

DRY WEATHER LIKELY
Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country with chances of light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions till 6pm today, said Met Office.

WEATHER TODAY

UNB, Dhaka

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:53pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am.
Country's highest temperature 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 08.0 degrees in Dinajpur.
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	27.7	14.8	36	46	Khulna	27.5	15.0	50	46
Chittagong	30.2	19.0	62	36	Barisal	27.6	65	55	
Rajshahi	26.6	09.5	72	51	Sylhet	29.2	12.8	55	39
Rangpur	25.1	09.0	70	48	Cox's Bazar	30.0	19.5	63	37

16 Pabna, Dhaka, Ctg schools participate

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 16 schools of Pabna, Dhaka and Chittagong.

In Pabna, Krishnapur High School provided the venue for the spelling competition, participated by its students alongside those from Pabna Government Girls' High School, Imam Gazzali Girls' High School, Pabna Zilla School, Police Line High School, Jakir Hossain Academy, Adarsha Girls' High School, Selim Nazir High School, Radhanagar Majumder Academy and Shaheed Ahmed Rafiq Girls School.

The Dhaka educational institutions were London Grace International School, Marie Curie School,

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The students from Sunshine Grammar School & College in Chittagong, *left*, and Academia in Dhaka, *right*, who were selected as the first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season, hosted by champs21.com and powered by Horlicks, continued yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 4th phase of upazila elections March 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elections to 92 upazilas of 42 districts will be held on March 23 in the fourth phase, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad announced yesterday.

The last date of filing nomination papers is February 23, scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on February 26, and the last date of withdrawal of candidacy is March 6, he said.

Out of 487 upazilas of the country, elections to 97 will be held on February 19 and one on February 24 in the first phase, 117 on February 27 in the second phase, and 83 on March 15 in the third phase. Elections to the

remaining 97 are likely to be held on March 31, said EC officials.

The EC had planned to hold all the upazila elections in six phases within May but it now wants to complete those by March 31 in five phases to avoid the rainy season.

Besides, the by-election to Tangail-8 constituency will be held on March 23. The last date of filing application for candidacy is February 23, scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on February 26, and the last date of withdrawal of candidature is March 6, said the CEC. The constituency fell vacant as its lawmaker Shawkat Momen Shajahan died in January.

# Amu asks BNP why it's joining polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu yesterday asked the BNP to explain why they are taking part in the upazila elections under Sheikh Hasina when they boycotted the 10th national election protesting her heading the interim administration.

The Awami League leader called its joining the polls a "new conspiracy" and said, "You have killed many people, burnt houses to ashes and damaged the dignity of women to stop the poll under Sheikh Hasina. Now explain this and then come to election." He was addressing the launch of the book, "21 August Tragedy: Roktakto Bangladesh" (Tragedy of August 21: Bloodied Bangladesh), in the capital.

Written by journalist Md Selim Reza, the book narrates the grenade attack on an AL rally in the capital on August 21, 2004 that killed 24 AL leaders and activists. The then opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, narrowly escaped death.

# Rescue jeweller or face strike in Ctg

## Threaten traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Jewellers' Association, Chittagong yesterday at a human chain on the city's KC Dey Road called a daylong strike for Tuesday if the "abducted" jewellery trader Mridul Kumar Chowdhury is not rescued by Monday.

"All jewellery shops in Chittagong district will remain shut on Tuesday," said Nurul Absar Chowdhury, president of the association. "If the administration fails to rescue Mridul, we would declare tougher programme," he added.

Contacted, Mohiuddin Selim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali police, said they are working to rescue Mridul.

Shimul Chowdhury, victim's brother, claimed a group of men in plain clothes, introducing themselves as Rab personnel, picked up Mridul at gunpoint on February 11 near his house. Rab, however, denied the allegation.

# Pry scholarships to be announced Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scholarships of the Primary Terminal Examinations 2013 will be announced on Sunday as the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) has finalised the list of the scholarship recipients.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman will make public the scholarships through a press conference at 12:30pm on the day, said ministry sources.

The list of scholarship recipients will be published at [www.mopme.gov.bd](http://www.mopme.gov.bd) and [www.dpe.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.gov.bd).

# PM wants proper use of govt grants

UNB, Dhaka

Stressing that the most important thing for Bangladesh now is science, technology and research, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the researchers and students to work hard to make the proper use of the financial grants and fellowships awarded to them from taxpayers' money.

"Due to resource constraints, allocation of funds in various sectors is being made on priority basis...I'll urge the researchers and students...to achieve the desired goal," she told a ceremony in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium where she distributed cheques of Bangabandhu Fellowship, National Science & Technology Fellowship and financial grants to 10 recipients.

State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman presided over the function organised by his ministry.

The prime minister announced that her government was considering relaxing the age limit of the researchers engaged in specific researches so that they could complete their works. "But, we won't do it on a wholesale basis...then all would turn researchers," she said.

Hasina said "Bangabandhu Fellowship on Science and ICT Project" was being implemented at a cost of Tk 86 crore to build a science-based nation and create scientists with skilled and special qualifications, technologists and researchers at national level.

Besides, "National Science and Technology Fellowships" are being given to students and researchers for conducting MPhil, PhD and post-doctoral research.

The premier said initiatives had been taken to turn Bangladesh into a digital one before 2021 while a process had begun to set the country's first satellite "Bangabandhu Satellite" in space.

# RAMNA CARNAGE CASE

## Police probe flawed

Says defence lawyer

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A lawyer representing Moulana Akbar Hussain, one of the 14 accused in the Ramna Batamul carnage case, all of whom are Harkatul-Jihad-Al Islami (HuJI) operatives, yesterday started placing arguments saying the police probe was flawed.

# NEWS IN brief

## SC adjourns Sayedee hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till February 23 the hearing on Delawar Hossain Sayedee's appeal challenging the February 28, 2013 death sentence International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed down on him for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The adjournment came following hearing of a time prayer of SM Shahjahan, the Jamaat-e-Islami nayebe-ameer's lawyer, over Shahjahan's health grounds.

Yesterday, Shahjahan started turning down the 14th charge which includes an attack on a Hindu area, rape of Shefali Gharami and setting fire to houses at Hoglabunia under Indurkani Police Station in Pirojpur.

## 5 RMG workers hurt in clash with staff

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Five garment workers were injured in a clash between the factory staff and its workers on Wednesday at Kolma of Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

Witnesses said workers of CPM Knitwear Ltd on Tuesday demonstrated for the arrears of January when the factory authorities assured them of paying the money by February 16.

But suddenly on Wednesday night, the authorities sent three trucks to shift the machinery from the factory. Getting the news, workers tried to resist them but the staff attacked them with sticks, resulting in the clash.

The factory was shut down yesterday and the officials were unavailable over phone.

## Egyptian PM congratulates Hasina

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister of Egypt Hazem El Beblawi has congratulated Sheikh Hasina for assuming office as the prime minister of Bangladesh, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

In a message, Beblawi expressed his sincerest congratulations and assured his confidence in the ties of friendship between the two countries.

## Workshop on climate change begins

CITY DESK

A four-day workshop on "strengthening partnerships on capacity building and finance for local climate change adaptation in Bangladesh" organised by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), began yesterday.

The workshop was inaugurated at the capital's Spectra convention Centre yesterday where Dr Shamsul Alam, member, GED, Planning Commission, was present as the chief guest while Prof M Omar Rahman, IUB vice chancellor, was the special guest.

Dr Saleemul Huq, ICCCAD director, delivered the welcome speech.

THE WESTIN DHAKA

Presents

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CONCURRENT WITH DHAKA INT'L TEXTILE & APPAREL ACCESSORIES EXHIBITION  
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Admission

No minors under the age of 12 are permitted in the exhibition.

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Fact At A Glance

- More than 1020 booths
- Leading brands from 31 countries and regions

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