

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13pm and rises

tomorrow at 6:32am.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded

yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.0 degrees at Srimangal.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	28.0	16.8	63	62	Khulna	28.2	15.5	84	78
Chittagong	28.0	19.0	73	69	Barisal	27.8	15.5	90	83
Rajshahi	27.4	13.7	86	76	Sylhet	29.2	15.6	78	73
Rangpur	26.4	15.0	92	77	Cox's Bazar	31.0	21.7	73	70

NEWS IN brief

EC directs ROs to sit on nomination withdrawal applications

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) in a circular last night directed returning officers (RO) not to return or cancel any nomination withdrawal application, meaning Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad cannot withdraw his application for which was submitted yesterday.

In another circular, the EC also directed the ROs to hold meetings with candidates of the 10th parliamentary election to inform about the polling agents' code of conducts and issue public notice about the voting date, January 5, and period, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Bomb explodes near Gonojagoron Mancha in capital, youth held

DU CORRESPONDENT

A crude bomb exploded outside the Pubali Bank Limited branch in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday around 3:15pm prompting Gonojagoron Mancha activists nearby to apprehend and beat up a youth, Md Rasel, 17, and hand him over to police.

The campaigners took to the Shahbagh intersection minutes after the Supreme Court chamber judge stayed war crimes convict Quader Mollah's execution on Tuesday, announcing that they would not leave until the stay was lifted.



Death anniversary of five freedom fighters of a family today

METRO DESK

Today is the 42nd death anniversary of four martyred brothers Mukarram Hossain Mukul, Mansur Hossain Manju, Mastaque Hossain Anju and Mosharraf Hossain Ranju and their brother-in-law Yusuf Ali.

All of them had sacrificed their lives during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

On this occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and feeding of the destitute have been arranged at Hossain Nagar, Baitul Mozammel Jame Mosque on Savar EPZ Link Road.



Even ambulances were not spared yesterday during the countrywide blockade by the BNP-led 18-party alliance and the hartal of Jamaat-e-Islami. The photo was taken at Pathantola in Sylhet city right after marauding activists of pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir passed through the area.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Khokon, accomplices shot dead three persons

Witness tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday said he saw BNP leader and fugitive war crimes accused MA Zahid Hossain Khokon, accompanied by fellow Razakars and the Pakistani army, shoot dead three persons in Faridpur's Ishwardi village during the Liberation War.

On May 30, 1971, Khokon and the others had gone to one Kalom Sheikh's house prompting Kalom's brother Salam Sheikh, mother Boru Khatun and two sisters, Srimoti and Fulmoti, to flee, said octogenarian Abdus Salam Matubbar.

From a hiding spot he saw them shoot at the four, leaving all but Fulmoti dead, said the 15th witness before International Crimes Tribunal-1. He also depicted the

killing of his cousin, Nuru Matubbar.

On May 29, 1971, he and Nuru, some 20-25 feet apart, were watching Khokon and the others battling freedom fighters with rifles on Dighalia Beel when a bullet hit Nuru, killing him on the spot, he said.

Khokon and the others had also ransacked and torched houses of many villagers, he added.

The 14th prosecution witness and Nuru's brother, Abul Kashem Matubbar, yesterday also gave his deposition, stating that Salam had depicted the killings to him right after witnessing those on the two days.

The witnesses were cross-examined and the proceedings were adjourned till today. Khokon is facing 11 war crimes charges, including genocide.

KILLING OF WAR CRIMES WITNESS Ensure security for all involved in prosecution

Demands Sammilita Sangskritik Jote

DU CORRESPONDENT

Expressing anger over the killing of a prosecution witness in war crimes convict Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee's case, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote yesterday demanded that the government ensure security for all involved in the prosecution.

Mostafa Hawlader, 55, who testified against Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee, died from his injuries on Tuesday, two days after being hacked in his sleep at his Pirojpur home.

Addressing a gathering outside Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre, the jote also urged the government to financially assist Mostafa's family and demanded that the perpetrators be arrested and handed down exemplary punishment.

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AFD, law enforcement agencies want Tk 445cr for poll works

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Armed Forces Division (AFD) and different law enforcement agencies have sought Tk 445 crore for performing duties in the next general election scheduled for January 5.

Police have sought Tk 147 crore, Ansar Tk 206 crore, Coast Guard Tk 66 crore, and the AFD Tk 26 crore, said Election Commission sources.

The AFD has demanded the money directly from the EC, while the other agencies have placed the demand to the home ministry. Later, the ministry will forward the demand to the commission.

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End senseless violence in Bangladesh

US urges all responsible parties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has urged all those responsible to immediately end the violence in Bangladesh and allow people to go about their daily activities without fear and insecurity.

"The senseless violence of past days is especially reprehensible as innocent people, including young children, have fallen victim to arson and bombs," said a statement of the US Embassy issued in Dhaka yesterday.

It said violence can never be part of the

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MAKE it POSSIBLE

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