

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.5 L 24.5	H 34.3 L 25.0	H 24.0 L 23.8	H 34.6 L 23.8	H 24.2 L 25.3	H 34.7 L 25.5	H 33.2 L 24.8	H 33.5 L 25.4

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur in a few places in Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, but the weather may remain mostly dry with partly cloudy sky in other divisions of the country till 6:00pm today, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49am.

Another productive meeting with Hasina

Modi tweets after they discuss bilateral ties in New York

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday met his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina in New York and discussed the status of bilateral relations and ways to take these forward. This is the third meeting between the two leaders in recent months, and it came against the backdrop of settlement of the land boundary question. After the discussion with Hasina, Modi tweeted, "Yet



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at a hotel in New York on Thursday, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday, right.



PHOTO: PID

Hasina's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 69th birthday of Prime Minister and ruling Awami League's President Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, the eldest daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born on September 28 in 1947 in Tungipara of Gopalganj. On the occasion, A Dhaka city unit will hold a doa mahfil and a discussion at 4:00pm at the party central office on Bangabandhu Avenue. Besides, different front organisations of the party have taken several programmes. AL Central Working Committee will issue birthday wishes.

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DHL increases prices for next year

Bangladesh to see 4.9pc hike

DHL Express has announced its annual general average price increase, which will be effective from January 1 next year. In Bangladesh, the price increase will be 4.9 percent, said a statement of the international express services provider yesterday. "The whole essence of DHL Express is about providing outstanding service quality for our customers throughout the world," said Ken Allen, CEO of DHL Express. "Our annual price increase enables us to continue investing in our international time definite

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Khaleda sees good people in AL

Says she will work with them; BNP men in London scuffle among themselves over who will greet her first

There are good and patriotic people in the Awami League, and BNP will take these people along to lead Bangladesh towards prosperity if the party comes to power through a free and fair election, said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. "We want to engage in politics of peace, unity and development," she said while exchanging Eid-ul-Azha greetings with the party men in London on Friday. She said people in Bangladesh would be bound to take to the streets very soon, a Dhaka based journalist staying in the UK quoted her as saying. Termining the present Sheikh Hasina-led government "illegal and unelected", Khaleda called upon Bangladeshi expatriates to play their roles in the opposition's movement to restore democracy in Bangladesh like they did during the 1971 Liberation War. "The whole nation has turned into a big prison and it is now waiting to be free," she added. This is for the first time Khaleda celebrated Eid abroad with her family members including her elder son

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ILO to start scheme for RMG workers' rights

Bangladesh, Sweden ink deal

A new initiative has been launched by the International Labour Organization and funded by the Swedish government to enhance workers' rights and industrial relations in Bangladesh's garment sector. An agreement in this regard was signed in New York on Saturday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting. Mikail Shipar, labour and employment secretary; Isabella Lövin, Swedish minister for international development cooperation, and Guy Ryder, ILO director general, signed the deal. Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali attended the event. Sweden will provide about US\$5.4 million for the project "Promoting social dialogue and harmonious industrial relations in the Bangladesh readymade garment industry". The initiative will run from November 2015 to December 2020, said an ILO state-

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Skypower to invest \$4.3b in Bangladesh solar power sector

Skypower Global, one of the world's largest and most successful utility-scale solar power producing companies, will invest 4.3 billion US dollars in solar power sector in Bangladesh. Kerry Adler, president and CEO of the Canada-based multinational company, announced this at a roundtable meeting of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hotel Waldorf Astoria in New York on Friday. PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said the company agreed for the investment to set up a 2,000-megawatt solar power plant in next four years in Bangladesh. The company will set up its office in Tungipara, the birthplace of Hasina which will create job opportunities for 42,000 people. Besides, the company will donate Bangladesh 1.5 million home lanterns. Addressing the meeting, Hasina said opportunities are enormous for investment in Bangladesh's shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals, jute and jute good production, light engineering and sea resources exploration sectors as well.



Low-income people through a sprawling makeshift meat market under the Khilgaon Flyover in the capital on Eid day, where the sellers were offering meat, collected as alms from households that had sacrificed animals, for Tk 250 per kg, way below the normal market price.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Petroleum import policy in offing

Supply chain may get diversified

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division is preparing a policy for the import of petroleum, which may bring an end to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's (BPC) "monopoly" in selecting foreign suppliers. Official sources said the division had proposed seven criteria in its draft policy in choosing the companies to import petroleum under the government-to-government deals. It said a company must be 100 percent state-owned to become eligible to supply. The company must have the annual export volume of minimum 2 million metric tonnes of petroleum having a turnover of \$5 billion and 5 years' oil export experience. The company should also not face any embargo by international agencies like the United Nations, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), or the World Trade Organization (WTO). Another condition is the supplier must have a production sharing contract (PSC) with its own country or any other country. However, nothing was said about the bidding process to choose a private supplier. Energy and Mineral Resources Division Deputy Secretary Farzana Momtaz said the proposed policy was not finalised yet. At present, there is no specific policy or guideline for the import of petroleum from global markets, although the country has to import 5 million metric tonnes of both crude and refined petroleum. Crude oil accounts for 1.5 million, and the rest is refined oil. For the last several years, the government has been importing refined oil from state-owned companies of different countries under state-to-state or G-to-G deals. But there is no guideline about how much fuel should be imported from which companies or countries. The practice is that the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), the state-owned petroleum importing agency, just negotiates with the companies and settles the quantity of import on a bilateral basis. In this case, the BPC applies its arbitrary and discretionary power to determine the quantity of import and also the supplying source. The matter came up for discussion in recent meetings of the Cabinet Economic Affairs Committee and Cabinet Purchase Committee, which felt the necessity of having a certain guideline and policy for petroleum import in approving such deals. Some energy experts also feel that the government has to look into the quality, price and reliability of timely supply. Dr M Tamim, head of the Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said it was still a matter of debate whether the import should be made under G-to-G deals or through open tenders.

Rooppur nuke project to be modern, safe

Claims Russian expert

The 2,400-megawatt Rooppur nuclear power plant (RNPP) is going to be a very modern project as additional safety measures have been taken to make it resistant to powerful tsunamis, claims a Russian expert. Semchenkov Yuriy, chief of Kurchatov Nuclear Technology Complex (Kurchatov Institute), said additional measures have been taken in designing reactors while "emergency responding areas" are unlikely to exceed three kilometers in case of severe accident which means there will be no impact beyond three kilometers of the plant. Earlier, Russian Ambassador in Dhaka

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RTI Act pivotal for state's transparency

Says President Abdul Hamid

President Abdul Hamid has said the Right to Information (RTI) Act plays a pivotal role in empowering people, establishing rights, and ensuring transparency and accountability in state affairs. In a message yesterday, on the eve of International Right to Know Day, the president said information kept people aware and helped take the right decision. "The RTI Act plays a prominent role in setting up a well-governed society by promoting transparency and accountability in state affairs. Free flow of information strengthens citizens' right to access to information as well as empowers people to exercise their right at both society and state levels," he said. "The RTI is the fundamental and constitutional right of the people. The incumbent government passed the Right to Information Act, 2009...and to that effect ensured free flow of information in the country," he added. He said the Information Commission had taken different measures to apprise people of the very basics of the RTI with the help of public as well as private radio and television networks and print media. As a result, people are becoming more and more aware of their right to information and well-versed with the techniques of using this act, he added.

Ex-DGM of defunct Oriental Bank sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former deputy general manager of now defunct Oriental Bank Imamul Haque to jail in connection with a case filed for embezzling Tk 1.7 crore from the bank. Judge Akhtaruzzaman of the Special Judge's Court-5 gave the order after he surrendered before it in the case filed by the then Bureau of Anti-Corruption on December 29, 2006. On August 25 this year, the court sentenced seven people, including Imamul, to life imprisonment and fined them about Tk 1.08 crore for embezzling the money. Other convicts are former Senior Vice-President of the bank Shah Mohammad Harun, Senior Assistant Vice-President

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Admission seekers to medical colleges demonstrate at Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday, demanding cancellation of the recent admission test, questions of which got leaked, and punishment for the perpetrators.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN