

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.01 L 21.0	H 32.71 L 21.0	H 35.01 L 19.4	H 34.21 L 17.6	H 34.51 L 22.5	H 34.61 L 21.8	H 31.21 L 18.8	H 34.01 L 21.5

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am. Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Faridpur & Patuakhali and lowest 15.4 degrees in Srimangal.

Fakhrul, Rizvi, Falu denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday turned down separate bail petitions filed by three BNP leaders including the party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in connection with five arson cases. The other leaders are: BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Ahmed and Mosaddek Ali Falu, adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. The order came after their lawyers submitted separate bail petitions against rejection orders from the lower courts on different dates. Among the five cases, two were filed against Fakhrul on January 5 in connection with torching vehicles and exploding crude bombs in the capital's Motijheel and Paltan areas on January 4. On January 6, detectives picked up Fakhrul as he came out of the Jatiya Press Club and later he was shown arrested in seven cases and was remanded for several days. Rizvi was denied bail in two cases filed with Jatrabari police for arson.

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Dumping of garbage goes unabated on the bank of the river Turag right where a signboard seeks assistance from people in making the water-body free from pollution by avoiding such malpractice. The photo was taken from Pashchim Abdullapur in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Charge sheets in Taqi, N'ganj 7 murder cases soon

Says Asaduzzaman Khan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The charge sheets in the Narayanganj seven-murder case and the murder case of Tanwir Muhammed Taqi will be submitted soon, said State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday. He was responding to queries from journalists after a programme in which two patrol boats were handed over to Bangladesh Coast Guard in Senakanda of Narayanganj yesterday. Asaduzzaman said persons who murdered the seven have been identified. Talking about Nur Hossain, the case's prime accused, he said India has agreed to repatriate him and he would be brought back soon. He also said the Taqi murder case would be handed over to Rab for a more transparent investigation. Seven people, including Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan

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PM inaugurates 20 mobile apps to smoothen govt info services

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated 20 mobile apps developed by the government to provide information and its services to the people of the country in a smoother way. The prime minister inaugurated the apps while visiting the ICT Division. The apps are on the Election Commission, the civil aviation and tourism ministry, BKSP, NBR, ERD and Rupali Bank under the finance ministry, Rice

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Hasina reiterates promise of Digital Bangladesh by 2021

Says 4G internet services to be introduced soon

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed afresh to establish Digital Bangladesh by 2021 saying that the country has already achieved much progress to this end. In this connection, the prime minister directed the officials concerned of the Information and Communication Technology Division to expedite works on launching the country's first satellite "Bagabandhu Satellite" into space. The government wants to install the country's own satellite in space within the stipulated time, she added. She was speaking at a meeting with senior officials of the division at Agargaon in the capital.

Use of ICT on rise in universities

Say educationists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Use of information and communications technology in the country's universities is increasing, said educationists at the opening ceremony of "Meet BdREN 2015" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban at Dhaka University yesterday. University Grants Commission Chairman AK Azad Chowdhury, and DU VC AAMS Arefin Siddique spoke while Steve Wolff, principal scientist of Internet2 of USA, presented the keynote, said a release.

TORTURE, CUSTODIAL DEATH (PREVENTION) ACT Publicly reject amendment proposal from police

Ain o Salish Kendra urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing grave concern over a recent police proposal seeking amendments to the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, Ain o Salish Kendra yesterday demanded that the recommendations, "which are in conflict with the constitution", be publicly rejected. In a press release, the rights organisation said the government should clearly state that impartial and credible investigations would be conducted over torture allegations and that anyone found guilty would not be spared. Allegations of torture and deaths in custody, which are sheer human rights

violations, have arisen against law enforcers, it added. The police headquarters sent the recommendations on the act's sections and subsections to the home ministry recently, seeking amendments to 14 and dropping of seven. It proposed scrapping Section 12 that says no excuses like war situation, threat of war, political instability, state of emergency, or orders of senior official or the government authorities will be acceptable for any crime under this law. Piloted by Awami League MP Saber Hossain Chowdhury in 2009 and passed in 2013 in line with a UN convention adopted

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Jannati Hossain yet to be released

3 days past being granted HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young entrepreneur Jannati Hossain is yet to be released although the High Court granted her bail on March 12 in a case filed over the death of her business partner Mostamsir Ashraf. Senior Jail Superintendent Farman Ali of Dhaka Central Jail told The Daily Star yesterday that they have not received any bail bond while the government informed them of a petition it filed with the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the bail verdict. The petition will likely be moved before the SC chamber judge today, said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, adding that his office was doing so on government instructions. Circumstances centring the bail bond could not be ascertained as the HC verdict's full text is yet to be released. Jannati crashed Mostamsir's car

into a parked police van near the capital's Mohakhali flyover on July 11, 2014. Mostamsir, sitting beside her, died on way to a nearby hospital, police said. Tejgaon police sued her for reckless driving. Ten days later, Mostamsir's family lodged a case against Jannati, her brothers Jubair and Junaid, father Delwar Hossain and husband Raymen Siddique, alleging it was a planned murder to take over his business. Mostamsir is the son of Khan Mohammad Abdul Mannan, a former district court judge now serving as the inspector general of registration (land). Of the 15 people named as prosecution witnesses, four are high-profile government officials. Jannati and Mostamsir launched Echo Sparks, a music cafe and gaming zone in Uttara, in December 2013. Her family says she has other businesses in partnership with Raymen.



Jannati Hossain

BARAPUKURIA COALMINE CASE Judgment on Khaleda's challenge deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday for the second time deferred the date for delivering verdict to April 5 on a petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for quashing the proceedings of Barapukuria coalmine corruption case against her. The order came after hearing of a time petition filed by Khaleda. Moving the petition, Khaleda's lawyer Bodroddoza Badal told the court that her senior counsel Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and her filing lawyer AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon failed to appear before the court for placing arguments due to their personal difficulties. In the ongoing Supreme Court Bar Association election, Khandaker Mahbub is contesting for the post of its president while Khokon for the post of secretary, he said. Earlier on March 5, the court fixed March 10 for delivering the judgment after hearing arguments from Khurshid Alam Khan, a counsel for the Anti-Corruption Commission, which filed the case on February 26, 2008. Later, the court deferred the judgement date to March 15 as Khaleda's lawyer

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Dhaka, Ctg city corporation polls likely on same day: EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is likely to hold polls to both the Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations on the same day, believed to be at April's end or the first week of May, which is expected to be announced by this week. If held on separate days, "one city's poll result may affect another's... However, the decision is yet to be finalised," a top EC official, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star yesterday. Meanwhile, Election

Commissioner Shah Nawaz told journalists at his EC Secretariat office in the capital that preparations were almost complete. "Some minor tasks remained unfinished. After solving these minor tasks, we will hold commission meeting for finalising poll schedule," he said. On campaigns of aspiring candidates, he said EC had no jurisdiction on saying anything before the schedule's announcement. "However, we have a plan to check election expenditure of these campaigners," he said, adding that punitive measures would be taken if it

exceeds the legally-set limit. The last election to an undivided Dhaka city corporation (DCC) was held on April 2002, and its tenure expired in May 2007. The last Chittagong City Corporation election was held in 2010. The DCC election was held back for reasons, including the then state of emergency and complexities regarding boundary demarcation. The LGRD ministry last month removed the complexities and requested the EC to take necessary steps for holding the DCC polls.

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