

**DRY WEATHER LIKELY**

Weather is likely to 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. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:41pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.** Country's highest temperature 29.5 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 08.9 in Sreemangal. 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	27.0	15.2	63	54	Khulna	27.2	13.4	83	69
Chittagong	27.9	14.9	65	59	Barisal	27.3	11.8	83	72
Rajshahi	25.8	11.2	87	71	Sylhet	28.5	13.1	62	58
Rangpur	21.7	13.5	97	83	Cox's Bazar	29.5	16.0	67	69

**SYLHET BCL THUGGERY**  
**None held yet**

City dwellers demand closure of polytechnic institute's Surma Hostel  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

No arrest has been made yet in the case filed for an attack on the residence of the principal of Sylhet Polytechnic Institute and staff quarters in the city by Bangladesh Chhatra League men on Sunday night. However, Khairul Fazal, officer-in-charge of Dakshin Surma Police Station, yesterday said police were trying to nab the accused.

Meanwhile, city residents and the institute's staff and teachers at separate meetings demanded that the authorities immediately shut down the institute's Surma Hostel, claiming outsiders and miscreants take up residence there.

Principal Prosanta Kumar Basu said a meeting has been called today to discuss the situation and determine what steps should be taken.

He said there have been numerous allegations that the hostel has become a den of criminals who are engaged in crimes like mugging and extortion. "We are thinking of temporarily shutting down the hostel in the first week of February," Basu told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**NCC, DoE row halts garbage removal in N'ganj**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj**

Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) yesterday stopped removing garbage from the city after the Department of Environment (DoE) on Monday fined it Tk 2 lakh for dumping waste on the open space by Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road.

Such a decision by the NCC is causing great public nuisance as the city streets are found with heaps of waste in the open, emitting foul odour.

NCC Panel Mayor-1, Mohammad Obaidullah said the cleaners stopped collecting the garbage as there is no dumping ground other than the one by the road at Lamapara which is far from any human settlements.

NCC Sanitary Inspector Alamgir Hiran said in other city corporation areas garbage is also dumped in the open spaces away from locality.

They had been dumping sand over the garbage to prevent bad odours from spreading and by this time initiatives to set up four dumping grounds for the NCC had already been

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A woman lighting lamps at Deepavali or Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, in Pirgachha of Rangpur. The autumn evening of 2013 was captured by a finalist in the "Festivals" category of The Daily Star's photo contest in Pixel.

PHOTO: ARADHANA MOHANTA



**RU BCL men beat up general student**

*His fault was being too slow to go to a human chain*

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

A student of management was beaten up by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists at Rajshahi University yesterday because he did not walk fast enough during a BCL procession on the campus, which the victim was allegedly forced to join.

Nuruzzaman, a resident of Madar Bux Hall, was given primary treatment at the university medical centre for bruises and cuts in the forehead and face.

Witnesses said six to seven BCL men led by Ershadur Rahman alias Rifat, Arafat Hossain, Rayhan Ali and Rafi beat him up with scrap wood in room 223 where he resides.

The pro-Awami League student body held a human chain, demanding resumption of classes and examinations in full swing following the winter vacation.

Nuruzzaman said he was forced to join the human chain.

The victim said that when they were walking to the venue, around 11:00am, he was warned by BCL activist Rifat because he was walking slowly. He added that he could not keep pace with others as he was having flu and did not have his breakfast.

The BCL men attacked him in the afternoon, around 3:45pm.

A resident student, who witnessed Nuruzzaman being clobbered, said, "I heard his screams and saw the incident through the window. The door was shut."

After a few minutes of beating, the BCL men left, he told The Daily Star.

RU BCL acting general secretary Khalid Hasan Biplob admitted that some BCL activists attacked Nuruzzaman, and said they would take action against the attackers after investigation.

Rifat, however, denied the allegation of attacking anyone. He said he was not aware of such an incident.

Sources at the Madar Bux Hall administration said all the four BCL activists were residing in the dormitory illegally, without getting allotment of rooms.

Madar Bux Hall Provost Prof M Sherezzaman said he heard about the attack and knew that the accused BCL men were living in the dormitory illegally.

He said the university authorities would take action if the victim filed a written complaint.

No case was filed.

PROVIDING MRPs TO EXPATRIATES ON TIME

**Mosharraf now admits bungling in parliament**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government is facing a serious challenge in issuing machine readable passports (MRPs) to around nine million Bangladeshi expatriates working across the world, Expatriates, Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told parliament yesterday.

If the MRPs cannot be provided to them by mid-November this year, their stay abroad will be illegal, he said, replying to a lawmaker's query.

He said they had already discussed the issue with the foreign ministry and were trying to solve the problem.

"We have already appointed 30 outsourcing companies to this end." Replying to another question, the minister said the ministry had a database of 5 lakh workers and if any country allowed the government to export manpower from Bangladesh, then they could send workers within three weeks.

**Khandker Ali Ashraf passes away**

**BSS, Dhaka**

Veteran journalist Khandker Ali Ashraf died due to old-age complications at his residence in the capital's Uttara yesterday. He was 80.

Ashraf left behind two sons to mourn his death and was buried at Uttara graveyard.

He served as the assistant editor of now defunct Dainik Bangla and senior assistant editor of daily Jugantor.

He also worked as a part-time teacher at Mass Communication and Journalism department in Dhaka University.

**Blockade takes heavy toll on Ctg transport workers**

**SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg**

Noor-e-Alam, a driver of Unique Service, an inter-district bus operator, would earn Tk 1,300 a day and get along with his six-member family. But since the start of the countrywide transport blockade on January 6, that meagre income has been gone.

"I am now totally jobless and passing idle days at my village home in Patiya upazila of Chittagong and struggling to meet my family needs," he said, overcome with despair. "I can't think what I shall do if the country's present situation lingers on."

Like Alam, thousands of people involved in the transport sector of Chittagong have been hit hard by the ongoing blockade, enforced by the

BNP-led 20-party demanding a fresh national election to be overseen by a non-party administration.

Abul Kashem, a driver of S Alam Paribahan, another bus service, said that without work, he had been staying at his village home in Rangunia upazila for more than a week now. He is the sole bread winner for his five-member family.

The two drivers besought the political leaders to solve the ongoing problem immediately and let them get back to their daily business.

Manjurul Alam Manju, secretary general of Chattagram Jela Sarak Paribahan Malik Group, said 11,500 vehicles including buses, trucks and covered vans operated under this association.

Because of the blockade, 40 percent of those vehicles are kept off the streets, he said, adding that the rest were plying different routes but braving risks.

The blockade has brought miseries to both the owners and workers, but the latter are the worst-sufferers because they are living inhuman lives, Manju said.

The transport sector of Chittagong, which employs 40,000 people, is suffering a loss of Tk 5 crore every day due to the blockade, he told The Daily Star.

Abdul Mannan, publicity secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, said the political problems should be resolved immediately through negotiations for the sake of the people.



Uniforms and accessories gutted in a fire in the storeroom of the Dampara Police Lines in Chittagong city yesterday. The cause of the blaze that broke out at 1:30pm and was doused one hour later could not be known immediately, said officials.

PHOTO: STAR



Brig Gen Mustafizur Rahman, director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, addresses a human chain formed by the doctors, students, nurses, and staff at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanding trial and punishment of those involved in arson attacks during blockade violence across the country.

**Local public reps will**

FROM PAGE 3  
of Peshajibi Samonnay Parishad, a federation of 12 pro-government organisations of professionals including teachers, physicians and engineers, at his secretariat office in the capital.

Asked how the local public representatives will discharge the duty, he told The Daily Star that a local public representative knew people living in his or her locality well, so it was possible for them to identify the elements behind such attacks.

The comments came amid a countrywide indefinite blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance since January 6 that left 33 people dead while over a thousand people injured.

Peshajibi leaders said law enforcers failed to give security to the common people.

As a measure to contain ongoing arson attacks, they urged the government to control sale of petrol and to try arsonists under speedy trial tribunal.

They alleged that a section of law enforcers leak information that helped BNP-Jamaat activists to evade drives.

Asaduzzaman, however, claimed that the government to a great extent had controlled the violence during the blockade and within few days it would totally be halted.

**Dhaka sees human chain**

FROM PAGE 4  
formed a human chain.

At the programme, Syed Abdul Ahmad, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club, said the government was filing "false cases" against BNP leaders including its chairperson Khaleda.

**300 cases**

FROM PAGE 4  
mills and factories, pollutions from brickfields and hill cutting during last 13 years, according to court sources.

The investigation officials of the DoE failed to submit 158 investigation reports before the court even after 12 years of investigation despite repeated reminders from the court to do so.

Court sources said not even a single investigation report was submitted before the court last year and the department also failed to file any new case with the court in the last six months.

Badrul Ala said the cases are pending as the DoE was not cooperating with the court.

Shahidul Alam, acting director of DoE, Chittagong admitted that they could not submit investigation reports properly and blamed it on insufficient manpower.