

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 28.0 L 20.0	H 29.0 L 19.6	H 30.3 L 17.1	H 28.3 L 16.7	H 28.8 L 19.5	H 29.0 L 19.0	H 26.5 L 18.0	H 30.0 L 21.5

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow at 6:16am. Highest temperature was 30.4 degree Celsius yesterday in Teknaf while lowest was 15.0 degrees in Dinajpur.

NEWS IN brief

President flies to London today

UNB, Dhaka
President Abdul Hamid will leave for London today morning for his eye treatment and health checkup. He will leave at 11:00am by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and is likely to return on March 15, president's press secretary Ihsanul Karim told this agency yesterday.

Road crashes kill 3

CITY DESK
Three people died in road accidents in three districts yesterday and Wednesday. In Thakurgaon, Golam Nur, 17, of Dangapara village died when a truck hit his bicycle on Debiganj-Nilphamari road in Bottali village on Wednesday. In Gaibandha, Bijoy Sarker, 45, died when a truck hit him on Bogra-Rangpur highway near South Bus Stoppage yesterday. In Feni, Arafat Hossain, 24, a student of Feni Government College, died as a bus ran him over on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Lalpool area yesterday.

Nurun Nabi reappointed PKSF member

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, has been reappointed as governing body member of the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). President Abdul Hamid made the reappointment for the next three years and finance ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Monday, said a press release yesterday.

Man detained with gold, jewelry weighing 2.35kg at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Customs Intelligence detained a person with 20 gold bars and ornaments, weighing altogether around 2.35 kilograms, at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Detainee Abdul Kadir arrived at the airport from Riyadh by a Saudi Airlines flight around 2:45pm. The officials held him in the boarding bridge-2 area and made the recovery from his handbag, said Umme Nahida Akter, assistant director of Customs Intelligence. The value of the gold is Tk 1.15 crore, she said.

Science, technology fair begins today

BSS, Khulna
A three-day Khulna divisional science and technology fair will begin on Khulna Zila School premises today afternoon. Organised by Khulna divisional administration, the fair is expected to be inaugurated by Dr Mashur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to the Prime Minister. Abdus Samad, Khulna divisional commissioner, will preside over the inaugural function. A total of 30 stalls from different schools and science clubs will be set up in the fair which will remain open from 10:00am to 6:00pm everyday.

Water colour, print group exhibition begins in Galleri Kaya today

CITY DESK
A group exhibition of water colour and prints by 10 contemporary artists of Bangladesh will be inaugurated in Galleri Kaya in the capital's Uttara today. The artists are Aloptogin Tushar, Anisuzzaman, Nagarbashi Barman, Azmeer Hossain, Sheikh Md Rokonzaman, Ashraful Hasan, Kamaluddin, Shohag Parvez, Ruhul AminTarek and Shahanoor Mamun. The exhibition titled, "Contemporary Vibes" will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm everyday till March 17.



Chhabi Nath, wife of burn victim Ranjit Nath, breaks down in the arms of a relative, outside the Intensive Care Unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday, a few hours before her husband breathed his last there. Ranjit was burnt when a petrol bomb was hurled at a CNG-run auto-rickshaw he was in, at Hathazari upazila. Inset, with 45 percent burns, the auto-rickshaw driver, Md Saber, groaning in pain at the hospital.

Country's laws not equally applied to all

Says NHRC boss, alluding to Khaleda's evasion of court appearances
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The laws of the country are not applied to all people equally, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman alleged yesterday. They are "friendly to the rich", he told a reception at the capital's Cirdap. "If I have committed a crime, can I give conditions to appear in court?" he asked. "Here are my conditions. If you accept these, I will appear; if you don't, I won't. Do general people have that right?" he said, alluding to the incident of BNP chief Khaleda Zia skipping a lower court in the two graft cases and the conditions she put to attend the court. Prof Mizan continued, "But If I am rich and politically influential, then the law will not touch me." Khaleda's counsels had said that she would attend the court if the government ensured her proper security and safe return to her Gulshan office. The NHRC chief spoke at the programme organised by Plan International Bangladesh to honour 23 people—eight women and 15 men—for their contributions to tackling violence against women and fighting child marriage. The programme was organised under a USAID funded project titled "Protecting Human Rights Program", implemented jointly by Plan International Bangladesh and Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association. NHRC BOSS MEETS CJ
The NHRC chief yesterday paid a courtesy call on Chief Justice SK Sinha in the latter's Supreme Court office. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Prof Mizan spoke about the extrajudicial

Rangpur mayor helps to end BRUR hunger strike

Cops sue 200 unidentified strikers over Wednesday's clash; Rupa condemns locals' attack on protesters, demands removal of BRUR's VC
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
After a 26-day nonstop hunger strike, the teachers, students and staff demanding removal of the vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University Rangpur (BRUR) called off their protest yesterday when the city mayor intervened and assured them of supporting their cause. In a brief address during his visit, Mayor Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu said he would request the prime minister to order steps for appointment of a new VC, replacing the incumbent Prof AKM Nurun Nabi. Before that, he called for staging other forms of peaceful protest other than a fast unto death. The Rangpur city mayor also asked the protesters not to let the VC, who has been staying in Dhaka since January 26, enter the campus. In response, President of BRUR Teachers Association Dr RM Hafizur Rahman Selim said they would now hold a sit-in, from 9:00am to 9:00pm every day, till their demands were met. The hunger strike had been going on since February 8, with the demands that the VC take steps to give retrospective benefits to the teachers newly promoted to assistant professors, ensure smooth academic activities, and confirm the jobs of

Chhabi finally couldn't hold living husband's hands

Day labourer Ranjit Nath dies after firebomb attack in Ctg; a second victim groaning in pain with 45pc burns; 16 BNP, Jamaat-Shibir suspects arrested
ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg
"Who should I blame for my fate? Who will give me justice?" Chhabi asked, tears continuing streaming down her face. Dr Iftekher Shamim said Ranjit's respiratory tract was inflamed, so he required artificial ventilation. But it did not save his life at the end. Ranjit breathed his last around 12:45am today, after surviving barely over a day, said Tapan Nath, the husband of the victim's sister. Ranjit was returning to his home in Enayetpur of Hathazari upazila in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Wednesday night. When the vehicle

"I want to see my husband... I want to be by his side and hold his hands," wailed Chhabi Nath, pressing her face to the glass of the Intensive Care Unit at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. But doctors would not let her in, considering the patients' health. Chhabi could not hold his hands again, till Ranjit Nath, 30, breathed his last. With 82 percent of his body burnt, the day labourer had been on life support at the ICU. His wife Chhabi Nath was seen crying outside.

was passing through Chariya area, it was hit by a petrol bomb. The incident also left Md Saber, 28, the auto-rickshaw driver, with burn injuries. Saber and Ranjit were rushed to CMCH. Saber has 45 percent burns. Saber's wife Kamrunnesa just gave birth to a baby girl and the couple also has a four-year-old son. Abul Fayeze, Saber's nephew, said Saber is the breadwinner of the family. Saber married Kamrunnesa about five years ago. "We don't know where we will get money for uncle's treatment," he said.

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A worker giving finishing touches to thrashing machines in a factory at Ekrampur of Kishoreganj yesterday. The thrashers will be widely in use during the upcoming harvesting season for Boro, one of the three main traditional varieties of rice cultivated in the country.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali hands over a cheque for US \$1 million to William Lacy Swing, director general of the International Organization for Migration, in the IOM headquarters in Geneva of Switzerland on Wednesday, as a contribution to the IOM's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism.

PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS Dependence on coaching centres alarming

Says Supro report; suggests that better education in schools a must for changing the situation
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
School students' dependency on coaching is noticeable and therefore parents have to spend a big portion of money for tuition, stated a draft report of Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan (Supro). Primary schools also arrange coaching to make extra money from students, it added. Supro, an NGO working for good governance, presented separate draft reports on government primary education and government health service at two meetings held in The Daily Star Centre of the capital yesterday. According to health experts, the manpower structure is still being followed in the health sector, said the report which included suggestions of increasing the number of nurses and doctors, developing as well as introducing new infrastructures, and ensuring sufficient supply of equipment

and other medical commodities, the draft on health service mentioned. The organisation prepared the drafts on the basis of their surveys conducted in a total of 24 districts. M Abu Yousuf, professor of Dhaka University's development studies department, said locality-based medicine supply and distribution should be raised and more maternity services should be conducted at community clinics. About education sector, the report suggested close monitoring of school management committee members and book distribution process, and ensuring proper education in schools and thereby narrowing the scope of coaching centres. Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmad, National Education Policy Implementation Committee member, said primary education

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Journo Nadia Sharmeen wins US award
UNB, Dhaka
Nadia Sharmeen, a crime reporter at Ekattor TV and a women's rights advocate, wins the US Secretary of State's International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the IWOC Award is given to honour the courage of extraordinary women all over the world who have played transformative roles in their societies, said a US embassy media release. Sharmeen is the second Bangladeshi woman to earn the prestigious recognition and she will be honoured along with eight other women leaders from across the globe. She along with other awardees will also meet First

PHOTO: COLLECTED