

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Dhaka, Jan 30 (UNB) - Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6pm tomorrow (Friday).
Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during

midnight till morning, Met Office said.
Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Sitakunda, Srimangal and Kushtia and it may continue.
Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at

rises on Saturday at 6:40am.		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		
		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	
Country's highest temperature 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded today in Cox's Bazar and lowest 08.8 degrees in Srimangal.	Dhaka	27.4	13.5	77	40	Khulna	26.4	12.2	94	61
	Chittagong	27.5	14.2	75	62	Barisal	26.8	11.4	94	71
	Rajshahi	25.2	10.8	99	81	Sylhet	30.0	13.5	65	44
Some major cities and towns today were:	Rangpur	25.3	11.5	95	78	Cox's Bazar	30.5	16.5	73	69

Rizvi freed finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed was released on bail yesterday from Dhaka Central Jail after two months.
The High Court Monday granted bail to him for six months in four separate cases filed for vandalism and arson attacks.
Md Farman Ali, senior jail super, told The Daily Star that Rizvi walked out of jail around 5:40pm.
In a raid on the BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters, detective police on November 30 assaulted Rizvi and arrested him.
Cops also picked up BNP executive committee member Belal Ahmed, roughed up four reporters and three videographers and damaged two video cameras for recording the arrests.
Police in November last year filed the cases against Rizvi with Motijheel, Shabbagh and Ramna police stations over vandalising vehicles, arson attacks and preventing police from discharging their duties during the party-led movements in Dhaka.

NEWSINbrief

Visva-Bharati to allocate land to build Bangladesh Bhaban

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan in West Bengal of India has decided to allocate land for establishment of "Bangladesh Bhaban" to facilitate the scholars involved in research and studies relating to Bangladesh.
"The university has identified a plot near the Indira Gandhi Centre on the campus for the bhaban", said a press release of Indian High Commission.
The university has requested the Bangladesh government to send a delegation for discussions on the design, plans and estimated cost of the project.
As of now, the "Bangladesh Bhaban" is envisaged to be a two-storey building with 7,000sqft area on each floor.

Altaf president, Afrad general secretary of DUJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Altaf Mahmud and Quddus Afrad were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) for two years.
The election was held at Jatiya Press Club between 9:00am and 5:00pm.
Atikur Rahman elected as vice-president, Gazi Zahirul Islam as joint general secretary, Sahana Sheuly as treasurer, Sohail Haider Chowdhury as organising secretary, Rafik Ahmed as publicity secretary, Solim Ullah Selim as sports and cultural affairs secretary, Mehedi Hasan as welfare secretary while GM Masud Dhali elected as office secretary.

Doping gang mugs businessman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang doped a businessman and stole Tk 3 lakh from him in a bus that was heading towards the capital yesterday afternoon.
Monir Hossain, 31, a chemical shop owner, was returning to Sayerdabad from Narsingdi with the money by a bus of Meghla Paribahan when the miscreants, masquerading as passengers, mugged him, said his brother Shafiqul Islam.
Monir was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Dhaka, Cairo sign agreement on scientific cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Cairo have inked a scientific and technological cooperation agreement to strengthen the bilateral relations.
Egyptian Ambassador Mahmoud Ezzat and Secretary to the Ministry of Science and Technology AKM Amir Hossain signed the agreement on January 28, said an Egyptian embassy press release yesterday.
The agreement includes the exchange of scientists, researchers, technical personnel and experts, exchange of documentation and information of scientific and technological nature.

Egyptian embassy celebrates Revolution Day

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Egyptian embassy in Dhaka celebrated the country's Revolution Day on Wednesday.
Held at Hotel Westin in the capital, the programme was attended by foreign diplomats, government officials, leading businessmen, senior journalists and eminent citizens of the city.
Ambassador of Egypt Mahmoud Ezzat welcomed the guests. The envoy in his speech also congratulated the new government.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Sampradikata-Jongibadh Birodhi Mancha will hold a discussion on the attacks on the minority communities; Venue: Liberation War Museum; Time: 10:30am.

Meeting

Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Huq Smriti Sangrakkhan o Gobeshona Parishad, and Gyantapos Dr

Muhammad Shahidullah Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad will hold a memorial meeting on Sher-e-Bangla; Venue: Public Library; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Ranesh Dasgupta Chalachchitra Sangsad will hold a discussion on "Bangla film and Liberation War"; Venue: Moitri Auditorium, Purana Paltan; Time: 5:00pm.

Three JCD men hurt in factional attack at DMC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists were injured after rival faction activists attacked them on the Dhaka Medical College premises yesterday over formation of the college's new JCD committee.
The injured - Shakhawat Hossain Biplob, Abdullah Al Kafi and Nazrul Islam Riad - were admitted to DMCH.
Riad said they were just loitering on the college campus when about 40 activists under the command of Belal Hossain Nazim and Istiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, president and secretary respectively of the new committee, attacked them.
Contacted, Nazim said they were talking about the new committee when Riad and the other two started protesting the new committee and there was a scuffle between the two groups.

Eleven win Bangla Academy award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The "Bangla Academy Sahitya Award 2013" under nine categories was announced yesterday ahead of the month-long Ekushey book fair beginning Saturday.
Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, declared the names of the winners at a press conference at the state-run body which works for promoting Bangla language.
Helal Hafiz won the award in the category of poetry while Purabi Basu in literature (Katha Sahitya), Mofidul Haq in essay, Jamil Chowdhury and Probbangshu Tripura in research, Kaiser Haq in translation, Harun Habib in literature on liberation war affairs, Mahfuzur Rahman in autobiography/memoir/ travel story, Shahidul Islam in science, technology and environment and Kaiser Chowdhury and Aslam Sunny in juvenile literature.
The academy, however, could not consider anyone in the drama category.
Each of the winners will receive a cash of Tk 1 lakh, a certificate and a crest from the prime minister at the launching ceremony of the largest book fair, said Shamsuzzaman Khan. He added that this is the first time an indigenous person, Provangshu Tripura, won the Bangla award.
Usually, the academy announces the award on February 18. But this year names of the award winners have been announced before the start of the book fair.

Artistes perform at "Gaane Mor Kon Indrodhonu", The Daily Star's musical tribute to Suchitra Sen, in the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

CLASH WITH BAR STAFF

DU BCL leader suspended

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League suspended Salimullah Muslim Hall unit President Mehedi Hasan and warned General Secretary Nizamul Islam Didar yesterday, a day after some activists led by the two clashed with a bar's staff in the capital's Shahbagh.
The action was taken for violation of the organisation's code of conduct, DU BCL President Mehedi Hasan Mollah told The Daily Star last night.
In the conflict between BCL men and the staff of Peacock Bar and Restaurant on Wednesday night, around 13 people, including at least eight DU students, were injured.
SM Hall President Mehedi and activists Nasir, Tahsan, Hasibur Rashid Surjo, Shamim and Pikul suffered minor injuries, while another activist, Rabiul Islam, broke his leg, said acting proctor Amzad Ali. The rest of the injured could not be identified immediately.
The proctor said Mehedi and Rabiul had tried to forcibly enter the bar after midnight when it had already closed,

Shakhawat Hossain Biplob, in red shirt, an intern in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), and Abdullah Al Kafi, a DMC student, being treated at the hospital after they were injured in an attack by rival faction activists of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on the hospital premises yesterday over formation of the DMC's new JCD committee.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

HC upholds EC regulations on political party registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting a writ petition, the High Court yesterday upheld the Election Commission regulations about registration of political parties.
The regulations say a party must have a central office and unit offices in one third of the districts and in at least 100 upazilas and at least 200 voters in every upazila to qualify for registration.
The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque delivered the verdict, rejecting the petition filed by one Saif Uddin Ahmed last year, said the EC lawyer.
The petitioner had said it was unreasonable and very difficult for a new party to meet the conditions.

VOTER LIST

EC to start updating from mid-May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is planning to start updating the voter list from the middle of May this year.
Names of 18-year-old Bangladeshis will be included, while those of the dead will be excluded from the list, said EC officials.
The commission would be busy till the first week of May with the upazila parishad elections. After the polls, the EC will start the task of updating the electoral roll, they said.
Last time, the EC began the task of updating the electoral roll on March 10, 2012 and completed it on December 15. The commission in February last year officially announced that the number of voters in the country stood at 9,21,29,852 that time.
About 70.17 lakh people were added, while 4.67 lakh were dropped from the list following

AL leader's body found inside residence

Murder case filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of an Awami League (AL) leader, with scratch marks on one cheek, blade cuts on the throat and a scarf wrapped around the neck, was recovered by police from his Mohammadpur Katsur residence in the capital yesterday morning.
Although Alauddin Alal, 35, AL ward no-33 publicity secretary, was found on the floor, his second wife Monica Ray Shanta claimed that he had used the scarf to hang himself from a ceiling fan, said police.
Alauddin resided in the three-bedroom rented flat with Shanta, whom he married around seven years ago, and her mother, brother and cousin, said Alal's cousin Mohammad Alam Hossain.
Alal's brother Mohammad Dulal Hossain filed a murder case with Mohammadpur police against Shanta, who was arrested, and one of her cousins, Amrito Lal Ray, who is on the run.
The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Sylhet college principal sues BCL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Principal of Madan Mohan College in Sylhet city Abul Foteh Fattah sued the college unit Bangladesh Chhatra League President Arun Devnath Sagar and 15 activists on Wednesday night for vandalising his office and demanding money from the institution's fund illegally.
In the case filed with Kotwali Police Station, the complainant said that on Sunday afternoon, Sagar demanded money from the college fund in the name of organising the upcoming Saraswati puja.

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