

CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE UNLIKELY

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Mymensingh and Comilla till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Tangail, Rajshahi, Patuakhali, Majdee Court, Feni and Cox's Bazar and it may continue. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm**

and rises tomorrow at 5:38am. Country's highest temperature 38.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 18.6 degrees in Sylhet. 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 | 35.7 | 23.3 | 41 | 34 | 35.8 | 23.7 | 56 | 45 |
| Chittagong | 35.2 | 24.9 | 74 | 53 | 35.4 | 23.5 | 60 | 58 |
| Rajshahi | 37.0 | 21.2 | 53 | 48 | 34.7 | 18.6 | 54 | 45 |
| Rangpur | 33.7 | 22.2 | 60 | 44 | 36.6 | 24.8 | 51 | 60 |



A student puts finishing touches to an artwork at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday afternoon. The item, among others, will be used in the Pahela Baishakh procession in the capital today.

PHOTO: STAR

Pahela Baishakh today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrates Bangla New Year 1421 today with pomp and splendour.

Stages have been set-up at Ramna Batamul and other venues as the capital made preparations to celebrate the biggest carnival of Bangalees -- Pahela Baishakh.

The festivities begin just after sunrise with thousands of people gathering under the banyan tree at Ramna Udyan where artistes welcome the day with the traditional Pahela Baishakh song of Rabindranath Tagore "Esho hey Baishakh".

The procession of Pahela Baishakh, Mangal Shobhajatra, begins from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University in the morning.

The carnival-goers flock to Baishakhi Mela, one of the main features of the celebration; enjoy outdoor cultural programmes; colourful parades, and foods like Panta Bhat (rice soaked in water) with fried Hilsa, lentil soup and smoked chilli at Baishakhi gatherings.

The Bangla year with Baishakh as the first month was introduced during the rule of Mughal Emperor Akbar from 1556 AD to 1605 AD.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted the country yesterday on the occasion of the Bangla New Year.

In separate messages, they wished peace, happiness and prosperity of the people and the country in the New Year, reports BSS.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia also greeted the countrymen.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State John Kerry, on behalf of President Barack Obama and people of the US, greeted all

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LALBAGH FORT HC issues contempt rule against secy, archeology DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against the cultural affairs secretary and the director general of the Department of Archeology for not complying with its 2011 directive to protect the historical Lalbagh Fort in Old Dhaka.

In the rule, the court asked the two government high officials to show cause in two weeks as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for not executing its order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaque Islam and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal came up with the rule after hearing a contempt of court petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

HRPB's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the court that the HC on October 26, 2011

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WAR CRIMES CHARGES AGAINST AZHARUL
Witness negates defence suggestion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday negated defence suggestion that he never knew and saw war crimes accused ATM Azharul Islam during the liberation war in 1971.

The 10th prosecution witness, Ratan Chandra Das, said this at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 while being cross-examined by defence counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder.

In his deposition, the witness on April 10 said he saw Azharul along with Pakistani

occupation army had picked up four professors of Carmichael College and wife of one of them before killing them near Damdama Bridge in Rangpur on April 30, 1971.

Ratan said he had been working as a cook at one of the professor's house at that time.

The defence counsel made another suggestion that he never was a cook of Prof Sunil of Carmichael College. The witness said it was not true.

In reply to another question, the witness said Pakistani army probably came to their

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Sk Enamul wins national photo contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sk Enamul Huq, chief photographer of The Daily Star, has won the first prize in

a national photography competition organised by Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association.

Sarif Sarwar, a freelancer, and Babul Talukder, of the Dainik Dinkal, won the second and the third prize respectively.

Names of the winners were announced at a programme organised by the association at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. The association organises such programme every year on the eve of Bangla New Year-1421.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu was present as the chief guest. Presided over by AKM Mohsin, president of the association, the programme was also attended by Shawkat Mahmud, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, secretary general of another faction of the union, and Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj.



Visitors look at photographs at the national photo exhibition titled "Ruposhi Bangla" organised by Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association in the capital's Jatiya Press Club on the eve of Pahela Baishakh.

PHOTO: STAR

ATTENTION
Best Wishes to Movenpick Lovers Happy Bengali
New year 1421

MÖVENPICK
THE ART OF SWISS ICE CREAM

AKLIMA MURDER
Students blockade road for justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Several thousand students of different schools and madrasas of Ashulia yesterday blockaded the Dhaka-Tangail highway at Baipail for about 30 minutes demanding exemplary punishment of the killers of a class VI student.

The students blockaded the highway around 11:00am demanding punishment of the killers of Aklima Akter Akhi, a student of Unail Darul Ulum Islamia Alia Madrasa. They freed the highway after police high-ups assured them that their demand would be fulfilled.

Akhi, 13, daughter of Akkas Ali of Konda in Ashulia,

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শুভ নববর্ষ ১৪২১

রাঙাই অময় নতুন দিনে, নতুন মুয়ের গানে,
মাতবো এবার মেলায় মবাই, নববর্ষের আহবানে!

পুরনো দিনগুলোকে পেছনে ফেলে আসুন বরণ করে নেই নতুন দিনগুলো। স্বাগত বাংলা নববর্ষ ১৪২১। ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক এর পক্ষ থেকে সকল গ্রাহক, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দকে জানাই নববর্ষের শুভেচ্ছা।

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