

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 32.5 | L 26.2

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 32.5 | L 25.5

**SYLHET**  
H 33.8 | L 26.7

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 34.6 | L 26.4

**KHULNA**  
H 34.0 | L 26.5

**BARISAL**  
H 32.5 | L 26.7

**RANGPUR**  
H 32.7 | L 27.0

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 30.8 | L 25.5

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:12pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am. Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 25.2 in Rangamati.

## Return of Gaibandha acquired land demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samataler Adivasider Bhumii Rokkhaiy Nagarik Samaj, a platform for ethnic minorities' rights, demanded that the land acquired for the construction of a sugar mill in Sahebganj-Bagdafarm area at Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha be returned to its owners, said a press release issued by the Samaj. They also demanded a separate land commission for the plain land ethnic minorities at a press briefing held at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, it added.

Among others, rights activist Khushi Kabir, eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud and ethnic community leader Rabindra Nath Soren were present at the briefing. Khushi Kabir said, "The 1842.30-acre acquired land should be returned to its authentic owners -- Adivasi and Bangalees -- according to the treaty."



As part of a move to save Barisal city's Jail Khal from encroachment, people join a drive conducted by the district administration to clean the canal yesterday. In the last four months, the authorities demolished more than 100 illegal structures on its banks. PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

## People come to Jail Khal's rescue

Join clean-up campaign led by Barisal DC Saifuzzaman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Thousands of people from all walks of life in Barisal city participated in a cleaning campaign to reclaim the city's historic Jail Khal from grabbers and to bring back navigability in the canal on Saturday.

Chanting slogans like "Save Jail Khal", "Jonogoner khaler nabbota fire ano" (bring back navigability in the people's canal), "Jail Khaler oboidho dokhol mukto koro" (free Jail Khal from illegal occupation), they also vowed to regain the city's name "Venice of Bengal", given by National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam for its exceptional scenic beauty, by preserving all the canals flowing through the city.

The drive was conducted at the behest of Deputy Commissioner of Barisal Dr Gazi Md Saifuzzaman.

Junayed Ahmed Palok, state minister for ICT affairs, Jebunnesa Afroj, an Awami League lawmaker, Ahsan Habib Kamal, mayor of Barisal City Corporation, and Abdul Malek, secretary to the local government ministry, among others, were present at the launch of the campaign.

"We held different cultural programmes on the canal's banks to create public awareness of its encroachment," said Sartiz Ridwan Oyon, a theatre activist.

"Jail Khal is a canal of the people. Citizens of all strata should come forward to save it and bring back its navigability," said the deputy commissioner.

Mentionable, over 100 illegal structures have been demolished in the last four months in eviction drives initiated by the district administration.

## Sylhet blacksmiths get busier as Eid nears

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Kazirbazar

As elsewhere in the country, blacksmiths in Sylhet city are busy making different sharp tools for slaughtering sacrificial animals and preparing their flesh, with the Eid-ul-Azha approaching.

The demand for machetes, choppers, knives and other iron-made tools is also on the rise.

A machete is priced between Tk 450 and Tk 500, a chef knife between Tk 300 and Tk 550, a small knife between Tk 50 and Tk 100, and a pruning knife Tk 200 and Tk 2000, according to the blacksmiths.

While visiting Kazirbazar and Mirabazar areas in the city recently, this correspondent found them passing busy time making and selling such tools.

Shamim Ahmed, a blacksmith at Kazirbazar, said, "Every year at this time the demand for these tools increases, and we, too, expect a higher sale ahead of the Eid."

Another blacksmith, Prodig Kumar Karmokar, in the district's Balagong upazila said, "Apart from buying new tools, people come to us to get their old and damaged ones repaired."

Smithies which remain jobless around 10 months in a year are now bustling with



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Two blacksmiths race against time at Kazirbazar in Sylhet city yesterday, at the approach of Eid-ul-Azha when lakhs of sacrificial animals will be slaughtered.

activities, added Prodig.

"Most of the time we have to remain idle due to a lack of work, but this Eid brings us a good amount of money," said a 70-year-old blacksmith, Niranjan Karmakar, who runs a smithy with his son Nilkanta Karmakar at Kazirbazar.

Nilkanta said typically they earn Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 a day, adding that during the time their incomes get a boost, rising to over Tk 10,000.

A bank loan on easy terms might help them make and market the tools more easily, said Prodig.

## Robbers shoot bKash gunman dead in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Miscreants shot dead a security guard of bKash sales representatives and looted Tk 16 lakh in Gazipur in Gazipur City yesterday.

The deceased was Sheikh Abdul Hamid, 50, of Bagerhat district's Rampal Borokata.

Emdadul Islam and his assistant Subrato Bishas, sales representatives of bKash, a money transfer service provider, were collecting money from Ma Media Center when a gang of five entered the shop and tried to snatch the bag containing Tk 16 lakh. The gang shot Hamid as he opened fire on them, said police quoting witnesses.

The money was collected from six agents including the one at Ma Media Centre, said police.

Locals rushed Hamid to Tongi Government Hospital where he was declared dead.

## NEWS IN brief

### Highway bus passengers robbed

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Unidentified robbers looted valuables from a bus' passengers on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Ashulia Turag area, on the outskirts of capital early yesterday.

Quoting the passengers, police said eight to ten robbers boarded a Pabna-bound bus in the guise of passengers in the capital. As the vehicle crossed the Ashulia Turag Bridge, they took control over the steering at gunpoint and robbed all the passengers of their money, cell phones, and other valuables.

Savar police said they were investigating the matter.

### JU Eid vacation begins today

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

Jahangirnagar University is going on a 13-day vacation from today on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

All the classes will remain suspended till September 18, said a press release.

However, administrative activities will be closed from September 8 to September 18.

### RU application open from Sept 18

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

The online admission application process for undergraduate courses at Rajshahi University under 2016-17 academic session will begin on September 18.

Admission seekers can apply online from 12:00pm on September 18 to 11:59pm on October 2. The admission tests will begin on October 23 and continue till October 26.

Detailed information of the process can be found on the university website www.ru.ac.bd

### Trader found dead five days after disappearance in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a trader from a vacant housing plot in Keraniganj yesterday, five days after he went missing.

Baset Rony, 34, owned a readymade garment shop, RR Export Import Shop, in Gulistan and lived in Keraniganj Model Town.

Locals informed police after spotting his body around 2:00pm.

The victim's brother said Rony went to visit his in-laws in Keraniganj on August 30. He had an altercation with some local youths as he protested their alleged drug peddling on the day. Locals said those youths had abducted Rony the following day. Police said his family sued some youths.

### Abdur Rahim laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

M Abdur Rahim, a Liberation War organiser, was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Jalalpur village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila with state honour yesterday.

One of the close associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a former lawmaker, Abdur Rahim passed away in the capital's Birdem hospital the day before, aged 89.

His body was brought to Dinajpur from Dhaka on Monday and was kept on the Dinajpur Shaheed Minar premises for an hour where thousands of people paid their last respects to him.

His second namaz-e-janaza was held following a ceremony paying state honour on Dinajpur Gor-e-Shoheed Maidan around 11:00am.



Traders run their business by grabbing the entire parking space right before the main entrance of the capital's Rayer Bazar Graveyard yesterday. The residents say the market is set up every Monday with the local political leaders patronising the occupiers. PHOTO: RAHSED SHUMON

## Police assure DMC of steps on getting test

FROM PAGE 3

The DMC authorities are struggling to preserve bodies as eight of the mortuary's 20 freezer boxes are unusable for damage and the others have long been occupied by the militants' bodies.

According to DMP, an FBI laboratory was doing some tests to ascertain whether the Gulshan attackers were under the influence of any drug. Their identities have already been confirmed through DNA matches with

family members. The matching results for eight of the nine Kalyanpur militants are yet to come from the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) laboratory while the ninth is yet to be identified. Police will send DNA samples collected from family members to CID's lab to identify the remaining four militants.

A DMP official said they may need to collect samples again from the bodies in the DMC mortuary for further tests.

## No escape for

FROM PAGE 3

Ministry of Public Administration, in his Moghbazar residence allegedly for amassing Tk 48.67 lakh beyond known source of income, said Pranab.

A case was filed against him with Ramna Police Station on July 20.

ACC also arrested, Abdul Berek, former auditor of district accounts office of Brahmanbaria in a case filed for embezzling Tk 16.06 crore of pensioners.

A total of 22 persons were made accused in this connection in a case filed with Brahmanbaria Model Police Station.

## South-East Asia commits to act

FROM PAGE 4

Region two out of three deaths are caused by NCDs and nearly half of such deaths occur in the 30-70 age group, WHO data shows.

According to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011, 53 percent of the population older than 35 years have high blood pressure in the country, while one-third of the population is either diabetic or

will get the disease in future. Also, there are about 12 lakh cancer patients in Bangladesh, of whom some 1.5 lakh die each year.

As part of the declaration yesterday, health ministers pledged to undertake targeted screening for early diagnosis, as well as to increase health guidance and counselling to promote healthy choices and self-care.

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