

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 26.8 L 14.4	CHITTAGONG H 26.1 L 15.4	SYLHET H 26.3 L 14.5	RAJSHAHI H 28.3 L 12.3	KHULNA H 28.5 L 14.0	BARISAL H 26.7 L 13.0	RANGPUR H 24.7 L 12.2	COX'S BAZAR H 27.1 L 15.0
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Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:28pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.** Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 09.5 in Jessore.

Shias in capital protest Shia cleric's execution by Saudi Arabia
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 50 Shia Muslims yesterday formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital protesting the execution of a prominent Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr by Sunni majority Saudi Arabia, on January 2.

Saudi Arabia executed 47 people for terrorism, mostly suspected al-Qaeda members but also Nimr, the outspoken opponent of the ruling Al Saud family, according to a Reuters report. The execution drew angry condemnation from Shia communities across the world, including Iran.

Kazi M Delwar Hussain, a participant, said the "killing" can affect the unity and harmony among the Muslims.

Another participant Ashraf-ul-Alam asked the Saudi authorities to apologise for their actions.



The monthlong Dhaka International Trade Fair draws a large crowd on the weekend yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Govt heading to one party rule
Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has completed all preparations to run the country under a one-party administration, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

It is fascism going on in the country, he said.

"They have put on a mask of democracy...none has the right to say anything. If someone dissents, they have to face false cases and will be sent to jail," Fakhru told a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

The Amar Desh organised it to mark 1,000 days of detention of its editor Mahmudur Rahman and suspension of the newspaper's publication. Mahmudur, arrested on April 11, 2013, faces 75 cases over sedition, arson and corruption.

Meanwhile, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafrullah Chowdhury, speaking at the discussion, thanked BNP chief Khaleda Zia for her remarks that there were controversies about the number of the Liberation War martyrs.

"The BNP chief has brought to the fore again the initiative [to determine the number of war martyrs] taken by Sheikh Mujib. You have highlighted Sheikh Mujib, rising above meanness. That's why I would like to thank you," he said.

Fakhru said the only option the people had now was to oust the government. "Recognising the failure of BNP's movement, he said they would succeed soon.

The BNP leader demanded immediate release of Mahmudur and journalist leader Shawkat Mahmud.

Road crashes kill 10
STAR REPORT

Ten people were killed in road accidents in Dhaka, Shariatpur, Sherpur and Chittagong yesterday.

In Dhaka, two unidentified persons were killed and ten others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on the Abdullahpur-Ashulia road in Dhaka's Turag at noon.

The injured persons were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where one of them died around 2:00pm, officer-in-charge of Turag Police Station Mahbub-e-Khuda told The Daily Star.

In another accident, Md Saidul Islam, 22, a vegetable vendor, was hit by a vehicle near Sheraton crossing yesterday morning, reports UNB. He was declared dead at DMCH.

Meanwhile, in Kadomtoli, a truck hit truck helper Md Faruk Hossain, 30, near Dhaka Match Factory around 2:00am. Faruk later died at DMCH.

In Shariatpur, two people were killed when two battery-run easy bikes collided head-on on Mashura road in Naria upazila of the district, reports BSS.

Abdul Aziz Bepari, 55, and Mukter Hossain, 3, of Mirkadim in Munshiganj died at local hospitals.

In Sherpur, three students were killed as a truck smashed their motorcycle on Nalitabair-Nakugaon road at Noyabil in Nalitabari upazila at noon, reports UNB.

The dead are Jamal Uddin, 18, Nazrul Islam, 18, and Rajon Miah, 19, all residents of upazila's Charali Bazar.

Police said Jamal and Nazrul died instantly while Rajon was declared dead at the hospital. Police seized the truck.

In Chittagong, Mohammad Mostafa, 40, of Natore's Lalpur, and assistant of the bus driver, died on the spot as their bus overturned on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Baro Aulia area of Sitakunda around 6:30am, reports our staff correspondent.

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