

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 24.0 L 19.8	H 23.2 L 20.2	H 29.5 L 23.5	H 22.3 L 19.8	H 23.4 L 20.4	H 27.4 L 19.2	H 26.5 L 19.5	H 26.3 L 20.0	H 30.0 L 23.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am, Met Offices said.



Without any safety gear, a worker of DPDC leans a bamboo ladder against power cables to fix an 11,000-volt transformer line. The country's power distribution companies are still indifferent to ensuring public and worker safety by providing their workers with standard safety tools such as elevated working platforms, professional grade insulated work boots, gloves and harnesses. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DSCC
HC stays charging of addl holding tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday stayed the effectiveness of the notices issued by the Dhaka South City Corporation imposing additional holding tax in DSCC area.
The court also issued a rule questioning the legality of charging extra holding tax from landlords in the area.
In the rule, the HC asked the authorities concerned of the government and the DSCC to explain why charging holding tax more than the amount fixed under the relevant law should not be declared illegal.
Five officials including LGRD secretary, DSCC mayor and its chief executive officer have been made respondents to the rule.
The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Faruque issued the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by 104 residents of Khilgaon area in Dhaka challenging the legality of the notices issued by the DSCC imposing extra holding tax on them.
Under the Municipal Corporation (Taxation) Rules, 1986, the government issued a gazette notification in 2015 imposing 7 percent tax on land and building, 7 percent for conservancy, 5 percent for street light, 3 percent for water and 8 percent for health sector, petitioners' lawyer Barrister Mucktadir Rahman told The Daily Star.
But the DSCC authorities have been charging tax 320 to 974 times higher than the amount fixed under the relevant law, which is illegal, the lawyer said.
The DSCC issued notices on the landlords at different times imposing the extra tax, he added.

2 more cases filed against Mahmudur

STAR REPORT
Two sedition cases were filed against Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, in Dinajpur and Kurigram yesterday.
Bringing sedition charges against Mahmudur, a case was filed in Dinajpur for his "derogatory remarks against Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his granddaughter Tulip Siddique, also a British lawmaker."
In Dinajpur, a lawyer, Shamsur Rahman Parvez, also law affairs secretary of Khansama upazila AL unit, filed the case with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Bishwanath Mondal.
Another unidentified man was also made accused in the case, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.
The court ordered police to look into the matter and submit a report to the court on December 28.
Redwanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station, said
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Support Bangladesh to resolve Rohingya crisis
Shirin urges int'l community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury urged the international community to come forward for solving the Rohingya crisis soon and ensure human rights of the uprooted religious minority of Myanmar.
Bangladesh always stands by the oppressed people, and it is evident from the fact that the country gave shelter to the Rohingya on humanitarian grounds despite having resource constraints, she said.
In this regard, the international community should support Bangladesh's efforts, she told a conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organised the two-day conference
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Relief goods flood local markets

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, from Cox's Bazar
Every evening, a mad rush grips Court Bazar and Moriccha Bazar where locals crowd to buy goods at surprisingly lower than average prices.
Keeping watch for two days, this correspondent observed that the goods on sale are actually relief materials given to Rohingya refugees in numerous camps in Cox's Bazar.
In a desperate rush for cash, Rohingyas are selling leftover relief items, flooding the local markets of Teknaf and Ukhia Upazila with them and causing concern among local businessmen as they fear losing business to this "unscrupulous syndicate".
Most of the Rohingya families were seen selling the surplus goods provided twice a month by UNHRC, World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN.
They receive the aid at noon and sell them in the evening at the local market next to their camps including the ones in Kutupalong, Thangkhal and Balukhali.
Few hours later, the same goods are seen being

sold three to five miles away at Ukhia Bazar, Court Bazar and Moriccha Bazar.
The surplus aid items include rice, lentils, soybean oil, powder milk and biscuits. Apart from these, goods like tarpaulin, utensils, buckets and blankets were also seen being sold, a common scenario for the last one and a half months.
Syed Hossen, one of the locals engaged in buying and selling of relief goods, told The Daily Star that a 30kg sack of rice will cost one half the price being charged in market.
"A sack of 30kg rice is being sold at Tk 900, while a 4.5kg sack of lentil is Tk 140 only," he added.
Another man who was selling tarpaulin at Court Bazar said he was selling white tarpaulin for Tk 900 a piece while the red one would be sold at Tk 800.
He said they avoid the check points to facilitate the transport of goods to nearby markets.
Asked, Md Nikaruzzaman, upazila executive



The relief materials being sold. PHOTO: STAR
officer of Ukhia, told The Daily Star that some villagers enter the camps in the evening and buy the items at a cheap rate.
To prevent the relief items from being smuggled, the upazila administration beefed up their surveillance and intensified patrolling, he added.
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4 developer staff shot over land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar
Four staff of a property developer were shot allegedly by local influential people over land dispute in Kamalapur area of Savar outside the capital yesterday.
Shot in different parts of their bodies, Abu Sayeed, Bayezid Hossen, Anik Hossen and Masum Mia were undergoing treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital.
Another employee, Billal Hossen, also sustained minor injuries.
Mostafizur Rahman, executive officer of Krishibid West View, said some 30 to 40 people were setting up a boundary wall on the land of the company.
As the five staff protested, the attackers opened fire on them, he said.
Toriqul Islam, sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station, said they are trying to arrest the attackers.
No case was filed till last evening, the SI added.

CONCEALING WEALTH INFO

ACC requests EC for action against Mymensingh MP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has requested the Election Commission (EC) to take necessary legal action against the lawmaker of Mymensingh-5 for concealing information of wealth worth Tk 54.56 lakh in his affidavit.
Signed by ACC's Secretary Dr Md Shamsul Arefin, the letter was sent yesterday to the EC secretary, ACC sources said.
The Daily Star obtained a copy of the letter.
According to the letter, while investigating an allegation against Mymensingh-5 lawmaker Salah Uddin Ahmed Mukti over amassing wealth illegally, the ACC found that the MP had submitted an affidavit to EC on December 2, 2013. In it, he had mentioned that he was possessing moveable and immovable properties worth Tk 4.5 lakh.
However, five months prior to that, on June 30, 2013, Salah Uddin submitted a wealth statement to tax office mentioning that he had possessed moveable and immovable properties worth Tk 56.03 lakh.
In its enquiry, the ACC also found that Salah Uddin received wealth worth of Tk 3.03 lakh from his father, but did not mention it either on the EC's affidavit or his tax return file.
As a result, the commission views that the lawmaker did not follow ethics while submitting "untrue affidavit", and has requested the EC to take action against the MP as per the law, the letter added.
Meanwhile, the ACC yesterday issued separate notices to M Wahidul Haque -- chairman of AB Bank, and
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The Martyred Intellectuals' Day and Victory Day are knocking at the door. Thousands will pour in at war memorials and mausoleums to pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War. Anti-clockwise from bottom left, the National Memorial at Savar and Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial and the mausoleum of Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Flight Lt Matiur Rahman at Mirpur are being cleaned up and painted for the occasions. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

People being victimised for dissent

Fakhrul tells Human Rights Day programme, referring to forced disappearances, killings
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
People are falling victim to forced disappearance or killing whenever they speak out against the government, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.
He also said the government had relinquished democracy and human rights and was using state machineries to stay in power.
He made the remarks while addressing a human chain of BNP before Jatiya Press Club marking Human Rights Day.
"The overall situation appears that the government has made democracy and human rights disappear from the country," Fakhrul said.
Family members of those who went missing or disappeared were also present at the event alongside BNP activists.
Fakhrul said many people including university teacher, former diplomat, businessmen, and journalist were still missing, and their families were waiting for their safe return.
Claiming that his party is being denied space in politics, Fakhrul said no election friendly atmosphere would be created if the trend continued.
Meanwhile, BNP leader Moudud Ahmed at a discussion said Awami League would have to leave power if it failed to prove the allegations of money laundering by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.
The government is trying to divert people's attention from national crises by bringing allegations against
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