

WEATHER FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.8 L 27.8

CHITTAGONG H 32.5 L 25.5

SYLHET H 33.5 L 25.3

RAJSHAHI H 35.7 L 27.2

KHULNA H 35.2 L 27.6

BARISAL H 33.3 L 27.3

RANGPUR H 34.8 L 28.0

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 25.8

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am. Country's highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 24.0 degree Celsius in Rangamati.

4 Shibir men arrested with 'jihadi books', crude bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four members of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested in Bosugaoan area of Gazipur city on Sunday noon.

Police said they also recovered a huge number of "jihadi books", four crude bombs, and two sharp weapons from their possessions.

The arrestees are Shaidul Islam, 23, of Noyachar area under Jurigram, Ali, 21, of Dhopil in Natore, Zahid Hossen of Raergram area in Mymensingh and Zahirul Islam, 23, of Zonnerchar in Jamalpur.

Harun Or Rashid, superintendent of Gazipur Police, said they lived in a rented house in Bosugaoan area.

On information, police raided the house and arrested the four, he added.



PHOTOS: STAR, PID



Clockwise from left, wreaths piled up in front of a portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the capital's Dhanmondi-32 as the nation observed National Mourning Day yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana offer prayers at the grave of Bangabandhu in Tungipara of Gopalganj. A 40km 'human wall', formed by Chittagong City Corporation, starts at the city's Tigerpass, marking the day.

CANCELLING KHALEDA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS A message to rebuild relations with AL

Say BNP leaders

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The decision to cancel her birthday celebrations on August 15 was a message BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia wanted to send out that she is ready to rebuild good terms with political archrival the ruling Awami League and others, as per party leaders.

Insiders say that party high ups in recent times realised that some decisions, including that to celebrate the birthday on National Mourning Day and to keep ties with Jamaat-e-Islami, have distanced BNP from other political parties.

If Khaleda gets a positive response from political parties regarding the recent decision, she will rethink continuing ties with Jamaat, they said.

Sources said that despite being told not to gather in front of Khaleda's Gulshan office, some BNP leaders and activists did so with flowers. They were allowed inside to greet her on her birthday, sans flowers, they said.

Moreover, Facebook posts showed groups of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal members cutting cakes indoors with their leaders marking the day.

"Her recent move to forge national unity against militancy nearly failed as most of

the opposition parties did not want to sit with her thinking she was holding onto her old stance," a BNP standing committee member told The Daily Star preferring anonymity.

"I think this decision will give a message to them about her new thoughts," he said.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafnullah Chowdhury said the decision was a "forward looking" step amidst the deep crisis the country has been going through, especially that involving militancy.

The pro-BNP intellectual urged political parties not to avoid BNP and sit with it immediately to start discussions on issues, including on finding ways to drop Jamaat from the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

He said Kader Siddique had recently visited Khaleda at her residence requesting not to celebrate the birthday. Zafnullah himself said to have urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to reach out and revive the relationship with Khaleda.

"There must be competitors in politics but it is not fair that politicians can not tolerate one another," he added.

BNP Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed said he was very much

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Nation recalls Aug 15 tragedy

STAR REPORT

The government and different political and socio-cultural organisations across the country yesterday observed the 41st martyrdom of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day with due solemnity.

Mourners demanded execution of the convicted fugitive killers of Bangabandhu, now hiding abroad.

Wearing black badges, thousands of leaders, workers and supporters of the ruling Awami League and people from all strata placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of his historic residence on the capital's Dhanmondi Road 32 from morning to dusk.

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (Desco) held seminars, a voluntary blood donation programme and a doa mahfil.

Desco Chairman of the Board and Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Additional Secretary Md Mahbub-ul-Alam launched the programme.

Sheikh Russel Shishu Sangsad placed wreaths at the portrait and Russel's graveyard in Banani.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University gave free treatment to 5,675 out-patients yesterday. More than 500 physicians participated in the programme.

Amra Muktiuddhar Santan formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club demanding erecting a "hate tomb" to despise Bangabandhu's killers.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University held a milad and doa mahfil, an essay competition, a discussion and short film presentation on Bangabandhu's life on its Pallabi temporary campus in Dhaka.

Vice Chancellor Rear Admiral ASM Abdul Baten was present as the chief guest.

Bangla Academy organised a recitation, musical programme, and documentary screening at the Abdul Karim Sahityabisharad Auditorium.

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CCC forms 40km long human wall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 40-kilometre "human wall" was formed by Chittagong City Corporation in the city yesterday morning to observe the 41st anniversary of martyrdom of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day.

More than 1 lakh people including city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, ward councillors, students of CCC-run educational institutions and about 8,000 staff of CCC participated in the "human wall" starting at Shahamanat Bridge. It passed through Katgar, Dewanhat, Alangkar Intersection, Sholoshahar, Oxygen Intersection, Bahaddarhat and Kalurghat Bridge.

CCC also placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Nagar Bhaban. Meanwhile, all the residential students bought out a procession on the campus, protesting the "attack".

Awlad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said the situation was brought under control, adding, "Police are deployed there."

However, Jahid could not be found to comment despite attempts.

5 Barisal students beaten up for not joining procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Bangladesh Chhatra League activist at the Institute of Health Technology in Barisal city and his cohorts "beat up and assaulted" its five residential students allegedly for not responding to his call to join a mourning procession yesterday.

The injured students are Roky, Sajal, Mehedy and Sanjib, and the name of the other victim could not be known immediately.

Equipped with sticks and iron rods, a group of outsiders led by Jahid Sharif, a first year student of IHT, beat the residential students as they did not join a Mukti Joddha Projonno League procession marking National Mourning Day, said IHT sources, adding that they also vandalised three rooms of a dormitory.

Subodh Chandra Mandal, deputy assistant superintendent of the dormitory, said actions would be taken against those who were involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, all the residential students bought out a procession on the campus, protesting the "attack".

Awlad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said the situation was brought under control, adding, "Police are deployed there."

However, Jahid could not be found to comment despite attempts.

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