

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

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

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Kushtia, Pabna and Sreemangal and it may continue, Met Office said.

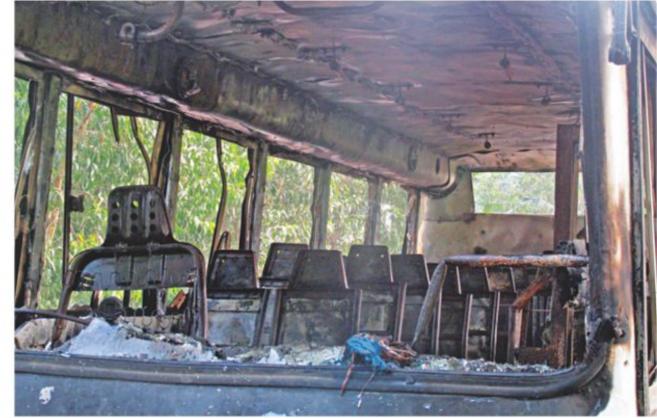
Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.
Country's highest temperature 27.0

degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 08.6 in Chuadanga.

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	23.8	13.2	76	60	Khulna	25.2	12.6	91	65
Chittagong	26.2	13.3	78	65	Barisal	25.6	11.8	92	79
Rajshahi	21.4	10.5	100	74	Sylhet	24.9	13.2	86	85
Rangpur	16.0	13.3	83	82	Cox's Bazar	25.5	14.2	81	62



BLOCKADE TOLL MOUNTING

Clockwise from bottom left, Abul Kalam, a truck helper, had his upper arm scalded in a petrol bomb attack on his vehicle in Birganj upazila, Dinajpur yesterday, the fifth day of the BNP-led indefinite countrywide blockade. Roadside trees felled to block his truck before it was bombed. Another helper injured by cocktails hurled at his truck in Chapainawabganj, despite a law enforcement escort. Trucks loaded with imports remain stuck at Hili Port in Dinajpur. A bus put to the torch at Shahbagh in the capital though it was supposed to be outside the restrictions of the blockade. The charred frame of a bus set on fire in Kulaura upazila, Moulvibazar. Stranded passengers at Chittagong Railway Station after rail tracks were removed in Nangalkot upazila, Comilla.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH

President should intervene

If political parties fail to sit for talks, says SHUJAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The civil society organisation Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN) yesterday urged President Abdul Hamid to intervene if the political parties fail to hold a dialogue and end the current standoff by themselves.

"We request Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to sit and talk. The prime minister should make the first move," it said in a statement. "We hope our leaders will...talk and reach a consensus for sustainable solutions...in the greater interest of the country."

The statement presented at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity said as head of the state, the president had "superior responsibility", and he would show "due sagacity and courage", if necessary, to break the impasse by making talks happen.

SHUJAN'S call came while the BNP-led indefinite countrywide blockade has been under way since January 6, a day after the party was denied permission to demonstrate against the last year's one-sided national vote through which the Awami League won a second consecutive term.

Khaleda has been also confined to her Gulshan office by law enforcers since

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