

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions 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 5:42pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.

Country's highest temperature 30.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 10.5 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	14.7	57	55	Khulna 27.8	14.5	74	67
Chittagong 28.9	16.2	70	52	Barisal 28.0	13.5	90	73
Rajshahi 25.8	11.7	93	68	Sylhet 27.8	14.2	73	63
Rangpur 20.0	11.6	95	87	Cox's Bazar 29.7	17.0	72	70

NEWS IN brief

JCD activist murdered in Mymensingh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants hacked an activist of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal to death in Mymensingh yesterday evening, said police.

Asif Parvez Tupan, 23, an LLB second year student of a Kishoreganj college, was a member of the Nandail upazila unit of JCD, said Kazi Ayub, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station.

Attacked behind Nandail College in the upazila, he succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on arrival, he said.

Shahidul new envoy to Saudi Arabia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Md Shahidul Islam, currently serving as Bangladesh ambassador in Saudi Arabia, as the next high commissioner to Malaysia, says a foreign ministry press release.

Before his current ambassadorial appointment in KSA, he was Bangladesh high commissioner in South Africa.

In his diplomatic career, Shahidul also served the Bangladesh missions in Brussels, Colombo, Abu Dhabi, Rome, and Los Angeles in different capacities.

Smuggled gold found in imported car's radiator at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials recovered 40 gold bars, worth Tk 2.25 crore and weighing 4.5kg, from inside a radiator of a car at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday.

On information, customs officials conducted a drive at Airport Sorting office of Bangladesh Postal Department and recovered the gold. The radiator was imported from Dubai for Nur Electronics in Chittagong by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, said the officials.

Buet alumni reunion on February 27, registration date extended

CITY DESK

The reunion of Buet alumni will be held on February 27, says a press release.

Earlier the date was January 30 but due to the current political situation in the country it had been changed.

Meanwhile, the last date for registration has been extended till February 22.

Eastern Bank replaces HSBC as US visa fee recipient

CITY DESK

HSBC will no longer issue the MRV (visa) fee receipt or accept payment for US visa interview after today, said a press release.

Eastern Bank Ltd will issue the MRV fee receipt and accept payment for visa appointment booking from Sunday.

For latest details check <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/bd/>. If anyone already purchased an HSBC fee receipt it is still valid. Fee receipts are valid for one year.

Tapantosh to get Buet alumni reception

CITY DESK

The Association of Buet Alumni will accord a reception to one of the alumni, Dr Tapantosh Chakrabarty, of the chemical engineering department of 1972 batch, for his professional achievements and being the first Bangladeshi to complete the Seven Continents Marathon.

The event will be held at 4:00pm tomorrow in the Seminar Hall of Civil Engineering Building, says a press release. Former Buet Vice-Chancellor Abdul Matin Patwari, and incumbent VC Khaleda Ekram are expected to attend the programme.

Youth's decomposing body found in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered the decomposing body of an unidentified youth, aged around 25, from a forest inside the Kaliakoir High Tech Park in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

Police suspected that miscreants might have killed the youth about five to six days back and dumped the body there.

The body of the youth clad in a black jacket and pants was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

HC questions EC

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The six had filed the HC petition challenging the second IC rejection, he added.

The remaining petitioners are M Hafiz Uddin Khan, ASM Shahjahan, Syed Abul Maksud, Prof Tofail Ahmed and Ali Imam Majumder. The HC bench comprises Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo.

WAR CRIMES IN CHAPAINAWABGANJ, BAGERHAT

Mahidur, Afsar killed 19 more

Two survivors tell tribunal; Akram, Latif had tortured a freedom fighter who testified against them yesterday corroborating two others about killing of comrade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two survivors yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-2 how war crimes accused Mahidur Rahman and Afsar Hossain alias Chutu were involved in the killing of at least 19 persons in Chapainawabganj on October 6 and 7 during the 1971 Liberation War.

Meanwhile, two freedom fighters corroborated the 15th and 16th prosecution witnesses before International Crimes Tribunal-1 on how a fellow was shot dead by war crimes accused Khan Akram Hossain and Abdul Latif Talukder in Bagerhat in 1971.

Testifying before the tribunal-2, Rais Uddin, 74, said he and three or four villagers managed to flee while Razakars, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, were shooting at 16 of them who were forced to queue up on the Binodpur High School playground on October 6.

"...they untied us. Razakar Chutu shot Ariful then Mahidur shot Fazlu. Both of them died," said the third

prosecution witness, adding that around 12 villagers were killed.

The 16 had been rounded up from their Chandshikari village that day by the army, accompanied by five to six Razakars, including the accused, and tortured brutally on the playground, he said.

In his testimony, the second prosecution witness, Mohbul Haque, 62, said he along with his father and 17 others were rounded up by the accused and other Razakars and confined to the school on October 6.

"On the following afternoon, one Razakar Gafur asked my father whether he could provide rice, goats and chicken. As my father replied in the affirmative, Gafur released me, my father Abul Hossain, Mantu, Jalal, Rahman and Paigam Biswas," he said.

"On our way to collect the goods, we saw bodies on the playground. I could recognise Ariful and Fazlur," said Mohbul.

They hid in a sugarcane field and came out in the evening, identifying more villagers (among those he had

been rounded up with) including Nazrul, Entaz, Taslim, Senamusol, Alkes, Azhar and Sentu, he said.

The first prosecution witness had stated that 12 persons were killed that evening and two sustained bullet injuries.

The defence cross-examined the witnesses before proceedings were adjourned until today. Mahidur and Afsar deny the three charges of mass killing, arson, looting, abduction and torture.

TRIBUNAL-1

The 17th prosecution witness, Abdul Jabbar Bepari, 71, said he had been grazing his family's three cows on returning to his Raripara village under Kochua Police Station for a day from warfare training at Ashar's (Bangla month falling in August) end when Razakars, including the accused, caught him.

They sold his cows, tied him up with a cotton towel and took him to their Doibogghati camp. "Akram and Latif tortured me inhumanly", he said, adding that he released with

the help of one of his uncles.

"Just as I was leaving, war crimes accused Siraj Master (Sheikh Sirajul Haque) hit me twice," said Jabbar, adding that he had to take treatment for 28 days before returning to the Liberation War camp.

In his corroboration, he said two to three days before Victory Day, he and six other freedom fighters were going to Teligati village to visit a fellow's ailing mother when one of their companions, Fazlur Rahman, was caught by Akram and Latif at Teligati Bazar.

He said they saw Akram and Latif shoot Fazlur dead and dump the body in a nearby canal.

The 18th prosecution witness, Abdul Mojibor Kha, 62, gave a similar testimony over Fazlur's murder before defence counsels cross-examined them and proceedings were adjourned until today.

Latif and Akram are facing three charges in the war crimes case where Sheikh Sirajul Haque is another accused.



PHOTO: SAURAV DEY

Kolkata-based singer Arko Mukherjee performs on the second day of International Sufi Music Festival 2015 at the capital's Army Museum ground.

AL failed to protect secularism

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The authorities concerned are facing endless sufferings today while holding trials for crimes against humanity and even common people are becoming victims of petrol bombs and their lives being adversely affected for continuous strikes, she said.

"Lives and properties of non-Muslims and Adivasis are becoming

targets," said Sultana Kamal.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman of DU said the present constitution was close to the one of 1972 though there were some contradictions that needed to be corrected.

Regarding cancellation of the caretaker government provision, he said the issue appeared to have caused a confrontation between Awami League and BNP.

However, the caretaker government issue also created problems over the appointment of its chief in 2006, he said, stressing on upholding democracy.

Jurist Dr Kamal Hossain called on taking people's opinions before amending the constitution. People also need to be made more aware of civil and political rights so that they can hold gov-

ernments accountable, he noted.

Prof Dr MM Akash of DU's economics suggested completing the trial of war criminals, banning religion-based politics and starting a cultural revolution for the development of progressive thoughts.

Law Commission member Dr Shah Alam also spoke.

Private high school teachers of Barisal demand govt payscale

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Teachers and staff of non-government high schools staged a rally in Barisal city yesterday demanding that the government bring them under the proposed new pay scale for government employees, which is scheduled to be implemented from July 1 this year.

At the programme organised by Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Front, Barisal divisional unit before Ashwini Kumar Hall, they also sought nationalisation of the educational institutions.

The government staff automatically is included in newly formed pay scales, creating discrimination between the salary structures of the government and non-government teachers, they said.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manjurul Alam Tutul, editor of Jessor-based newspaper the Daily Runner and a listed radio singer, died of a cardiac arrest yesterday. He was 48.

He was buried at Bejpara Graveyard in Jessore town.

Tutul was the son of late journalist Golam Majed and younger brother of slain journalist RM Saiful Alam Mukul.

Khursid Ahmed

CITY DESK

Khursid Ahmed, son of late Sultan Ahmed of Feni, died in Dhaka on Sunday. He was 95.

He joined the erstwhile Bengal Secretariat Service in the mid-1940s in Kolkata. He retired from Bangladesh Defence Ministry in 1982.

A doa mahfil will be held at his Kalyanpur residence tomorrow after Asr prayers.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Matiur Rahman Khan, a former judge in Sylhet.

A doa mahfil will be held today after Esha prayers at Ashi Dag Jame Mosque, West Ibrahimpur, Dhaka Cantonment.

People's voice against

FROM PAGE 3

people. The general public has no connection with this violent politics, said its Vice President Rahat Ahmad.

At least 34 people have been killed in political violence since January 6.

Meanwhile, the weeklong signature collection campaign of The Mass People of Bangladesh, a citizens' platform, which demands an AL-BNP dialogue, was in progress for the third day yesterday, so far registering 900 signatures, said an organiser.

Addressing a rally at the press club, Syed Humayun Kabir, ameer of Islami Samaj, said all the problems lay with democracy, which should be replaced by Islamic rule.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rural Journalists Association, at its human Chain, demanded withdrawal of the arson case against Shawkat Mahmud, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, and adviser of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Krishak Sramik Janata League launched an indefinite sit-in in front of its office at Motijheel yesterday, with its President Kader Siddique calling upon Hasina to organise a dialogue and Khaleda to withdraw the blockade.

He urged the BNP to announce other sorts of protest programmes.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, also a special envoy to the PM, will join a token hunger strike in front of JP's Kakrail office, demanding a stop to the violence.

Separately, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh threatened on Saturday to hold a mass hunger strike if Hasina and Khaleda do not sit in a dialogue by January 31.

KYAMC, Ibrahim

FROM PAGE 3

Rajib, Bilash Shrestha and Maruf Hossain, all fifth year students, are participating in the contest being held with the theme "Emerging Disease: From Principles to Application", which is sparked by the recent infamous disease, namely Ebola virus.

Other participating teams include medical colleges from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Myanmar, China and Thailand itself.

The 10th Bangladesh Int'l Plastics, Packaging & Printing Industrial Fair

Incorporating: Foodtech & Bakery Industrial Fair



Jan. 27 - 30, 2015

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Seminar

Bangladesh Plastic Goods and Manufacturers Association will organise a seminar on "Recycling of Plastic Goods." Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Nagorik Oikko will organise discussion on current political situation. Venue: Shishu Kalyan Parishad auditorium, Topkhana Road, Time: 11:00am.