

Election held in free, fair manner

Say CCHRB observers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) yesterday said the ninth parliamentary election was held in a free, fair and impartial manner.

The council observed this on the basis of the reports by its members who visited 2,366 polling centres in 22 constituencies across the country before and during the election.

The presence of voters in the polling centres was spontaneous and that women voters turned out in large numbers.

Although some voters had trouble finding their centres and their names on the voter list, polling was held peacefully, they said. Some voters could not cast their votes as they did not find their names on the list.

The observers also said presiding officers prevented them from entering some centres even after they showed the identity cards issued by the Election

Commission. Although there was a rumor that some candidates distributed money among the voters, the observers said, they did not find any witnesses to such incidents.

Also, they did not find anybody casting fake votes. Council President AHM Nouman presented a keynote paper at the meeting attended by council director Advocate Shamsuddin, vice-president Osman Gani and executive members Babul Kumar Adhikari, Jasmine Ara Prema and Mahbulul Haque.

JCD observes founding anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, observed its 30th founding anniversary on the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday amid fears of confrontation with Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

On the occasion, senior leaders and activists of the organisation gathered at Madhu's Canteen at noon and celebrated the day by cutting a cake in low-key manner as the JCD men left all DU halls on the night of December 29 fearing attack by BCL in the wake of victory of the grand alliance in national elections.

Top JCD leaders Azizul Barea Helal, Shafiq Bari Babu, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Hasan Mamun, Saiful Islam Feroz and Obaidul Haq were present at the programmes.

Earlier, JCD placed a wreath at the graveyard of BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman in the city.

DU JCD general secretary Saiful Islam Feroz yesterday expressed their concern, saying that the BCL men are warning JCD leaders and activists over phone not to come back to halls.

He urged all student organisations to help maintain a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

When contacted, DU BCL President Sohel Rana Tipu said, "We want to get along with other active student organisations on the campus." He also urged JCD men to get back to the dormitories.



Police were deployed on the Dhaka University campus after Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres had vandalised the rooms of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Zia Hall.

'Start morality campaign to bring social change'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Start morality campaign to bring social change through moral development of people, said noted Professor Aminul Islam at a discussion in the city yesterday.

The discussion titled 'Family is the school of morality' was organised by Ayachak Ashrama Bangladesh at RC Majumder auditorium of Dhaka University (DU).

The discussion was organised to mark the Morality Campaign Day which has been observed since last year.

Speaking as chief guest Prof Islam, the senior-most teacher of philosophy department, said a family-based morality campaign should begin first as only a couple having moral values can inspire their children in practising morality in their life.

For this reason the parents will have to maintain a moral character first, he added.

Prof Islam said a change in social and political arena could be initiated amid building moral character.

Addressing the session, Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the campaign should be

introduced at every level of the society.

He also said the campaign would be permanent one when personal morality of people would be developed.

Director of the Inter-religious and Inter-culture Dialogue Centre Dr Kazi Nurul Islam said self-analysis of one's own character can bring change in a person continuously.

Presided over by Principal of Ayachak Ashrama Dr Jugal Brahmachari, the discussion was also addressed by Prof Paresh Chandra Mandol, introduced at every level of the society.

DRCL executives

METRO DESK



Furkan Uddin and Dewan Abdul Mannan have been elected president and secretary general of Dhanmondi Recreation Club Ltd (DRCL) for 2009-10 on December 26, says a press release.

Mohammad Zahurul Islam was elected treasurer.

Executive committee members are SM Waliar Rahman, M Hashem Ali, Amir Hossain, Harunur Rashid, Dr Noor M Abdal, Azizul Haque Ratan, Amirul Islam, Shahed Abdul Khaleque, Mirza Md Alamgir, Mozammel Haque Alamgir, Raquibul Islam Chowdhury and Abduhu Khaled Mahmud.

a teacher of Sanskrit department of DU.

In order to raise consciousness among people about the morality campaign day, a colourful rally was brought out after the discussion that marched through different campus roads and ended in front of the National Press Club.

Two siblings killed over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two brothers were killed and another sibling injured in an attack by their rivals over land dispute on Wednesday night at Dhanuapuzila in the district.

The dead were identified as Lal Mia, 48, and Noya Mia, 40, and their injured brother was Choinur Mia, sons of Mujibur Rahman of Majhbari village.

Sources said they had a land dispute for long with their uncle Hobibur Rahman. On that day, they sat at a pre-planned arbitration at their courtyard.

At one stage, Hobibur and his 10 to 15 accomplices attacked the brothers with lethal arms, leaving Lal Mia dead on the spot and critically injured Noya Mia died at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital in the district yesterday.

Chehlum of Nurul Islam tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of veteran labour leader and politician Mohammad Nurul Islam will be held at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) cafeteria of Dhaka University at 3:00pm tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives, well-wishers and political colleagues of Nurul Islam are requested to attend the chehlum.

Nurul Islam, president of Gona Party and Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, passed away on December 4, 2008 a day after he suffered burns in a mysterious fire at his residence in the city.

Correction

The Daily Star in its special supplement, 9th JS Polls Results, has inadvertently published wrong information about M Idris Ali, an MP-elect from Munshiganj-3, and a wrong picture.

The correct information is as follows: Name: M Idris Ali; Election area: 173, Munshiganj-3, Education: MS in Management of Information Systems; and Profession: Retired secretary to the government.

The supplement was published on December 31.

Artist Kibria's birth anniversary programme today

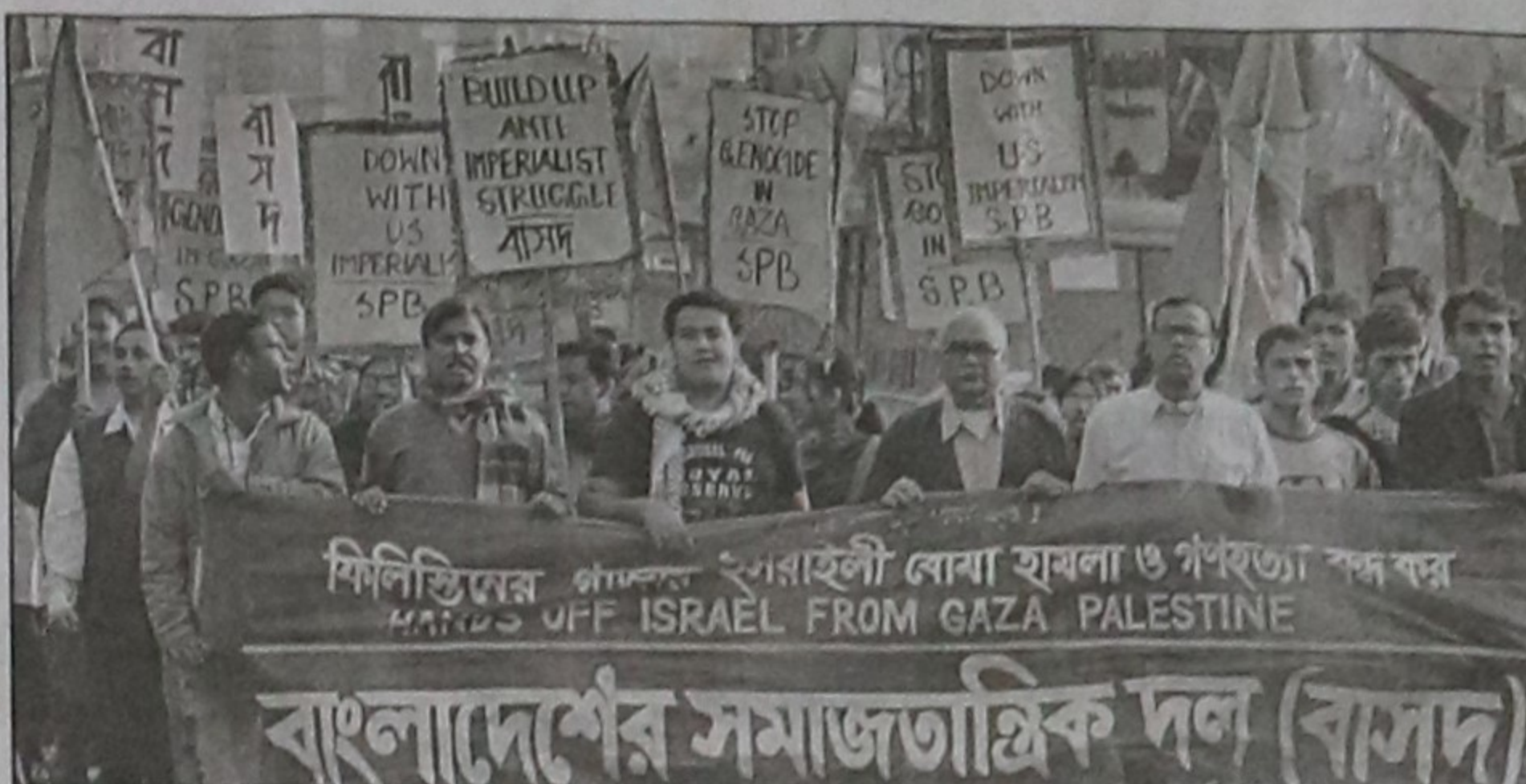
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kibria at Bengal Shilpalaya at Dhanmondi in the city at 5:00pm today, says a press release.

Born on January 1 in 1929 in Birbhum, West Bengal, Mohammad Kibria graduated from Kolkata Government Art Institute in 1950 and later pursued higher studies in fine arts in Japan.

He is a recipient of Ekushey Award, Independence Award and many other awards from home and abroad. Dhaka University selected him as a professor emeritus in 2008.



Socialist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting Israeli attacks on Gaza Strip.

QUESTION LEAK AT DU POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT Body to probe allegations against three teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) syndicate last night formed a five-member enquiry committee to investigate the allegations against three teachers that they leaked questions of an examination in the political science department.

The committee is headed by university Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad. Other members of the committee are syndicate members Sadek Khan, Assistant Prof Rahmat Ullah, law faculty dean Prof Borhan Uddin Khan and a representative of the accused teachers.

The syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, asked the authorities concerned to relieve the accused teachers of all examination-related activities in the department.

When contacted late last night, Prof Azad told The Daily Star that they would investigate the allegations brought by the fact-finding committee and recommend punitive action if the charges are proved.

Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said the committee has been formed on the basis of a report of a fact-finding committee and a letter from lawyer Dr Nayem Ahmed.

The authorities postponed the exam, held on

December 29 in 2007, as most of the questions were leaked.

Earlier, a report of the fact-finding committee placed before the syndicate on November 27 last year accused Prof Ataur Rahman, Prof Wadud Bhuiyan and Prof AHM Aminur Rahman of leaking questions of an MSS (master of social science) examination under session 2004-05.

The syndicate sent the report to Dr Nayeem Ahmed to know whether it is possible to frame any charge against the accused teachers on the basis of the report and if possible, then what charge can be framed.

Prof Sadeka Halim, a syndicate member, told The Daily Star that Dr Nayeem in his report said he agreed with the fact-finding committee report that the questions were not leaked from the DU examination controller's office and that internal examination committee of the department, somehow, might have leaked it.

Prof Ataur, Prof Wadud and Prof Aminur were on the department's examination committee.

DU authorities, in the meantime, have relieved the three professors of all examination-related activities in the department.

Car crash kills 3 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed in a road accident in the capital's Chairman Bari area early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Md Khaled Chowdhury, 26, Md Nuruzzaman, 35, and Md Hazrat, 50.

Sub-inspector (SI) Tapash Kumar Barua of Gulshan Police Station said an airport-bound speeding private car crushed two night guards-- Nuruzzaman and Hazrat at about 12:30 am when they were standing on the footpath of the airport road.

Khaled, the car rider, was also killed on the spot when his car finally hit an electrical pole and a traffic signal post.

Police detained the private car while other injured passengers of the car managed to escape the scene, SI Tapash said. The bodies were taken to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy, Gulshan police added.

UPAZILA ELECTION ON JAN 22 14 elected unopposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 14 candidates in the Upazila Parishad elections were elected unopposed, Election Commission (EC) officials said yesterday.

The elections will be held on January 22. Wednesday was the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers.

The EC distributed the election symbols among the candidates yesterday.

According to electoral rules, candidates can campaign from

today until midnight of January 20.

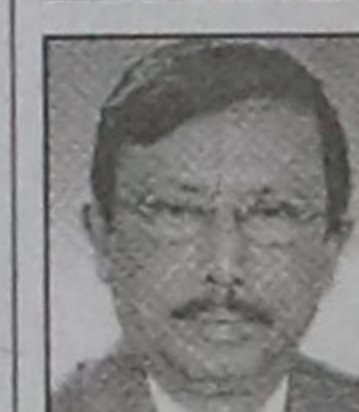
Senior Assistant Secretary of EC secretariat Abdul Baten said the total number of contestants is 8,131 in 481 upazilas. Of them, 3,316 will vie for the posts of chairmen and 2,879 for vice chairmen. And 1,936 women candidates will vie for the posts of vice chairmen reserved for women.

After the withdrawal of nomination papers, two candidates were elected chairmen in Rugganj upazila, Narayanganj, and Habiganj Sadar upazila, three vice chairmen in Poba upazila, Rajshahi, Atayari upazila, Panchagarh, and Nalitabari upazila, Sherpur, unopposed.

Nine women candidates were also elected vice chairpersons unopposed in Chohanaj of Dinajpur, Aditmari of Lalmonirhat, Bera of Pabna, Alamdanga of Chuadanga, Charfashion of Bholia, Rajapur of Jhalakathi, Jamalganj of Sunamganj, Jagannathpur of Sylhet and Mohalchhori of Khagrachhari.

Sabbir elected BIAA president

METRO DESK



Sabbir Ahmed Khan, MS Siddique and Mirza Khurshid Alam were elected president, senior vice-president and vice-president of Bangladesh Indenting Agents Association (BIAA) for 2009-10 at its 27th annual general meeting on December 24, says a press release.

The AGM was held at a city hotel.

Members of the board of directors are Alhaj Md Abdus Salam, Altaf Hossain Biswas, Md Anwarul Ghani, MSI Dastagir, ABM Kaiser, Md Mohsen, Md Nurul Abser Meah, Nafisa Akbar, Md Shahidul Ahsan, SM Salim Reza, Syed Saadqat Hossain, Shahab Uddin Khan, AKM Azad, Md Asadullah, Muhammad Ayab Miah, Md Harunur Rashid, Moeven Uddin Khan and Md Shafuddin.

POLLS WIN AL special prayers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League will offer special prayers at mosques, temples, churches and pagodas today to thank the Creator for the landslide victory in the December 29 general election, says a press release.

At the mosques, 'Shukrana' prayers will be held after Juma prayers.

AL Joint General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam in a statement requested the followers of all faiths to join the prayers.

Tac chief's remark on ACC

FROM PAGE 16

an allegation," said ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal at a regular briefing yesterday.

The ACC has also found discrepancies in a number of cases in which people accused of corruption confessed before the Tac but their voluntary disclosures differed with the ACC findings. They confessed to having smaller amount of illegal wealth than what the ACC says they have.

"The commission is currently having a discussion about the issue and there is a provision in the laws to deal with such issues," said Hanif Iqbal when asked whether ACC will look into the matter.

He also mentioned that Tac never sought any information regarding discrepancies between the statement of a corruption accused and the shadow file ACC forwarded to

Tac. The Tac even did not give the anti-corruption watchdog a chance to speak on its behalf.

"It can be assumed that the Tac has made all its decisions based on an unclear notion as the commission works with the statement given only by the accused," Hanif Iqbal added.

He added that it is very normal and natural that a graft-accused will speak in their own favour to prove themselves innocent as working procedure of the Tac lacks scope of taking deposition from victims or complainants to determine whether the allegation is true or not.

Replying to a question whether the ACC would take any step to vacate Supreme Court stay orders on cases filed against Sheikh Hasina, he said, "The matter is pending with the court and it will be disposed of by the court as per

legal procedures. Other cases under process in ACC will also continue as usual as per ACC rules."

All the 263 cases sent to the Tac, following application from graft accused to make voluntary disclosures about their ill-gotten wealth were either at the stage of being sent to court after investigation or were under investigation.

In some of the cases, ACC investigations gathered enough evidence and it was preparing to move to court when it was compelled to forward the cases to the Tac.

Hanif Iqbal explained that the comment is unexpected as ACC runs its activities based on evidence and information in a legal procedure.

The Tac has so far awarded clemency to 491 graft accused in its five-month tenure since August 3 last year.

RATIFYING ORDINANCES

Hasina consults constitutional experts

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister-apparent Sheikh Hasina yesterday consulted with a group of constitutional experts the legal aspects of the ordinances promulgated during the tenure of the interim government, as the draft laws have to be placed in the first session of parliament for ratification.

Former Attorneys-General Rafique-ul-Haq and Mahmudul Islam and Dr M Zahir attended the half-hour session of discussion on the important matter.

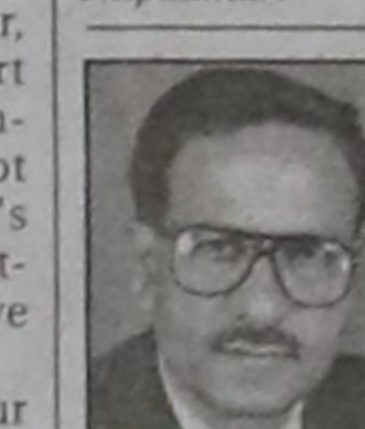
Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Secretary of AL Kazi Habibur Awwal and MP-elect Dr Dipu Moni and Barister Sheikh Fazle Noor Tapash were also present at the party.

Emerging from Sudha Sadan, Dr Zahir told reporters that he came to attend the discussion on the legal aspects of the ordinances made in the absence of Parliament.

A good number of ordinances have been promulgated as massive reforms in different sectors, including politics and polls, were conducted during the interim period following the 1/11 changeover.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari



Fazlar Rahman, president of Nilphamari Press Club, passed away at a hospital in Kolkata

on December 29 at the age of 61.

Fazlar Rahman, who had been suffering from liver cancer, was admitted to the hospital a week ago.

He was also the district correspondent of the Ittefaq and The New Nation. He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter.

He was buried at the municipal graveyard after a namaz-e-jaanaz at the central Eidgah maidan in Nilphamari on Wednesday.

His quikhwani will be held at his Shahi Para residence on January 4.

Siraj Shikder's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 34th death anniversary of Shaheed Siraj Shikder, says a press release.

Shaheed Siraj Shikder Smriti Parishad has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The programmes include Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, distribution of foods among the destitute, placing of wreaths at his grave at Mohammadpur in the city and free healthcare at orphanages.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of Zahurul Haq Chowdhury, former deputy general manager of Pubali Bank

Limited, will be held at his village home in Gajaria Miabari after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

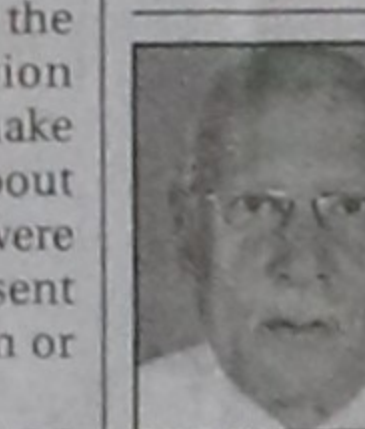
He passed away at his Sipahibagh residence in the city on November 24 at the age of 79.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Md Abdur Razzak, a Zaker Party leader, will be held at his residence at 155

Nodth Ibrahimpur, Kafrul in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Razzak passed away at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital at Uttara in the city on December 28 at the age of 63.

He left behind his wife, four sons and four daughters to mourn his death.

DHAKA TODAY

Conference

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network organise a special conference on 'Climate change and Bangladesh development strategy: Domestic tasks and international cooperation'. Venue: ICMA auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 08:30am.

Cultural programme

Caring Glory, a special education centre for the children with special needs, organises a cultural programme in participation of the children. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 4:00pm.

Free Friday clinic

Association of Pabna Ex-Cadets (APEC) organises a free Friday clinic. Venue: Mohakhali Bus Terminal. Time: 10:45am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Astronomical Association will hold a discussion to mark the 400 years of the invention of telescope, which will be followed by a film show. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca. Time: 5:00pm.

Reception

Noted artist Mohammad Kibria will be accorded a reception to mark his 80th birth anniversary. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya. Time: 5:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over northern parts and the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog elsewhere during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may rise slightly over Rajshahi division and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 29.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 9.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in percentage, Morning, Evening. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.