

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.3 L 22.7	CHITTAGONG H 29.2 L 20.2	SYLHET H 29.2 L 19.7	RAJSHAHI H 33.0 L 20.3	KHULNA H 32.5 L 22.0	BARISAL H 32.0 L 21.7	RANGPUR H 28.2 L 20.0	COX'S BAZAR H 29.2 L 20.0
---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:21am. Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Mongla and Chittagong and lowest 18.0 in Dinajpur.

NEWS IN brief

Mohiuddin to work for Ctg mayor aspirant Nasir
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Awami League President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who earlier announced to run for mayorship, said yesterday that he would campaign for party colleague AJM Nasir Uddin, who won AL central committee's blessings for the run on Friday.

Fire guts Ashulia cotton godown
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Fire gutted a cotton godown at Shimultola of Ashulia in Savar, outside the capital, early yesterday. The fire that started at Mannan Bhuyan's Cotton Godown around 1:20am was doused after three hours' efforts, said Fire Service and Civil Defense officials. However, the reason behind the fire and the extent of damage could not be known immediately, added the officials.

Man fatally burnt as his house catches fire
OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A man was burnt alive when his house in Pilkuni area in Fatullah, outside the capital, caught fire yesterday morning. The deceased Abul Bepari, 65, of the area was a cloth trader and the fire might have originated from a cigarette butt, said Abul's wife Jabuna Begum. Police said the fire is likely to be an accident and the furniture of the house was also gutted.

JU freshmen classes start Saturday
JU CORRESPONDENT

The classes of first-year honours programme under the 2014-15 academic session at Jahangirnagar University (JU) will begin on Saturday. The decision was taken at an admission committee meeting where Vice-Chancellor Farzana Islam was present. The JU authority will accord a reception to the freshers on Monday, said Deputy Registrar Mohammad Ali. The university authority also decided to cancel admissions of the students who will remain absent in the classes for 10 consecutive days without the department head's permission.

Pro-AL panel sweeps Ruta election
RU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League yellow panel swept Rajshahi University Teachers' Association election yesterday bagging 14 of the 15 posts. Prof Habibur Rahman, the election commissioner, announced the results officially in the evening. Prof Ananda Kumar Saha of zoology and Prof M Rezaul Karim Badal of biochemistry and molecular science were elected president and general secretary respectively.

Akther new chairperson of BYLC
CITY DESK

Akther Matin Chaudhury, chairman and managing director of Nuvista Pharma Limited, was elected chairperson of the governing board of BYLC for the term 2015-2017. The decision was made at the organisation's sixth Annual General Meeting at its headquarters yesterday. The meeting was attended by general and governing board members. The members at the meeting also approved the organisation's annual report, audited financial statements for 2014 and discussed programmatic priorities for 2015.



Postponement of MCCI's Quarterly Luncheon Meeting

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the quarterly luncheon meeting of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) scheduled to be held on Sunday, the 22nd April 2015 at 11.30 a.m. in the MCCI's conference hall, Chamber Building, 122-124, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka, has been postponed. All respected invitees are requested to kindly note the postponement of the luncheon meeting. Any inconvenience caused to respected invitees is sincerely regretted.



Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Harijan Nari Oikya Parishad form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday marking International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. They placed several demands including quotas for Harijans and Dalits in educational institutions as per the prime minister's directives, ensuring jobs for their children who are educated, reserving 80 percent of jobs of sweepers and cleaners for them, inclusion in social safety net programmes and passing in parliament a law on the elimination of racial and caste discrimination.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Two found dead in capital

Including 4yr-old girl
DU CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified youth, aged around 26, was found dead near the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission office on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

A security team of DU first noticed the body in the morning and informed police.

The body bore injury marks on the head and neck, said Shafiar Rahman, sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy, he said, adding that a case was filed.

Dr Sohel Mahmud, assistant professor of Forensic Medicine Department of Dhaka Medical College, could not confirm whether it was a murder or a road accident after autopsy.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

DHAKA, CTG CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS
Political parties flouting law by backing mayor aspirants

Says SHUJAN adding that it is an attempt to influence outcome, urges EC to check campaigning outside timeframe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties including the ruling Awami League (AL) ignored existing electoral laws by announcing backing their party leaders who are aspirant Dhaka and Chittagong city corporation mayors, said Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN) yesterday. Nor should the parties hold back anyone from contesting, officials of the civil society platform working for

good governance, apparently pointing at BNP, told a press conference.

Such interferences in local government polls, which are non-partisan in nature, are nothing but attempts to influence results, added a written statement they read out.

Besides, many aspiring candidates are violating the electoral code of conduct by campaigning outside the legally-set timeframe, using billboards, posters, banners and

leaflets, says the statement.

Campaigning is allowed only in the 21 days prior to the start of voting while use of billboards is prohibited.

"If the elections are influenced by political parties and black money, the poll result may be questioned," it read.

Criticising the Election Commission for remaining silent on these matters, SHUJAN urged it to play

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Govt will find excuse to postpone polls if BNP participates

Kader Siddique tells press; urges Khaleda-Hasina dialogue, end to blockade, hartals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Krishok Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddique yesterday said the government would find an excuse to postpone elections to Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations if BNP participated in those.

"The ruling party-backed candidates will definitely lose... if free and fair elections take place and BNP joins," he told a press conference in front of his party's Motijheel office in the capital.

The freedom fighter and former Awami League leader has been staging a sit-in at the place since January 28, demanding

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Just a government trick for showing smaller number of child marriages

Says Samajtantrik Mahila Forum about conditional lowering of females' marriageable age, echoed by eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's move to lower the marriageable age for females in certain cases seems to be a trick to give an impression that the number of child marriages has reduced in the country, said a statement of Samajtantrik Mohila Forum, which was supported by quite a few eminent persons yesterday.

According to a law drafted by the women and children's affairs ministry, if a 16-year-old girl marries with the consent of her parents or the court for justified reasons, then in this case, she will not be considered as an underage or a minor.

The forum's statement said it is a Unicef's report of September 2014, which showed a higher rate of child marriage in Bangladesh, that has prompted the formulation of the law.

Shampa Basu, secretary to the organisation, read out the statement at a meeting titled "16 as marriageable age on condition: New obstacle in the way of women's freedom", organised by the the fourm at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

According to the Unicef report, the average rate of child marriage in the country is 65 percent and 74 percent of children are married off before turning 18 while 39 percent are married off before turning 15 which is the highest rate in the world.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



A long trench dug for installation of sewerage pipes has nearly shut down Road 7/B in the capital's Banani for the last two to three weeks, according to shop owners in the area, but the authorities apparently have no interest in ending the public sufferings. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

InnStar
Experience the largest
Swimming Pool & Gym
in Gulshan 1

Call 01750050667 for details and pricing

Youth's body with slit throat found in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police recovered body of a youth with a slit-throat from his house in Pagla Naymati area of Narayanganj Sadar yesterday.

The deceased Jalal Ahmed, 35, was allegedly involved in drug trading, said police.

His body also bore several hacking marks. It was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for an

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

