



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.1 L 19.0

CHITTAGONG H 34.1 L 21.0

SYLHET H 33.7 L 16.5

RAJSHAHI H 32.6 L 13.8

KHULNA H 32.0 L 18.0

BARISAL H 32.0 L 16.5

RANGPUR H 29.2 L 15.0

COX'S BAZAR H 34.5 L 20.5

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06pm and rises tomorrow at 6:10am. Country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 11.1 degrees in Srimangal.

# NEWS IN brief

## Arrest warrant for Tarique issued for maligning Bangabandhu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday issued a warrant of arrest for BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman in two cases filed for terming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman a "big Razakar."

Barisal Metropolitan Magistrate Nusrat Jahan issued the arrest of warrant after the BNP leader, now in London, did not appear before the court yesterday as per its order passed on December 22 last year.

Nahid Seraniabad, Govt. BM College unit joint convener of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Advocate Kaiyum Khan Kawsar, Barisal city unit convening committee member of Awami Jubo League, filed the cases.

## Missing boy found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Head injuries, as per Dhaka Medical College morgue sources, resulted in the death of a five-year-old boy whose decomposing body was found floating in a Pallabi wetland yesterday three days after he went missing from his Block C, Baunia Badh residence in the capital.

Hasan Patwari was last seen leaving his residence, rented by his mother Hanufa Begum, around 6:00pm on Sunday.

## Female journos can play big role in fighting graft: TIB boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female journalists can play an important role in combating corruption in the country, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman at an orientation programme yesterday.

TIB organised the programme on the "Role of women journalists in social movement against corruption" at its head office in the capital.

"Corruption is a global problem and it is the prime impediment to social and economic development in a developing country like ours," said Iftekharuzzaman.

The programme was attended by, among others, 32 women journalists, said a press release.

SEE PHOTO ONLINE

## 'Clean Bangladesh' campaign starts

CITY DESK

The Art of Living Foundation has launched its campaign "Clean Bangladesh" in the country.

The campaign was launched with assistance from ICT Division, Bangladesh Computer Council, and Dhaka city corporations.

Under the campaign, among other initiatives, dustbins will be provided in various parts of Dhaka city, presentations against littering will be conducted and trees will be planted, said Jamaluddin Ahmed, the project coordinator.

SEE PHOTO ONLINE

## ERD, FAO celebrate Women's Day

CITY DESK

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of finance ministry, in association with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has celebrated International Women's Day-2015 for the first time, said a press release.

A paper on "Empowering Women to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security" was presented by Dr Rushidan Islam Rahman, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies director (research), while a video was screened by the FAO.

## DU suspends 4 BCL men for harassment, assault on journos

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday suspended four Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists accused of harassment and assaults on journalists and students at TSC while a crowd was celebrating Bangladesh's victory over England in the Cricket World Cup.

The suspended are Ali Abbas of criminology, Taslim Hasan Tuhin of sociology, Kamrul Hasan Sumon of peace and conflict, and Shahriar Nazim Shawn of disaster management and vulnerability studies, all first-year students and loyal to Maksud Rana Mithu, president of BCL's Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall unit.

Four other students will be served show-cause notices, says a press release.

The decisions came in response to two separate complaints filed by DU Journalist Association (Duja) President Masum Billah and a female journalist.

She was among the women harassed during Monday's revelry. When some journalists and students protested, the BCL activists attacked them with bricks, injuring the Duja president, also DU correspondent of the daily Samakal, and Mehedi, a first-year student of mass communication and journalism. They were treated in Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Rasel Chy wins

FROM PAGE 3

More than 2,000 professional and amateur photographers from all over the world submitted applications for the award with the theme "Scarcity-Waste".

American photographer Mustafah Abdulaziz was the winner in the Professional Commission category for his "Water" series. Rasel Chowdhury's photography series "Desperate Urbanization" taken in South Keraniganj of the capital got the second prize for him in the category.

Rasel Chowdhury's work has been published in numerous media outlets, exhibited internationally, and awarded the Ian Parry Scholarship, Getty Image Emergent Artist Award and the Magnum Expression Award.

Photographs by the six finalists are included in The Syngenta Photography Award "Scarcity-Waste" exhibition at Somerset House from March 11 to April 10, 2015.

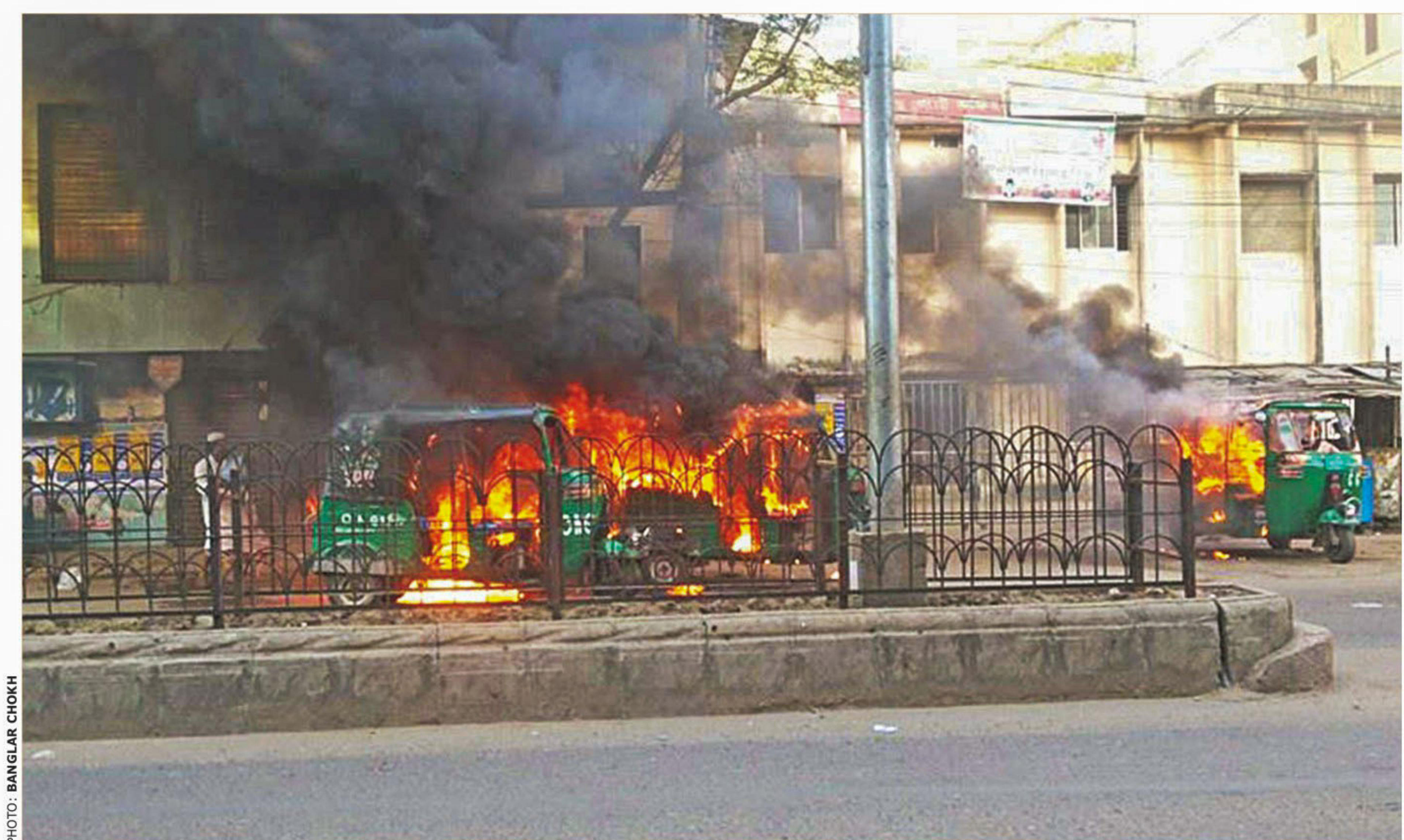


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Four CNG-run auto-rickshaws and an improvised passenger vehicle, not in picture, came under an arson attack in the post office area of Feni town yesterday.

## Dhaka Wasa to start faecal sludge management

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is going to introduce Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) system using Vacutug machines under a public private partnership (PPP) initiative to increase hygiene coverage in the capital.

To this effect, Dhaka Wasa yesterday signed a Vacutug Lease Agreement with Gulshan Clean and Care under the PPP initiative at Wasa Bhaban in the capital.

Dhaka Wasa Commercial Manager Uttam Kuma Roy, WASH specialist of Unicef Shofiqul Alam, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) Country Manager Abdus Shaheen, and project manager of NGO Forum for Public Health M Nurun Nabi, among others, were present at the ceremony.

The PPP initiative is supported by Unicef Bangladesh in collaboration

with WSUP Bangladesh.

Officials said environmental hygiene in Dhaka city is at stake due to the absence of modern FSM services for more than 80 percent households, causing prevalence of different types of intestinal and water borne diseases. Dhaka Wasa now can bring only 20 percent of households under the FSM service.

This agreement will allow households of the city to have access to Dhaka Wasa-supported professional emptying services, known as SWEEP. In most cases, pit latrines and septic tanks are manually emptied by informal service providers, posing health risks to both the public and the service providers themselves.

Sharing their views at the signing ceremony, Dhaka Wasa officials pointed out that improved FSM service is imperative to address the increasing demand of the densely populated Dhaka city.

## Hefajat asks for end to violence thru talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Qawmi madrasa based organisation Hefajat-e-Islam Bangladesh yesterday asked the government and opposition to solve the current political crisis through dialogue.

Addressing a press conference in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong, its chief Shah Ahmed Shafi said the crisis arose because the government was formed without majority support.

He accused arrogant politicians of dividing the nation and putting the country in a state of anarchy through abolition of the caretaker government system.

Reading out a statement, the Hefajat ameer urged the government not to falsely implicate Qawmi madrasa students with militancy and arms seizures.

## DAMS DAMAGED BY CYCLONES Why directions for repair should not be issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to quickly repair dams which were damaged due to cyclones Sidr and Aila in four southern districts of the country.

In a rule, the court asked the government to show cause why its inaction to reconstruct the damaged dams in Barguna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts should not be declared illegal.

The HC also ordered the government to submit a report before it in three months on how many dams were damaged in the cyclones and their condition at the moment.

The HC came up with the rule and order following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The organisation submitted the petition on March 2, saying water of southern coastal areas of the country has reportedly become saline as the dams of the areas were damaged when Sidr and Aila hit the country.

Thousands of people living in those areas have been using saline water which is harmful to their health and livelihoods, said the organisation, adding that the government has not taken any effective step to reconstruct the damaged dams.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital's (DMCH) haematology department and Massachusetts General Hospital of the USA bring out a "cancer walk" from DMCH, ending at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, marking the day before when, one year ago, Bangladesh's first Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit in DMCH conducted the first transplant. The event was also aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of donating bone marrow.



PHOTO: STAR

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Md Barkat Ullah, a teacher, died in his home in Manikganj town yesterday. He was 75.

## Withdraw

FROM PAGE 3

Khaleda the distress the burn victims were going through.

Former health minister Dr Ruhul Haque, who led the group with Dr Millat, said the government was successfully "controlling the situation" and the blockade and hartal calls were having no effect.

The group had broken off from a larger procession heading towards the office but stopped by police at the Banani field.

## Missing man's family seeks PM's

FROM PAGE 3

day after his disappearance identified Pintu as loyal to Awami League, Salam and Rani to BNP, and Rahim to Jatiya Party. Majed drew their wrath after he replaced Salam as the overseer of the mosque's properties on January 21.

"Salam had forcibly taken the charge of mosque management when BNP came to power after 2000," said Ambia.

The remaining three were not directly involved with the committee but were friends of Salam.

The mosque, situated on a land of 19 decimals, generates Tk 10-12 lakh a month through the 44 shops set up on its premises to bear the maintenance expenses, she said.

Majed intervened last year after the mosque's water tank collapsed, killing two pedestrians, exposing to the residents the negligence in managing the mosque, Ambia said.

Majed owned a business of garment accessories and was not involved with the management body before, though his ancestors donated the mosque land, claimed the family.

But police initially denied Ambia her right to seek legal protection and justice by refusing to accept a case over his disappearance until the media brought it to light.

They finally recorded it three days into Majed's disappearance, but dropped four names from the letter of complaint submitted by Ambia.

The Daily Star has a copy of the letter.

At the news conference, Ambia was desperate to make the point that her husband was not involved in politics, at a time when the political turmoil is marked by disappearances allegedly at the hands of law enforcers for containing violence.

Some innocents reportedly have fallen victims to this move due to enmity.

"...I swear, my husband had never been involved in politics," Ambia wrote in the statement given to journalists during the conference.

The case investigator, Mominul Islam, sub-inspector at Paltan Model Police Station, defended police, saying the complainant was not confident about accusing the four.

Nevertheless, the case was transferred to detectives for investigation yesterday, taking into account the names of the four, he said.

In an air-conditioned VIP room, next to the one where the family sweated to hold the conference, a protest of pro-BNP cultural group Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Jote was underway. They vowed to uphold democracy and prevent injustice, but uttered not a word relating to disappearances.

## Manna

FROM PAGE 3

conversation with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Manna was picked up by plainclothes men from his niece's house in Banani on February 24. Around 20 hours later, law enforcers claimed that they had arrested Nagorik Oikya chief.

In the conversation, Manna was heard talking about strengthening the anti-government movement, among other issues.

Addressing yesterday's rally, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, said there should be a suo moto rule from the High Court asking the authorities concerned to explain where Manna had been kept during those 20 hours.

Asif Nazrul, a professor of law at Dhaka University, said all the citizens should raise voices together for good governance, protection of human rights and fair election.

## ICT grants

FROM PAGE 4

The agency, through prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon, sought the interrogation consent and the prosecution itself, submitting a progress report, more time for investigations.

Defence lawyer Nazrul Islam sought the treatment citing Mahibur's eye problems and Majibur's diabetes and other complications.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan was on leave.