

LIGHT FOG LIKELY

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.
Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country, Met Office said.

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:22am.
Country's highest temperature 29.8 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.4 in Chuadanga.
The highest and lowest temperatures 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	27.5	17.8	84	56	Khulna	28.1	14.1	67	71
Chittagong	29.5	17.0	76	49	Barisal	28.0	14.4	90	79
Rajshahi	27.6	11.6	92	78	Sylhet	28.4	15.9	75	71
Rangpur	26.5	14.5	80	75	Cox's Bazar	29.8	17.5	68	76

BISWA IJTEMA
5 West African countries barred for Ebola scare

UNB, Dhaka

As a precautionary step to prevent the spread of Ebola, people from five West African countries will not be allowed to enter the country to join Biswa Ijtema, said State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday.
The countries are Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Mali and Guinea.
Scanners will also be installed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to keep away any possible Ebola patient, said Asaduzzaman while talking to journalists after a meeting on the preparation of two-phase Biswa Ijtema.
He said the authorities will take tight security measures for the second largest congregation of Muslims after the holy Hajj.
This year, the first phase of the Biswa Ijtema will begin on January 9 on the bank of the Turag River at Tongi on the outskirts of the capital, while the second phase on January 18, said the junior minister.
A larger number of personnel from various law-enforcement agencies will be

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A shipbuilder shoulders an electrical equipment availing the opportunity of a much needed break facilitated by a sudden bout of power outage in Zinzira dockyard near the capital's Sadarghat on September 9, 2013. The moment was captured by Md Ashrafullah, third prize winner in The Daily Star's photo contest 'inPixel' under the theme 'People'.

PHOTO: MD ASHRAFULLAH



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JCD dissidents keep central office locked for 2nd day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 dissident Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders kept its central office at BNP's Nayapalata headquarters in the capital locked for the second day yesterday and staged demonstrations demanding cancellation of the pro-BNP student organisation's new central committee.
They extended their 48-hour ultimatum, issued on Tuesday, to seven days. Talking to The Daily Star, they threatened to step up their agitation if a fresh committee was not formed.
Led by Anisur Rahman Talukder, Tariqul Islam and Ferdaus Munna, the agitators locked the 3rd floor office and held the demonstration on the road in front for over an hour from 3:30pm. The new leaders were not present.
On October 14, BNP Chairpersons Khaleda Zia approved a 201-member partial committee with Rajib Ahsan as president and Akramul Hasan as general secretary, but it was vehemently opposed by those who did not get leadership positions.

IOJ to press for blasphemers' death

Plans Jan 9 rally in capital for enacting law
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), a key component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, yesterday announced holding a "grand" rally in the capital on coming January 9 demanding enactment of a "blasphemy law" carrying death sentence against anyone who hurts religious sentiments of Muslims.
IOJ, an alliance of four Islamist parties, also demanded that the government try sacked minister Abdul Latif Siddique, now behind bars after coming under fire for his anti-Hajj comments in September, under the law.
In a press conference at

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Shaheed Dr Milon Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Shaheed Dr Milon Day will be observed in the country today marking the 24th death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon.
On this day in 1990, the armed cadres of the then autocratic ruler HM Ershad gunned down Dr Milon, the then joint secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, near the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) at Dhaka University in a bid to foil the mass upsurge.
On the eve of the day, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate statements, recalled the supreme sacrifice of Dr Milon for the cause of restoring the democratic system, reported BSS.
Different political parties and socio-cultural and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe Shaheed Dr Milon Day.

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Gulf ready to better foreign domestic helps' conditions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The six Gulf countries have agreed on minimum terms in the job contracts, including limiting working hours, to improve the widely criticised working conditions of the over 2.4 million foreign domestic helps currently employed in the region.
The move came at the two-day third Abu Dhabi Dialogue in Kuwait City where the Gulf labour ministers gathered to discuss the conditions of foreign workers, reported the Arab News, a Saudi Arabia based English daily. The meeting concludes today.
The new contract entitles domestic workers to a weekly day off, annual leave and the right to live outside their employer's house, Jamal Al-Dossari, the director general of Kuwait's Public Manpower Authority, told local journalists, reported the AFP.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain is one of the representatives from the 12 Asian manpower export countries taking part in the meeting.
He told the BBC Bangla, "A draft prepared by the GCC countries for bringing some amendments in the rights of the domestic maids may be placed before us tomorrow."
Muhammad Imran, Bangladeshi ambassador in Abu Dhabi, said the contract would legally ensure the rights of the over two lakh female Bangladeshi domestic helps working in the Gulf.
"...(they) will enjoy their rights including fixed work hour, salary, leave etc," he told The Daily Star by phone.
Al-Dossari said the new contract limited the working day to eight hours. Currently, the work day ranges

between 14 and 16 hours.
The domestic workers will also be entitled to overtime pay for extra work for a maximum of two hours daily.
"It bans employers from keeping the passports of their employees, ensures the freedom of domestic helpers to move or live outside the home of the employer... It also commits employers to provide air tickets for the helpers at the end of the contract," Al Dossari said.
The workers often accuse employers of sexual, physical, mental and other forms of abuse.
The issue of expatriate workers in the Gulf countries--Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE--has made international headlines, due mainly to the controversial "kafala" system, under which foreigners must acquire sponsorship by an

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Exhume Nayar's body: Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered to exhume the body of Nayar Sultana, a popular child actress in the 1980s, for conducting an autopsy again.
Following a petition filed by Nayar's mother Razia Sultana, the court also ordered the principal of Sir Salimullah Medical College to form a three-member body to conduct the autopsy.
Earlier, Dhaka Medical College conducted an autopsy and claimed that Nayar had committed suicide but Razia in her petition alleged that it was "a planned murder".
On October 16, the body of Nayar who played Tuni, a young girl in the popular drama serial "Ei Shob Din Ratri" on Bangladesh Television, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her house at the capital's Gulshan.
Her husband Al Amin was arrested on the day after a murder case had been filed against him by Razia.

NEWS IN brief

Nisha Biswal due today

UNB, Dhaka
US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit.
During her stay, she will meet high level government officials and leaders of labour and RMG sector, business community and opposition party.
In addition to her activities, Biswal will also travel to the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training, Gazipur.
She will be here from Kathmandu after attending the 18th Saarc Summit ending today.

'Badi-Bander Roopkatha' to be staged at National Theatre Dec 5, 6

CITY DESK
"Badi-Bander Roopkatha", a dance drama based on Arabian Nights tale "Alibaba and the Forty Thieves", will be staged by Srishiti Cultural Centre at the National Theatre of Bangladesh Shilapakala Academy in the capital at 6:30pm on December 5 and 6.
Shamim Ara Nipa, Shibli Mohammad and Sukalyann Bhattacharya, who is from Kolkata, will perform in the play, says a press release.

Poribartan Chai to clean big cities on New Year's Eve

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
To observe Clean the Country Day "Poribartan Chai," a voluntary organisation, will conduct a cleaning up campaign in Dhaka and other big cities on December 31.
Inspiring people to join the event to make a clean Bangladesh, the organisers are asking people to clean up their surroundings and change their mindset.
During a press conference at National Press Club yesterday Poribartan Chai's Chairman Fida Haque read the statement.



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday demolishes illegal structures which had encroached on the banks of the Buriganga river in Postogola Shashan Ghat area in the capital.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Infrastructure pressing

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He assured the member countries of addressing their concerns on this score and providing them a level-playing field in India, saying India was willing to give more duty-free access to its market to goods from some Saarc countries.
Modi said while Indian companies were investing billions of dollars abroad less than one per cent of it was in South Asia.
"In Saarc, less than 5 percent of the

region's global trade takes place between us."
As Saarc "we have failed to move with the speed that our people expect and want" and some contend that it is because of asymmetry in economic development of countries in the region, he said.
Closing his speech, the Indian PM called on all, "Let's move from cynicism to optimism and to realise peace and prosperity in the region."

Actively engage to build

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result-oriented implementation of the regional agreements and plans through cross-border initiatives.
Hasina emphasised that the new Global Development Agenda requires the Saarc

countries to focus on their fourth frontier--the Indian Ocean.
"There's so much to benefit through collaborative exploration of the living and non-living marine resources," she said.

Develop common

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population, increasing democratisation process, abundance of natural resources, rich biodiversity and economic dynamism with a boundless market," he said, emphasising the region's potentials.
Pointing out Saarc's strengths, Koirala said, "We have a vast pool of young and dynamic population while other parts of the world are facing shortage of the workforce."
The Nepali PM also urged cooperation on terrorism and climate adaptation.

Firmly address poverty

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Rajapaksa said addressing the challenges of lack of access to sanitation, clean water and emerging threats such as water quality management, health hazards was at the heart of human well-being. "The failure to address these issues collectively would stunt human development achievements in the region," he added.

Let's fight

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home to nearly one quarter of humanity on the planet, it accounts for only 6 percent of world GDP in purchasing power parity and is attracting only 3 percent of global foreign direct investment (FDI), Sharif said.
"We are one of the least integrated regions in the world."
Highlighting the importance of Saarc, the Pakistani PM said the organisation had come to epitomise the hopes of the region's peoples, for peace, progress and prosperity.
He called the theme of this summit, "Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity", most appropriate.

423 victims

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violence against women and girls experienced an upward trend with 2002 alone seeing nearly 500 victims, she said.
However, in the subsequent years the rate decreased due to social activism and awareness building, Selina said, adding that last year saw 85 victims, while there were 53 victims this year so far.
She identified lack of proper law enforcement and influence of the perpetrators in the society as some of the foremost reasons for recurrence of the crime.
The programme included a cultural performance by survivors of acid throwing and a photography exhibition by Shafiqul Alam Kiron.