

**COLD WAVE MAY CONTINUE**



Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Tangail, Kushtia, Jessore and Satkhira and it may continue, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country and day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.**

Country's highest temperature 27.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 7.2 degrees in Ishwardi. 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	19.0	12.3	88	82	Khulna	19.0	12.0	94	89
Chittagong	22.4	15.0	95	79	Barisal	20.3	12.7	99	91
Rajshahi	20.7	07.6	99	87	Sylhet	26.8	14.4	89	74
Rangpur	19.7	08.7	99	87	Cox's Bazar	25.0	15.0	95	86

**Planning Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal and Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, inset, share a light moment during a roundtable, "Development of Southwest Region and Protecting the Sundarbans", organised by The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.**



PHOTO: STAR

**CU BCL faction demands death for Taposh's killers**

CU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Chittagong University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday demanded death penalty for the murderers of BCL activist Taposh, who was killed in a factional clash at CU 12 days ago. At a press conference on the campus, the group, Choose Friends with Care (CFC), also sought removal of the proctor for his, what its leaders said, negligence in duty to calm the situation on the day of the incident. Their other demands include formation of a judicial committee to investigate the incident, cancellation of the studentship of the alleged killers, ban on entry of outsiders into the campus and withdrawal of the prohibition on rallies, processions and human chains at CU. Following the murder, the university authorities banned such activities on December 21. Denying the allegation, Proctor Siraj Ud Dowla, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

**DENIAL OF HISTORICAL FACTS OF LIBERATION WAR Punish through new law**

War crimes researchers, freedom fighters, academics tell launching of 10 books about genocide asking to write more about it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes researchers, freedom fighters and academics yesterday urged the government to, like European countries did over the Holocaust, enact a law with provisions of punishment for denial of historically established facts and settled issues of the 1971 Liberation War. They also emphasised more write ups on genocide committed during 1971 and other relevant issues to counter propaganda against it. The call came at the publication ceremony of a collection of 10 books titled "1971: Ganohatya-Nirjatan Nirghanto Granthamala" in the capital's WVA auditorium. Eight persons, mostly youths, wrote the books on 10 separate acts of genocide around the country on the basis of their research, field visits and interviews. "1971: Genocide and Torture Archive and Museum Trust", an

organisation working on genocide, killing fields and mass graves and on collecting historic documents of 1971, published the books. War crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said denial of established facts of Holocaust committed by Nazis during the World War II was a crime in most European countries, including Germany. Historian and the trust President Muntassir Mamoon said the genocide, torture and killing fields did not get importance in the last four decades and for these reasons, many people dared to question the number of victims of genocide. Raising questions over the genocide is tantamount to dishonouring the martyrs and rape victims of 1971 and those who do so are traitors, he said. Educationalist Burhanuddin Khan Jahangir said political parties which were denying the Liberation War and the constitution must not allowed to

practise politics in Bangladesh. Echoing the views, Prime Minister's Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam said he would raise the issue before the law minister and others concerned. Artists Hasem Khan, poet Tariq Sujat and the trust Secretary Sheikh Baharul Alam also spoke while one Trustee of the trust Mohammad Salim moderated the programme. The books are based on genocides in Damerkhanda in Mongal in Bagerhat; Lalmatia, Jainpur and Khajanchi Bari in Surma upazila in Sylhet; Mujaffarabad in Patiya upazila in Chittagong; Beltali in Laksham upazila in Comilla; Kaliganj in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari; Binodbari Mankon in Muktagachha upazila in Mymensingh; Badamtala Bazar in Batiaghata upazila in Khulna; Golahat in Syedpur upazila in Nilphamari; Pahartali in Chittagong town, and Kathira in Agailjhara upazila of Barisal.

**TALKS ON TEESTA WATER SHARING, BORDER WITH INDIA Bangladesh needs internal political consensus first Discussion told**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must forge an internal political consensus to negotiate water sharing of trans-boundary rivers, the border treaty, and trade deficit with India, speakers told a discussion yesterday. Otherwise, India will take advantage of a prolonged political weakness and dilly-dally on settling the issues extremely crucial for Bangladesh, they said. "Bangladesh's concerns over river water sharing and border issues with India are related to its existence," said former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury. Negotiations with India would be much easier if there were political accord, he said. A group of retired senior professionals called The Dhaka Forum organised the discussion at the capital's Brac Centre. Though Bangladesh has assured all-out support to address India's security concerns,

the latter has made empty promises on the Teesta water sharing and land-boundary treaties time and again since Indian premier Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in September 2011, said former ambassador M Serajul Islam. The president of Bangladesh came back from India empty-handed without getting any specific timeframe for the signing of Teesta and border treaties, he said. Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, BNP's vice-chairman, said China funded and built a deep-sea port in Sri Lanka but it was not understandable why the same could not be done in Sonadia of Cox's Bazar despite China's interest. Former ambassador Farooq Sobhan said construction, finance and operations of a deep-sea port in Bangladesh required major diplomatic efforts on how to deal with India and China because both were Bangladesh's economic and political partners. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

**Goons foil literary forum's polls in Sylhet**

One section accuses BCL, another blames Shibir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Armed youths snatched away two ballot boxes and vandalised four booths in Sylhet Kendrio Muslim Sahitya Sangsad building in the city yesterday when the two-yearly election to the 78-year-old literary organisation was underway. Around 2:30pm, 40 people shouting "Joy Bangla" attacked the polling booths and blasted at least five crackers to panic the voters, said chairman of the election commission, Muktabis Un Nur, also editor of the Punnobhumi, a local daily. A member of the commission, EU Shahidul Islam, said the polling began at 10:00am and 600 votes out of 1,700 were cast till 2:30pm. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

**Harsher law soon**

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group, at Mahanagar Natya Mancha at the capital's Gulistan as chief guest. Referring to the existing provision in the Penal Code punishing persons responsible for road accidents, the law minister termed it very pitiable and said the relevant Penal Code will be updated considering the gravity of the present need. The existing Penal Code (section 304B) stipulates, "Whoever causes the death of any person by rash or negligent driving of any vehicle or riding on any public way not amounting to culpable homicide shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both".

Recalling his personal tragedy in which he lost his wife in a road accident in the capital in January 1991, Anis said the accused truck driver was sentenced to six months' imprisonment only. "This is very unfortunate and shameful as well." The law minister also called upon various organisations, including Nirapad Sarak Chai, to make arrangements for the rehabilitation of the road crash victims, now suffering with pains and agony. Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan, whose wife was also killed in a road accident, underscored the need for increasing the jail term to prevent road accidents.

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**UN team**

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to the Department of Environment and plant samples to the Atomic Energy Commission. The report will be prepared by December 30 and submitted to the government on December 31, he said. Led by Emilia Wahlstrom, the team is supposed to return to the capital today. As per the action plan, the experts will use a combination of literature reviews, on-site assessments and interviews to come up with findings and make recommendations. The group focused on specific issues from aquatic resources to mangrove plants, from wildlife to human health and also sought to find out the ways to respond immediately to the crisis, said a member of the team.

**Dist advisory bodies**

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Speaking as chief guest, Chief Information Commissioner Mohammed Farooq stressed the need for the committees' continuous effort in creating mass awareness. Information Commissioner Nepal Chandra Sarker said, "We believe, wider use of the RTI act will substantially contribute to establishing greater transparency in development interventions." Additional Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Ashok Kumar Biswas chaired the session. Md Nazrul Islam, secretary in-charge (coordination and reforms) of the Cabinet Division, said, "The orientation will help the committee identify strategies and challenges in the act's implementation." In his welcome address, Executive Director of MRDI Hasibur Rahman said partnership between civil society organisations, the government and development partners would keep the supply and demand chain of information dynamic. The 16-member district advisory committee, led by the deputy commissioner, is comprised of top district-level government officials including the superintendent of police and civil surgeon, and representatives of civil society and professional bodies. On the recommendation of the Cabinet Division's working group on RTI act implementation, the government issued a circular to form an advisory committee in each district on September 29. The body is responsible for coordination and monitoring of implementation interventions and awareness raising activities. The knowledge sharing and orientation meeting will be organised in all the districts.