

NIGHT TEMPERATURE LIKELY TO FALL

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during

midnight till morning, Met Office said. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at**

5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am. Country's highest temperature 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 13.0 degrees in Tangail.

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	27.6	14.6	69	62	Khulna	27.5	14.3	85	73
Chittagong	30.8	18.8	92	69	Barisal	28.8	13.4	88	87
Rajshahi	25.5	14.8	84	84	Sylhet	30.5	13.2	53	75
Rangpur	26.5	17.0	79	70	Cox's Bazar	30.5	17.8	84	65

Five held with smuggled gold at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rab arrested five people with smuggled gold, worth Tk 28 lakh and weighing 895 grams, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. Of them, Manjur Hossain, Anwar Hossain and Mohammad Abdullah arrived at the airport in two separate flights while Faroque Mia and Mohammad Yousuf came to receive them, said Rab officials. Tipped-off, Rab intercepted them while they were leaving the airport and recovered six bars, nine gold rings and 46 gold chains from their possessions.



A group of artists re-enacts the disastrous aftermath of the Sundarbans oil spillage, near TSC at Dhaka University yesterday, which is wreaking havoc on the flora and fauna of the world's largest mangrove forest. Bottala, a theatre group, organised the "public performance and installation" in protest of the passage of commercial vessels through the forest, which was responsible for the December 9 tanker capsizing, spilling above 3.5 lakh litres of furnace oil and thus poisoning the water of the Shela and Pashur rivers in the Unesco heritage site.

PHOTO: STAR

AL's 'illegal power grab' ruined spirit of 1971: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The ruling Awami League has destroyed the spirit of the Liberation War by "grabbing power illegally", BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday. "Establishment of democracy and fundamental rights was the spirit of the Liberation War," he told reporters after BNP chief Khaleda Zia placed a wreath at the grave of party founder and former president Ziaur Rahman in the capital, marking Victory Day. "...we are sorry to say after 43 years of independence, the illegal government is snatching the democratic rights of the people through killing, abduction, and oppression," he said, adding that this had put the country's sovereignty under threat. Fakhrul also accused the government of ruining the glory and dream of the nation, and planning to institute a "one-party" rule. Rejecting AL's allegation that BNP is trying to create a chaos centring about the war crimes trial, he said it was the ruling party's false accusation to make an issue. Hoping that BNP's movement would succeed in ousting the government, he urged everyone to join in.

Woman raped by fiancé, his friend in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A 22-year-old woman was allegedly raped by her fiancé and his friend in the capital's Kakrail on Monday night. The woman came to Dhaka from Osmaniganar of Sylhet along with Akikur Rahman alias Chandan, 30, her fiancé, his friend Tajul Islam, and Tajul's wife on Monday morning, she said. Chandan had promised to marry her in Dhaka where he is a trader, she told media at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she was admitted for a medical test.

LIBERATION WAR OF BANGLADESH: India recalls role of its armed forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
India yesterday celebrated Vijay Divas, recalling the memories of India's armed forces personnel who assisted in Bangladesh's Liberation War. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "On Vijay Divas, we remember sacrifices and valour of our Armed Forces who fought courageously in 1971. We are extremely proud of them." Lt Gen (ret'd) JFR Jacob, who played a prominent role in the war, presented his books "An Odyssey in War & Peace" and "Surrender at Dacca" to Modi. "On this historic day, glad to have met Lt. General (Ret'd.) JFR Jacob, known for his impeccable service to the Army," the PM tweeted. In Kolkata, Bangladesh Mukti Joddhas and Indian war veterans and serving officers of the Armed Forces came together to commemorate the day. Bangladesh Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali and some retired and serving army officers also placed wreaths

War heroes hand over nat'l flag to youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Hope today's generation will do the unfinished work of building the nation; AL comes up with resolution to complete war crime trial, execute verdicts; nation pays homage to martyrs
In 1971, the then youths gave their best to free their motherland, and now today's youths will uphold that dignity, said some freedom fighters and receivers of the flag. Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) Liberation War '71 organised the ceremony, in celebration of the 44th anniversary of victory, and with the aim to inculcate the spirit of 1971 in the youth. On the occasion, the ruling Awami League came up with the resolution to complete the ongoing war crimes trial and

FFs exempted from DCC holding tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The two Dhaka city corporations will soon exempt freedom fighters from paying holding tax, and allocate two hours every week to provide services to the Liberation War heroes, said officials yesterday. Md Shawkat Mostafa, newly appointed administrator of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), made the announcement at a reception accorded to freedom fighters of Dhaka organised by the two city corporations at Osmani Udyan marking the 44th anniversary of the nation's Victory Day. "Freedom fighters should not have to wait for hours at public offices to receive services. You (city corporation officials) should always give priority to them," said Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, addressing the event as the chief guest. "We did not fight so we could save up some money later, but it is nice of the city corporations to honour us," said Abdul Khaleq, a freedom fighter.

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26 MARCH

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The Bangladesh Liberation War (Bengali: মুক্তিযুদ্ধ) was a revolutionary independence war in South Asia during 1971 which established the republic of Bangladesh. The war pitted East Pakistan (later joined by India) against West Pakistan, and lasted over a duration of nine months. It witnessed large-scale atrocities, the exodus of 10 million refugees and the displacement of 30 million people.

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