

**DRY WEATHER LIKELY**

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali 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 5:50pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am.** Country's highest temperature 30.7

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Patuakhali and lowest 11.3 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	30.4	17.6	70	56	Khulna	28.4	16.8	80	58
Chittagong	27.0	15.6	70	83	Barisal	27.2	16.4	97	74
Rajshahi	30.2	12.8	86	55	Sylhet	29.4	14.5	72	56
Rangpur	26.6	14.0	85	61	Cox's Bazar	29.0	15.4	53	72



**Three labourers preparing almost a 20 feet high structure for billboards installed on the rooftop of a three-storey building in the capital's Farmgate yesterday without any safety gears and measures and putting themselves at grave risk.**



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Buriganga 2nd channel nearing death for encroachment**

*Says Bapa; accuses govt agencies, private companies*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second channel of the Buriganga, which flows along the southwestern edge of the capital, is being constantly encroached upon by different government agencies and a handful of influential people, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) said yesterday.

This unchecked encroachment is making the channel nearly dead, leaders of the environmental group told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Filling wetlands to make a cemetery behind the Rayer Bazar killing field and construction several short-length bridges in Rasulpur area of Kamrangirchar are choking the channel, which is also known as Morarkhari (dead channel), said Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bapa.

"The death of the channel will cause reduction of the means of transportation, inadequate drainage system, and shortage of surface water that also impacts ground water recharge," he said.

"If the government wants to save the channel, which is a lifeline of the city, it must act now."

Construction of mosques, shopping malls and factories on the river have narrowed the stream at different spots in Keraniganj, he added.

Sharif Jamil, also founder of Buriganga Riverkeeper, presented satellite images showing how a station of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

**VIOLENCE ON RU CAMPUS Admin never accused BCL in past**

*Finds investigation by former students*

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University authorities never accused Bangladesh Chhatra League activists in the past for breaking law and order on the campus, and they gave them silent support, a fact finding committee of former RU students said yesterday.

These BCL activists, who took part in the recent attack on RU students protesting the fee hike and evening programmes, were found "brandishing firearms" on the campus earlier.

Even though BCL expelled some of the leaders for their activities in the past, they came back and actively took part in the organisation's activities.

At Madhur Canteen of Dhaka University, the eight-member committee disclosed their findings, which were based on collected pictures, accounts of the students, and news reports of several media.

The accused RU BCL joint general secretary Nasim Ahmed was found with "guns" in 2012, while former BCL general

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

**Talks must to maintain current political stability**

*Panellists tell BBC Bangladesh Sanglap*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In order to maintain the prevailing stability and stave off further unwanted incidents, both the government and BNP will have to move to hold a fruitful dialogue, the panellists of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap said yesterday.

Calling for a fresh election, BNP Vice Chairman Abdullah Al Noman said, "The incumbent government is a government elected by 5 percent of voters. As more than 90 percent of the electorate could not cast their ballots, they want a poll for people's right to vote."

Replying to a query, the former minister said, "Although the government is illegal, there is a government. We saw in many countries that dialogue was held with the government even in wartime. So, we will

take part in a dialogue with the incumbent government."

State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, however, stressed that BNP had to change its "stand" for a fruitful dialogue.

A debate on contemporary affairs, the Sanglap, took place at Central Railway Building, headquarters of Bangladesh Railway (east zone), in the port city.

In the discussion, all the four panellists, including the state minister, condemned the recent armed attack by ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League on general students who were demonstrating against a fee hike at Rajshahi University.

Siafuzzaman said he felt ashamed of the BCL violence as a member of the cabinet.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

**New BNP Dhaka city body likely**

*Khaleda sits with unit leaders tomorrow; failure to wage movement in city to dominate discussion*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the initiative to revamp party's different units to intensify fresh movement, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will sit with Dhaka city

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

**Police to get 50,000 new members**

*PM tells passing-out ceremony of 176 ASPs at Rajshahi; distributes cheques among victims of Jamaat-Shibir violence*

BSS, Rajshahi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her resolve to bring all militants and terrorists to book and announced that 50,000 more would be recruited into the police force to improve the law and order in the country.

"Initially, 20,000 members will be appointed to Bangladesh Police, while recruitment of the rest will take place in phases," she told the passing-out parade of the 31st batch of Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) at the Bangladesh Police Academy in Sardah.

Hasina said over the last five years, her government modernised the police force and created more than 31,000 new posts, including 614 cadre posts.

"All training centres of police, including Sardah's, are being modernised, and police stations across the country will be reformed so that people get better services."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

**Chinese New Year celebrated in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chinese youths clad in saris and punjabis and Bangladeshi youths in traditional Chinese outfits performed in the celebration programmes of Chinese New Year 4712, which began on January 31, at North South University in the capital yesterday.

Adding colour to the celebrations, they also sang Chinese and Bangla songs, danced, recited poetry, performed martial arts, and staged a fashion show dressing like the luminaries of both Bangladesh and China such as Confucius, Atish Dipankar, Jackie Chan, Bruce Lee, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Zainul Abedin, and many more.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jun spoke on the occasion, highlighting the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Dancers perform at a programme marking the Chinese New Year 4712 in the capital's North South University yesterday. The year began on January 31 this year.

PHOTO: STAR

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations begin today with more than 14.32 lakh examinees taking part from 27,489 educational institutions across the country.

This year, the number of examinees rose by 1.29 lakh. However, over 1.66 lakh of the students registered in class IX are not sitting the exams.

Talking to the media at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

অধ্যাপক / বিশেষজ্ঞ ডাক্তারদের পরামর্শ এবং নির্ভুল রিপোর্টের নিশ্চয়তায় **আলোক হেলথ কেয়ার** সর্বদা আপনার পাশে ...

আলোক হেলথ কেয়ার লিঃ

এসএম- মিরপুর ডায়াগনস্টিক সেন্টার লিঃ

কমলা শাখাঃ মিরপুর-১১ বিক্রয় শাখাঃ মিরপুর-১ কৃত্রিম শাখাঃ পল্টনী/বিকপুর, ঢাকা

ফোনঃ ৯৬৬৩৮৫৬ ৯৬৬৩৮৫৬ ৯৬৬৩৮৫৬

INTERVIEWS OF CRICKETING HEROES: Wasim Akram, MS Dhoni, Rahul Dravid, Clive Lloyd, Dennis Lillee, Garry Sobers, Jacques Kallis and many more.

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**GRANTHAMELA 2014 Children's hours see visitors, sales slump**

*Publishers blame lack of promotion*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite opening one hour in advance marking "children's hours" from 10:00am to 3:00pm, the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2014 saw a slump in both visitors and sales yesterday morning especially on the Bangla Academy premises where dedicated stalls on children's literature are located.

Debashish Ghosh, chief executive officer of publication house Tonatuni, said, "I think the promotion of children's hour was not done properly. Perhaps it was not highlighted well in the media."

"Bangla Academy could have informed schools and other institutions concerning children."

He also pointed out that many schools were open yesterday despite being a weekend. "The academy could have fixed Friday for children's hours but I guess they did not

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



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