



WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 32.8 L 22.5	CHITTAGONG H 31.6 L 25.0	SYLHET H 32.1 L 22.4	RAJSHAHI H 32.3 L 21.8	KHULNA H 33.5 L 22.6	BARISAL H 31.8 L 22.3	RANGPUR H 31.5 L 21.2	COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 23.0
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Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the seven divisions till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:26pm and rises tomorrow at 05:26am.

Open Saidpur airport for international relief flights to Nepal

Prime minister asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to open the Saidpur airport in the northern district of Nilphamari to foreign flights carrying relief supplies for the earthquake-struck people of neighbouring Nepal.



"If any country wishes to use the airport facility to send relief supplies to Nepal, it should be kept available," she told her cabinet colleagues while discussing Saturday's massive earthquake, after the cabinet meeting at the Secretariat.

After landing of the aircraft, the goods would be transported by road to Nepal through India, a minister quoted the premier as saying.

Relief materials have started pouring in to Kathmandu from across the world, with more countries poised to send assistance. Four thousand people were killed in the earthquake.

The quake, which struck on Saturday, is known to have injured at least 7,000 people, reports the BBC. Nepal says it needs everything from blankets and helicopters to doctors and drivers, it adds.



A team of Nepali students of Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College in Sylhet collects donations from a jewelry shop in Sylhet city yesterday, for victims of an earthquake and its aftershocks that have struck the small Himalayan country since Saturday, with the death toll topping 4,000. A number of local youths volunteered in the fund raising efforts.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

RMG workers in Savar demand post-earthquake building check

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Following the recent earthquakes in Nepal, several thousand workers of three garment factories demonstrated in Birulia-Savar road yesterday demanding the authorities concerned examine the buildings to see if they are fit.

Management of Vision Group closed three of their factories -- Vision Garments Ltd, Vision Composite Knit Ltd and Vision Washing Ltd -- for the day in the face of workers' demonstration.

The workers claimed after the two consecutive earthquakes, they have noticed cracks in the seven-storey building that housed Vision Composite Knit Ltd. They said the factory management told them that the building was safe but they demand expert opinions. Police were deployed in the area.

Pay commission report analysis by secys soon: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said a secretary-level review committee on the pay commission would provide him its report within a couple of days and it would come into effect on July 1.

Talking to journalists after a pre-budget meeting with secretaries in his secretariat office, he said afterwards the ministerial committee would discuss it and then it would be placed in the cabinet meeting.

So about a month will be required to complete the process, he said. "I have already announced that it will be effective from July. However, whether both salary and allowances will be made effective simultaneously or in phases has not yet been decided".

The commission, led by Mohammed Farashuddin, submitted the report to Muhith on December 21, 2014. The committee is expected to bring slight changes to the commission's recommendations so that the government's expenditure decreases by Tk 1,500 crore to Tk 2,000 crore, a finance ministry official said.

Six robbers held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested six robbers along with two guns and several sharp weapons from Mirsharai upazila of Chittagong yesterday in connection with a robbery in Joranganj upazila.

Four of them are Tyeby Nobi, Kamal Hossain, Md Selim, and Aminur Rahan.

7 SLAIN OR HURT IN POLITICAL ARSON DURING BNP-LED BLOCKADE, HARTALS

Families seek Khaleda's punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of seven persons who died or were grievously injured in attacks during the BNP-led 20-party's recent blockade and strikes yesterday demanded that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia be punished.

"Yesterday she sought justice from Allah for attacks on her. We too want justice from Allah for what she had done to us," said Nur Jahan Begum. She lost her only son in a crude bomb attack at Phulbari on January 14.

The grievances and protest against Khaleda's claim of innocence came at a programme Britanno'71 Foundation organised in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Nur Jahan said, "Khaleda claims that she is not responsible for the attack. How can we believe her? Where was she when our sons, husbands and sisters had been suffering at the hospital?...But, she now comes out and seeks vote."

Nur Jahan's son Ovi was studying arts and humanities in Kobi Nazrul Islam Government College. A pro-

blockade picket at Phulbari had hurled the bomb while he was returning to his Laxmibazar home in Old Dhaka.

Alauddin, father of victim Shafiqul, said, "When he cries out in pain, it is unbearable for a father. What will be of his future?"

Shafiqul, a Narayanganj resident, suffered burns when the bus he was on was attacked in Comilla's Chouddogram on the night of February 3.

"Do not burn us. Do not separate a mother from her children," they requested.



Alauddin narrates the daily ordeals of his arson victim son Shafiqul at a programme Britanno'71 Foundation organised in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. The bus Shafiqul was on came under attack in Comilla's Chouddogram on the night of February 3. On Alauddin's left is Nur Jahan Begum who lost her only son in a crude bomb attack at Phulbari on January 14.

PHOTO: STAR

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shiba Ghosh, 7, son of Manik Ghosh of village Harishpur in Godagari upazila in Rajshahi, has been suffering from blood cancer for the last three months.



He is currently undergoing treatment at the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

His treatment would require about Tk 5 lakh which is impossible for his family to afford.

His family, therefore, sought assistance from the affluent families and individuals.

Aid can be sent into bank account: 11515196828, Dutch Bangla Bank, Branch Mirpur-1, Dhaka. Uncle of Shiba, Uttam Kumar, can also be contacted at 01723-798435 or 01963-363729.

US embassy to remain closed today

CITY DESK

The US embassy in Dhaka, including the American Center, will be closed today. Normal operation at the embassy will resume tomorrow, according to the embassy's Facebook post.

Chittagong

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to influence vote in favour of AL-backed mayor candidate AJM Nasir Uddin, they said.

They, however, expected Manju to be elected by a large margin if people can vote.

They expressed the intent to stay till votes end at 4:00pm, saying it was to encourage voters. When people fail to do so, they will see how only criminals and AL cadres have been given the right to get involved in politics, they added.

NEWS IN brief

Swechchhasebak Dal activist arrested in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested an activist of Sylhet city-unit Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal from Shahjalal suburb area of the city on Sunday on different charges.

The arrestee is Joynal Ahmed. He was accused in four cases. Of them two are for subversive activities and one is for torching vehicles and another for preventing police from discharging their duties.

Boy killed by friend over game of cricket in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A boy, who was beaten over a trivial matter while playing cricket in Rangpur city on Friday, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The deceased was Sunny Ahmed, 12, son of Omar Ali of Shalban area.

Police said one of Sunny's playmates beat him up with a cricket bat following an altercation over a decision during a match at Rangpur Polytechnic Institute ground. Sunny's father lodged a case accusing six people.

Missing boy found dead in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police recovered the decomposed body of a boy from a drain in Darsan Dewri area of Sylhet city yesterday after he went missing on Friday.

Babul Miah, 12, son of Shamsul Haque of Jalalabad resident area and a class-four student went missing while returning from school in the afternoon, said police.

Fire kills Gazipur worker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A construction worker died and six others sustained burn injuries in a fire that broke out in a compressor room of an under-construction factory in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased was Rehana Begum. The injured are: Fazlur Rahman, 23, Abdul Malek, Dulal Hossain, Zahidul Islam, Mohammed Yasin and Abu Hossain. Police said a leaking gas pipe caught fire when a maid was cooking food for the workers, who were sleeping at Agami Washing Ltd around 6:15am. Fire-fighters doused the blaze after an hour.

Road crashes kill 4

CITY DESK

Four people were killed and four others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday and Sunday.

In Thakurgaon, Limon Bala, 70, of Thurnia-Chetonavita village was killed and four people were injured when a tractor collided head-on with a three-wheeler on Thakurgaon-Baliadangi road in Baliadangi upazila on Sunday.

In Naogaon, three people were killed when a truck hit a three-wheeler on Naogaon-Rajshahi road in Bijipur area of Manda upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Mozammel Haque, 47, Taijuddin, 30, and Uzzal Hossain, 28, of Naogaon.

Family of each dead person should get

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The committee observed the absence of a comprehensive list of injured or traumatised rescuers and that the ministry concerned could prepare one to provide compensation.

"For the deceased and permanently maimed rescuers, the minimum compensation can be the aforesaid amount (same as the dead workers) or the ministry concerned can specify a greater amount."

Workers using prosthetics should be issued certificates by the ministry concerned identifying them as "Affected of Rana Plaza Collapse", allowing them to receive necessary treatment from government hospitals.

"Besides, a government fund can be allocated for any future need of prosthetics."

Issuing a suo moto rule on April 30, 2013, the HC ordered the government to form a committee led by the GOC to determine the compensation rates. The HC bench led by Justice Mirza Hussain Haider yesterday fixed May 4 to deal with the rule.

Other committee members include Dhaka University Prof M M Akash, Joint Secretary to the Labour Ministry Md Faizur Rahman, Labour Department Director Abu Sayeed Md Khorshedul Alam, Prof Rakib Ahsan of Buet, Dhaka's Civil Surgeon Md A Malek Mridha, BGMEA representative Jaglul Haidar, Dhaka's Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Jasim Uddin and Col Fazal Shayekhuzzaman.

Explain remarks about

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her appeal. The SC fixed May 11 for further hearing on the observations. Additional Attorney General Momtaz Uddin Fakir told The Daily Star. The Appellate Division on November 29, 2010 upheld the HC verdict that had declared valid the government notice asking Khaleda to leave her previous residence.

The government on November 13, 2010 evicted Khaleda from her previous residence on grounds that the SC upheld the HC verdict that declared valid the government notice asking Khaleda to vacate the residence within a month.

In 1981, the then president Justice Abdus Sattar allotted the house on 165 kathas of land to Khaleda on a deed of lease for one taka.



Participants at a workshop on "Children's Mental Health" organised by Trustworthy Foundation, a NGO working to support mentally challenged children, in National Bangla High School in Mirpur of the capital on Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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