

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.
Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

the country, Met Office said.
Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Sreemangal and it may abate.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:33pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.

Country's highest temperature 31.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 09.4 in Jessore.
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	28.1	13.9	76	50	Khulna	26.5	11.5	90	78
Chittagong	30.5	16.7	62	65	Barisal	28.1	12.4	87	77
Rajshahi	26.5	11.6	93	75	Sylhet	31.1	15.4	56	53
Rangpur	25.5	12.5	65	71	Cox's Bazar	29.5	18.7	68	91

'Hired' goons try to besiege Khaleda's office already in siege

They demand withdrawal of contrywide BNP-led blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Some 100 residents of the capital's Korail slum were allegedly hired by a local Awami League leader to lay siege to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office yesterday to demonstrate against the BNP-led 20-party alliance's ongoing countrywide blockade.
Police, however, blocked their path some 150 yards from the office, prompting the "agitators" to end their march near the Banani playground around 11:30am, and hold a brief demonstration at Gulshan 2 intersection.
The "demonstrators" who disclosed this sought anonymity and declined revealing to The Daily Star their employer's identity.
After being questioned repeatedly, two of

them admitted being assured Tk 300 each for their participation.
The protesters stated of their present sorry state, saying that, being day labourers, they were unable to find work for the blockade.
"It has become very hard for us to ensure bread and butter for our family," said Arif Hossain. Nayan Mondol said, "We do not have any food in our houses. We can't send our children to schools. We do not have savings to arrange our meals. We want to live."
Police have kept Khaleda confined to her office since January 3. She announced the blockade two days later when law enforcers created obstructions on her path when she tried to leave to attend a rally before BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters.



Pro-Awami League lawyers smashed through the Supreme Court Bar Association gate on the first floor of the building yesterday. It was locked allegedly by their pro-BNP colleagues, protesting against the hosting of a farewell ceremony for outgoing chief justice Md Muzammel Hossain.

Nazmul Huda comes up with his 4th political enterprise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Former BNP leader Nazmul Huda, who has floated three political parties since 2012, yesterday launched an alliance of 25 parties, most of which are unknown and existing in name only.
The aim of Bangladesh National Alliance is to change the country's "political culture", he told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, announcing the name of the so-called platform.
This is the largest compared to the ruling Awami League-led 14-party and BNP-led 20-party combines.
Two months after his resignation from the BNP as vice-chairman in June 2012, Huda formed Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF). He was later

Stop attack on vehicles or face tough actions

Threaten transporters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Transport owners and workers yesterday threatened to enforce "tough programmes", though not clarifying what that meant, if attacks on vehicles and workers continue in the name of blockades and hartals.
Making the announcement at a rally of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikyo Parishad before the capital's Jatiya Press Club, the parishad Convener Khandaker Enyet Ullah said 14 workers were killed and around 90 injured since January 4.
The BNP-led 20-party alliance is enforcing an ongoing countrywide blockade since January 6.
Khandaker said around 70 vehicles were also torched and around 200 vandalised while the transport sector was incurring around Tk 300 crore per day. "If such chaotic situation continues we will be compelled to launch tough programmes immediately," he said.
The parishad Member Secretary Osmal Ali said the transport sector has become the main target of all political violence despite contributing significantly to economic growth.
"We will immediately sit with our around 250 workers

SCBA rivalry heats up over farewell to CJ

Gate locked allegedly by BNP-affiliated counsels; Justice Muzammel retires today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A section of pro-Awami League lawyers yesterday broke the first floor gate of Supreme Court Bar Association building, which was locked allegedly by their pro-BNP colleagues protesting against bidding farewell to the outgoing chief justice.
The incident is unprecedented, some lawyers told The Daily Star.
The attorney general's office and the ruling party-affiliated lawyers hosted the farewell ceremony for Md Muzammel Hossain, who retires as chief justice today, in Courtroom 1 of the Appellate Division around 11:00am.
Dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, SCBA decided on Wednesday not to bid farewell to Justice Muzammel, citing different reasons and accusing him of "corruption and nepotism" in forming benches of the apex court.
Some SCBA lawyers and staff told The Daily Star that the gate was locked by pro-BNP counsels around 10:00am.
After the farewell programme ended, pro-AL lawyers were returning to their chambers at SCBA around 12:00 noon but found the gate locked. Their anger was fueled when the staff refused to unlock it. At one stage, the lawyers smashed through the collapsible gate.
Talking to The Daily Star, an AL-backed lawyer said those who locked the gate "illegally" were the "terrorists of BNP".
SM Rezaul Karim, a former SCBA secretary, said the locking of the SCBA gate to prevent entry of lawyers into their chambers was unprecedented.
SCBA Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon told reporters that appropriate action would be taken against the lawyers, who broke the gate, after an inquiry.
A new collapsible gate was installed, SCBA superintendent Nimesh Chandra Das told The Daily Star.
Attorney General Mahubey Alam and some senior AL lawyers including Abdul Baset Majumder were present in the farewell ceremony.

19 senior cops transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Nineteen senior police officials including an additional inspector general of police (IGP) have been transferred in a latest reshuffle.
Sheikh Hemayet Hossain, the additional IGP of Armed Police Battalion, was appointed as the chief of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), according to a home ministry circular issued yesterday.
The post had remained vacant since the previous CID chief, Mukhlesur Rahman, was posted to Police Headquarters (PHQ) as additional IGP (admin) on December 31, 2014.
Deputy Inspector General Mosharaf Hossain was transferred to PHQ and DIG SM Ruhul Amin of PHQ to Dhaka Railway Range, while its outgoing DIG Mollik Fakrul Islam to Dhaka Highway Police.
Additional DIG SM Kamal Hossain of Dhaka Highway Police was posted to CID. Additional DIG Mohammad Ali Mia of the Special Branch of Police was transferred to Rajshahi Range Police while its outgoing Additional DIG M Khurshid Hossain was posted to PHQ in Dhaka.
Among superintendents of police and equivalent officials, Mostafa Kamal, Julfikar Ali Haider, Mia Masud Karim-- who reported at PHQ after completing missions, were transferred to Police Bureau of Investigation while



Parents and guardians of O-level and A-level examinees wait anxiously on the Mirpur campus of Scholastica School yesterday evening as the exams, which were supposed to be held at 9:30am in the morning, were held at 7:30pm due to hartal enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance. Exams of the afternoon shift were held at 11:45pm.

Ovi may not wake up again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The bomb landed right on his face, badly wounding the left side and "blowing off" part of the cheek. An eleventh grader, who was supporting his education working part-time in a computer service shop, Ovi has been unconscious ever since. Doctors are not sure he will wake up again.
Noor Jahan, his mother who lost the eldest of her three children only three months ago, prayed, "If something terrible happens to him I hope he'd at least wake up and say a few words to me."
She always feared arsons and vandalism, in the ongoing political tension. "What have they achieved through his misfortune? Will it help



their movement?" she kept asking visitors, between sobs, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Sanjid Hossain Ovi is admitted.
The 19-year-old, studying at Kabi Nazrul Government College, was going to Bangabazar around 8:00pm

Wednesday when unidentified miscreants hurled the cocktail.
Witnesses said a portion of Ovi's face was "blown off".
Doctors feared that the injuries might turn out to be fatal.
The son of a street vendor of the capital's Laxmibazar, Ovi achieved good grades in school, and was dreaming of lifting his family out of poverty and serving the disadvantaged people someday.
"He always said the poor people of the country couldn't get access to legal support and wanted to be a lawyer to help them out," Noor Jahan said. "He achieved GPA 5 in both JSC and SSC exams."
Since his father, Delwar Hossain,

Labour Party chief detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police detained chairman of Bangladesh Labour Party (BLP), a component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, at the capital's Purana Paltan yesterday afternoon.
Mustafizur Rahman Iran, chief of the Labour Party, was entering the party office there, BLP Secretary General Hamdullah Al Mehdi told The Daily Star.
Police did not show any reason behind his arrest, added Hamdullah.
Moshed Alam, officer-in-charge of Paltan Model Police Station, said the BLP chief was locked up at the station.
Asked why Iran was detained, the OC said, "We are verifying whether any

Switzerland for dialogue to shun violence

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
The Swiss embassy in Dhaka yesterday urged all parties to shun violence and exercise restraints and urged the government to ensure the rights to democratic space, freedom of speech and gathering of all political parties.
"There is no alternative to mutual respect, dialogue and talks in a modern day democracy," the mission said in a statement.
The embassy is concerned over the attack on