

**DRY WEATHER LIKELY**

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall further and mild cold wave is likely. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:44pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.** Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.4 in Rangpur and 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	23.0	17.2	82	66	Khulna	22.5	16.0	83	78
Chittagong	26.7	16.7	60	63	Barisal	23.6	14.5	86	85
Rajshahi	23.4	14.7	92	69	Sylhet	26.8	16.0	81	73
Rangpur	21.5	13.4	89	64	Cox's Bazar	29.0	18.7	62	72

**TANGENTS**  
BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Victory Day celebration last year.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

**SPEED**

During my software engineering career in Silicon Valley, most of my time was spent chasing fast things. Not fast cars or women, but rather fast algorithms – the step-by-step “recipes” of instructions that computers execute to do their computation. That’s because I wrote software for digital images, and it takes a large amount of data to digitally represent a photograph. Processing this data was time-consuming. This is where my work came in – to speed up image processing. Many conferences, papers, patents and books were devoted to fast processing of digital imagery, though nowadays the speed of computers has overtaken the complexity of digital images to the extent that “photoshop” has become a commonplace verb.

Speed is an integral part of our life. Why? Perhaps at an innate level, just like animals, we need to run faster to catch our quarry while outrunning those chasing us. Speed helps us compete and survive in the world. At a subconscious level we probably connect slowness, or standing still, with death. Although speed may be imposed on us, particularly when we are working on someone else’s schedule – be it tomorrow’s homework or a work project with a tight deadline – no one can deny the feeling of exhilaration that accompanies speed.

In recent times, multi-tasking has become another tool for attaining speed. By doing many jobs in parallel, we often inject speed into them. The need to multi-task increases with the scope of one’s responsibility. A related notion is compartmentalizing – putting away some thought or consideration out of one’s immediate attention and retrieving later it after

having addressed a more pressing issue. American ex-president Bill Clinton was lauded for his compartmentalizing as he continued his duties despite his Lewinsky troubles. Quick decision-making is often necessary for effective multi-tasking.

I am, however, one of those people to whom an unbroken chain of thought is paramount. If I pull my mind away from something I am concentrating on, I find it difficult to return to the same place. Perhaps a promising new thread disappears, or a mistake I had identified is lost (only to resurface later at an inopportune moment.) Thus, although I have to do it sometimes, I am terrible at multi-tasking.

Which brings us to the broader question: is faster always better? Many things in life require a combination of the fast and the slow. Take photography for example. The shutter’s speed may be blindingly fast at 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of a second. But, whatever kind of photography you might be doing – landscape, birds, architecture or people – finding the right arrangement, lighting, and timing can take patience. For example, for photographing certain landscapes or trees, I have to wait for the right season – perhaps an entire year – before finding the right visual combination in front of me. It requires steadfast effort to find that one good photograph and a millisecond to capture it!

The nature of time is one of the most profound mysteries of our existence. But knowing when to be fast and when to be slow allows us to make the best of whatever time is allotted to us.

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**NONSTOP COUNTRYWIDE TRANSPORT BLOCKADE**

**Shahbagh flower trade losses mount as sales plunge**

HELEMUL ALAM

Flower traders in the capital’s Shahbagh wholesale market are counting losses with daily sales dropping by over 80 percent and the number of customers by around 40 percent since the ongoing blockade of the BNP-led 20-party alliance was enforced from January 6.

The sale peaks through November to March, a favourite season for holding programmes like weddings and festivals in which flowers have become an essential element over the years as an expression of the joyous occasions.

Florists from around the country arrive in droves early morning every day, hoping to get the best buys before anyone else.

But what made such events look incomplete in its absence is now being played down, in times

used at the minimum, as the traders say, for the attacks on vehicles during the blockade, raising transportation costs and deterring customers from coming over.

“I have already lost Tk 2.5 lakh in the current peak season though usually I earn (a profit of) around Tk 10 lakh (by the season’s end),” said Abdul Mannan, a trader who grows his own flowers on 35 bighas of land in Barisal.

“Gladiolus, 100 of which we usually sell at Tk 800 to Tk 900 during this time, is now going for Tk 300 to Tk 400,” said grower turned florist Rezaul Karim of Chuadanga, adding that he was losing Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 every day.

Mahi Alam Chowdhury, a retailer of Gendaria, said the last 25 days of blockade cost him Tk 10,000, a far cry from his expectation of making a profit of around Tk 20,000.

“Sales are so poor this year that at one point I had decided to quit my business but could not make myself to do so for it is an old family business,” he said.

The daily sale at Shahbagh normally hovers around Tk 30 lakh to Tk 40 lakh but has come down to Tk 6 to 7 lakh due to the nonstop blockade, said Babul Proshad, president of Dhaka Ful Bebohayee Kollayan Samity Ltd.

He said flowers come in from some 19 districts including Jessore, Chuadanga, Gazipur, Mymensingh, Manikganj, Rangpur, Bogra, Brahmanbaria, Sylhet, Cox’s Bazar and Rajbari.

Babul said they faced the same problem last year due to the political unrest. “I have also faced losses of around Tk 15 lakh in the last two seasons due to the political unrest,” he said.

If the situation continues, then they will have to quit the business, he added.



A florist passes idle time at the capital’s Shahbagh with sales dropping by over 80 percent in the neighbouring wholesale market for, as the traders say, the ongoing blockade of the BNP-led 20-party alliance. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**IMRAN-LED GONOJAGORON MANCHA Collects signatures against violence**

*Campaign to continue till March 25; call for ban on Jamaat reiterated*

DU CORRESPONDENT

The faction of Gonojagoron Mancha led by Imran H Sarker yesterday launched a mass signature campaign to gather public support against the ongoing political violence across the country.

Addressing a rally at Shahbagh in the capital, Sarker said the campaign would focus on uniting all pro-liberation forces to fight anti-liberation quarters in the country.

Holding Jamaat-Shibir men responsible for the violence, Imran said the government should ban politics of Jamaat.

The mass signature campaign will continue till March 25. In Dhaka, people can sign at the media cell set up in Shahbagh.

The signatures would be submitted to the president on March 26, he added.

Ferdousi Priyabhashini and Imran H Sarker inaugurated the signature campaign yesterday.

**Try vigilante law enforcers**

*Demands Khalequzzaman of Socialist Party of Bangladesh at rally*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawbreaking members of Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion and Border Guard Bangladesh must be tried while amendments brought in provisions determining the electoral process and in laws working against people’s democratic rights, demanded Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB) General Secretary Khalequzzaman yesterday.

He was addressing a rally jointly organised by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and SPB before the capital’s Jatiya Press Club, from where a procession was later brought out.

The organisers announced holding a sit-in there on February 6 demanding “recovery of democracy, a stop to the killing of common people and banning Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir”.

Khalequzzaman said both the Awami

League and BNP, in their clash for power, grab it irrespective of whether they have been voted to it or not, keep common people hostage, establish dynastic rule and dictatorship, loot the country and kill people by burning or shooting them.

He said the country has not been leased out to them and they cannot hold the people hostage over their opinions or fights, which resemble those taking place over attempts to grab chars.

CPB General Secretary Syed Abu Zafar said the crisis has to be resolved politically otherwise continuation of the stagnation would bring down havoc upon common people’s lives and endanger democratic and constitutional processes.

SPB central leader Bazlur Rashid Firoz spoke at the rally, also organised around the country, moderated by Dr Sajedul Haque Rubel.



A gayebana namaz-e-janaza held by the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital yesterday to pray for the salvation of the departed souls of those killed in violence during the indefinite blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance. At least 35 people have been killed in the violence countrywide since January 6 when the blockade started.

PHOTO: STAR

**Be stringent in checking blockade terrors**

*Pro-AL rally participants urge govt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling party lawmakers, cultural activists, academicians and the father of an arson attack victim yesterday demanded that the government play a stringent role in containing the violence centring the ongoing BNP-led 20-party alliance’s countrywide blockade.

They stated that the government must go hardline on arresting and punishing those involved in destructive activities like throwing petrol bombs and setting fire to vehicles

in the name of a political movement. The demands came at a seemingly pro-Awami League protest rally organised under the banner, “Shantir Jonno Hok Protibad”, on the capital’s Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Khokon Miah, the father, requested BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to find an alternative agitation programme and urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to find a way out of the current political impasse.

Awami League lawmaker Sanjida

আমার ‘জয় বাংলা’ আমার গ্রামের নারীদের আত্মনির্ভরশীল করা

## তোমার ‘জয় বাংলা’ কি?

‘জয় বাংলা’ শুধু স্লোগান নয়, ‘জয় বাংলা’ একটি জাতির মুক্তির মন্ত্র।  
‘জয় বাংলা’ মানে একটি লক্ষ্য, যে লক্ষ্য উদ্দেশ্য পূরণ হলেই বাস্তবায়িত হবে স্বাধীনতার সত্যিকারের স্বপ্ন। যারা নিজের ‘জয় বাংলা’ স্বপ্ন পূরণের মাধ্যমে দেশের উন্নয়নে অবদান রেখেছেন তাদের জন্য থাকছে ‘জয় বাংলা ইয়ুথ অ্যাওয়ার্ড’।

‘জয় বাংলা’-র কথা জানতে, জানাতে, শুনতে, শোনাতে চলে আসো  
**YOUNG BANGLA DIVISIONAL MEET-৪**

ডিভিশন	তারিখ	ভেন্যু
সিলেট	৩১ জানুয়ারি	সিলেট এমসি কলেজ হোটেল মাঠ
খুলনা	৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি	খুলনা জিলা স্কুল মাঠ
বরিশাল	৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি	বিএম কলেজ
রাজশাহী	১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি	রাজশাহী কলেজ মাঠ
রংপুর	১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি	রংপুর জিলা স্কুল মাঠ
ঢাকা	১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি	কৃষিবিদ ইন্সটিটিউট, ঢাকা
ময়মনসিংহ	২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি	ময়মনসিংহ সার্কিট হাউজ মাঠ
ত্রিপুরা	২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি	বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এর সমাধিসৌধের সামনে

রেজিস্ট্রেশন করতে [www.youngbangla.org](http://www.youngbangla.org)

হট লাইন ০১৯৭৪০০২৩৪৫

Convening Organizations: Centre for Research and Information, Bangladesh Youth Centre, JCI, Ministry of Power and Energy, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, SME FOUNDATION, BOI, Bangladesh Youth Centre (BYC), National Academy of Fine Arts, Bangladesh Scouts.

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