

HEAT WAVE MAY CONTINUE

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over

Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions and the regions of Rangamati, Maijdee Court, Barisal and Patuakhali and it may continue. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm**

and rises tomorrow at 5:34am.

Country's highest temperature 39.4 degree Celsius is recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 21.8 degrees in Srimangal. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 37.2 | 25.2 | 72 | 45 |
| Chittagong | 32.2 | 25.0 | 84 | 82 |
| Rajshahi | 39.2 | 24.0 | 63 | 45 |
| Rangpur | 35.9 | 23.0 | 65 | 53 |
| Khulna | 39.0 | 26.3 | 72 | 56 |
| Barisal | 36.8 | 25.7 | 76 | 56 |
| Sylhet | 34.3 | 23.8 | 76 | 56 |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.5 | 24.3 | 79 | 83 |

NEWS IN brief

4th Sufi conference starts in Ctg

A three-day Sufi conference began with the theme "Sufism, Sainthood, Ethnicity and Inter-faith Conflict Resolution" in Chittagong city yesterday. Syed Mohammed Hasan Maizbhandari inaugurated the conference, organised by Maizbhandari Academy, at Shah Alam Bir Uttam Auditorium of Chittagong Medical College around 10:00am. Later, the main discussion started at the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium around 11:30am.

Fire breaks out at Savar market

A fire broke out in a shoe warehouse on the first floor of Savar New Market, a four-storey building, in Savar on the outskirts of the capital early yesterday. Fire-fighters doused the blaze, which engulfed the warehouse on the northern side of the structure. The fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit, they suspected. No casualty was reported.

Couple held with firearms in Ctg

Police arrested a couple with arms and ammunition at their house in Purba Charandwip village of Boalkhali upazila in Chittagong yesterday. Jashim Uddin, 35, and Sufia Begum, 30, were arrested after police raided the house and seized two light guns and 18 cartridges from the house. Police suspected that Jashim used to rent firearms to criminals. A case was filed.

Live Mujibnagar Day programme on Bangladesh Betar today

Bangladesh Betar will broadcast a discussion and cultural programme live at 7:05pm today marking the Historic Mujibnagar Day. Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, power, energy and mineral resources adviser to the prime minister; and Mortuza Ahmed, information secretary, will attend the programmes at the radio station at Agargaon in the capital as chief and special guests respectively. Singers Abdul Jabbar and Subir Nandi, among others, will perform at the programme.

50 shops gutted in Gazipur fire

At least 50 shops were gutted in a fire that originated from a leak in a gas pipeline under Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday evening. A mosque and several houses also caught fire. Toshara Hossain, station officer at Sreepur Fire Service, said the pipe was breached as labourers were excavating to widen the highway. The fire broke out from a match strike at nearby Gargaria Masterbari Bazar while gas was spreading, he added.

MISSING AT ST MARTIN'S No trace of 2 Ahsanullah students yet

The rescuers could not find the bodies of two students of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology yesterday, three days after they had gone missing off the coast of the St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar. The navy, coast guards and 12 trawlers owned by locals continued their search in the Bay of Bengal for the second consecutive day yesterday, but there was no trace of Sabbir Hasan and Istiak Bin Mahmood till filing of the report at 7:00pm. Lt Shahid Al Ahsan, St Martin's station commander of Bangladesh Coast Guard, however, **SEE PAGE 4 COL 5**



A procession of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal before they set out on a long march with a motorcade towards the Teesta barrage in Lalmonirhat yesterday. The photo was taken from in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Manzur Anam's qulkhwani tomorrow

The qulkhwani of Manzur Anam, the fourth son of eminent politician and litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad, will be held tomorrow after Maghrib prayers at Masjid-ut-Taqwa on Road No-12/A in the capital's Dhanmondi. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani. The deceased was buried at Banani graveyard following his namaz-e-ajanaza at Eidgah Maidan in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers yesterday.

DEMAND FOR EQUAL SHARE OF TEESTA WATER CPB, BSD start march towards Lalmonirhat

Demanding an equal share of water of the Teesta river, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday started a long march from the capital towards Teesta barrage in Lalmonirhat. At a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club before setting off for Lalmonirhat around 4:00pm, leaders of the parties said irrigation of about 1,10,000 hectares of cropland had been hampered due to construction of a barrage upstream at Gojoldoba point in Jalpaiguri of the Indian state of West Bengal. As a result, farmers here are becoming more dependent on underground water, which is also being depleted due to excessive use of it, they said.

When the vital river has been dying because of the dam, Bangladesh government has utterly failed to restrain India from diverting the water, said Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University. A regional body of representatives from China, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan needs to be formed to oversee the share of water of international rivers in the region, demanded CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince. The speakers also criticised Indian government for diverting the water of international rivers without having any dialogues with countries in the downstream area. Khalequzzaman of BSD and Mujahidul Islam Selim of CPB, among others, spoke. The long march is expected to reach Teesta barrage on Saturday evening.

JANUARY 5 JS POLLS EC yet to get spending reports of candidates

The Election Commission is yet to receive electoral expenditure statements of about the one third of the candidates who contested in the January 5 national polls. Out of 543 candidates, the EC has received expenditure statements of around 175 candidates, said EC sources. Officials of the EC Secretariat said they were not sure whether the candidates had submitted their expenditure statements or not because the statements would have to be submitted to the returning officers and a copy would be sent to the commission. The EC on Wednesday directed all the returning officers of January 5 polls to prepare list of candidates who have not submitted their expenditure statements and what legal action have been taken against them. As per electoral law, all contesting candidates have to submit their electoral expenditure statements to the respective returning officers of each constituency within 30 days of publishing the election result in official gazette. The officers **SEE PAGE 4 COL 1**

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY Quasem's trial set to enter next phase

The case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali is set to enter the next phase on Tuesday when International Crimes Tribunal-2 is due to start recording the testimonies of defence witnesses. The court fixed the day after Quasem's counsel completed cross-examining Nurul Islam, the investigation officer and last prosecution witness in Quasem's case, yesterday. Meanwhile, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan yesterday allowed three persons as defence witnesses to defend the Jamaat central executive council member. Although the defence had submitted a list of 22 witnesses, the prosecution on April 1 filed a petition for curtailing the number. Quasem, the alleged chief of Chittagong Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army during the Liberation War, is facing 14 charges of murder, confinement and torture committed in the port city in 1971. The Jamaat leader pleaded not guilty. While cross-examining the investigation officer for the third day yesterday, defence counsel Mizanul Islam suggested that he had submitted the "false" probe report on **SEE PAGE 4 COL 5**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
IndustriALL Bangladesh Council will form a human chain demanding adequate compensation for Rana Plaza collapse victims; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Meeting
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will arrange a meeting marking its 44th founding anniversary; Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 3:00pm.

Cultural programme
Nazrul Academy will arrange a cultural programme on the occasion of Bangla New Year; Venue: The academy premises, Moghbazar; Time: 6:30pm.

Discussion
Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion marking Historic Mujibnagar Day; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:00am.



Colourfully dressed young students of European Standard School sing and dance on the Mirpur campus in the capital yesterday. The cultural show alongside a fair was organised by the institution on the occasion of Bangla New Year 1421. PHOTO: EUROPEAN STANDARD SCHOOL

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