

DRY WEATHER  
LIKELY



WEATHER  
TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or thundershowers over the regions of Comilla, Chittagong and Sylhet till 6:00pm today.	Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.	Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 20.0 degrees at Sayedpur.	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			
	<b>The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:04am.</b> Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree	Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:		<b>Max:</b>	<b>Min:</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>Max:</b>	<b>Min:</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>	
			Dhaka	31.6	22.8	75	71	Khulna	32.8	22.0	79	83
			Chittagong	29.0	22.2	89	88	Barisal	30.8	21.0	79	88
			Rajshahi	31.4	22.7	85	68	Sylhet	28.6	21.8	89	90
		Rangpur	29.8	20.8	84	82	Cox's Bazar	30.5	23.0	75	85	

Supporters of Chittagong city Swechhasebak Dal President SK Khoda Toton and those of city BNP General Secretary Dr Shahadat scuffle at a rally in front of BNP's office in Nasimon Bhaban in the port city yesterday. The quarrel broke out after Dr Shahadat asked Toton not to address the programme to keep it short. The rally marked the end of the opposition alliance's 60-hour countrywide hartal at 6:00pm yesterday. The photo was taken around 4:30pm.

PHOTO:  
ANURUP KANTI DAS



POLITICAL VIOLENCE

## EC wants stronger security for its offices, officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a few days of country-wide political violence, the Election Commission yesterday requested the home ministry to strengthen the security of the commission's field offices and officers.

In this regard, a letter signed by EC's Deputy Secretary Abul Kashem was sent to the ministry.

The letter says, "Under the current circumstances, it is very urgent to strengthen the security of the field level officers and offices like the commission's secretariat in Dhaka."

In addition, it is necessary to secure the voting

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## Inu cautions Khaleda against shunning dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the next general polls a few months away, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would miss the "train of election and democracy" if she missed the "train of dialogue".

"Think, whether you will board the train of dialogue or the train of Jamaat-Hefajat-war criminals and travel to Pakistan?" he asked the opposition leader while briefing journalists at the capital's PID conference room.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's offer for a dialogue was still in effect. "Discussions can take place on both the proposals of the premier and her counterpart to reach consensus on formation of an election-time government."

Although Saturday's phone conversation between the two leaders was both sweet and sour, the minister hoped that the path of dialogue is still open.

Meanwhile, Inu accused Khaleda of spreading violence in the name of hartal and trying to force her opinions on the government to get the constitution amended regarding the poll-time government.

Asked whether the election would be acceptable without participation of the BNP, the information minister said the

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POLLS CODE OF CONDUCT

## EC to finalise draft today

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will finalise the draft of electoral code of conduct today, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday.

"After a meeting at the Election Commission office tomorrow, the electoral code of conduct will be finalised," Rakibuddin told journalists at his office in the capital.

Replying to reporters' queries the CEC said the commission had started monitoring the activities of "controversial" government officials, who are allegedly close to political parties, and would take necessary steps in time ahead of the election.

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## 18-party to hold rallies countrywide tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance will hold rallies at all upazila, district and city headquarters in the country tomorrow to protest "government oppression" during the 60-hour long hartal enforced by the alliance.

In Dhaka, the rally will be held in front of BNP's Naya Paltan headquarters, party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told reporters at a briefing at the party's central headquarters yesterday.

A gayebana janaza will be held in front of BNP's central headquarters on Friday for those opposition leaders and activists who were killed during the hartal that began at 6:00am on Sunday, Fakhrul added.

The opposition alliance had wanted to hold a rally in front of the BNP central headquarters on October 25 but was denied permission by Dhaka Metropolitan Police. At the last moment, the alliance agreed to hold the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan.

Now, BNP has again applied for permission to hold tomorrow's rally in front of its office.

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## NEWSIN brief

### Dipu Moni to brief foreign diplomats today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will brief the foreign diplomats in Dhaka today about the country's latest political situation and the upcoming general election.

Official sources said she would spoke about the prime minister's proposal for an all-party government to conduct the election and her telephone conversation with the opposition leader and offering for a dialogue, and the opposition sponsored hartal and violence.

All mission chiefs, heads of UN organisations and donor agencies were invited to the briefing at 3:00pm at the foreign ministry.

### Bakery employee beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bakery employee was beaten to death allegedly by his colleagues at Amtola in the capital's Dakkhin Khan yesterday over a trivial matter.

The deceased was Edon Mia alias Ridoy, 32, of Bramhanbaria.

His colleague Mustakin, 26, claimed that Ridoy kicked him and had an altercation with him while loading a rickshaw van, said Dakkhin Khan Police Sub-inspector Shamsul Haq.

Later, Mustakin along with some other employees beat Ridoy to death, said the SI. Police arrested Mustakin and his younger brother Manik, another employee of the bakery. A case was filed in this connection.

### Jubo League activist hacked to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jubo League man was hacked to death allegedly by activists of a rival faction yesterday over establishing supremacy in Ambagan area of Chittagong city.

The deceased is Humayun Kabir Murad, 35, of Tiger Pass area.

Quoting witnesses, Mamunur Rashid, second officer of Khulshi Police Station, said the criminals stopped Humayun's motorcycle around midnight in Ambagan area and attacked him with sharp weapons.

In this connection, police arrested Jubo League activist Md Afsar Uddin Riad from the area and seized two handguns and a machete from him.

## HASINA-KHALEDA TALKS

### Joy sees no possibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday said he did not see any likelihood of dialogue between the chiefs of the ruling and opposition parties as he thought the opposition was not sincere about talks.

"I'm hopeful about the dialogue, but...I think they (opposition) don't want it. They are showing different excuses to avoid dialogue despite repeated offers from our side," he told reporters at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after arriving in Dhaka from the USA last evening.

Asked if he would take any initiative to arrange for the talks, Joy said, "When the prime minister herself invited the opposition in a phone conversation, I can't do anything more."

He also said, "BNP-Jamaat unleashed a regime of violence and terrorism when they ruled. Now they are doing the same. This is the real face and character of our opposition."

If the BNP-Jamaat is voted to power again, they will

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## Indian envoy meets PM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran along with his Bangladeshi counterpart in India Tariq A Karim met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday and discussed the latest political situation of Bangladesh.

However, the details of the meeting could not be known.

A highly placed source told The Daily Star that the two high commissioners apprised the premier of the Indian government's position on the upcoming

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As part of the campaign for the next parliamentary election, which is due before January 24 next year, a large placard describing Awami League-led government's successes in five years and a replica of boat, the party's electoral symbol, have been installed at Bijoy Sarani intersection in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON



Condolence meeting

Swadhinata Forum will hold a condolence meeting on late journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Roundtable

Ganotantrik Islamic Movement will organise a roundtable on the unity of

Islamic forces in establishing good governance; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion on the next general election; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 10:00am.

POLLS IN BANGLADESH

## Mozena to brief Washington on India's views

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Dan Mozena will fly to Washington tomorrow to brief the State Department high-ups about the outcome of his meetings with Indian government officials on Bangladesh's political challenges ahead of the upcoming general election.

His Washington visit is deemed highly significant against the backdrop of his recent visit to New Delhi where he held talks with Indian foreign ministry officials, including Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh, on the political challenges in Bangladesh.

Diplomatic sources said Mozena would hold crucial meetings with US State

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## NIZAMI'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL

### Tribunal orders defence to complete examining fourth witness by today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday ordered the defence counsel of war crimes accused Motiur Rahman Nizami to complete the examination and cross-examination of the fourth defence witness by today's first session.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir fixed today's second session for prosecution to sum up the case.

Justice Kabir gave the order as the senior defence counsels of the case were absent at the court for the third consecutive day yesterday.

Like previous days, a junior counsel, Asad Uddin, came before the tribunal with one-day adjournment petition.

Asad said Nizami's son Mohammad Nazibar Rahman, the fourth witness, has so far exhibited 26 documents and the defence counsel wants to exhibit other documents.

If those documents are not exhibited, the judges would

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## Hartals aimed at delaying war crimes trial

Says Shahriar Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The real motive behind the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami's series of hartals is to delay the proceedings of the war crimes tribunals, eminent war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said yesterday.

The hartals have little to do with the issue of a non-party caretaker government, the main demand of the BNP-led opposition alliance, he added.

Delays in trials occur as lawyers of Jamaat leaders remain absent at the International War Crimes Tribunal during the shut

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