

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rangpur division till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, said Met Office. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged

over Rangpur division and it may fall slightly elsewhere over the country. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Pabna and Srimangal and it may continue. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:27pm**

and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 28.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.2 degrees at Chuadanga. Highest and lowest temperature 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	22.5	13.0	76	57	Khulna	23.5	13.0	87	70
Chittagong	25.0	14.8	69	56	Barisal	23.8	12.4	89	85
Rajshahi	21.7	10.8	97	84	Sylhet	25.2	13.5	100	75
Rangpur	21.8	11.2	95	85	Cox's Bazar	28.8	16.8	63	69

NEWS IN brief

UK sends expert to work on Sundarbans oil clean-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mark Whittington, an expert adviser from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to work on oil clean-up operation in the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world. He will work with the government of Bangladesh and the UN to implement recommendations made by a recently completed assessment in the forest. At the request of the UN and the government, the UK will provide fund for the expert adviser in this regard, says a press release of British High Commission in Dhaka. A tanker carrying 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil sank in a Sundarbans river near Mongla on December 9 last year, spilling oil over a vast area of the forest.

Injured Bangladeshi peacekeeper brought back home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An injured soldier of Bangladesh Army, who was shot while serving in a UN Peacekeeping Mission in Central Africa Republic, has been brought back to Bangladesh for better treatment. Soldier Iqbal Hossain was shot on October 9 last year during an ambush by rebels, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release yesterday. Iqbal was given treatment at a hospital in Nairobi. He was brought back to Bangladesh on January 2. He is now undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital.

Sylhet trader stabbed, mugged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Armed miscreants stabbed a trader and looted Tk 3 lakh from him at Dhopadighirpar of Sylhet city on Tuesday. Six miscreants on two motorbikes stopped Sultan Ahmed, 30, owner of a printing press, on his way to Sobhanighat on a rickshaw. They stabbed him in the left arm before snatching the money, said the victim.

Gour Gobinda new NSU treasurer

CITY DESK
Dr Gour Gobinda Goswami, professor of economics at North South University (NSU), joined as its treasurer on Monday. Earlier, he also served as the chairman of economics and proctor of the university, said a press release.

Diamond jubilee of DU Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka University (DU) on Saturday celebrated the diamond jubilee of Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall, established in 1940. DU Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the programme, said a press release. DU Pro Vice-Chancellor Shahid Akhtar Hossain, Adviser of Curzon Hall Club '72 Dr AHM Mostafizur Rahman, Convener of the club Rafiqul Islam and members of the club were present.

A water cannon at one end and two police trucks at the other continue to block the roads leading to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in the capital yesterday where she has been confined since Saturday midnight.



PHOTO: STAR

Rab not responsible for members' past crimes

New DG Benazir declares to media after taking over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new director general of the Rapid Action Battalion, Benazir Ahmed, yesterday said his force would not take the responsibility for past criminal activities committed by its members. "Those were isolated incidents and committed in an individual capacity. Rab will not own it," he told reporters, while answering to a query on whether some officials' alleged involvement in the murder of seven people in Narayanganj besmirched the force's image. Three officials were sacked from Rab and arrested after the family of one victim accused them of committing the seven murders in exchange for Tk 6 crore in April last year.



Speaking to the press at Rab headquarters in the capital after taking his new role, Benazir hinted at reform in the elite counter-terrorist force, created in 2004. "Time has come to change the mandate of Rab," he said, adding that it would be made stronger with sophisticated technologies. Benazir had held the office of the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police for over four years, before being appointed Rab's chief in late December. The Rab has earned much acclaim in curbing militancy but its members faced widespread allegations of extra-judicial killings and torture in custody.

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Dhaka in awkward situation over lawsuit against NY diplomat

US court refuses to drop charges

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is facing an embarrassing situation following Tuesday's rejection by a US court of a Bangladesh diplomat and his wife's request to dismiss a lawsuit a former domestic worker filed accusing them of forcing him to work without any pay in slavery-like conditions. "The foreign ministry is disturbed at the incident related to its diplomat Monirul Islam," a senior foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday. A former New York consul general, Monirul is now serving as Bangladesh ambassador to Morocco, moving there shortly after the case was filed with Manhattan Federal Court on March 21, 2014 seeking back pay and unspecified punitive damages. Following a similar case centring Devyani Khobragade, once India's deputy consul general in New York,

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VANDALISM CASES BNP leaders, affiliated lawyers get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to five BNP leaders and three pro-BNP lawyers for four weeks in five separate cases filed for vandalism, torching vehicles and preventing police from discharging their duties on January 4 and 5. The leaders are: Abdul Awal Mintoo, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Aman Ullah Aman, AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Sanaullah Miah, and the lawyers are: Sharif Uddin Ahmed, Fahima Nasreen and Lipi Akter. The cases were filed

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BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir waves at supporters while entering Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court in the capital yesterday, a day after his arrest at the Jatiya Press Club in a new arson case.

No bail, no remand for Fakhru

Cops to quiz him at jail gate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir was sent to jail in a recent arson case after a Dhaka court rejected his bail petition and police's remand prayer. Metropolitan Magistrate Tareq Mainul Islam Bhuyan directed the investigation officer of the case to interrogate Fakhru at the jail gate within 10 workdays. Soon after the order, pro-BNP lawyers started shouting slogans demanding its withdrawal, and brought out a procession on the court premises. The BNP leader was picked up by detectives on Tuesday after he had holed up in the capital's Jatiya Press Club for fears of detention for about 24 hours. The case cites him as the "instigator" of the arson attack on a bus to kill the passengers, driver and his helper on Sunday in front of Azad Products Ltd in the capital. Sub-inspector Khandakar Jahangir Hossain of Paltan Police Station, also the investigation officer, yesterday

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DHAKA TODAY

Concert
Bangladesh Society for the Change and Advocacy Nexus will organise a concert for raising awareness for persons with disabilities. Venue: Robindro Sorobor, Dhanmondi, Time: 2:00pm

Science Fair
Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research will organise a fair on science, industry and technology. Venue: Science Laboratory, Dhanmondi, Time: 10:00am

Celebrating 2nd ANNIVERSARY

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