

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.4 L 14.1	H 29.1 L 14.0	H 30.1 L 12.0	H 28.0 L 09.3	H 29.0 L 12.1	H 28.6 L 11.0	H 27.8 L 10.7	H 29.8 L 15.0

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Mild cold wave may continue over the regions of Sreemangal, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Kushtia. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:47pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am. Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 07.7 in Sreemangal.

Stop demos at SC

Some jurists recommend to CJ for security reasons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of prominent jurists including Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday recommended the chief justice for stopping holding of processions, rallies and demonstrations on the Supreme Court premises to protect its security and discipline.

Some of them also suggested Chief Justice SK Sinha for taking steps so that the judges, lawyers, litigants, officials and other people enter the SC premises and come out through one gate instead of three.

They made the suggestion at a meeting with the chief justice and other judges of the Appellate Division of the SC at its Judges' Lounge in the afternoon.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, former attorney generals Mahmudul Islam and AF Hasan Ariff, former presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association Abdul Baset Majumder, M Amir-Ul Islam, and Rakanuddin Mahmud were, among others, present.

Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that all the judges and lawyers expressed concern at the recent incident of scuffling and shouting among the lawyers over staging rallies at SC.

The CJ may hold more meetings with the senior lawyers for taking a decision, he said.

Lawyers loyal to the two major political blocs scuffled over the use of a microphone when they were holding separate programmes in support and in protest against the ongoing hartal and blockade at SC on Monday.



Visitors look at books at a kiosk of Amar Ekushey Granthamela in Suhrawardy Udyan of the capital on the third day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Science books in demand

Say publishers at book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite a decreasing number of students opting to study science, books on science and mathematics enjoyed a steady sale in the previous book fair, according to salespersons of different publication houses at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015.

"Demand for science-related books is rising," said Anisur Rahman Anis, one of the directors of Biggan Academy, a publishing house that brings out books and charts only on science and mathematics.

"Our books sell more during the different science-related competitions that are held nowadays," he added.

The stall, located on the Suhrawardy Udyan portion of the fair, is decorated with charts on human body parts, chemistry and astronomy, among other science-related subjects.

"Dictionaries on physics, chemistry and biology sell more. Then books on experiments with science," he said,

adding mostly children and teenagers look for these books with prices ranging from Tk 70 to Tk 1,000.

Shobdolipi's publisher Md Shafiur Rahman is planning to bring 10 different books under the science and maths category of different publication houses at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015.

Singer Runa Laila, who came to the fair with her daughter, was looking at books on math riddles. "I think these kind of books help develop children's IQ."

Tamralipi, Universal Academy, Mohakal, Azmain Publications and Knowledge Media also brought new books under this category.

Colourful encyclopaedias and books answering different questions of science can be found at Universal Academy, Isamoti and Kathaprokash.

Books by popular writer Prof Zafar Iqbal can be found in Kakoli Prokashoni and Afsar Brothers.

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Brutalised New Age journo sues 3 cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three police officers including two officers-in-charge of Ramna Police Station in Dhaka were sued yesterday for beating up the Dhaka University correspondent of the English daily New Age on Sunday evening.

The journalist, Nazmul Huda Suman, filed the case against OC (administration) Moshir Rahman, OC (investigation) Ali Hossain, and Sub-inspector Mehedi Hasan Sumon with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Anwar Sadat asked a joint commissioner of the Detective Branch of police to investigate the incident and submit the report by March 10.

Nazmul, a third-year political science student at DU, wrote in the complaint that he and his friend Kairuzzaman Shuvo, who were riding home in a motorcycle Sunday evening, were intercepted by some policemen in Bijoy Nagar area, saying pillion riding was banned.

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BNP chief kept incommunicado

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cable television, phone, and internet connections to Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office remained snapped for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, while police were restricting visits to the BNP chief.

There were no BNP leaders waiting in front of the office to see Khaleda for the second consecutive day due to the restrictions imposed on February 1, the day detectives arrested her adviser Mosaddak Ali Fala when he emerged from the office.

Police barred Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, chief of Bangladesh Kalyan Party, a member of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, from entering the office around 6:10pm.

Meanwhile, a man who gave his name as Mafidul Islam and claimed to be a freedom fighter brandished his "licensed" pistol near the office and yelled at Khaleda for the ongoing blockade violence, said a witness, adding that police let him go after seeing the licence documents.

At that time, Bangladesh Muktijoddha Projonmo League was staging an anti-blockade rally at Gulshan-2 intersection, a few minutes

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European Parliament team due Feb 17 to see HR situation

UNB, Dhaka

Amid the volatile political situation, a delegation of European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights is likely to visit Dhaka from February 17 to 20 to witness human rights situation in the country.

The EU delegation to Bangladesh has already communicated with the foreign ministry seeking support for the visit, said a ministry official.

The delegation members are Vice President of Vice-Chair of the European People's Party Christian Dan Preda, members Josef Weidenholzer, and Karol Karski along with two officials and an adviser to the European Parliament.

They will meet Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Law Minister Anisul Huq.

During the visit, the delegation will also hold meetings with civil society members and NGOs.

They will discuss the proposed broadcast policy of Bangladesh too.

A few coconut branches put in the open manhole to "warn" commuters against the dangers, in the middle of DIT Road at the capital's West Rampura. It has been over a week now but there was no initiative from the Dhaka Wasa to repair it. The photo was taken yesterday.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Road to living hell

HELEMUL ALAM

The rickshaw-puller was driving fast on the fairly empty road, trailing a private car. The passenger, Yasin Ali, was carrying fruits to his shop, on his way back from Badamtali wholesale market. All of a sudden, both found themselves lying on the street and the fruits strewn all over. It was 12:00noon.

"I could not see the manhole in the middle of the road because I was behind a car," said Jewel, the rickshaw-puller, who thought it was okay if he drove at speed on a hartal day.

Fortunately enough, neither suffered major injuries or fell into the manhole or was run over by a speeding motor vehicle at the scene, near the crossing of Mirerbagh Natun Rasta at the capital's West Rampura.

More concerned about the loss he just incurred than the injuries he suffered, Yasin, a fruit trader of

Shewra in Khilkhet, said, "I've been facing huge losses due to the ongoing blockade, and this accident will cause me a further loss of Tk 5,000, with 50 percent of the fruits having been damaged."

The manhole lid broke one week ago, but there has been no initiative from the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to repair it, said Jasim, a roadside teashop owner, who informed this correspondent of the accident by phone yesterday.

"We had put several bamboo poles and a big stone at the manhole to warn drivers against the dangers, but it did not work," he said.

Gias Uddin, a nearby street vendor, said he had seen at least 15 accidents occur at the place due to the open manhole in the last one week.

The Wasa will repair it in a day or two, Executive Engineer (zone-6) Abdur Razzak told The Daily Star.

NOVO THEATRE PROJECT 'GRAFT' ACC dismisses all three cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has dismissed all three graft cases, which were filed 13 years ago against then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and her high-flying colleagues over allegations of overspending in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre construction project.

Hasina was exempted from all three cases by the High Court in March 2010 on grounds that the cases were politically motivated. Of the other accused, former finance minister Shah ASM Kibria and ex-education minister ASHK Sadek died, while Awami League leaders Tofail Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir were exempted later.

All these accused were members of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne), the body which approves development projects.

The erstwhile Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac), which later transformed into the ACC, filed the three cases on March 27, 2002, accusing seven, eight and 12 people respectively, said an ACC official. Hasina was accused in all three.

In the final reports submitted on January 29, the investigation officer, Manjur Morshed, who is a deputy director of the ACC, concluded that the cases did not have "merit" and hence should be closed permanently.

The planetarium's foundation stone was laid in 2000, a year before Hasina-led Awami League was voted out of power. It opened to the public in 2004 when the BNP was governing the country.

Hasina and her colleagues were charged with overspending in appointing consultants for the project and purchasing machinery, and constructing the planetarium complex.

Sheikh Hasina, the incumbent prime minister, took over in early 2009 and was re-elected in a one-sided parliamentary election on January 5, 2014.

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