

NEWS IN *brief*

SCC ward 2 to get EVM for polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The voters of ward no-2 in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) will be able to cast their votes through Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in SCC polls on June 15.

Ezharul Haque, regional election officer of Sylhet division, yesterday said they are taking preparations to introduce the machine to the ward which has 6,291 voters including 3,529 women.

However, the voters of the other 26 wards will have to vote in the traditional process.

Seven shops gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire gutted seven shops at Pahartali in Chittagong city, causing damage of Tk 5 lakh yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a tin-shed shop and soon spread to the other mud shops in Rail Gate area around 3:00am, said fire service sources.

Fire fighters of Agrabad Fire Station doused the fire after an hour long efforts.

Three die from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three people died from electrocution at Gorai Par in Kashipur area of Barisal city yesterday morning.

The victims were Syed Mizanur Rahman, 40, a city corporation employee; Malek Howladar, 58, a retired police man; and Delwar Gazi, 35, a fisherman.

Family and hospital sources said the trio were fishing in their leased pond early in the morning.

They electrocuted as a live electric wire crossed over the pond got torn and fell into the pond electrifying the water.

They were declared dead at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Wajed Mia's anniversary of death observed

UNB, Dhaka

The fourth death anniversary of M Wajed Mia, noted nuclear scientist and the husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was observed yesterday.

A mild and doa mahfil was held at Sudha Sadan, the premier's Dhamondi residence.

Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana, Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, and the prime minister's family members, including lawmaker Sheikh Helal were present.

PM's adviser HT Imam, state ministers Advocate Shamsul Haq Tuku and Quamrul Islam also attended the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Hundreds of Shahbagh youths join a procession to celebrate the verdict of a tribunal which sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman to death yesterday after finding him guilty of crimes against humanity in the 1971 Liberation War.

PHOTO: STAR

KAMARUZZAMAN'S DEATH PENALTY

Gonojagoron Mancha celebrates with rupture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Shahbagh protesters waited with bated breath for the verdict from early morning. As hours ticked by and the morning turned to noon, they grew more and more anxious. "Did you hear anything?" they asked each other. The moment finally arrived, and an announcement from the Gonojagoron Mancha turned the protest into an event of celebration.

As soon as the news was out that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman was sentenced to death for his crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, they burst into cheers and brought out a jubilant procession to celebrate the verdict.

"The judgment reflects the hopes and aspiration of the masses. I hope the verdicts to come next will not disappoint us," said Imran H Sarkar, spokesperson of the Mancha.

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yes-

terday sentenced Kamaruzzaman, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, to death as five out of seven charges brought against him were proved.

Around 2:00pm, several hundred people regardless of their age and sex joined the procession from Shahbagh and marched towards Central Shaheed Minar before returning to Shahbagh around 3:00pm. Passing motorists blew horns and gave thumbs-up signs in jubilation.

In celebration, the youths hugged each other and threw flower petals in the air and distributed sweetmeats among people while waving the national flag. The entire Projonno Chattar reverberated with the slogans "Joy Bangla", "Jonotar Joy Holo" (people triumphed).

On Monday, police dismantled the stage of the Shahbagh Gonojagoron Mancha where the movement to demand the capital punishment for war criminals started on February 5.

Polls manifesto partly fulfilled: Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government's election manifesto was partly fulfilled through the delivery of the war crimes trial judgement on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

The manifesto was to try persons who committed crimes against humanity, including genocide, arson, rape, looting, forced conversion and forcing people to leave the country during the 1971 Liberation War, he said.

Shafique was expressing his reaction to journalists at his Bangladesh Secretariat office after the International Crimes Tribunal-2 awarded death penalty to Kamaruzzaman for committing the crimes in 1971.

He said the trials were being held transparently maintaining all required standards, which, at times, were better than those of other countries.

The accused were provided all opportunities to defend themselves through their choice of lawyers, to cross examine witnesses for adequate periods and to place arguments. Nobody was being tried on political consideration, he said.

Replies to a question, Shafique said the ministries of foreign and home affairs were working to bring war crimes convict Abul Kalam Azad, popularly known as Bachchu Razakar, back to the country.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said anti-liberation forces would hatch conspiracies to stop the war crimes trial but they would not be able to do so.

CRACKDOWN ON HEFAJAT MEN Name thousands claimed to be killed Inu calls upon opposition leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday asked the opposition leaders to provide a list, in 48 hours, of those thousands of people who they [leaders] claim to have been killed in law enforcers' action against Hefajat-e-Islam activists.

"Stop falsification and apologise to the nation if you cannot provide the list," Inu urged the BNP-led 18-party alliance leaders while briefing journalists at the Secretariat.

He said the death toll did not cross 30 as per reports of daily Inqilab and daily Naya Digaanta but activists of BNP-Jamaat are spreading propaganda that thousands died.

Inu alleged that opposition leaders are spreading rumours to cause riots in the country.

However, the information minister could not give details of those who died and who were injured in the incident. "We are determining the casualties of the incident. We will disclose it soon," he said replying to a query.

Inu further said authorities of different madrasas will face the consequences of misguiding their children and using them in destructive activities in the capital.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid hands over the results of SSC and equivalent exams to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad will hold a discussion marking May Day; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Youth forum will organise a discussion on necessity of dialogue to resolve the present crisis; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Debate competition
Transparency International Bangladesh and Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University will arrange a debate competition on corruption and good governance; Venue: the university auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable
Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad will organise a roundtable on Savar tragedy; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.



A burnt floor of Tung Hai Sweater Ltd, a garment factory, in the capital's Darussalam. A fire broke out on the second floor of the factory, housed in an 11-storey building, late Wednesday, leaving seven people dead.

Govt to rehouse Ctg hill residents during monsoon: DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The district administration will house people living in the hills of Chittagong city in plain land for the three months of the rainy season when the risk of landslides is very high.

Several hundred poor families will be evacuated to tents in the nearby open fields and schools, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdul Mannan said yesterday.

In this regard, a thirteen-member committee of representatives of relevant government agencies was formed at a meeting at the DC office yesterday.

The DC said the team would visit the risky hills and select the rehabilitation sites tomorrow. Tents will be installed within the next three days, he added.

Mannan said initially the administration would distribute around 150 tents, each with a capacity of housing a family of four. Three hundred more will arrive later, he added.

"After making the shelters, we will ask the families to evacuate the risky hills. If they did not comply, we would force them to move out," the DC said.

In the past, the authorities concerned only asked the families to evacuate but did not ensure alternative housing arrangement for them, so it did not work, he said.

Landslides in Chittagong hills killed 28 people last year. The death toll from the accident was 17 in 2011, 11 in 2008 and 127 in 2007.

UN envoy Taranco due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Affairs Oscar Fernandez Taranco will arrive in Dhaka today for a four-day visit.

During the visit, he will hold talks with a wide range of interlocutors from the government, opposition parties, civil society and international community to foster dialogues for the next parliamentary elections in the country, said officials.

He is expected to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, they said.

The UNASG mission is also to stress the government and opposition parties to reach a consensus about the form of government to be placed during the electoral period for ensuring a free, fair, peaceful and inclusive election, diplomatic source said.

The UN and the international community are apprehending severe political crisis in Bangladesh over the mechanism for holding next general election, they said.

The government is considering the visit of Taranco highly important as he is coming to Bangladesh within five months to assess the country's overall political situation, especially the wave of violence that left hundreds dead and wounded in recent months, officials said.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally winds is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barisal till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said. Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore and Chuadanga and it may continue. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

at 5:18am.

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

	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max:	Min:
	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.4	23.5
Chittagong	31.8	22.5
Rajshahi	33.5	24.0
Rangpur	28.1	23.5
Khulna	34.5	23.4
Barisal	33.2	23.0
Sylhet	26.5	22.4
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.3