

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, Met Office said.

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:52pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am.

Country's highest temperature 30.5 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 10.2 degrees in Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius
Max: 27.7 Min: 17.4 Morning 53 Evening 47

Khulna 30.5 16.5 72 61

Chittagong 28.0 21.4 88 82

Barisal 28.3 16.0 75 72

Rajshahi 26.5 14.0 70 59

Sylhet 28.3 13.5 67 47

Rangpur 24.0 10.7 77 61

Cox's Bazar 29.2 21.0 95 79

WEATHER TODAY



WEATHER TODAY
Unb. Dhaka



Sixteen more schools fight for 2nd round

STAR REPORT

The first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season, hosted by champs21.com and powered by Horlicks, continued yesterday with the participation of eight schools in Mymensingh, three each in Dhaka and Chittagong and two in Sylhet.

In Mymensingh, 250 students of Premier Ideal High School, Mymensingh Zilla School, Government Laboratory High School, Mymensingh Laboratory High School, Cantonment Public School and College, Prime International School, Annesha School, and Mymensingh Board School participated.

From the participating schools in Dhaka, four students were selected from each of Green Dale International School, and Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls' College and six from South Point School and College. In Chittagong, three

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US-Hasina govt interaction not 'as usual'

Says Mozena after meeting with Khaleda; terms Jan 5 poll flawed, not credible; declines to comment on US cable about Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although USA's interaction with Sheikh Hasina's new government is not "as usual," the country will continue its support for Bangladesh's people, for "democratic process undiminished", US Ambassador Dan W Mozena said last night.

"We will continue to engage with this government in support of various programmes for people of Bangladesh.

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Human rights situation poor
ASK leaders say at four founders' memorial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's human rights situation is still disappointing because the state is continually failing to ensure rule of law, strengthen democracy and stop extra-judicial killings, observed Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) leaders yesterday.

They were addressing a memorial programme on ASK's four founding members, Advocate Aminul Hoque, Barrister Salma Sobhan, Justice KM Subhan and former IGP Abdul Khaleque, in the capital's Chhayanaut.

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Why not fresh poll in Laxmipur-4

HC asks EC citing allegations of rigging, irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Election Commission to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to hold a fresh election to Laxmipur-4 (Ramgati-Kamalnagar), cancelling the results of the January 5 vote in the constituency.

The court came up with the rule after hearing a petition filed by independent candidate Md Azad Uddin bringing allegations of irregularities and rigging in the election.

Awami League candidate Md Abdullah won from Laxmipur-4 constituency through the January 5 vote. The HC bench issued the rule upon the EC and the winner, said Deputy Attorney General Rona Nahrin.

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Tamanna's employment violated law, rights

Activists, experts say about the 10-year-old domestic help who died after a stove fire

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The employment of 10-year-old domestic help Tamanna, who died after being burnt in a stove fire at her employer's house Monday, was a violation of the law as well as human rights, according to experts and rights activists.

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies in Dhaka, said the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 prohibited employment of children under 14 years of age, but poverty forced families to send their kids to work.

Tamanna caught fire while lighting a gas stove to boil water at her employer's house in Shulakbari area in Chittagong city on January 24, suffering 40 percent burns. She died 17 days later in Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

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Rabbani murder verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to deliver a verdict today on the long pending appeals filed in connection with the sensational Commodore Ghulam Rabbani murder case.

Rabbani was an aide-de-camp (ADC) of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and a vital prosecution witness of Bangabandhu murder case and jail killing case.

Criminals shot Rabbani, the then managing director of Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), in the throat by intercepting his microbus at Muradpur in Chittagong when he was going to the KEPZ on April 11, 2004. He died at a hospital in Bangkok on April 24, 2004.

On April 7, 2005, a Chittagong court

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Bent with age and helpless against the moves of Mother Nature, this elderly can now only point at where her property once was at the edge of Beltola where Barisal city meets the Kirtankhola river. In a span of a single night, the river pressed inland some 200 feet over a 200-metre stretch, gobbling up some 50 trees, ponds and patches of vegetable gardens on Monday. Locals say the river has devoured around half a kilometre of land in the last two-three years.

PHOTO: STAR

MEDICAL PHYSICISTS, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS Accreditation stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medical science experts at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for accreditation of medical physicists and biomedical engineers through an autonomous board to ensure proper treatment.

The board should comprise the Dhaka University's (DU) Department of Biomedical Physics and Technology, Bangladesh Medical Physics Association (BMPA), oncology societies and the ministries of science and technology and health and family welfare, they said.

The roundtable was jointly organised by the department and BMPA at the DU Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences.

The department Chairperson Prof K Siddique-e-Rabbani said flying a Boeing 777 requires a license because it concerned the safety of many lives.

Only accredited medical physicists should operate radiotherapy machines for "many advanced machines are coming to medical service and a small mistake can cause damage to patients", he added.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain said, "I do not want to die at the hands of a quack."

ARMS CASE

Commissioner Shahid denied bail

Remand rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former councillor of ward no-83 under Dhaka City Corporation Saidur Rahman Shahid to jail after rejecting both remand and bail prayers in connection with an arms case.

The court, however, allowed police to interrogate Shahid, also known as Shahid Commissioner, at the jail gate within two days, if necessary.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Haque passed the order after Atiqur

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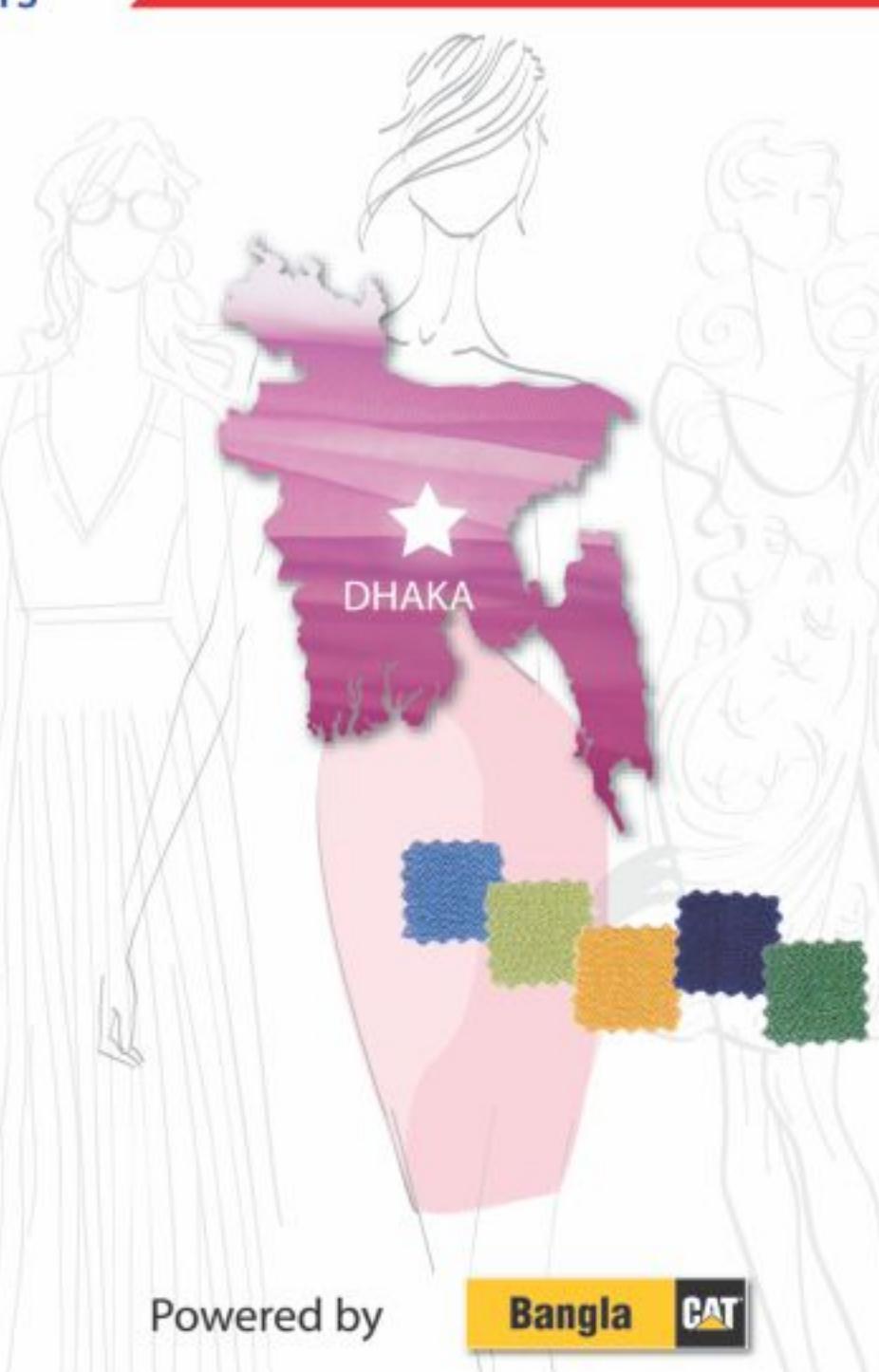
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