

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unh, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country and chances of light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00pm today.

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 6:23am.

Country's highest temperature 31.6 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius in Sreemangal.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| | Temperature in Celsius | |
|------------|------------------------|------|
| | Max: | Min: |
| Dhaka | 29.0 | 19.4 |
| Chittagong | 30.4 | 19.4 |
| Rajshahi | 28.6 | 14.8 |
| Rangpur | 27.7 | 15.0 |

| Humidity in percentage | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Morning | Evening |
| 44 | 41 |
| 67 | — |
| 88 | 58 |
| 68 | 50 |

| Temperature in Celsius | |
|------------------------|------|
| Max: | Min: |
| Khulna | 30.0 |
| Barisal | 29.6 |
| Sylhet | 30.7 |
| Cox's Bazar | 31.0 |

| Humidity in percentage | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Morning | Evening |
| 77 | 52 |
| 77 | 61 |
| 84 | 46 |
| 65 | 51 |

2ND PHASE OF UPAZILA POLLS

Political parties violating code of conduct: SHUJAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The political parties are violating the electoral code of conduct by meddling in selecting candidates and forcing many aspirants to withdraw candidacy in the non-partisan upazila parishad elections, a development organisation claimed yesterday.

This is tantamount to influencing the elections, but the Election Commission remains silent, leaders of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN) told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Contacted, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said they had not received any complaint of such violations. "If we get a specific and formal allegation, we will look into it."

SHUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam

Majumdar read out a written statement, citing the violations.

They are pressurising many candidates to quit the race to leave a single contestant, while this practice has been intensified in the second phase of the elections beginning tomorrow, he said.

In addition, there are allegations that supporters of the rivals of the pro-ruling candidates are being harassed by police and getting threats in different upazilas, said the statement.

The SHUJAN also presented a report featuring different information of the second phase elections.

According to it, 515 aspirants are contesting for the chairman post in 117 upazilas.

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Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presents a graduate of the University of Asia Pacific with a medal during the university's 7th convocation at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. A total of 1,031 students were conferred degrees this year. Among them two received the chancellor's gold medal and nine the vice chancellor's gold medal.

PHOTO: COURTESY

NEWS IN brief

SC asks for concise statement on war criminal Alim's appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the counsels for convicted war criminal Abdul Alim to submit a concise statement on his appeal challenging the verdict against him before it by March 11.

On October 9 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced the 83-year-old BNP leader to imprisonment till death for his wartime offences.

Alim filed the appeal on November 7 last year to acquit him.

Kazakhstan congratulates Hasina

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Serik Akhmetov, prime minister of Kazakhstan, has congratulated Sheikh Hasina for assuming the office as the prime minister of Bangladesh.

In a message, Serik also evinced that bilateral cooperation between the two countries will be strengthened further, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

New Swiss envoy presents credentials to president

CITY DESK



Newly appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Christian Fotsch yesterday presented his credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Christian Fotsch served as the Swiss ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

40 gold bars recovered at Shahjalal airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence officials seized 40 gold bars, weighing 4.6kg, worth Tk 2.10 crore, at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

The bars were found abandoned inside a toilet near belt no-5 of Customs Hall around 11:45am, said Moinul Khan, director general of customs intelligence.

HC orders stop to encroachment on Dholbhangra river in B'baria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered immediate measures to stop the encroachment on the Dholbhangra river in Banchharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria.

In response to a writ petition, the court directed the government agencies concerned to remove the bamboo fence constructed in the river and earth dumped into it.

The deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Brahmanbaria, upazila nirbahi officer of Banchharampur, and officer-in-charge of the sadar police station have been asked to comply with the order and submit a report in three weeks.

In a separate rule, Justice

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36 more selected for next round

CITY DESK



A total of 36 students were selected from seven Dhaka schools for the next divisional round as the first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season, hosted by champs21.com and powered by Horlicks, continued yesterday.

The schools are BAF Shaheen College Kurmitola, Khilgaon Ideal School and College, Dhaka Residential Model College, Juvenile School, Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College, Northern International School and Faizur Rahman Institute.

Spellato, an android phone app, introduced by champs21.com can be a great means for students who want to prepare for the Spelling Bee or just want to enrich their vocabulary. Anyone can download the app from Google play store.

Throughout February, students from class VI to X, except the SSC examinees and O level candidates, can participate in the Spelling Bee by logging onto champs21.com.

The champion will win an education policy worth Tk 5 lakh, sponsored by Metlife Alico, and a chance to visit Washington DC along with a parent. BSRM and Faber-Castell are two other sponsors this year.

Little Magazine Chattar retreat in the bustle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a tiring walk in the Suhrawardy Udyan portion of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela, a peek into the Little Magazine Chattar at Bangla Academy offers a refreshing retreat to visitors.

In contrast to the facade of Burdwan House, a colonial vestige, this corner gives voice to those who want to break the conventional thoughts and norms of society through writing.

This year, the entire space between Burdwan House and the press building have been allocated for little magazines, where 43 stalls were given space and 11 more fitted together in one corner under the banner "Unmukto Stalls" (open stalls), said Aminur Rahman Sultan, deputy director of Bangla Academy.

"This year because of more space we did not have to accommodate any NGO's stall or other private organisation's stall like other years," he said, adding that the arrangements were made on the instructions of the academy's director general, Dr

Shamsuzzaman Khan.

Sultan also pointed out the little village created at the chattar as one of the attractions of the fair this year. Designed by Dr Khondaker Muzahidul Islam, the model village is called "Kobitai Bangla" depicting scenes from popular Bangla poems.

Poet Shakil Hasan, whose publication Krishan occupies a space there, said, "I have been coming here since 1994. Back then, there were only seven publications here."

Syed Md Harunur Rashid, governor of Mohendra Upakul, a magazine on poetry based in Noakhali, said he started bringing his publication to the fair in 1987.

"The publications in the Little Magazine Chattar don't have any institutional form. They basically promote young, new and sometimes elder writers. It's a place where experimental works can be published unlike mainstream magazines and papers," explained Sultan.

A total of 134 books arrived at the fair yesterday, while 25 others were launched.



Empower family court to deal with child marriage

Urges Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, referring to new draft act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A women's rights body yesterday recommended that the family court be given the power to settle any dispute involving child marriage in the revised law for better adjudication.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) said the draft "Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013" only empowered the class I magistrate to try any case.

If the same authority is invested in the family court, it would settle the case more judiciously because it is familiar with the ins and outs, a BMP leader told The Daily Star.

Speaking at a press conference at the Sufia Kamal Bhaban in the capital, the women's rights campaigners also suggest that the law be called "Minor Marriage Restraint Act 2013".

Maksuda Akhter Laily, a BMP official, said, "According to the Child Act 2013, everyone below 18 is a child. But the marriageable age is 21 for men and 18 for women."

"A man aged 20 is not a child but also not eligible for marriage as per the Bangladeshi law. So to erase all confusion, we opt

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Primary school

FROM PAGE 4

groups -- Sadri and Kurukh --, the materials will be available in both the languages, they added.

The books will be available for the children of 1,005 schools, dubbed "Aloghor", run by Caritas Bangladesh.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman and State Minister for Social Welfare Promode Mankin, among others, spoke.

Obituary



It is with great regret, that we announce the sad demise of Mrs. Nurun Nahar Hady, wife of eminent educationist Late A. Hady Talukdar of Dasmina Talukdar Bari, Patuakhali. She expired on Sunday, 23rd February of old age complications.

Born in 1923, Nurun Nahar Hady was the only daughter of Late Nurul Haq Chowdhury of Ulania Zamindar Bari, Barisal. Like her father, she had a literary bent, and her poems and short stories were regularly published in 'Shishu Shatee' and 'Boshumati' of Kolkata and later 'Begum' and 'Mahenau' of Dhaka. She was also an active social worker and was a member of APWA and other social organisations.

She was the proud mother of six sons - M.A. Baqui, Late M.A. Bari Talukdar, M.A. Muid, Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, M.H. Fazle Rab and M. Abdullah and two daughters - Prof. Ferdouse Hannan and Dil Afroze Khan. She was also given the 'Ratna Garbha Ma' award in 2006. A lady of great generosity, elegance and dignity she touched many hearts in her lifetime and will be missed by all.

Mrs. Nurun Nahar Hady's 'Qul Khani' will be held on Friday, 28th February at 4:45pm (After Asr Prayers) at her residence, House # 10, Road # 5, Dhanmondi. All her friends, relatives and well-wishers are cordially invited to attend and pray for her eternal salvation.

The Family

Catch it if you can

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