

RAIN LIKELY

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places of Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong, and Sylhet divisions and weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may rise slightly.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:34pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 10.3 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	24.0	16.5	74	76	Khulna	26.0	15.4	69	57
Chittagong	26.8	18.0	76	75	Barisal	25.5	14.8	89	75
Rajshahi	20.7	11.0	97	77	Sylhet	25.5	15.4	70	75
Rangpur	22.0	13.4	95	77	Cox's Bazar	28.8	20.5	89	80



A bus burns after an arson attack by miscreants in Technical Mor of the capital's Gabtoli yesterday amidst an ongoing blockade of the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

ONGOING BLOCKADE
Railway revenue sees Tk 22 lakh cut a day

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is witnessing a fall in revenue amounting to over Tk 22 lakh a day amidst the ongoing blockade of the BNP-led 20-party alliance which began on January 6.

Trains are falling behind schedule in attempts to avoid risks and acts of sabotage, prompting prospective passengers to return tickets. According to officials, losses will go up further if the political turmoil continues.

"The decrease in the number of passengers has been the main reason behind the loss...at least 25 percent of passengers are seeking refunds every day due to the delays in train schedules amid the blockade," BR Director General Amzad Hossain told the news agency.

BR Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) (east zone) Belal Uddin said they normally earned about Tk 1.10 crore per day from the east zone. "But, the income fell by 20 percent in the last few days," he added.

BR CCO (west zone) Habibur Rahman, however, could provide no such statistics.

Railways Secretary Md Munsur Ali Sikder said the government has deployed 8,328 Ansar and Village Defence Party members, eight in every kilometre of tracks across the country, since January 12.

Each train now has four armed Ansar members -- two in the first compartment and two in the last. "Train schedules have been reshuffled," he added.

Finished Apartments at BASHUNDHARA

Call: 9857230 - 4
01714 016887, 01711 594855, 01714 039843



NEWS IN brief

Three arrested over gold smuggling bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The customs intelligence personnel arrested three persons including a Biman Bangladesh Airlines staff and seized a car in connection with attempted gold smuggling through the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

The intelligence officials said they had information that some 200 gold bars would be smuggled but they did not find any gold with the arrestees--Biman cleaner Murad Hossain, 36, and Saidur Rahman, 48, and Reyaz Uddin, 24. The three were held around 8:00pm, said an official.

Sharp weapons recovered from Sust dorms on eve of reopening today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Shahjalal University of Science and Technology will open today after a 58-day shutdown following a clash between two BCL factions that killed an activist from outside the campus.

It was closed indefinitely on November 20. Following reopening of its dormitories police yesterday launched drives there and recovered some sharp weapons.

Earlier on Saturday, the university authority imposed temporary restrictions on all kind political activities on the campus.

Woman dies 2 days after taking poison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A woman died on Friday two days after allegedly consuming poison deliberately following family feuds in Beldia village under Sreepur upazila of Gazipur.

Asthma Akter, 28, wife of Bacchu Miah of the village took poison on Wednesday, family members said. She was rushed to Sreepur Upazila Health Complex and later brought back home on Friday evening as doctors said her condition would not improve. She died that night.

AWD tech saves 30pc of groundwater

Barind tract farmers urged to adopt the irrigation method

BSS, Rajshahi

Farmers in the vast Barind tracts are being encouraged to adopt "Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)", an irrigation method which helps save water in aquifers amidst an abnormal decline in the level of underground water in recent days.

The farmers are also being suggested to cultivate wheat instead of only Irri-Boro paddy in the drought-prone dry areas, comprising 25 upazilas of Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts.

The Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), the largest state-owned organisation facilitating irrigation in the country's northwest region, has taken up the initiative for promoting the AWD irrigation method.

Field level researches are being conducted on the AWD irrigation method and various programmes, including those to provide training to farmers and campaigns, have been undertaken, said BMDA Deputy Manager (agriculture) ATM Rafiqul Islam.

He said adoption of the irrigation method in Boro farming in a mass scale can reduce use of underground water by 30

percent while simultaneously ensuring additional yield.

Groundwater levels in the Barind area have declined alarmingly due to the adverse impacts of climate change, Farakka dam and excessive extraction.

"Every year, we have to irrigate over 7.52 lakh hectares of farming fields, including 2.61 lakh hectares of Irri-Boro land, in the region. For the purpose, we have to operate 14,090 power-driven deep tube wells," he said, adding that irrigation there was dependent on groundwater.

BMDA has conceived the method as an effort to keep the underground water reserves intact through less consumption for irrigation. He said the farmers generally use 3,000 to 3,200 litres of water for irrigation to produce one kilogramme of paddy. But, the paddy hardly need 1,500 to 2,000 litres under the AWD technology.

Dr Nazmul Bari, BRRI's senior scientific officer, said adoption of the method would result in a fivefold reduction in requirement for water and save 30 litres of diesel used for irrigation and produce an additional 500 kilogrammes of paddy per hectare.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Amirun Begum of Kachurkapon village under Kulaura upazila died in Sylhet Nurjahan Clinic on Thursday. She was 66.

She was the mother of Siper Uddin Ahmed, publisher and editor of The Weekly Kulaurar Songlap.

She left behind her husband, three sons and three daughters. She was buried at her family graveyard.

Residential Apartments...

In Dhaka City	Gulshan 2570~3850 sft	Bashundhara 2000~2100 sft	Panchlailsh R/A 1500-2300 sft
	Banani 1600 sft	Shahidbagh 1075~1150sft	East Nasirabad 1478~1907 sft
	Niketon 1400sft	Middle Badda 1195 sft	Nasirabad H/S 2750~2921 sft
	Uttara 1650~2500sft	Mohammadpur 1700~1800 sft	Hillview H/S 1700~1800 sft

Corporate Office: House 342, Road 114, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Tel: 9892373, 8832601, 8822613, 8851607
www.anzproperties.com call for Ready Apartments...

commercial spaces

Banani
3850~4215 sft

Dhanmondi
1330~3615 sft

ANZ PROPERTIES

Find your Ultimate Home

DHAKA : 01847182500, 01847182507-9, 01811481750
01811481752, 01833104577, 01817036476

CHITTAGONG : 01817210413-4
01847182501

Two labourers die from toxic gas inhalation in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two day labourers died due to inhalation of toxic gas in a septic tank when they attempted to clean it at a house at Nagarkonda in Savar outside the capital yesterday, said fire service sources.

Police could not immediately state the identity of the victims, aged around 30 years.

The cleaners were hired from Hemayetpur Bazar in Savar in the afternoon, Shahin Alom, sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station, quoted the house owner, Mohammad Ali, as saying.

They did not respond for around 20 minutes after getting down into the tank.

Later, fire fighters recovered the bodies on information from the house owner and locals.

Anowner Hosen, an in-charge of Savar Fire Service and Civil Defence Unit, said the tank's depth was 30 to 35 feet.

The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

শ্রেয়সার্ভিস
আবাসিক এলাকা-২
এক নতুন ঢাকা

বছরে আপনার বিনিয়োগ মূল্য হবে ২ শত

নিরাপদ বিনিয়োগ সর্বোচ্চ মুনাফা

- মার্কেট, শপিং সেন্টার, কাঁচা বাজার, কর্পার শপ
- খেলার মাঠ, পার্ক ও গ্রীন এরিয়া
- ব্যাংক, কনভেনশন সেন্টার, কমিউনিটি সেন্টার, মিউনিসিপ্যাল অফিস, মসজিদ
- হাসপাতাল, ক্লিনিক
- স্কুল, কলেজ ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
- পুলিশ স্টেশন, গ্যাস সার্ভিস, ফায়ার স্টেশন, পাওয়ার স্টেশন, টিএডিটি অফিস, পোস্ট অফিস, বাস স্টেশন
- আরো অন্যান্য সুবিধা

প্রথম স্যাটেলাইট সিটি 'প্রিয়সার্ভিস' আবাসিক এলাকা-২ প্রকল্পের সাফল্যের পর 'শ্রেয়সার্ভিস' এবার নিয়ে এলো "প্রিয়সার্ভিস আবাসিক এলাকা-২" যা ঢাকার বাণিজ্যিক কেন্দ্রবিন্দু মতিঝিল থেকে মাত্র ৯০ কি. মি. দূরত্বে অত্যন্ত আকর্ষণীয় লোকেশনে ঢাকা-মাওয়া হাইওয়েতে রাজউক ঝিলমিল শহরের সন্নিকটে সবুজ শ্যামল প্রকৃতির মাঝে অত্যন্ত সুপরিকল্পিত অত্যাধুনিক স্যাটেলাইট শহর।

হামিদ গ্রুপ লিমিটেড
ফেলস অফিস : বায়তুল ভিউ টাওয়ার (১১ তলা) ৫৬/১ পুরানা পল্টন
ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন : ৯১১৬০০৬-৩৭, ৯৫১৫১৯৯
www.hamidgroup.com Founder Member REHAB

ফটো: ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৫৪, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৩, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৬, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৮, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৯, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯২, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৩, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৪, ০২৭৩০০৪৪৮৯৫