

## DRY WEATHER LIKELY



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

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Pabna, Chuadanga and Sandwip.

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

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:43pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.**

Country's highest temperature 29.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 08.2 degrees in Srimangal.

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	28.0	13.5	80	61	Khulna	25.3	11.0	94	63
Chittagong	25.8	14.2	77	66	Barisal	27.2	11.4	93	71
Rajshahi	23.9	10.5	99	74	Sylhet	29.5	09.6	76	50
Rangpur	24.5	09.4	99	79	Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.0	78	68

# NEWSIN brief

## Afghanistan, Uganda, OIC, Armenia congratulate Hasina on re-election

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for assuming office as prime minister of Bangladesh.

On January 27, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan had congratulated her, says a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

## Sadharan Shikshak Forum sweeps Jute election

**JU CORRESPONDENT**

The election to Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) was held yesterday in which Sadharan Shikshak Forum panel got all the posts through beating Muktiuddha o Progotibadi Chetona Biswas Jote Ebong Shotontro Shikshokder Shomonnito Panel.

Prof Farid Ahmod was elected president while Prof Kamrul Ahsan elected general secretary in the 15-member executive committee. Prof Farooque Ahmed was elected vice-president and Prof Kawsiq Saha treasurer.

## Boy dies falling off roof in capital

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A twelve-year-old boy died after he fell down from the rooftop of their five-storey building in the capital's Gendaria yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Lamim Islam, son of Nazrul Islam, was a class V student of Gendaria Bank Colony High School.

The incident occurred while Lamim was flying a kite on the roof which had no railing as the building was under construction, said the victim's uncle Nazmul Abedin.

He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on arrival.

## BRUR admission test begins today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**

The admission test of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) for first year honours courses under 2013-14 academic session begins today.

The admission tests will continue till February 1.

A total of 71,079 applicants will sit for the admission test against 1,245 seats in 21 departments under six faculties, the university sources said.

Seat plans and other information are available on the university website: [www.brur.ac.bd](http://www.brur.ac.bd) and [www.admission.brur.ac.bd](http://www.admission.brur.ac.bd)

## Ekushey Boi Mela books can be purchased through bKash

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bkash account holders will be able to make payments through their accounts for books purchased at the upcoming Ekushey Boi Mela.

In this regard, bKash signed an agreement with Gyan o Srijonshil Prokashok Samity, a platform of 147 publishing houses participating in the book fair.

The month-long fair is held on the Bangla Academy premises annually to commemorate the martyrs of the Language Movement.

## MINISTER SMOKING IN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION Govt served notice seeking legal action

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the government to take legal action against Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali within 24 hours for smoking on the dais at a children's function in Sylhet city on January 27.

Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan sent the notice to the health minister and Cabinet and health secretaries, saying that Mohsin committed a punishable offence under the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005, by smoking in a public place.

If the government does not take the steps, a case will be filed with the High Court against him, Aklas said in the notice.

Mohsin had apologised through the media on January 28 for smoking while attending at Sylhet BGB Public School and College the felicitation of students scoring GPA-5 in Junior School Certificate and Primary School Certificate exams.



**Desecrated remains of idols of Hindu deities, some of whose heads were removed, inset, while others had their different parts chopped off, in a temple, Korkola Kali Mandir, in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna early yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

## BNP's Nasir, Hannan freed HC grants bail to Jubo Dal president

**STAR REPORT**

BNP Vice-Chairman Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Standing Committee Member ASM Hannan Shah were released on bail yesterday while the High Court (HC) granted bail to Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal.

Nasir was freed from Chittagong Central Jail around 1:45pm on a six-month bail the HC granted on January 26 over an arson case, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

The case was filed with Chawkbazar police on November 27, 2013 over the torching of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Chattershwari intersection of Chittagong city during a blockade of the BNP-led 18-party alliance. Nasir, also BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser

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## CPB, BSD to join upazila polls

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) declared to participate in the upcoming upazila parishad (UP) elections scheduled to be held on February 19 and 27, although according to the law, no political party is allowed to nominate candidates or take part in local government elections.

CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim disclosed this at a press conference at CPB office in the capital yesterday.

He said the two parties will extend their support to any progressive candidates except the nominees of ruling Awami League and BNP in absence of their own candidates.

He said the two parties

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## Two Hindu temples attacked in Pabna, Chittagong

**Three idols desecrated, valuables gutted; perpetrators unidentified**

**STAR REPORT**

Unidentified criminals vandalised three idols of a Hindu temple in Pabna and torched the valuables of another in Chittagong early yesterday.

In Pabna, the idols of goddess Laxmi, Saraswati, and Kali at Korkola Kali Mandir of Chatmohar upazila were found damaged in the morning.

Officer-in-Charge of Chatmohar Police Station Md Asaduzzaman said police visited the scene but could not identify any reason for the attack. The incident was under investigation, he said.

Secretary of Chatmohar upazila Puja Uddjapan Parishad Ashok Chakrabarti, however, said the criminals vandalised the temple to destroy the communal harmony in Karkola village.

Khitish Kumar, secretary of the temple committee, filed a case with Chatmohar Police Station against unknown people in this connection.

In an overnight attack, miscreants set fire to a temple through its window at Boro Hatia union in Lohagara upazila of Chittagong sometime after 12:00 midnight, reported a Chittagong correspondent.

A donation box, a carpet, five drums and few wood

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## UPAZILA POLLS EC plans to add 10 symbols, increase budget

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Election Commission plans to increase the number of electoral symbols owing to a rise in the number of contestants in the upcoming upazila parishad elections.

Currently, there are 10 symbols for the post of chairman, vice chairman, and vice chairwoman each but the numbers of contestants for these posts in many upazilas exceed 10, said EC officials.

"Initially, we are planning to add 10 symbols for chairman and five for vice chairman and vice chairwoman each. We have placed the proposal, now the commissioners will take the final decision," a senior assistant secretary of the EC told The Daily Star.

The proposed symbols are "glass", "elephant",

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## Netherlands keen on deep-sea port, Padma bridge

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Netherlands yesterday expressed interest to be involved in the country's two crucial infrastructure projects--deep-sea port in the Bay of Bengal and Padma bridge--after the new government fast-tracked six projects, including the two, for a total cost of \$15.5 billion.

Dutch Ambassador Gerben Sjoerd de Jong conveyed the message to Shaikh Md Wahid-uz Zaman, principal secretary to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Dutch envoy appreciated the government for fast-tracking the six projects to develop the country's infrastructure.

Earlier, China, India, USA and Germany showed interest in financing the deep-sea port at Sonadia Island, which is deemed strategically important for the Asia Pacific region.

"They [Dutch] wanted to know about the financial modalities of the two projects and how the Dutch government can get involved in it," Wahid-uz Zaman, also chief of the Fast Track Taskforce Committee under the PMO, told The Daily Star.

He said he informed the envoy that Dhaka wanted to implement the two projects at the earliest and with utmost importance, and it would opt for proposals from any country, which would protect Bangladesh's interests most.

Wahid-uz Zaman said they sought a proposal from the

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