

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the riverbasins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly northern part of the country and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country and day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun will set in the capital at 5:41pm today and rise at 6:42am tomorrow.

The country's highest temperature 28.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 07.0 degrees in Srimangal.

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	26.3	13.3	59	47	Khulna	26.5	13.6	74	60
Chittagong	27.0	14.8	56	48	Barisal	26.4	11.5	84	82
Rajshahi	25.5	10.3	93	65	Sylhet	28.5	12.5	63	62
Rangpur	25.2	11.8	89	75	Cox's Bazar	27.4	17.7	57	57

NEWS IN
brief

Hasina greets new Saudi king, Greek PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud on his becoming the new king of Saudi Arabia, and Alexis Tsipras, president of Syriza party of Greece, for his party's victory in the parliamentary election.

In a message of felicitations to the king, she said his statesmanship would contribute to the greater unity and prosperity of the Islamic Ummah. Hasina said the bilateral relations that Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia had been enjoying for decades would be further strengthened in the coming days.

In a separate message to the new Greek prime minister, she hoped that the potentials of the bilateral relations would materialise to mutual benefits during his tenure.

Egyptian Embassy cancels Thursday's reception programme

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Egyptian embassy in Dhaka cancelled a reception programme scheduled for Thursday at Westin Hotel for the demise of Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, said a press release.

The reception was due to be held to celebrate the 4th anniversary of the 25th January Egypt Revolution.

The Egyptian government declared seven days of national mourning for the Saudi King so all celebration programmes in and outside Egypt through Egyptian diplomatic missions had been cancelled.

Cops, RMG workers clash in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Three workers of Birds Garments Ltd were injured yesterday when police baton-charged several hundred workers demonstrating for reopening the factory located in Buribazar of Ashulia.

The factory was declared shut on Thursday amid continuous demonstrations of workers which initially started with the demand of a 10 percent annual increment in salaries.

After being baton-charged, the demonstrators broke some windowpanes of nearby Fountain Garments Manufacturing Ltd with bricks, prompting police to beat them again, said police and witnesses. The injured needed first aid. Additional police were deployed.

Five hurt in Ctg shooting by thugs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five people, including two children, were injured when a goon of Chittagong city's Bakalia area fired on locals after failing to grab a piece of land yesterday.

Imon Hasan, 13, son of Kabir, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College with multiple bullet wounds. Sayed Bin Abdullah Nahid, 15, and Md Mamun, Shafayet and Shabuj took first aid.

Arif and Jashim, along with locals, chased Kirich Babul and his 20 men who went to occupy the land which belongs to the former two, said police.

Babul fired on them while being chased away, said the locals. Police said they are not sure who actually did fire and also informed that Babul is absconding.

Indian high commission celebrates Republic Day

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday celebrated the country's 66th Republic Day at New Chancery Complex in Baridhara.

High Commissioner Pankaj Saran unfurled the national flag in the morning, followed by rendering of their national anthem. Pankaj then read out a message from the Indian president and children performed in a cultural event.

SYLHET POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

BCL goons vandalise principal's residence

Also his car, being miffed by refusal to be extorted by them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A few sofa cushions and uprooted garden plants litter the driveway. On the first floor of the two-storey building, one room shows a tumbled refrigerator and some utensils strewn on the floor. That was the scene at the official residence of the principal of Sylhet Polytechnic Institute in the city after the goons of Bangladesh Chhatra League ran an hour long rampage.

On their way back, they took away the laptop and two cellphones of the principal and vandalised three official microbuses and a motorbike parked on the compound.

Prosanta Kumar Basu, the principal, said it all happened because he refused to pay them Tk 20,000 as extortion money on the occasion of Saraswati Puja on Sunday night.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion

(Rab) visited the scene and a contingent of police was deployed on the campus.

Basu said four or five youths stormed his house in Khozarkhola around 11:00am and demanded the amount for "light decorations and organising cultural events", a request he rejected immediately.

"Why should I pay you when the puja was already held?" he told them. "Moreover you are not students anymore. Teachers and current students were involved in organising the celebrations."

At one stage of the quarrel, they used swear words and some hundred other activists waiting outside started hurling bricks at other buildings and some rampaged through his house.

Basu, who was confined to a toilet during the time of rampage, said he heard several gunshots, too.

In a complaint filed with police, he accused Russel, an ex-student, and

Akil, Opurbo, Rajib and Rudro, who are still studying, and about hundred other unidentified people.

Officer-in-Charge Khairul Fazal of Dakshin Surma Police Station said the filing of a case was under way.

The principal said most of the attackers were ex-students and outsiders who had been extorting people on and around the campus for a long time. Law enforcers know them, he added.

Saikat Chandra Rimi, president of the Polytechnic Institute unit of BCL, did not respond to phone calls of this correspondent.

However, BCL city unit General Secretary Emrul Hasan, talking to The Daily Star, said the institute leadership faced various allegations, and the unit committee was dissolved now.

The principal's residence came under attack twice last year over similar matters.

Another Facebook ranter held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Detective Branch (DB) officials of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested a person in Didar Market area in the city on Sunday night on the charge of "writing derogatory comments" about the prime minister, army, and police on Facebook.

The detainee, Shahadat Hossain, 25, hailing from Feni resides in the city's Lalkhan Bazar, said Hasan Mahmud, additional deputy commissioner of DB, CMP.

The official said Shahadat introducing himself as an army major and an official of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) was taking photos of on-duty police personnel in Didar Market area around 8:30pm. On suspicion, DB personnel picked him up, he said.

In the primary interrogation, Shahadat admitted that he impersonated an NSI official, said the official, adding that in further queries, the detectives found that the youth "wrote derogatory comments" about the prime minister, army and police using four Facebook accounts.

Police seized four mobile phones and six SIM cards from him, he said.

The DB official, however, did not reveal the "disparaging remarks".

He said the youth later introduced himself as a madrasa student. "Shahadat was giving misleading information about what his intention was behind his taking photographs of on-duty police officials," he said. "He was being interrogated."

Banaj Kumar Majumder, additional commissioner (crime and operation) of CMP, said the youth would be sued under the information and communication technology (ICT) act.



One of the rooms of the residence of the Sylhet Polytechnic Institute principal in the city ransacked by the goons of Bangladesh Chhatra League on Sunday night, after they were denied extortion money on the occasion of Saraswati Puja. *Inset*, an official microbus vandalised by the attackers.

PHOTO: STAR

Ctg paper mill worker dies in workplace accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A paper mill worker died after falling from a goods lift at his workplace, Mostafa Paper Mill, at Patiya upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

Ali Azam, 35, son of Mofiz Ahmed of Koramkhan union, fell from a height equivalent to a second-storey building and was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, officials at CMCH police outpost.

Anti-violence

FROM PAGE 4

Birodhi Sangbadik Mancha (anti-communal journalists' platform) held a rally to condemn the violence on the public.

"As the highways have become unsafe for carrying goods, the agriculture sector of the country is about to fall apart," said Sohel Haidar Chowdhury, chief reporter at Manabkhantha.

Trade Union Kendra, a workers' platform, brought out a procession from Central Shaheed Minar to Jatiya Press Club denouncing the political violence.

A group of people holding a banner "Shadharan Janagan" (general public) were found collecting signatures to garner public support to force the political parties to reach consensus.

After recovery, what?

FROM PAGE 3

the hospital yesterday. At least seven of them were involved in transport-related occupations and one was a rickshaw-puller.

The hospital has treated 86 arson patients since December 28 last year, a time around when the country plunged into another spell of turmoil. Five of them died, the sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Piara Begum, mother of bus helper Masum, wondered who would compensate them for what they had lost.

Her 15-year-old son was earning more than what his father, a rickshaw puller, did for their

six-member family, she said.

Masum received 20 percent burns on January 14 in Narsingdi.

Since then, his father has been in a dilemma: whether he should be driving the rickshaw in Narsingdi to feed the family or attending his son in Dhaka, said Piara.

"I've received money four to five times since my son was admitted to the hospital. But I spent all those on his treatment."

Asked about rehabilitation, Piara said her son should not ask for money from the government. "If the government is empathetic enough, it will come forward of its own."

HC continues hearing

FROM PAGE 3

charge sheet today.

On January 18, the special HC bench started hearing on the death references and the 257 appeals filed by the convicts of the case.

A Dhaka court on November 5, 2013 awarded death penalty to 150 soldiers of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and two civilians, and sentenced 161 others to life imprisonment for their roles and involvement in the carnage.

It also handed down rigorous imprisonment, ranging from three to 10 years, to 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers. The court acquitted the remaining 277 accused. A total of 846 people, 823 of them BDR personnel, were on trial.

Seventy four people, including 57 army officials, were slain in the BDR mutiny on February 25-26 in 2009 at the Palkhona headquarters in Dhaka. The paramilitary force was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh.



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