

**RAIN LIKELY**



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Faridpur,

Madaripur and Rangamati and it may continue, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.**

Country's highest temperature 38.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chuadanga and lowest 20.4 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	35.3	27.3	71	81	Khulna	36.7	27.2	66	50
Chittagong	32.8	26.9	77	73	Barisal	35.7	26.7	69	61
Rajshahi	37.0	23.6	69	78	Sylhet	28.6	20.4	98	81
Rangpur	33.4	22.8	78	63	Cox's Bazar	34.8	27.0	74	73

**Khoka barred from going abroad**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration police at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport last night barred BNP Vice-Chairman Sadeque Hossain Khoka from going abroad. His Personal Assistant Monir Hossain said, "The immigration police kept him waiting for over half an hour at the airport and did not allow him to board the Emirates Airlines flight of 9:00pm bound for the USA." Khoka wanted to go to America for treatment, Monir added. An official of the immigration police claimed that Khoka did not have all necessary clearances for leaving the country but he refused to elaborate further.

**Liberation War ministry secy made OSD**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional Secretary to Ministry of Liberation War Affairs Golam Mostafa has been made an Officer on Special Duty (OSD). The public administration ministry issued a circular about this last evening but did not mention any reason for making him OSD. Recently, allegations surfaced that substandard crests were awarded to Bangladesh's foreign friends, who contributed in the 1971 Liberation War. Sources said Mostafa was made OSD because he was head of the crest purchasing committee. According to reports, each crest contained around 2.36 grams of gold in place of the specified 11.64 grams and had an alloy of base metals instead of 350 grams of silver.



A black flag flying at the main gate of the office of Narayanganj's superintendent of police (SP) yesterday in protest against abductions and killings in the district. Local lawyers put the flag there, apart from many other places in the city including the Narayanganj court premises, demanding justice for the recent abduction and murder of seven people including Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and advocate Chandan Sarker.

**'BCL faction' of CU detains shuttle train driver for 4hrs**

CU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Chittagong University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday picked up a CU shuttle train driver and released him after four hours to enforce an indefinite transport strike at the university demanding punishment for those who assaulted an Awami League leader on April 5. Sholoshahar Railway Station Master Md Shahabuddin said the group picked Yusuf Chowdhury up from Sholoshahar at 7:00am and released him at Muradpur at 11:00am. Yusuf said some people claiming to be BCL men picked him up and during the captivity, they asked him not to operate the shuttle train till the strike ended. Another BCL faction, led by Mass Education Secretary Rupam Biswas, alleged that the group of Joint Secretary Sumon Mamun led the incident. However, Sumon denied the allegation. CU Proctor Md Siraj-ud-Doula said they did not know who were involved in the incident. Chittagong Government Railway Police said they did not know about the incident. Regarding the strike, a press release signed by CU BCL Human Resource Affairs Secretary SM Alauddin Alom, was sent to the local media office yesterday afternoon.

**HIMU MURDER CASE**  
**Defence delaying case proceedings**

Alleges prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Defence lawyers are raising irrelevant questions to waste time and delay the proceedings of the Himu murder case, alleged the prosecution during cross-examination of a prosecution witness before a Chittagong court yesterday. Ehtasumul Haque Kashfi, Himu's friend and vice-president of anti-drug organisation Shikar, was cross-examined for the third day yesterday. At a hospital in Chittagong city, Kashfi had recorded Himu's description of how he was attacked. Chittagong Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Shahidul Islam also fixed May 14 to continue cross-examination of Kashfi. Kashfi is being cross-examined by lawyers of accused Shah Alam Tipu and Jahedul Islam Shaon, said Anupam Chakraborty, additional public prosecutor (PP). "For three consecutive days, the defence lawyers have

**Is government primary education really free?**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parents of almost half the government primary school children need to pay bribes to get "free schooling" in rural Bangladesh, an expert said during a public lecture yesterday. "The brunt of the bribe is borne hugely by the poor," said M Shahe Emran, a researcher at Initiative for Policy, Columbia University, USA, in the lecture, "Admission is Free Only if Your Dad is Rich: Distributional Effects of Corruption in Schools in Developing Countries". Bribes need to be paid for getting all types of educational facilities—for admission, for getting free books, for getting stipends or even for collecting scholarship money. The lecture was based on a survey conducted among 3,760 households in rural Bangladesh in 2010, and was organised by the Brac Institute of

Governance and Development. The paper states that if the total household income goes up 1 percent, the propensity of paying a bribe for schooling goes down by 1.06 percent. The average monthly income of a bribe-payer is as low as Tk 1,930, and a household ends up paying an average of Tk 241 in bribes per year, it revealed. "The poor can spend up to 61 percent of their savings on paying bribes for [primary] education," said Shahe Emran, presenting the paper at Brac University in the capital. While policy makers are encouraging investment in education theorising that it will reduce inequality, it is in fact increasing inequality in the short term, said speakers. "Corruption is at the root of it," said Emran. The rich are usually well-connected, and

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**ASSET DEVELOPMENTS**

**Two Bangladeshis win S Asian Inquirer Award**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi journalists Mosaber Hussain of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Amin al Rasheed of ABC Radio are among the three winners of the "2013-14 South Asian Inquirer Award" given for investigating reporting. Mosaber won in the print category and Amin in the radio category. The third winner is Upendra Herath of Hiru TV in Sri Lanka awarded in the television category, said a press release of Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) yesterday. The winners were chosen from over 250 entries from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and will be offered a study tour to London in June, where they will visit leading UK parliamentarians, editors, academics and British Asian community leaders to look at how regional transparency issues in South Asia are affecting the UK. The competition is arranged by UK based media charity Thomson Foundation, MRDI Bangladesh, and the Sri Lankan College of Journalism. Mosaber's report looked into the opaque business ownership

**MK Anwar indicted for derogatory remarks about AL front leader**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday indicted BNP standing committee member MK Anwar for making derogatory comments against Swachhshasebak League leader Debashish Biswas. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Masud Sheikh framed the charges against Anwar after rejecting his discharge petition. Anwar pleaded not guilty after the charge was read out to him. The court fixed July 27 to start the trial.

**Two muggers detained for impersonating Rab men**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Tuesday night detained two muggers with a microbus in Gazipur's Nabinagar area for robbing a person in Bogra's Sherpur on Sunday posing as Rab men. The detainees are Parvez Hossain, 30, and Alal Hossain, 30, the microbus driver.

**GRAFT CASES AGAINST KHALEDA, TARIQUE**  
**Trial moves to makeshift court for security reasons**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of two corruption cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman will now take place at a makeshift court in the capital's Bakshi Bazar. The government has shifted the cases from Dhaka Judge's Court to the makeshift court, set up earlier for dealing with the 2009 BDR mutiny cases, due to security reasons. Khaleda and other accused in the Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases will appear before the court during the trial proceedings beginning on May 21. A law ministry press release yesterday said the government on April 30 issued a gazette notification in this regard.

**ALCWC meet on May 14**

AL parliamentary board to choose Barisal-5 by-poll nominee today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC), the highest decision-making body of the ruling party, will hold an emergency meeting on May 14 to come up with concrete measures to make the organisation stronger in the coming days. Decisions on reorganising

**Grassroots needs in health budget a must**  
**Says HT Imam**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The grassroots people's needs should be counted while formulating a health budget, said HT Imam, political adviser to the prime minister, yesterday. The health ministry should involve all stakeholders before framing its budget, he told a meeting on "Global Week of Action: 2014 and Health Budget Analysis Report Sharing", organised by World Vision Bangladesh in the capital. As the health care needs vary in different areas, upazila level hospitals should inform the ministry about their specific needs, he said, adding that the government is moving towards such "a need-based approach" in this regard.

**Global Action Week (GAW)**  
4-10 May 2014  
**Education and Disability: Equal Right, Equal Opportunity**

Disabled people are being deprived of basic rights including education throughout the world. Bangladesh is no exception. WHO and the World Bank's Reports on Disability estimated that more than a billion people are disabled across the world which is 15% of the total population. Though the responsibility to ensure equal right and equal opportunity of this huge number of population in all sectors including education is of the society and the state, it is yet to be ensured. Prioritizing the issue of equal rights and equal opportunity of disabled people to ensure Education for All, this year Global Action Week (GAW) is being observed from 4 to 10 May in more than 100 countries including Bangladesh. But this is not an issue of just a week, **we demand establishing right to education of all people in all places at all time.**

**In line with the GAW 2014 theme we demand that the government takes measures to:-**

- Formulate appropriate rules to facilitate proper and speedy implementation of 'Rights & Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013'
- Assign the Ministry of Education for providing education to the disabled which will facilitate transfer of this responsibility from the Ministry of Social Welfare through necessary changes in the 'Rules of Business'
- Follow the guidelines of the 'National Education Policy 2010' on Inclusive Education to ensure that children with disabilities have access to quality education
- Provide separate and adequate allocation for education of disabled people in the national budget and ensure that a substantial part of it is utilized for developing and producing education materials, teaching aids, teachers' training and infrastructure development
- Recruit skilled trainers in all teacher training institutions and integrate disability issues within the mainstream Teachers' Training Curriculum
- Develop disability-friendly curriculum considering the various types and dimensions of disability and produce specific education materials
- Develop vocational training facilities for disabled people in line with the 'National Skills Development Policy 2011' and create opportunities for their participation in existing training programs
- Ensure inclusion of disabled children in pre-primary level education and establish linkage between special education institutions with mainstream education institutions
- Eliminate all forms of discrimination faced by the disabled learners during admission in government and non-government institutions
- Take measures for construction of disability-friendly toilets, tube-wells and ramps in all educational institutions
- Ensure opportunity and access of disabled learners to extra curricular activities
- Coordinated measures be taken for prevention of disabilities before pregnancy and birth to detect symptoms for young children, and expand services and guidance for children's optimal development In line with the 'Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy 2013'
- Engage the media for proactively publicizing the contribution and potential of disabled people and for creating public opinion in favour of removing existing socio-cultural discriminatory norms and practices towards them
- Produce and publicize a 'Citizens Charter' containing information on the rights of disabled people in all government offices throughout the country.

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