

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.

2nd edition

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

	emperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		3.	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentag	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evenin
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 capsizal, 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.

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 yester-"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 "oneparty" 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 Osmaninagar 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

its armed forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday celebrated Vijay Divas, recalling the memo-Bangladesh's Liberation War.

remember sacrifices and valour of our Armed Forces who fought courageously in 1971. We are extremely proud of : them."

Lt Gen (retd) JFR Jacob, who played a prominent role in the war, presented his books "An Odyssey in War & Peace" · In a symbolic transfer of the responsibility and "Surrender at Dacca" to Modi.

JFR Jacob, known for his impeccable service to the Army," : day handed the national flag to as many the PM tweeted.

In Kolkata, Bangladesh Mukti Joddhas and Indian war : complete their unfinished work of building veterans and serving officers of the Armed Forces came : a prosperous Bangladesh. together to commemorate the day.

Bangladesh Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali and · Suhrawardy Udyan, where the Pakistani some retired and serving army officers also placed wreaths : army with 93,000 soldiers surrendered to

India recalls role of War heroes hand over FFs exempted from nat'l flag to youths

Hope today's generation will do the unfinished ries of India's armed forces personnel who assisted in work of building the nation; AL comes up with Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "On Vijay Divas, we resolution to complete war crime trial, execute

verdicts; nation pays homage to martyrs

: STAFF CORRESPONDENT

· of safeguarding the country's independence "On this historic day, glad to have met Lt. General (Retd.) : and sovereignty, 43 freedom fighters yester-· youths in the hope that they would

The ceremony took place at the capital's SEE PAGE 4 COL 4 Bangladesh on December 16, 1971.

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 · guest. League came up with the resolution to complete the ongoing war crimes trial and

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

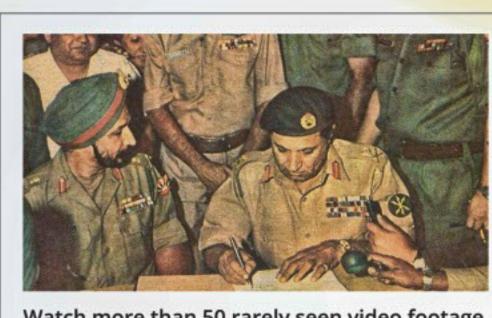
"We did not fight so we could save up some money · later, but it is nice of the city corporations to honour us," SEE PAGE 5 COL 2 · said Abdul Khaleq, a freedom fighter.

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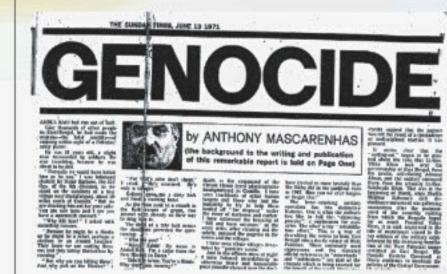
Freedom I in the air

(freedomintheair.thedailystar.net)





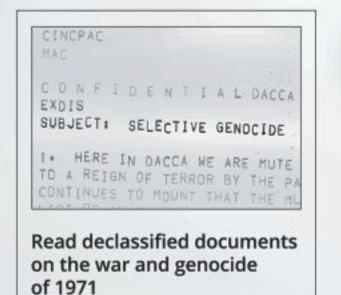
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to see that day's events





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