

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 23.6   L 14.5	H 26.9   L 16.6	H 27.9   L 14.4	H 23.3   L 11.7	H 25.5   L 12.5	H 25.6   L 13.3	H 24.5   L 12.5	H 28.0   L 18.0

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during mid night till morning, reports UNB. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:27pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.6 in Gopalganj.

### 300 bottles of Phensedyl seized, 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested three people, including a Union Parishad (UP) member and an Indian national, along with 300 bottles of Phensedyl in Sharsha upazila of Jessore yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Dihi Union Parishad member Mofijul Islam, 50, son of Abul Kasem; Mujibor Rahman, son of Safar Ali; and Jakir Hossain, 45, son of Abdul Aziz, an Indian national.

Lt Col Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer of 26 BGB Battalion, said, tipped off, a team of the BGB conducted a raid at Mafijul's house in Narkel Baria village at about 3:00am, and arrested the three with the "Phensedyl". A case was filed.

### Boy killed in Ctg road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A boy was killed as a Dhaka-bound covered-van hit him on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Fakirhat area under Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was Asipur Rahman, 12, son of Abul Kalam of Noluapara area in the upazila. He passed primary terminal examination last December.

Police said Asipur died on the spot, while another boy was hospitalised with injuries. His identity could not be known immediately.



### Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Merry Barua Any, 25, has been suffering from a chronic disease called 'myasthenia gravis' which is caused by a defect in the transmission of nerve impulses to muscles, says a press release.

She is now undergoing treatment at her residence in Chittagong.

According to doctors she needs immediate treatment that costs around Tk 7 lakh. But, it is not possible for her family to arrange the money as they have already spent around Tk 12 lakh for her treatment.

Any now appeals to generous people to extend their helping hand to save her life.

Contributions can be sent to Bidhan Barua, A/C No: 4101605008300, AB Bank (Agrabad branch), Chittagong or to bKash number 01952174805.

The family can be reached at the number.



Chittagong city is regularly choked with traffic like this almost every day nowadays, especially because of the plying of motorised and non-motorised vehicles on the same road, messy traffic management and a lack of parking spaces. The photo was taken in the city's Chawk Bazar area.

# Ctg traffic chaos getting worse

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Even four to five years back traffic congestion on the streets of Chittagong city, reputed as a relatively clean city, was hardly seen. Now it has become a common phenomenon.

Day after day, commuters in the city with a population of about six million, losing their valuable time on the road and going through immense plight as traffic gridlock is gradually taking severe proportions.

"I have to start at 6:30am from my Mailermatha area residence an hour before my office starts, keeping in mind about the possible traffic jam," said Arfanur Rahman, an official of Lhotse (BD) Ltd at Karnaphuli EPZ.

"It is a only a 10-minute bus ride from my residence to office," he said, adding, the condition often turns worse after office as it takes almost two hours to return home

due to traffic jam.

Ariful Islam, a private job holder who travels from the city's Kazir Dewry to Panchlaish area regularly, said his 10-minute distance between these two places takes almost 35 to 40 minutes due to the traffic jam.

It is getting intolerable day by day, he added.

Echoing the duo, CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Imran said it took him around 15 to 20 minutes to reach AK Khan Road from Muradpur a few years back. Now it takes nearly an hour or more.

According to transport expert Subhash Barua, various reasons including plying of motorised and non-motorised vehicles on the same road, absence of proper traffic management, occupation of footpaths, not following traffic signals and scarcity of parking spots -- are responsible for the city's traffic gridlock.

Through effective traffic manage-

**MAJOR CAUSES**

- Mixed traffic
- Disregard to traffic rules
- Lack of parking spots
- Occupation of footpaths

These are: having no terminals for city buses as well as long-route vehicles; violation of traffic rules by drivers; parking vehicles on roads and intersections randomly; an increase in the number of vehicles; road digging for development works; and construction of flyovers.

Apart from solving these problems awareness should be raised among drivers and transport owners to mitigate traffic congestion, they recommended.

Mostafa Al Mamun, traffic inspector (Akbar Shah area), said due to a lack of terminals and parking lots, drivers park their vehicles haphazardly on the road creating traffic jam frequently.

Proper management is also required to control the number of public transports on specific routes, he noted.

President of Chittagong Regional Committee of Bangladesh Sarok

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## Hassle-free services people's right

Says BEZA executive chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) Paban Chowdhury at a programme in Chittagong yesterday said getting services is not an opportunity but the right of people.

It is the right of every taxpayer to get hassle-free services in the public offices, Paban told the programme. Chittagong District Administration organised the programme to review the preparation of Chittagong district development fair scheduled to be held from January 9 to January 11 at Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium Gymnasium Ground. Similar fairs will also take place in upazilas across the district.

Around a hundred stalls from different government organisations including the military will take part in the fair organised on the occasion of the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 10.

Terming the fair an opportunity for both civil servants and military people to interact with common people, Paban said many civil servants cannot naturally interact with common people due to "ego problem." The aim of the development fair is to make an interaction between government organisations and mass people, he added.

BEZA is building the economic zone in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong on 30,000 acres of land, which is the largest not only in the country but also in the region, Paban said.

## Observing Jan 5 as 'victory of democracy day' a mockery

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday alleged the ruling Awami League (AL) is misleading the nation by observing January 5 as "victory of democracy day".

"Observing January 5 election day as the victory day for democracy is nothing but a funny matter and a mockery with the nation and its people," he said, while addressing a meeting organised by Jatiya Ganatantrik Mancha at National Press Club.

The BNP leader said they observe January 5 as "democracy killing day" because the incumbent government does not have any public mandate.



Participants run a marathon organised by Brac Bank in the capital yesterday, which started from South Plaza of the National Parliament and ended at the same spot after travelling through Agargaon.



Residents of Gendaria Dhupkhola form a human chain before the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding intervention of the prime minister to protect three playgrounds in their area.

## Youth killed following feud over 'playing carom'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was killed following a feud allegedly over playing carom in Akua Wireless Gate area of Mymensingh town yesterday.

The deceased Farhad Hossain, 20, had an altercation with one Noman and his brother Taslim of the area over playing carom a few months back, said police, quoting his family members.

Following the feud, Noman along with his associates -- Taslim, Shanto and Elahi -- locked into an altercation with Farhad yesterday and fled after stabbing him indiscriminately with a knife.

Farhad with stab injuries in the head, hands and waist was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

## Felani justice elusive for six years

UNB, Kurigram

Although six years have elapsed since the killing of Bangladeshi girl Felani by BSF members, her family is yet to get justice.

Teenage girl Felani, who used to work as a domestic help in New Delhi, was shot dead by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) while she returning home by crossing the barbed-wire fence along with her father along Anantapur border point in Kurigram on January 7, 2011.

Later, the BSF hanged her body from the barbed-wire fence at the border.

Felani's death triggered a huge global outcry as a picture of Felani's body, which was hanging from the barbed wire upside down, went viral. The BSF men handed over the body a day after the killing. Following public criticism, BSF started investigation into it and submitted a charge-sheet against its constable Amiya Ghosh who shot the girl.

However, a special court constituted by the BSF had acquitted Amiya Ghosh of the charge on August 19, 2013.

Later, in the wake of widespread criticism of the acquittal, BSF decided to revise the murder trial. However, another judicial court upheld the previous verdict and acquitted Amiya Ghosh again.

Following this, Felani's father Nurul Islam with the help human rights organisation Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (Masum) filed a writ petition with the Supreme Court of India.

"I'm still optimistic that I'll get justice from the Indian apex court," Felani's father told the news agency.

## Girl Guides' camp starts in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The three-day 10th district camp of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGA) started at the organisation's regional campus in Barisal yesterday, underscoring the need for spreading the movement for women empowerment.

**BNP blames**

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We are demanding punishment for the culprits who are behind the incident," he said.

A devastating fire erupted in DCC market on Monday night.

Criticising the DNCC mayor's comment that the incident was an accident, Rizvi said, "After any incident, ruling party men including the prime minister make comments to hinder the investigation. It indicates that the incident (fire) was planned."