

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.8   L 27.2	H 32.5   L 25.8	H 34.3   L 26.7	H 35.1   L 26.7	H 34.0   L 27.4	H 31.5   L 27.3	H 32.4   L 25.8	H 32.5   L 24.5

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:27am. Country's highest temperature 35.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius in Cox's Bazar.



The newly constructed male dormitory of Murari Chand (MC) College in Sylhet, which was burnt down in an arson attack, inset, during a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Shibir activists on July 8, 2012.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH NASIR, FILE

**NEWS IN brief**

**JU student dies in road crash**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna  
A student of Jahangirnagar University was killed on the spot and another injured seriously as a truck hit their motorcycle on Dhaka-Bonpara highway in Hatikumrul area of Sirajganj yesterday.  
The deceased was Arafat Akter Mishu, 24, of Choudhuripara area in Sirajganj Sadar. He was a fourth-year student of anthropology.  
Injured Hamidur Rahman, 25, of Jessore is undergoing treatment at Sirajganj General Hospital. He is a fourth-year student of marketing, police said.  
The two friends were going to Jessore.

**Sylhet's Nagarnat remembers militancy victims**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
Nagarnat, a cultural organisation in Sylhet, held a cultural programme at Muktamancha of Sylhet Central Saheed Minar yesterday, remembering those innocent people who were killed by militants in recent times and protesting militancy in the country.  
They also talked about the sacrifice Faraaz Ayaz Hossain made for his friends in the Gulshan attack.  
A number of songs were sung by its members including Ujjal Chakrabharty, Arup Baul, Arifa Khatun Kochi and Tanvir Hossain.  
Later, they staged the drama "Adam Test" by Masud Reza, which showed how misguided youths are killing people after being brainwashed by a group of religious leaders.

**RU students raising fund for flood victims**

RU CORRESPONDENT  
Rajshahi University students are raising a relief fund for flood affected people in the country.  
Around four lakh people have been facing acute crisis of food and drinking water due to the flood in the north.  
Students of different departments of the university are working together to collect money to raise the fund. They have planned to start their initiative in Kurigram first.

**CPB leader Prof Achintya passes away**

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna  
Prof Achintya Biswas, a central leader of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), died at a private clinic in Khulna on Thursday night. He was 63.  
He left behind two sisters.  
Born in Phultala village under Batiaghata upazila of Khulna, he was a teacher of the history department of Batiaghata College.  
He served as the president of CPB Khulna unit.  
His body was donated to Khulna Medical College Hospital as per his wish.

**Arson case probed stalled for 4yrs**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
It has been four years since the burning of three blocks of the MC College hostel, but no one has been arrested yet.  
On July 8, 2012 evening, during a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Shibir activists at the college hostel, a fire broke out at the three block of the one-storey hostel, which completely burnt 42 rooms.  
Later, Bashir Ahmed, hostel supervisor, filed a case with Shahporan Police Station against a group of unnamed miscreants.  
AKM Sajjad, assistant commissioner of the station, told The Daily Star that a charge sheet was filed by the Crime Investigation Department accusing three students of the college Monwar Hossain, Manjur Alam and Yasin Khan on October 31, 2013.  
But no one has been arrested yet, said the AC, adding that the three are on the run.  
Students alleged that the three accused were MC College unit Shibir leaders.  
"We are still hopeful that the perpetrators will be caught and punished," said Principal Nitai Chandra Chanda.

**Light at the end of tunnel for MC College hostel**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
The 90 years old hostel of Murari Chand College in Sylhet, which was burnt down in an arson attack during a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Shibir activists on July 8, 2012, will be functional soon, according to college authorities.  
Even though the dormitory was constructed in 2014, it remained abandoned due to some administrative problems including pending gas bills, said Principal Nitai Chandra Chanda, adding that after overcoming all the predicaments they had decided that the hostel will be functional after the Eid-ul-Fitr.  
He said the newly constructed hostel will accommodate 244 students on its six blocks but around 400 students have applied already and the selection process for the new residents is ongoing.  
The college, established in 1892 by

Raja Girish Chandra Roy, was named after his grandfather Murari Chand. The one-storey hostel was built in 1921, following the British period architecture of "Half Wall Assam" pattern with tin, and half wall.  
Four days after the incident, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited the hostel and broke into tears after seeing the burnt remnants as he was a resident of the hostel and ordered its quick repairment.  
On 14 October 2014, the newly reconstructed hostel was inaugurated by the minister. The reconstruction project was completed spending almost Tk 4 crore, said college officials.  
"We are very excited as the hostel is going to be finally functional. This would help the students who are not financially solvent or has to live in a rented house," said Raju Biswash, a second year student of mathematics, who has also applied for a seat.  
When asked, without mentioning any specific date, the college principal said, "The hostel will start functioning within the next two weeks."  
But the college has around 14,000 students and the authority could barely provide them residence, alleged students.  
The newly constructed hostel with its six blocks, which is the only one available for male students, will accommodate just a few, they said, adding that there is also a female hostel that can house 100.  
"A 100 seat hostel for male and another 100 seat one for female students are under construction. I know the number is not satisfactory but we are trying our best to solve the crisis," said the principal.

**Home minister's India visit timely, productive**

Shringla tells launch of 3rd India Education Fair at The Daily Star Centre  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Mentioning Bangladesh's home minister's visit to India very timely and productive, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday said they were discussing bilateral issues including counter terrorism.  
"India and Bangladesh... are friends, we are partners," he said after inaugurating a two-day third India Education Fair held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.  
"What happens with you, it happens to us and vice versa. We need to work together...," he said.  
In his four-day visit for the fourth home minister-level talks between the two countries, Home Minister Azaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday called on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed bilateral issues, including the current situation in Bangladesh.  
Shringla said the two countries will continue to work together to address many of the common problems.  
A total of 35 premier educational institutions including schools, colleges and technical institutes across India are participating in the event.  
Some of these schools are also offering scholarships to the meritorious students, who will also get an opportunity to avail the benefits of free career aptitude test at the fair.  
The fair, organised by SAPE Events and Media Pvt Ltd, will remain open from 9:00am to 6:00pm today.  
It will be held on August 1 and 2 in Chittagong.



Two Khasi women hold placards in Nahar Punjee of Moulvibazar yesterday, urging the government to stop a move to evict the ethnic minority community from their ancestral land in the area. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

**Stay away from evicting Khasis of Nahar Punjee**

Environmentalists, rights activists urge govt  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
The government should withdraw an eviction notice which has asked Khasi people to vacate Nahar Punjee in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar, demanded environmentalists and rights activists yesterday.  
They placed the demand while talking to reporters during their visit to the ancestral land of the ethnic minority in two villages, collectively known as Nahar Punjee.  
Thiari Suting, 45, one of the Khasi people, said, "We are living in fear as we may be evicted anytime."  
Md Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Sushashoner Janney Nagorik, Sylhet chapter, told The Daily Star, "The move is inhumane and unacceptable."  
Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Sylhet unit, said, "Nahar Tea Garden was established after the Khasi people had started living there. There are 94 families, graveyards, schools, churches in the Punjee."  
Gourango Patro, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Sylhet chapter, urged the government to immediately stop the eviction move to protect the human rights of the Khasi people.  
Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of the forum, echoed him.  
To protect the rights of the ethnic minority, the forum with civil society members organised different programmes in different areas including the capital, where some political parties expressed solidarity with their demand.  
On May 30, Moulvibazar District Administration issued the notice to some 700, mostly Khasi people, to move from the land within June 12. Following the notice, the minority community appealed to the additional divisional commissioner (revenue) in Sylhet seeking cancellation of it.  
On an order from the official, the district administration submitted relevant documents regarding the notice on July 16 and the divisional commissioner will take a decision on the issue on August 2.  
The authorities of the district administration accused the Khasi people of illegally occupying 150 acres of government land and running betel leaf plantations there.

**CCC denies hill**

FROM PAGE 3  
On Thursday, while visiting the building constructed at the cost of Tk 7 crore, this correspondent saw that each apartment is of 250 square feet, involving a living room, a bathroom and a small kitchen.  
Manjurul Alam Chowdhury, the project's contractor, said majority of the construction work of the building ended about three months back.  
Contacted, CCC Chief Executive Officer Kazi Mohammad Shafiul Alam succinctly said it was a decision of the previous administration and that they had no plan to give the apartments to the slum dwellers at this moment.  
"There is also an uncertainty surrounding the recovery of the huge investment of CCC from the slum dwellers if they are provided with the apartments," the CEO commented.  
CCC has a plan for shifting its office to the building during the construction of a new Nagar Bhaban or providing residential facilities to its employees there, he said, adding, "Nothing is yet to be finalised."  
Contacted, CCC Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin said the decision of his predecessor was not pragmatic, as there remained a question as to how these rather poor families would pay the money.  
The building would be used for other purposes, the present incumbent mentioned, without elaborating.  
They will return the money taken from the 33 families, he added.

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