



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.2 | L 24.7

CHITTAGONG H 31.2 | L 24.0

SYLHET H 31.9 | L 23.0

RAJSHAHI H 32.0 | L 23.2

KHULNA H 33.0 | L 24.3

BARISAL H 31.5 | L 24.1

RANGPUR H 32.0 | L 24.0

COX'S BAZAR H 29.5 | L 25.5

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35pm and rises tomorrow at 5:55am. Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chandpur and lowest 21.6 in Bogra.

Mahalaya celebrated nationwide

3-day public holiday on Durga Puja demanded
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindus yesterday celebrated the Mahalaya, the auspicious occasion heralding the advent of goddess Durga.

Mahalaya that is considered as ceremonial invocation of goddess Durga is observed seven days prior to the initiation of the Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the community.

Hindus believe the earth prepares itself and welcomes the coming of the Goddess and her children, through the celebration.

The four-day Durga Puja will begin on October 19, amid wispy autumn clouds in the translucent blue sky and fragrance of Sheuli flowers that will mark the arrival of the goddess.

This year, Mahanabomi and Bijoya Dashami will be celebrated the same day on October 22.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday demanded a three-day public holiday on the occasion of Durga Puja, while currently there is a single holiday.

They placed the demand at a views exchange meeting with journalists at Dhakeshwari National Temple.

"We demand sufficient security measures, uninterrupted electricity and water supply at puja mandaps and colourful decoration of the government buildings, including Gono Bhaban, Banga Bhaban and Nagar Bhaban," said Kajal Debnath, the parishad president.

A total of 14 goddess' idols have so far been vandalised at different spots across the country in last couple of weeks, he informed, with a demand to bring the perpetrators to book.

Worship of the goddess
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An armed group backed by Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Saiful Islam Limon in action in Chittagong city's CRB area yesterday during a chase and counter chase for around one and a half hours with the followers of Jubo League leader Helal Akber Chowdhury Babor holding a rally in front of Mela Community Centre. Locals talked of hearing two gunshots and of two persons being injured in the incident over establishing supremacy there.

PHOTO: STAR

Rivalling BCL, Jubo League run amok in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Followers of two expelled leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League chased each other with sharp weapons and sticks yesterday afternoon in Chittagong city's CRB area, the same spot where a gunfight between the two in 2013 killed two passers-by.

Eyewitnesses and police said some 100 followers of former BCL central committee assistant general secretary Saiful Islam Limon gave chase to followers of former Jubo League central committee member Helal Akber Chowdhury Babor who were holding a rally in front of Mela Community Center around 1:30pm.

Helal's group had been holding the rally from 11:00am while Limon's followers gathered nearby in Sat Rastar Matha. The groups chased each other till 3:00pm and the locals reported hearing two gunshots and of two persons

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No more fuel stations on unused RHD land

Cabinet okays new policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the Roads and Highways Department's "Land Management Policy-2015", which states that petrol, diesel and CNG stations can no longer be set up on unused RHD lands.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said under the policy it will be possible for the authorities concerned to keep the RHD's unused lands free from illegal occupation made through leasing

those out on a temporary basis.

The cabinet also approved a proposal of the health ministry for raising the age limit to 36 from 30 for recruiting senior staff nurse and staff nurse for hospitals and health organisations in the public sector.

Under the proposal, senior staff nurses and staff nurses, aged up to 36 years, could now apply for government services in the health sector organisations and hospitals. Such provision will remain valid till December 2018, Musharraf said.

He said currently some 3,728 posts of nurses are lying vacant in the public sector, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already made a commitment of recruiting another 10,000 more nurses.

The cabinet also approved the drafts of "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University, Bangladesh Act-2015" and "Rabindra University Act-2015". The administrative structure of the universities would be like other public universities.

FIVE KISHOREGANJ 'RAZAKARS' 7 charges framed

Tribunal also allows one-day's interrogation of each of 5 suspects of Patuakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed seven specific charges against five suspected Razakars for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed in Kishoreganj during the 1971 Liberation War.

The charges include mass killing, murder, confinement, torture, arson and looting.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque framed the charges after finding "prima facie evidence" (accepted as correct until proven otherwise) of their involvement in the crimes narrated in the prosecution's formal charges.

Gazi Abdul Mannan, 88, is the alleged commander of Karimganj Razakar camp, while Nasiruddin Ahmed, 62, and his brother Shamsuddin Ahmed, 60, Hafiz Uddin, 66, and Azharul Islam, 60, are alleged Razakar members, all from Kishoreganj's Karimganj upazila.

Only Shamsuddin was produced before the tribunal. "I was falsely implicated," said Shamsuddin, pleading not

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Moyna wanted to rape the little boy

Testifies UP member
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A witness in the 13-year-old Sheikh Samiul Alam Rajon murder case yesterday gave new information to a Sylhet court regarding the murder on July 8.

While being cross examined by the public prosecutor, Tukerbazar union parishad member Gias Uddin told the court that the allegation of stealing a rickshaw-van brought

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Amid rain, over 150 candidates and their guardians continue rallying on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday, demanding fresh tests for admission to medical and dental colleges alleging that the question papers were leaked.

PHOTO: STAR

MEDICAL ADMISSION TEST RETAKE DEMAND Agitators brave rain

Announce sit-in at Shaheed Minar, human chain in front of Press Club today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Braving heavy rains, over 150 students and their parents staged a rally on the capital's Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday demanding fresh tests for admission to medical and dental colleges citing question paper leak allegations.

Around noon they marched towards Shabbagh but were stopped at the base of Shontrash Birodhi Raju Sharok Bhaskorjo by police barricades. There they formed a human chain and blocked traffic till around 4:30pm.

One, Muhimnul Niyon, on

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Two arrested for 'cheating' university admission seekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested two persons in the capital's Sabujbag on Sunday on the charge of alluring public universities' admission seekers of supplying question papers with answers.

Creating a fake Facebook ID, members of the gang, including Rezaul Alam Arni and Anisur Rahman Mithu, assured the aspirants of supplying question papers with answers after seeking money through their bKash account, claimed detectives yesterday.

DU BCL demands better amenities for students

Says demonstrations of medical college admission seekers illogical

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor demanding that the authorities enhance amenities for general students.

At a press conference organised on the campus, they also urged students' organisations to be responsible and protect students' interests. Some of their demands include ensuring healthy and hygienic food at hall canteens, fresh water supply, modernisation of the library, and better sanitation facilities.

The organisation also urged the authorities to fix rickshaw fare inside the campus. About the demonstration of medical college admission seekers, BCL General Secretary SM Jakir Hossain said the protest was illogical.

VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said he received the memorandum and approved of their demands.



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