

TEMPERATURE LIKELY TO FALL

WEATHER TODAY

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

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 Offices said.

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.

Country's highest temperature 29.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 12.1 degrees in Srimangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.1	17.0	83	60
Chittagong	27.0	18.1	72	64
Rajshahi	24.0	12.8	84	59
Rangpur	17.2	15.6	89	89

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Khulna	24.5	16.4	69	65
Barisal	25.2	15.7	87	84
Sylhet	26.6	15.6	85	74
Cox's Bazar	28.4	18.8	68	75

Pak school gun attack condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salih Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Christian Association yesterday condemned and protested the barbaric killing of 141 people, including 132 school kids, in a Peshawar school of Pakistan by Taliban gunmen on Tuesday.

ASK in a statement said the gun attack showed a horrendous form of terrorism which has spread everywhere in the world. If the people do not resist such terrorism collectively, more dangerous situation will come for all, the rights body warned.

Bangladesh Christian Association in another statement called upon the Pakistan government to take effective steps to root out terrorism.

The two organisations expressed sympathy to the bereaved families.

The attack on the military-run high school attended by more than 1,100 people, many of them are children of army personnel, struck at the heart of Pakistan's military establishment.



Ilias Mukti Sangram Parishad, Jubo o Chhatra Sangram Parishad, Sylhet brings out a procession in Sylhet city yesterday demanding the safe return of former lawmaker and BNP Organising Secretary M Ilias Ali who, along with his driver Ansar Ali, was kidnapped from Banani in the capital on April 17, 2012.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

Italian surgeons to perform plastic surgeries for free at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Italian team of plastic surgeons will perform free surgeries at Dhaka Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute (Burn Unit) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for two weeks from January 4.

Patients will be selected from 10:00am to 12:00noon on January 3 in the institute's room 102 (ground floor), said the institute's Project Director Prof Dr Md Abul Kalam and Honourary Adviser Dr Samanta Lal Sen in a press release yesterday.

Patients with congenital facial deformities, acid burns, cleft lip and cleft palate, children with genital defects, as well as accident and burn victims can contact the institute.

Int'l lit conference on World War I starts at DU today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international literature conference, "The Great War and English Studies", organised by Dhaka University's English department, opens today in Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of the social sciences faculty.

Papers will be presented by academics and historians of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the UK, said a press release. The opening and closing sessions are open to all, but Tk 1,000 is needed to join the others, it added.

Nat'l debate festival begins at EMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A two-day national debate festival started at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar yesterday.

Abdur Noor Tushar, national debater, and the college's Chairman Ebamur Rahman and Principal Abdul Mannan Sikder were present. The college's debate organisation Ganglioni organised the contest of 32 teams from 20 universities and medical colleges.

Unicef distributes safe water points, sanitary latrines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unicef yesterday distributed 18 safe water points and 16 sanitary latrines to people of the low income group in Rupnagar area of the capital's Mirpur.

Unicef's Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor project provided the amenities at a ceremony.

Charlie Hrachya Sargsyan, chief of Unicef WASH section in Dhaka, said the project targets over 3,000 people.

Seven held for forging cheques of Tk 50 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven persons, including two Dutch Bangla Bank Limited staff, were paraded before the media on being arrested for, as Rab says, forging cheques to withdraw around Tk 50 lakh from accounts with a high number of transactions and of Bangladeshi expatriates.

The arrests were made around the capital including Uttara, Badda, Baridhara and Dhanmondi from Tuesday night to early hours yesterday while three chequebooks, around 200 cheques of different banks, 102 Xerox copies of cheques, 286 bank statements, 114 account forms and 10 seals were seized, said Rab officials.

Al Amin alias Sumon, 26, the bank's Gulshan branch peon provided by a security company, used to supply Xerox copies of cheques to Zakir Hossain, 41, Rapid Action

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GRAFT CASES AGAINST KHALEDA Defence foils hearing again

Creates chaos in court for 3rd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness in two corruption cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia failed to give his testimony in court for the third time yesterday due to clamour by the defence lawyers over rejection of four of their petitions.

Harun-ur-Rashid, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), also complainant of the Zia Orphanage and Zia Charitable trusts graft cases, appeared before the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka but the court was forced to adjourn recording his statement only 15 minutes later, said court sources.

Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman, and seven others are accused in the two cases.

Submitting two adjournment petitions yesterday, Khaleda's lawyer Rafiqul Islam Miah said they had filed two

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220 journos in jail worldwide

Reflecting global surge in authoritarianism, says New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 220 journalists are imprisoned worldwide for their work for the third consecutive year, reflecting a global surge in authoritarianism, a New York based organisation said in its annual census report on the issue published yesterday.

The Committee to Protect

Journalists (CPJ) said the number increased by nine from last year.

The tally marks the second-highest number of journalists in jail since CPJ began taking the annual census in 1990, and highlights a resurgence of authoritarian governments in countries such as China, Ethiopia, Burma, and Egypt, according to the report.

The non-profit organisation work-

ing to safeguard press freedom worldwide said the number of prisoners rose in Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, China, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Saudi Arabia.

Three journalists are imprisoned in Bangladesh, it said.

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Defamation case against Fakhrul dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed a defamation case against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as the complainant skipped the hearing for five consecutive days.

Advocate Abdul Malek alias Moshir Malek, founder and president of Bangabandhu Foundation, filed the case against

Fakhrul on July 18, 2010 for allegedly terming the then state minister for law Qamrul Islam "insane" at a discussion organised by Zia Parishad in the capital's Jatiya Press Club on July 14.

During yesterday's hearing, Fakhrul was present at the court but Malek was absent without following due procedure.



Outgoing US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena makes a goodbye call on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her residence in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

MALIGNING BANGABANDHU

Tarique asked to apologise to nation

SC lawyer serves him legal notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday sent a legal notice to BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman asking him to apologise unconditionally to the nation for calling Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman a "Razakar, murderer, and Pakbandhu."

Tarique has damaged the history of independence and the ideology and spirit of the Liberation War through the comments, Advocate Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi said in the notice.

"You have established yourself as talkative, stupid, immature, and precocious by making such an indecent statement devoid of

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SENDING WORKERS TO MALAYSIA Private recruiters may get operation clearance

Khandker Mosharraf tells press

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside government channels, private recruiting agencies which have been barred since last year from sending workers to Malaysia may soon be allowed to resume operations, said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"The Malaysian government banned hiring workers from Bangladesh at least three times for anomalies of recruiting agents. Later, we approached them and they opened the market to hire our people under

a transparent system," he said.

The system or government channel was opened following the signing of a 2012 memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur, aiming to regulate the recruitment process curbing private recruiters' role.

It saw some 8,000 Bangladeshis in plantation jobs till date against an initial expectation of sending 50,000 in two years.

"Although we could not send many people through the existing process, we have ensured transparency...So, the

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Mozena offers words of peace before leaving

The outgoing US ambassador meets Khaleda, Raushan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All political parties in Bangladesh need to use political space peacefully, outgoing US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena said yesterday, after his farewell meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence in the capital.

Mozena told reporters that they discussed the important role of the opposition in democracy.

He also said he believed the current US Bangladesh partnership was "stronger, deeper and broader" than ever before. The envoy repeated it thrice.

He said Khaleda shared with him about her recent public meeting in Narayanganj where many people turned up.

Mozena did not take questions from journalists, while there was no briefing on BNP's part.

Yet another man held with smuggled gold at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials detained a man with three gold bars, worth Tk 1.1 crore and weighing 2.1kg, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

SK Mainuddin arrived at the airport from Malaysia by a Malaysian Airlines flight at 11:35am.

The officials challenged him while he was crossing the green channel and found two gold bars from his shoes and another from mobile phone, said Customs officials.

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