hindus and speedy trial of crimes committed against them. They also urged people of all faiths to show respect for this minority group.

The Hindu community appreciated the enhanced security measure put in place recently and financial assistance

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Actions, not slogans against 'illegal' govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing annoyance at slogans during a views-exchange meeting, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said she wants not to hear slogans but to see actions against the "illegal" government and to strengthen the opposition's anti-government movement.

Over 100 pro-BNP lawyers had called on her at her Gulshan office in the capital.

"The illegal government is now brutally repressing the opposition leaders and activists across the country and carrying out extra-judicial killings to cling to power against people's will," a lawyer quoted Khaleda as saying during the closed-door meeting.

Turning to operations of joint forces, she said it was a pretext under which law

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