

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

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

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Sitakunda, Rangpur and Syedpur and it may continue.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:30pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.

Country's highest temperature 26.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 08.5 in Tangail.

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	21.0	11.4	87	69	Khulna	22.0	12.3	87	69
Chittagong	24.8	13.5	93	69	Barisal	23.7	11.6	93	78
Rajshahi	19.5	09.4	92	81	Sylhet	26.3	13.5	93	89
Rangpur	20.4	09.6	84	83	Cox's Bazar	26.4	13.5	83	68

SC clears way for trial of Mahmudur's graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to continue trial in a corruption case against Mahmudur Rahman, detained acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, by rejecting his two leave-to-appeal petitions.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on June 13, 2010, accusing him of not submitting his wealth statement to it.

On September 28, 2010 the HC stayed the proceedings of the case but the court vacated the order on May 27, 2013.

A Dhaka court on April 28, 2014, framed charges against Mahmudur while on September 11, 2014, the HC rejected his revision petition challenging the indictment. He filed leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC in 2013 and in 2014 against the HC orders.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said a Dhaka court is scheduled to resume recording deposition on January 22.



Some of the around 250 Indian goods-laden trucks stranded at the Sonamasjid land port in Chapainawabganj waiting to be offloaded due to a lack of their Bangladeshi counterparts amidst a blockade being enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance since January 6.

PHOTO: STAR

Police yet to make headway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police are yet to make any headway in the case centring the murder of a Chittagong Nursing College teacher Anjali Dev.

Anjali was killed by unidentified masked assailants in Chawkbazar on her way to the college on Saturday morning but they did not take her cellphone, handbag or money, which suggests it was a preplanned murder, said police.

Jahangir Alam, assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, also the investigation officer of the case, said they are working on different leads, including allegations of family feud, as Anjali was the second wife of Dr Rajendra Chowdhury.

Anjali's family members, neighbours, colleagues and witnesses have already been interrogated, he added.

Yesterday, the college students brought out a procession from Chittagong Medical College Hospital premises, which ended at Probortok intersection in the port city, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits.

BAKSHIBAZAR VIOLENCE

No bail, no remand for Goyeshwar

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP standing committee member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy to jail after rejecting his bail prayer and police's 10-day remand prayer in a case filed over the December 24 Bakshibazar violence.

Goyeshwar was earlier remanded for five-days in two other cases, one filed on December 26 with Turag police for creating anarchy while the other with Shahbagh police for attacking the ruling party's Netrakona-1 lawmaker, Chhabi Biswas, on Dhaka Medical College Hospital premises on December 24.

The same court also sent Jubo Dal President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal to jail after rejecting his bail prayer and police's 10-day remand prayer in the same case filed with Shahbagh police.

Goyeshwar was arrested on December 26, a day after he vowed that the 20-party alliance would rally across the country if the government hindered their rally in Gazipur.

Alal was arrested on December 27 for planning destructive activities.

On December 24, around 200 BCL leaders equipped with rods and sticks swooped on BNP activists who gathered at Bakshibazar to stage a showdown centring party chief Khaleda Zia's appearance in two graft cases.

BGB to open air wing to curb cross-border crimes

Chief says proposal okayed by PM, sent to home ministry

M RAHMAN

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is set to open an air wing to combat trans-border crime, primarily trafficking of drugs with a special emphasis on Yaba, through patches of an around 400 kilometre-stretch of unfenced, unguarded and nearly inaccessible border with Myanmar and India in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

"We already sent the proposal to the home ministry last week," BGB Director General Bir Gen Aziz Ahmed told journalists yesterday emerging from Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban after attending the second meeting of a sub-committee of the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs formed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave the verbal go-ahead during a meeting with him at the Prime Minister's Office in the third week of last month, he said, adding that intrusion of Yaba from Myanmar was now Bangladesh's biggest threat.

A BGB source said trafficking of drugs, especially Yaba, through the stretch, where road connectivity is virtually non-existent, increased sevenfold in the last four years, bringing about the decision.

The Department of Narcotics Control

(DNC) statistics puts Yaba from Myanmar at the top of the list of smuggled drugs, seconded by Phensedyl from India.

The paramilitary force chief said initially they proposed buying four helicopters for the wing, which would have around 300 personnel.

"In the unguarded border stretch there will be new 107 BGB camps and of them 72 which are located in hard to reach areas will be heli-supported ones," he said.

Smugglers shifted to the stretch as law enforcers intensified patrols on the much-talked-about Naf river route, he said, adding that several lakh Yaba tablets and illegal aphrodisiacs had already been smuggled taking advantage of the adverse geographical location.

The DNC statistics say over eight lakh Yaba tablets were seized in 2010 and over 59 lakh in the first 11 months of 2014.

The DNC officials say the recovery figure is only a tenth of the total number of Yaba tablets being smuggled into the country.

Meanwhile, over nine lakh bottles of Phensedyl were seized in 2010 while the number decreased to around six lakh till November of 2014, state the DNC figures.

Man held with 9kg of gold at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials detained a man with 80 gold bars, worth Tk 4.5 crore and weighing around 9kg, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

Enamul Huq Chowdhury, 25, arrived at the airport from Dubai by a Fly Dubai flight. He was held from the boarding bridge area around 6:30pm with the gold bars hidden inside his undercoat, said customs officials.

Dhaka seeks help to solve Rohingya issue

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday urged the international community to come up with a "louder voice" to resolve the long-pending Rohingya refugee issue and ensure their return to their homeland.

The foreign ministry held a meeting with stakeholders at the ministry with Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque in the chair where the current situation over the issue was discussed.

"We discussed the overall situation and want to see the international community come up with a louder voice," an official who attended the meeting told the news agency.

He said the root of the problem lies on the Myanmar side and they laid emphasis on the solution.

Responding to a question, the operation of some unregistered NGOs was also discussed.

Now some 30,000-32,000 documented Myanmar nationals are living in Bangladesh.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Captain Hemayetuddin Chowdhury, former chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), died at 11:20pm yesterday, says a press release.

Son of late Khan Bahadur Mohammad Choudhury of Rankeli Sylhet, Hemayetuddin had been hospitalised for the last six days following a stroke.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the capital after Zohr prayers today.

After completing his cadetship at Dufferin Naval Academy Bombay, Hemayetuddin joined British-India Steam Navigation Company in 1948.

Gazi Motiur Rahman

CITY DESK

Gazi Motiur Rahman, a freedom fighter, a former managing director of Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust and retired joint-secretary, died at United Hospital on Saturday.

He was the son of late Gazi Abdul Kader of Joshoaldia village, Bikrampur, Munshiganj.

He left behind his wife, one daughter.

AKM Mostafa Kamal

CITY DESK

AKM Mostafa Kamal, a retired businessman hailing from Choddogram, Comilla, died on Friday at his Shyamoli residence in Dhaka. He was 80.

He left behind his wife, three daughters and three sons.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

SC disposes

FROM PAGE 4

Earlier in 2006, Md Ataur Rahman, a former secretary general of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association, filed the petition on behalf of the association.

The petition claimed that the Cabinet Division had framed the existing Warrant of Precedence in 1986 in an arbitrary manner, without evaluating the dignity and status of judicial officials.

Later in 2011, the cabinet secretary filed the appeal with the SC on behalf of the government.

The Warrant of Precedence is used for all government purposes including ceremonial occasions. Rokanuddin Mahmud and M Asaduzzaman appeared for the writ petitioner.

Knowledge sharing vital

FROM PAGE 4

The topics included climate change and livelihood, water, health, migration, gender, renewable energy, natural resource management, political economy of climate change, disaster risk reduction, adaptation technologies, waste management, urbanisation, communication and using research for policy formulation.

These papers, alongside others of the platform, are available at www.gobeshona.net while it was decided to hold the conference every year.

Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju was present as chief guest while Secretary Nazibur Rahman and IUB Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman also spoke.



One of the seven illegal billboards taken down by Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Metropolitan Police in the port city yesterday. The photo was taken at Probortok Mor.

PHOTO: STAR



A man tries to salvage his tin of rice, which have gone brown in the heat from a fire. The blaze devastated the Katasur slum in Mohammadpur yesterday gutting over 200 homes.

PHOTO: STAR

Most councillors for panel

FROM PAGE 4

At yesterday's meeting lasting for around two hours in SCC where Rezaul, a former Sylhet city BNP organising secretary, and pro-BNP Panel Mayor-2 Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury were present, the councillors justified their decision over two issues.

Firstly they said Rezaul could not be appointed acting mayor for he too was charge-sheeted in three cases -- for vandalism on Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar, a murder and detonation of explosives, all taking place in February 2013.

Secondly, they claimed that Ariful had

left Saleh in charge through a letter right before his arrest and provisions allowed him to do so if he deemed it necessary.

He had done the same in October 2013 before going on an around two-week official visit to China, they said, adding that this was why they want Saleh to be taken into consideration.

The councillors elect three panel mayors right after elections, which were held on June 15, 2013.

Kibria, then an opposition lawmaker, was assassinated in a grenade attack while addressing a rally in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

Legal notice served on govt

FROM PAGE 4

filed out of line with the Code of Criminal Procedure--the country's law in this regard.

Barrister Jyotimoy Barua sent the notice on behalf of Laila saying that legal action will be taken against the authorities concerned if Latif is not released within seven days.

Latif, former telecommunications and

information technology minister, was sued over demeaning Hajj, Tablig Jamaat and prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy in a New York programme on September 28.

Latif, who returned home on November 23 and surrendered to Dhanmondi police on November 25, is now in Dhaka Central Jail.