

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during night till morning, Met Office said. Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Dinajpur, Sayedpur, Tangail, Mymensingh, Rangamati, Sitakunda, Jessore, Kustia and Srimangal and it may continue. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.**

Country's highest temperature 26.7 degree Celsius was recorded today at Sylhet and lowest 8.3 degree Celsius at Sitakunda. The highest and lowest temperatures 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	23.7	11.8	91	54	Khulna	25.0	11.6	84	66
Chittagong	24.2	12.3	74	60	Barisal	23.8	10.4	100	77
Rajshahi	24.6	09.2	92	70	Sylhet	26.7	10.7	93	62
Rangpur	23.7	11.0	87	70	Cox's Bazar	26.0	13.8	57	69

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NEWS IN brief

Five injured in bomb blast in capital

Three traffic constables and two pedestrians were injured when two unidentified miscreants exploded two crude bombs in the capital's Mouchak yesterday evening. Of the injured, constable Shahidul Islam and pedestrians Mofazzal Hossain and Shafiqul Islam took first-aid from Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Ramna police. Besides, yesterday morning, miscreants exploded five crude bombs in Moghbazar ahead of the BNP-led 18-party combine's nonstop blockade programme. However, no one was injured in the incident.

Access to info programme gets new logo

A new logo of access to information (a2i) programme of the Prime Minister's Office was launched Monday. As part of the launching programme, a logo competition was arranged in September last year where a total of 714 logos were submitted, said a press release. The logo, submitted by a participant Jahir Uddin Zoomon, was selected as the best one. He was awarded with Tk 1 lakh.

Irshad president of Gulshan Club

Irshad Hossain was elected unopposed as the president of Gulshan Club for the second term at its Annual General Meeting held at the club in the capital on Saturday.



Ten elected executive members are Akhter Jahan Ahmed (Jolly), Sajedur Seraj, Md Abdur Rauf, Tareq Rahman, Dewan Shamim Afzal, Syed Al Farooque, SAMM Mahboobuddin, Gazala Chowdhury, Sultan Moyeen Ahmed Robin and Md Waseem Nabi.

Today's hartal in Sylhet called off

BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance yesterday withdrew its 12-hour hartal called for today in Sylhet division as the party's Vice President Shamsur Mubin Chowdhury was released. The combine's Sylhet city unit Convener MA Haque, also the city BNP president, confirmed it. Law enforcers detained Shamsur in the capital on Monday. Later, the alliance called the shutdown protesting the detention.

Train derailment suspends rail link of Sylhet with Dhaka, Ctg

Train communications of Sylhet with Dhaka and Chittagong were suspended as a wagon of a train derailed in Habiganj yesterday afternoon. Sylhet Railway Station Master Muhibur Rahman said the Chittagong-bound train left Sylhet around 11:00am and the wagon derailed around 5:00pm near Rashidpur station disrupting the rail link with Sylhet. A rescue train from Akhaura was working to clear the railway tracks till filing of the report at 9:00pm.

Jamaat 'defector' seeks votes for AL leader Hanif

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Jamaat-e-Islami leader, who claimed to have defected from the party, joined the election campaign for senior Awami League leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif in Kushtia on Monday night and sought votes for the ruling party candidate in the January 5 elections.

Nawsher Ali, president of pro-Jamaat labour organisation Sramik Kalyan Federation's Kushtia district unit, and a rokon (policy-level leader) of the district Jamaat, said he had left Jamaat as the party's "past and present were not good and its activities were anti-Islam".

He, however, denied joining the Awami League, which faces the wrath of Jamaat for putting its top brass in trial for war crimes in 1971.

Taizal Ali Khan, president of Kushtia town AL, however, said Nawsher left Jamaat for the party's past and present role in the country and joined the AL.

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Nawsher Ali, left, who claimed to have defected from Jamaat-e-Islami as its district unit rokon, shakes hand with senior Awami League leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif at a campaign rally for Hanif in Housing area of Kushtia district town on Monday night.

PHOTO: STAR

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Justice Kabir retires as tribunal-1 chief

Justice seekers feel gloomy as case against Nizami still to be adjudicated

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Justice seekers appeared to be gloomy with the retirement of International Crimes Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir yesterday, as his farewell to judiciary might cause the lingering of the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, which has been awaiting verdict since November 13 last year.

Due to several reasons, the case against Nizami took the highest 493 days to complete. As Justice Kabir retired as Supreme Court judge and thus as chairman of the tribunal-1 yesterday, uncertainty looms whether the case will reopen from the closing argument.

On top of that, the three-member tribunal-1 has to wait for its reconstruction. But it is not yet confirmed how long it will take to reconstitute the tribunal.

Born on January 1, 1947 at village Chamagram in Chapainawabganj, Justice Kabir was appointed a member of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on March 25, 2011. He was made chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-2 on March 22 last year.

Expressing his concern, historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon said, "We hoped that the judgment would be given by this time." He requested the government to keep Justice Kabir until Nizami's verdict is delivered. He also called the case against Nizami second most important after the one against former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam.

Without any elaboration, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said the tribunal would be reconstituted soon. "I can't

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No rally on SC premises

Pro-AL, BNP lawyers agree unanimously to protect sanctity of apex court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyers loyal to both ruling and opposition parties yesterday unanimously decided not to hold any rally on the court premises to avert any untoward incident and to protect its sanctity and image.

They came up with the decision at a meeting with Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain at his SC office in the afternoon, SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star.

The chief justice and other judges of the apex court expressed concern over entrance of outsiders into the court premises and attack on some lawyers on December 29, when they were staging demonstration at the SC's main gate in support of BNP's "march for democracy", he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) of Chittagong Md Moshir Rahman

Chowdhury was forced to leave his courtroom yesterday, halting the judicial activities in the face of obstruction from pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawyers when they were observing work stoppage protesting the attack on lawyers on the SC premises.

The CMM left the courtroom after the agitating lawyers brought out a procession in the Chittagong court building and asked the magistrate to leave around 11:30am.

Later, judges of eight other courts also stopped their judicial activities, said Md Rezaul Masud, additional deputy commissioner (prosecution) of police in Chittagong city.

Following the incident, pro-Awami League lawyers brought out a procession and headed to the CMM's courtroom creating tension in the area.

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EC, AL differ over prospect of peaceful polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While the Election Commission claims that the January 5 polls will surely be held peacefully, the ruling-Awami League thinks a peaceful election cannot be guaranteed.

"We have asked law enforcement agencies to take stern action against those who are causing violence. We hope the situation will improve substantially. There is no confusion that the election will be held peacefully," said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakiuddin Ahmad.

Meanwhile, HT Imam, co-chairman of AL election steering committee, said, "It cannot be guaranteed that the election will be fully peaceful. But we will take maximum efforts so that voters can go to polling centres and return home without any hassle."

Remarking that there might be some stray incidents on election day, he said every candidate has been instructed to maintain an environment for a fair and non-violent election.

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Workers Party announces manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh, an ally of the ruling Awami League, yesterday unveiled its election manifesto with a promise to establish a non-communal, democratic and poverty-free Bangladesh and strengthen the Election Commission.

The party is the second one that announced its election pledges just four days before of the forthcoming parliamentary polls slated for January 5, which is boycotted by most political parties including the main opposition BNP.

On Saturday, the AL announced its manifesto

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Two murdered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were murdered in different places in the capital on Monday.

In Dakshin Kafrul, Sardar Rafiq-uz-Zaman, 45, an accounts officer in a security firm, was found with his slit-throat and hands tied in his house around 7:00am.

Zaman's family has not been living in the house for a few days, said police.

His wife said she had her last chat with Zaman around 3:30pm on Monday when he was at office. Around 8:00pm an unknown person called her from Zaman's number to say that he found the phone near Shainik Club inside the cantonment, she added.

She found the body after she rushed to their house. Police suspected that someone who knows the family well might have killed Zaman over previous enmity.

Zaman's laptop was also missing from the house beside the phone.

Meanwhile in Uttara, one Sumon, slit the throat of his neighbour Rojina, 7, daughter of a day labourer, as she tried to resist his attempt to rape, said police quoting him.

Rojina's body was found in an abandoned shanty in Kamarpara slum where she lived with her parents.

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Biker killed in construction material fall in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A motorcyclist died as construction materials from an under-construction building of Jamuna Future Park fell on him while he was passing by in the capital's Basundhara Residential area yesterday.

The deceased, Md Shaheen Mia, 35, a businessman, son of late Hasan Uddin, resided in Kuril Ghatpar.

Shaheen was returning to residence from a kitchen market at Basundhara gate.

When he reached near North South University around 10:00am, an iron shutter fell on him from the roadside building,

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Man fails to say goodbye to father for 'bad politics'

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

On hearing the shocking news of his father's death, Dulal, a small trader in Gazipur, set out with his wife for his village of Rajapur at dawn on Monday. But little did Dulal know that he would not get to bid a final farewell to his dead father due to unavailability of transport in the ongoing political turmoil.

Dulal Matubbar, the eldest son of Habibur Rahman Matubbar of Halderkhali in Rajapur, was taken aback when he arrived at Tongi station from his Gazipur residence. There were no vehicles except some battery-operated rickshaws, human haulers and rickshaws, he told this correspondent in tears, blaming the country's bad politics.

Walking and using rickshaws, the couple arrived in Nabinagar 30km away.

"Fortunately we got a bus from Nabinagar to take us to Paturia ferry ghat and from the other side of the river Padma, the rest of the road, about 170 kilometres, we walked and rode everything from an easy bike to a rickshaw to reach home at 10:00pm," Dulal said. It took Dulal and his wife 17 hours

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