

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.7 L 13.4	H 27.3 L 15.0	H 25.4 L 13.0	H 25.7 L 13.0	H 26.0 L 14.8	H 26.0 L 13.2	H 23.0 L 12.2	H 27.8 L 16.1

Night temperature may fall slightly over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:34pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 28.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 08.2 in Badalgachhi and Sreemangal.

Ctg BCL labels two college principals as patrons of Shibir

Demands their removal; principals deny allegation
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday demanded immediate removal of the principals of Government Chittagong College and Government Hazi Mohammad Mohsin College, alleging that the two were patrons of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The city unit made the demand at a rally held on the road in front of the two colleges. It was part of its ongoing weeklong programme to keep both colleges free from "Shibir goons".

General Secretary of the BCL unit Nurul Azim Rony said, "Instead of taking action to keep both colleges free from the Shibir goons, the college authorities are keeping regular contacts with them.... We will continue the movement until our demand is met."

He also threatened to besiege the colleges if their demand is not met within this week.

Both the principals denied the allegation. "I am a government officer and I don't support any political party," said Jesmin Akther, principal of Government Chittagong College.

Prof Anjan Kumar Nandy, principal of Mohsin College, said, "I've been working in Chittagong for a long time and everyone here knows whether I support any party or not. A government officer can't support a party."

On January 2, the BCL leaders gave an ultimatum to the college authorities till January 14 to meet their eight demands, including setting up permanent police camps on the campuses, keeping all the gates shut except the main entrances, and removing the hostel superintendents, imams of the college mosques, and all part-time staff.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina looks on as her security affairs adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, and acting army chief Lt Gen Anwar Hussain adorn the chief of Bangladesh Air Force, Abu Esrar, left, with a new rank badge of air chief marshal, and the chief of Bangladesh Navy, Muhammad Farid Habib, with the new rank badge of admiral at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.



PHOTO: PMO

Ranks of air, navy chiefs upgraded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday upgraded the rank of the Bangladesh Navy chief to admiral from vice admiral and that of the Bangladesh Air Force chief to air chief marshal from air marshal.

In presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, security affairs adviser to the prime minister, and Lt Gen Anwar Hussain, the acting army chief, adorned navy chief Muhammad Farid Habib with the new rank badge of admiral and air chief

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Danish, Norwegian ministers due today, tomorrow

Nordic Embassy inauguration tomorrow
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Danish Minister for Employment Jørn Neergard arrives here this morning to discuss workers safety in ready made garments industries in Bangladesh.

He will meet Md Mujibul Haque, state minister for labour and employment, top officials of Danish companies, and visit a readymade garment factory near Dhaka and a Rana Plaza victim rehabilitation project.

The minister is likely to meet President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Meanwhile, Norwegian State Minister for Trade, Industry and Fisheries Dilek Ayhan will arrive here tomorrow morning.

She is expected to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Zunaïd Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, and business and civil society representatives.

Both Larsen and Ayhan will attend the official inauguration of the Nordic embassy premises comprising Denmark, Norway and Sweden in the capital, tomorrow evening.

AH Mahmood Ali, foreign minister, Md Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs and other high government officials will attend the programme.

The three Nordic countries have already been operating jointly from the new shared premises in Gulshan-2 since mid last year.

The ministers will leave Dhaka on Thursday.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Mahajote protests BCS quota bar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Mahajote (BMM), a platform of pro-AL freedom fighters, yesterday protested the government's decision for restricting the quota to fill up vacancies in special categories with freedom fighters in the 34th and 35th BCS recruitment and demanded reconsideration.

BMM chairman Manirul Haq raised the demand at a press conference in Jatiya Press Club.

He termed the decision as a strike on the spirit of the Liberation War.

The cabinet on 11th January has approved a proposal to restrict the quota to fill up 2,475 government posts, vacant due to a shortage of qualified candidates from the freedom fighters, women, ethnic and other quotas.

The cabinet decided to fill up 672 posts in 34th and 1,803 posts in 35th BCS.

POWER FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES Bangladesh to generate 2,000MW by 2020

Nasrul Hamid tells Int'l Renewable Energy Agency meeting
UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been working with a target to produce 2,000MW of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid announced this while presiding over a session of the two-day 6th ministerial meeting of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on the last day yesterday.

The meeting, which was held in Abu Dhabi of the UAE, began on Saturday.

Representatives from 150 countries participated in the meeting although the IRENA has 145 members, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The IRENA is an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future. Reducing carbon emission and promoting energy conservation is also its core area of work.

The 6th ministerial conference reviewed the progress of different countries in renewable energy use and also their mid-term plans for 2016 and 2017.

It also discussed different areas of renewable energy, including solar, biomass and hydro wind, to ensure their sustainable use across the globe.

Nasrul Hamid said Bangladesh has formed Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) as part of its frantic move to increase the share of renewable energy in power generation.

"But the unaffordable price of renewable energy has been a major barrier to the way of Bangladesh's move to increase the renewable energy's stake in total electricity generation," he added.

Former SI remanded in extortion case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Md Nurul Amin Khan, former sub-inspector of Kotwali Police Station, on a two-day remand in an extortion case filed in January last year.

Before passing the remand order, another Dhaka court cancelled his bail following an appeal submitted by the detectives on different grounds. The court also ordered to send Nurul to jail.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain Tipu passed the orders after Investigation Officer and DB Inspector Kazi Golam Kabir produced him before the court seeking a 7-day remand.

According to the prosecution, on December 27 of 2014 Nurul Amin Khan allegedly picked up Bimal Chandra Aich, a businessman, and detained him illegally for three days at a house in Gandaria and demanded Tk 20 lakh. They tortured him in custody.

The then SI with his accomplice Shamim Khan also extorted Tk 14 lakh and took away Bimal's microbus forcing him to sign a non-judicial stamp.

After his release, Bimal filed an extortion case with Kotwali Police Station against Nurul and Shamim on January 1 last year.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon promises street repair, LED lights, trash cans

DU CORRESPONDENT

Renovation of 275 streets will begin this month, every ward will get 200 dustbins within three or four months while LED bulbs will be installed in streetlights within a year, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday.

Initially, the LED lights will be installed in Dhaka University (DU) and from Shahbagh to Banglamotor by February 21, he told the inauguration of a "Clean Year-2016" campaign at DU's Bottola.

The mayor urged all to take up the role of a mayor to create a liveable city as only

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Deafening silence

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

She will never run her supple fingers over the harmonium again. Her tender voice will be heard no more. It fell silent, untimely.

In a small rented room at the Public Works Department staff quarters of the capital, Sonali lived with her parents. The family was poor but appreciated her musical talent.

"When I felt sad, I would hum songs. Sonali was small then, a primary school girl, and she would repeat my songs," said her father Zakir Hossain, a house painter.

"Her voice was good. So I bought her tablas."

Zakir said her daughter trained at Shilpakala Academy, and sometimes sang at events. An artist had presented a harmonium to her.

The 14-year-old used to practice Bhawaiya songs twice every day. The

neighbours were her regular audience.

"A few years ago, when she started singing in the morning, I would feel annoyed. Later on I figured she sang well. Gradually I became a regular listener," said Shirin Akter, a neighbour.

She said yesterday morning was the first time in months she did not hear the voice.

The day before, Sonali was killed after being run over by a bus in Ramna. She was a class IX student at Begum Rahima Ideal Girls High School, and dreamt of becoming a doctor.

Zakir said he filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station on Saturday night against the bus driver, conductor and helper, but none was arrested yet.

Meanwhile, local people formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya

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Sonali's parents with the musical instruments their daughter used to play, at their rented house in the capital yesterday. The 14-year-old was killed in a road accident on Saturday.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH



These students of Dhaka University had nothing better to do than chatting in an idle classroom yesterday as the teachers continued their indefinite strike for the sixth consecutive day, protesting "disparities" in the eighth government pay scale.

PHOTO: STAR

Five time-bomb like devices found in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered five time bomb-like devices and a remote control abandoned in a field from Gazipur early yesterday.

The bombs could be used to carry out subversive activities at the Ijtema ground, which is six km off the place the bombs were found, suspected police.

The devices were found at Balurmath in Targachh, around 4:45am, Khandker Rezaul Hassan, officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station told The Daily Star.

After inspection, a bomb disposal unit confirmed there were no explosives in those.

The devices had wirings and clocks, wrapped in tape, giving an impression that those were real, police said.

"Miscreants might have left those to create panic among locals and Ijtema goers," said Rezaul.

Later, the devices were destroyed. No one was arrested in this regard. Police, however, are trying to arrest the perpetrators behind it.

JP calls hartal in Rangpur city for Thursday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party (JP) has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rangpur city on Thursday, protesting an attack on SM Yasir, member secretary of the city unit of JP.

Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa, convener of JP Rangpur city unit made the announcement at a protest rally yesterday noon, in front of the Rangpur deputy commissioner's office in Kacharibazar area.

Unidentified miscreants hacked Yasir around 3:00pm on Friday, in Munshipara area, while he was returning home on his motorbike. Yasir is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Earlier, JP activists brought out a procession and

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