

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during late night till morning, said Met Office.		Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25am. Country's highest temperature 30.0 degree		Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 11.8 degrees in Jessore and Ishwardi. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:		Temperature in Celsius Max: 27.5 Min: 17.0 Dhaka 28.3 Chittagong 27.6 Rajshahi 26.2 Rangpur		Humidity in percentage Morning 75 Evening 85 95 89		Temperature in Celsius Max: 29.2 Min: 15.1 Khulna 28.3 Barisal 28.8 Sylhet 29.4 Cox's Bazar		Humidity in percentage Morning 93 Evening 92 75 78	
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NEWS IN *brief*

Hearing on charge framing against Latif Dec 7
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed December 7 for starting hearing on charge framing against sacked minister Abdul Latif Siddique in a case filed for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

The court also directed the prison authorities to produce the former post and telecommunications minister before it on that day.

Latif faces 22 cases in 18 districts for hurting religious sentiments. Arrest warrants were issued for him in four cases.

Five denied bail in gold smuggling case
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail of five people, including three Biman officials, in a case over their alleged links with a gold smuggling racket.

The five Capt Abu Mohammad Aslam Shaheed, chief of planning and scheduling; Emdad Hossain, deputy general manager (flight services), and Tozammel Hossain, manager (scheduling), and Mahmudul Haque Palash, a contractor close to many Biman high-ups, and Harunur Rashid, owner of "Farhan Money", a money exchange firm, were arrested on November 18.

Website for quake awareness launched
CITY DESK

House of Volunteers (HOV) Bangladesh has launched a website for creating mass awareness of earthquake preparedness for the mass people of Bangladesh, says a press release.

The site www.houseofvolunteers.org/ebp is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and an outcome of a project of HOV funded by The EMK Center, Dhaka.

Ahsania Mission gets education award
CITY DESK

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) won Honourable Commendation on Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation-2014 for its Quality Primary Education Project UNIQUE-II.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam received the certificate from China and handed it over to the project Director GF Hamim at DAM's Dhanmondi head office yesterday.

UNESCO's Asia Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation and Development (APLID) and the National Commission of the Peoples' Republic of China introduced the award.



The cutting-edge, next generation farming tools taking over all aspects of one of the seminal events in human history which led to the rise of civilisation seems to have evaded this man in Sylhet. With no cattle and even before the morning fog clears, he ropes himself to a ladder placing a weight on it to level the newly ploughed land, pulling away with all his might in his determination to ensure the sustenance of his family and for the love of his land. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

QUESTION LEAK OF SCHOOL EXAM
Matia makes excuses

Parents' apprehension comes true for fourth time during maths exam

STAR REPORT

Pointing at widespread criticism over alleged leak of questions of the ongoing primary terminal examination, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday said there was a lot of criticism centring the education sector but it should be remembered that mistakes occur when work is being done, not when nothing is done at all.

"I do not understand whether I will cry or laugh when I see people who did nothing for the education sector's betterment criticising the government," she said, praising the government's initiative to reach school students textbooks before the start of the academic year.

Meanwhile, apprehensions on the leaks came true for the fourth time with parents whose children in class V appeared in yesterday's mathematics paper alleging that many questions matched those in the sample questions circulating among some of them and on Facebook pages.

Matia was addressing a discussion, "Trial of War Criminal: National and International Obstruction", organised by Ganotantri Party in the capital's Jatiya Press Club marking the death anniversaries of the party's former presidents Ahmedul Kabir and Nurul Islam.

A fire, its source yet to be known, broke out at Nurul's residence in Lalmatia on December 3, 2008, killing his son.

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WAR CRIMES IN JESSORE, KISHOREGANJ
Two suspects sent to jail

Subhan's counsels complete closing arguments
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent two suspects to jail centring two cases filed over war crimes committed in Jessore and Kishoreganj during the 1971 Liberation War.

Sakhawat Hossain, arrested by police from Dhaka's Uttor Khan on Saturday evening, is a former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker from Jessore-6 and Shamsuddin Ahmed, arrested on Thursday, a Kishoreganj court lawyer.

Following Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon's plea, the tribunal fixed December 30, granting one more month, for the progress report submission on the probe against Sakhawat.

With Sakhawat stating of his several ailments, the tribunal also asked the prosecution to undertake necessary steps for his proper healthcare in jail.

The tribunal's investigation agency received a number of allegations of murder, mass killing and other war crimes against Sakhawat.

Starting on April 1, 2012, the probe is halfway through and would be submitted to the prosecution, said sources.

Locals and sources in the agency say Sakhawat, now involved in Jatiya Party politics, was a central committee member of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the student body of Jamaat-e-Islami in 1971.

He joined the Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, during the Liberation War and was the in-charge of Hisladanga Razakar camp of Keshabpur, they alleged.

Meanwhile, the agency submitted a probe report to the

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Bangladesh not tolerating anti-India interests

Says foreign minister
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the principal and unequivocal position of Bangladesh not to tolerate terrorism in any form and not to allow its soil to be used against the interest of any country, particularly India, said Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali yesterday.

The recent Burdwan blast exemplifies the importance of security cooperation and Bangladesh is extending all possible support, he told the inauguration of a two-day "Bangladesh-India Security Dialogue" in a hotel in the capital.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) jointly organised the dialogue.

Hassan said, "...straddling the crossroad of

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12 ASIAN COUNTRIES, GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL TALK ON MIGRANTS

Wage protection, speedy dispute settlement decided

Kuwaiti minister points out missing 'kafala' (sponsorship) issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A wage protection programme, speedier labour dispute settlement, skill development and pre-departure orientation were among the measures Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decided to undertake to improve the work and living conditions of around 15 million foreign workers, including five million Bangladeshis, in its member states.

Decided at the November 26-67 talks between ministers of 12 Asian labour-sending countries and GCC, the wage protection programme obliges GCC states to use banks in ensuring workers' payments and easy monitoring, reported Gulf-based newspapers.

However, the much criticised "kafala" (sponsorship) system, making it mandatory for workers to get their sponsor's consent when changing jobs, was not raised at the conference, said Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Al Subaih.

The GCC states -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- over the years were repeatedly and strongly criticised by international rights groups over the alleged maltreatment of foreign workers, particularly domestic helps.

Just last week, 90 international

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Stéphane Nordé, managing director of Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd, inaugurated a clean drinking water facility donated by the company at Hatib Haji Samir Uddin High School in Sreepur of Gazipur on Saturday. Naquib Khan, corporate affairs director of the company; and Mirza Golam Hossain, senior manager, corporate affairs, were, among others, present on the occasion.

PHOTO: COURTESY

TIB urges govt to raise

FROM PAGE 3

TIB also demanded that a separate department and body be formed so that climate funds can be properly managed and can be effectively utilised.

Other demands include ensuring participation of victims of climate change and civil society members in climate fund management so that more transparency and accountability can be ensured; ensuring necessary financing to rehabilitate refugees of climate change and initiating necessary mechanisms to eradicate poverty in underdeveloped countries that are most vulnerable to climate change.

Addressing the function, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the developed countries in the world have so far disbursed only around 8 percent of the money they had promised for the underdeveloped countries to address the adverse impacts of climate change.

He also demanded that the proposed coal-based power plant in Rampal be shifted to another area so that the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world and the habitat of the Bengal Tiger, is not affected.

Addressing the function, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique emphasised conducting elaborate research by university teachers and experts to chalk out plans for addressing effects of climate change.

Dozens of YES (Youth Engagement and Supports) group members of TIB attended the function.

LEAKING ICT VERDICT DRAFT
Fakhrul Islam's bail denied again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected a bail petition of detained Barrister AKM Fakhrul Islam in a case filed against him for allegedly leaking the draft of a war crimes verdict that sentenced Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to death.

Earlier, different courts rejected his bail on different dates.

Fakhrul was a lawyer for Salauddin Quader Chowdhury during the latter's war crimes trial.

Judge KM Shamsul Alam of the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka passed the order yesterday after Fakhrul's lawyer submitted the petition.

The court also fixed December 11 for next hearing of the case.

Salauddin's wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury and son Humam Quader Chowdhury were earlier granted bail in the

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BURGER FEST

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