

DRY WEATHER
LIKELY



WEATHER
TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

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

country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.** Country's highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

in Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.0 degrees in Rangpur. 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 28.4	15.4	78	47	Khulna 29.7	15.0	75	55
Chittagong 29.0	15.8	75	54	Barisal 29.0	15.0	84	64
Rajshahi 28.6	12.8	95	45	Sylhet 27.2	14.6	82	59
Rangpur 24.4	10.0	97	67	Cox's Bazar 30.8	17.5	66	55

Minorities demand separate ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist and Christian Unity Council yesterday demanded setting up of a ministry for minorities to ensure the repressed communities' welfare and safety. It also called for enacting a law titled "Bangladesh Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparation)" to prevent communal violence. At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, the council leaders said the existence of minorities was threatened in Bangladesh, as their population fell to 9.7 percent in 2011 from 29.7 percent in 1947.

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Official list of martyred intellectuals by June

Liberation war affairs minister tells JS; says monthly allowance of freedom fighters increased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will publish a comprehensive list of all martyred intellectuals of 1971 by June, and has increased the monthly allowance for freedom fighters to Tk 5,000 from existing Tk 2,000, with effect from January, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told parliament yesterday.

He made the announcements following a query by Awami League lawmaker M Abdul Latif during the question-answer session. In his reply, Mozammel said his ministry did not

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NEWSIN brief

Kuwait, Unesco greet Hasina

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Director General Irina Bokova congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of office as the prime minister of Bangladesh, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

BSMMU launches EUS machine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) authorities launched the country's first ever linear endo-ultrasound (EUS) machine on Wednesday. The machine worth Tk 1.5 crore with endoscopy and ultrasound system is capable of diagnosing digestive diseases, said a press release. Prof Pran Gopal Datta, vice-chancellor of BSMMU, launched the machine.

Man held with 22 gold bars at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials arrested a man with 22 gold bars, weighing 2.5 kilogrammes, worth around Tk 1.6 crore at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. The arrestee is Didar Hossain of Hathazari in Chittagong. On information, the officials seized the gold bars from his handbag around 12:35pm after he had come from Chittagong, said Abdul Alim, assistant commissioner of Customs.

Ctg Samity-Dhaka to accord reception for life members' children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Samity-Dhaka will accord a reception to the children of its life members who achieved GPA-5 in the PSC/JSC/JDC exams in 2013. Each candidate should send two photographs, contact details, and photocopies of transcript and parents' life membership ID cards to 32, Topkhana Road office in the capital or e-mailed to ctgsamity.dhaka@gmail.com or ctgsamitydhaka@yahoo.com by February 15, said a press release.

Sound, light show inauguration at Lalbagh Fort today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in Bangladesh, a sound and light show will be officially inaugurated at an archaeological site, Lalbagh Fort, by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 6:00pm today. The show involves special lighting effects that will be projected onto the building's façade synchronised with a recorded narration and music to dramatise the fort's history. Between mid-November and mid-March, there will be two 30-minute shows every day, except Sunday, one between Maghrib and Esha and another after Esha prayers, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor told a press conference at Press Information Department yesterday. The show's ticket costs Tk 20 in addition to the Tk 10 entry fee for Bangladeshis, Tk 100 for visitors from Saarc countries and Tk 200 for others, he said. Preparations took Tk 2.83 crore and the monthly revenue is expected to be Tk 5 lakh. Eminent writer and poet Syed Shamsul Haq prepared the narration while cultural personalities Shimul Yousuf and

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Hartal comes as blessing for some book fair visitors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of creating obstacles, Jamaat-e-Islami's slack hartal yesterday facilitated the movement of some distant visitors to the Amar Ekushey Granthamela. The party called the shutdown protesting the death penalty given to their Ameer, Matiur Rahman Nizami, in the 10-truck arms haul. Rumana Ahmed, a schoolteacher of Comilla, now visiting Dhaka, came to the book fair from the capital's Mohakhali. "On other days, it would have taken three hours to come here. Today, it only took me 40 minutes," she said, waiting outside the Suhrawardy Udyan for the fair to open at 3:00pm. Meanwhile, State Minister for Social Welfare Promod Mankin yesterday inaugurated a stall of the ministry at the Bangla Academy ground. The stall exhibits equipment and education materials for people with disabilities, including Braille books,



special glasses, computers and specially-made chess boards. "This is the first time our ministry opened a stall. Our objective is to create awareness among all that people with disabilities are not a burden of the society," he said. "There is a lot to see, know and learn from this stall," he added. Ninety-seven books hit the fair yesterday including Hasan Azizul Haq's biography "Aye Puraton Akhorguli" by Ittyadi Grantha Prakash, research work "Japan e Rabindranath" by Dildar Hossain, published by Bhasaprokash, and mathematics book "Prachin Bharatiya Gonit O Jyotirbid" by Bhaskaracharya, published by Anupom Prakashani. Besides, six new books by various authors were launched. Today, the fair will open at 11:00am, with breaks between 1:00pm and 3:00pm, and continue till 8:30pm. Tomorrow, 11:00am to 4:00pm. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

8 activists hurt in BCL factional clash at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least eight female Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Dhaka University's Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall unit suffered minor injuries during a factional scuffle yesterday. Supporters of the hall unit general secretary, Seikh Nabila, attacked supporters of the president, Khadizatul Kobra, while the latter were demonstrating before Provost Dr Sabita Rizwana Rahman's office demanding Sabita's removal, said resident students. Sabita used to allow the former president Jakiya Rahman Nipa to stay in the hall sometimes but did not do the same for the former general secretary, Sharmin Mishouri, creating a divide between Khadizatul and Nabila. The former leaders were no longer students, added the resident students. House Tutor Shima Islam had protested this favouritism leading to an altercation early yesterday when Sabita verbally relieved her of her duties. Khadizatul's supporters were protesting this before the office, added the sources. Refuting the allegations against her, Sabita said the clash was over a "misunderstanding" and Shima would join as soon as the situation turned normal. Acting proctor Amzad said the allegations were true.

Arrest six gun-toting BCL men

Demands pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers; two others seek identification of instigators; probe starts

RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP-Jamaat white panel teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the six current and former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists who brandished firearms during a police-backed attack on students on February 2. Meanwhile, in a separate press briefing at RU Journalists' Association, Prof Maloy Bhowmick and Prof SM Abu Bakar Siddique demanded identification of the "real instigators" of the attack. Moreover, the probe body formed hours after the attack started visiting spots yesterday to collect information. The students who came under attack were protesting fee hikes and introduction of evening master's programmes at the social science faculty. The white panel's Joint Convener

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A woman busy making cakes at a stall at Ramna Batamul in the capital yesterday on the first day of a four-day Jatiya Pittha Utsab (National Cake Festival), organised by Drishti.

PHOTO: STAR

Prosecution seeks death for all 14 accused

Finishes placing arguments

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday completed the arguments in the Ramna Batamul carnage case and sought the death penalty for all 14 accused, including Mufti Abdul Hannan, chief of the banned militant outfit HuJI and alleged mastermind of the heinous attack. During the hearing, Additional Public Prosecutor SM Zahid Hossain made several points based on the statements of the 61 prosecution witnesses, including the complainant of the case. "I was able to prove beyond doubt the charges against Hannan and 13 other accused and sought the maximum punishment for them," Zahid told The Daily Star. Judge Ruhul Amin of the

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OBTAINING FF'S CERTIFICATE 'ILLEGALLY' Probe to start against six secy-level officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday approved a probe against four incumbent and one retired secretaries and a joint secretary who obtained the freedom fighter's certificate illegally in the last five years. The move came after the daily Prothom Alo reported on January 22 that 11,000 people, including the six, acquired the certificate to extend their retirement age. Public servants started the practice after the government increased the retirement age of freedom fighters by two years. Citing rules, the report said one should declare him/her as freedom fighter while

joining government jobs; otherwise he/she would not be considered freedom fighter. ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin told The Daily Star that they would primarily investigate the incidents of the high officials mentioned in the news. The report cites the names of Health Secretary Niaz Uddin, Liberation War Affairs Secretary KH Masud Siddiqui, Science and Technology Affairs Secretary AKM Amir Hossain, Housing and Public Works Affairs Secretary Khandaker Shawkat Hossain, Prime Minister's former secretary Mollah Waheduzzaman, and Liberation War Affairs Joint Secretary Abul Kashem Talukdar.

NAT'L FILM AWARDS 2012 Humayun Ahmed best director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government announced the National Film Awards 2012 in 24 categories yesterday, naming late Humayun Ahmed as best director for "Ghetuputro Komola" and Faridur Reza Sagor as best producer for "Uttorer Sur". Shakib Khan and Jaya Ahsan won the award as best actor and actress for roles in "Khoda'r Porey Ma" and "Chorabali" respectively, while Khalil Ullah Khan will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, said a press note. The crew of "Ghetuputro Komola" took home several other awards—best screenplay writer (Humayun Ahmed), child actor (Mamun), cinematographer (Mahfuzur Rahman Khan), music director (Emon Saha), costume (SM Mainuddin), make-up (Khalilur Rahman), and editor (Salimullah). Among the "Chorabali" crew, Shahiduzzaman Selim was named best actor in a negative role, ATM Shamsuzzaman in supporting role, Redoan Rony for best dialogue writer, and Ripon Nath for sound editing. Lucy Tripti Gomes (Uttorer Sur) was awarded as best

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From left, Golam Mahdi, Khairul Hasan Shezan, Ryan Ahmed, and Azmine Nur Nasif got selected in the first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season from Adamjee Cantonment Public School in the capital yesterday. The first round that started on Wednesday is being held for students, except SSC examinees and O level candidates, from class VI-X of 200 English and Bangla medium schools in seven divisions and also on the web at www.champs21.com throughout February.

PHOTO: STAR



Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 17th death anniversary of journalist and banker Khairul Kabir. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be organised at his ancestral home in Ghorashal today. Founding editor of the daily Sangbad, Kabir died of old age ailments in Singapore on this day in 1997. He was also the founder member and the first life member of the Jatiya Press Club, first chairman and managing director of Janata Bank and also a fellow of the American Bankers' Association. Khairul was one of the authors of the historic six-point demand which eventually led to the liberation of Bangladesh, said a press release.

