

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.6 L 18.8	MYMENSINGH H 29.5 L 17.3	CHITTAGONG H 31.0 L 20.5	SYLHET H 31.3 L 17.6	RAJSHAHI H 31.7 L 21.6	RANGPUR H 28.5 L 18.0	KHULNA H 31.8 L 23.0	BARISAL H 32.2 L 21.0	COX'S BAZAR H 30.0 L 23.0
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two paces over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and in the regions of Comilla and Noakhali districts till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Day and night temperature may remain unchanged over the country. Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:12pm and rises tomorrow at 05:55am.

HOMAGE TO WAR HEROES



People from all strata of life commemorate the sacrifices of the Liberation War martyrs and celebrate the country's independence through an array of programmes yesterday. *Clockwise from top left*, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence while paying tributes to the martyrs at the National Memorial in Savar on Independence Day. A performance at Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh. Students of Unique Public School in Bogra present a colourful display at the town's Shaheed Chandu Stadium. The National Memorial flooded with flowers and wreaths placed by thousands of people thronging the memorial. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders places a wreath. A group of students wearing the national flag as headbands. PHOTOS: STAR, PID

Independence Day celebrated

FROM PAGE 1
The president was the first to place a wreath at the altar of the National Memorial at 5:57am. He was immediately followed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
After placing the wreaths, the president and the prime minister stood in solemn silence there for some time as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War.
A smartly turned-out contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force presented a salute on the occasion while the last post was played on bugles.
BSS adds: Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, ministers, advisors, mayors of Dhaka north and south city corporations, parliament members, chiefs of the three forces, freedom fighters, foreign diplomats and civil and military officials were present on the occasion.
Later, flanked by senior leaders of the party, Hasina, also the president of Bangladesh Awami League, laid wreaths at the National Memorial on behalf of her party.
On her return from the National Memorial, the premier paid homage to Father of the Nation by placing wreaths at his mural in front of Bangabandhu

Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the capital.
Then, she stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu, the architect of the independence.
Awami League advisory council members Amir Hossain Amu and Tofail Ahmed, presidium members Begum Matia Chowdhury, advocate Sahara Khatun, engineer Mosharrif Hossain and Dr Abdur Razzak, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Food Minister Qamrul Islam, and AL Joint Secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak were present among others.
The Speaker and Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah also paid tributes to Father of the Nation by placing wreaths at his mural.
Besides, families of Bir Shreshthas (the highest military award of Bangladesh), wounded freedom fighters, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders of different political parties, social, cultural and professional bodies, and people from all walks of life also placed wreaths at the National Memorial in the morning.
The Independence and National Day rally of children and juveniles was held at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday morning.
While addressing the rally, Hasina

urged guardians and teachers to make concerted endeavours to build a generation of good moral character and integrity in order to prepare them for taking future leadership of the country.
She witnessed the march past of smartly turned out units of school students and took salute. She also enjoyed attractive displays of the school students on different themes on the Liberation War.
The gallery of Bangabandhu National Stadium was decorated with portraits of Bangabandhu, four national leaders, Bir Shreshthas, photographs of the prime minister and natural beauties of Bangladesh.
The premier greeted all freedom fighters. Like the previous occasions, the prime minister sent flowers, fruits and sweets to the war-wounded freedom fighters at Martyred and War-wounded Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Centre (Muktijodha Tower-1) on Gaznavi Road at Mohammadpur.
Every year, March 26 brings the most tragic reminiscence of the history's blackest episode that heralded a nine-month bloody ordeal from the night following March 25, 1971 in achieving the long-cherished independence on December 16, the same year at the cost of a sea of blood.
In the wake of the military crackdown,

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who became the undisputed leader of the then Pakistan following the massive victory of his party, Awami League, in the 1970 general elections, declared independence of Bangladesh at 00-30 hours on March 26 (the night following March 25) in 1971.
The great leader also called upon the people to build a strong resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces. The Pakistani military junta, in a bid to stop the legitimate movement of the Bangalees, arrested Bangabandhu on that night following his declaration of independence.
They then took him to the then West Pakistan and kept him in a prison for the entire nine-month period of the Liberation War.
Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign state on December 16, 1971 with the surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces, who killed three million innocent Bangalees, perpetrated atrocities on two lakh Bangalee women and burnt down lakhs of dwelling houses across the country during the nine-month war.
On the eve of the Independence Day, the president and the prime minister issued separate messages, calling upon the nation to uphold the spirit of the War

of Liberation to fulfil the dreams of the valiant freedom fighters, who embraced martyrdom for the cause of their beloved motherland.
The day is a public holiday.
The national flag was flying atop all government and private buildings while streets and important city intersections were decorated with national and multi-coloured miniature flags and festoons.
National dailies brought out special supplements while Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private radio stations and television channels are airing special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.
Special prayers were offered at all mosques, temples, churches and other places of worship across the country seeking divine blessings for the eternal peace of the departed souls of Father of the Nation, four national leaders, martyrs of the War of Liberation and all other patriotic sons of the soil.
UNB also adds: BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia also paid tributes to the Liberation War martyrs placing a wreath at the memorial in the morning.
Teachers, students and employees of Dhaka University, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, placed a wreath there in the morning.

'Unfinished Memoirs of Bangabandhu' published in French

BSS, Dhaka
The unfinished autobiography of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been published in French.
Ginkgo Editeur, a prestigious French publishing house, published the book "The Unfinished Memoirs of Bangabandhu" marking the 47th Independence and National Day of Bangladesh, and the 45th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and France.
All works for publishing the book in French were conducted under the personal supervision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
The book translated by Bhattachariya, Professor Emeritus of National Institute of Oriental Language and Civilization (INALCO) of the University of Paris, hit the biggest book fair of France, "Salon Livre Paris", at Porte De Versailles in Paris yesterday.
Jeremi Krodon, a teacher of the Department of Bangla Language and Civilization at INALCO, wrote the footnotes of the book.
Besides, former French ambassador to Bangladesh Surge Degale, Head of Bangla Department of INALCO Dr Phillip Benowa and eminent educationist Phillip Rat worked together for the book.
Former French foreign minister Hubert Ve'dime wrote the introduction of the book.
Renauld Mon, the publisher of the book, is very hopeful that the book will be a success and be well-accepted by the historians and researchers as well as common readers.
Apart from Bangla and English, the book is also available in Chinese, Urdu, Japanese and Arabic languages.

Obituary

CITY DESK
Moslema Jahan Begum, wife of late NM Peara Jahan, died at 9:30am yesterday.
She was 87.
A doa mahfil will be held after the Maghrib prayers tomorrow at her residence 38/1 RK Mission road, Dhaka, says a press release.

Chehlum

CITY DESK
The chehlum of Kohinoor Dastgir, wife of former ambassador Maj Gen Quazi Golam Dastgir, will be held after the Asr prayers today in her residence "Hasnahena" at House 36 (new), Road 11 (new), Dhanmondi.



Participants at a boat race, popularly known as Nouka Baich, on Hatirjheel Lake in the capital yesterday. The colourful regatta was arranged by Bangladesh Rowing Federation marking the country's 47th Independence Day where hundreds of people converged on the banks of the lake to enjoy the traditional sport of riverine Bangladesh. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN