

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

16°C to 24°C

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of light rain at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Tangail till 6:00pm today.	Sevensangal, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sedkhia, Jessore, Khulna and Bhola, Md El Hossain.	Country's highest temperature 26.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 7.4 degree Celsius at Choudanga.	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			
			Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		
Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rangpur division and the regions of Tangail, Madaripur, Siratkhanda, Sonmaganj, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sirajshahi, Jessore, Rajshahi and Bhola, Abir Hossain.	Night temperature may rise slight and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.	The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:	Dhaka	22.4	15.5	80	89	Rajshahi	23.5	18.5	91	78
			Chittagong	24.8	15.4	89	70	Bangal	23.5	18.2	94	82
			Rajshahi	22.9	16.5	94	74	Sylhet	24.2	17.3	97	79
			Rangpur	22.8	10.0	89	75	Cox's Bazar	26.0	15.5	81	75



Rashida, second from left, weeps quietly as a nurse attends to her 10-year-old son Abed Hossain Rakib in the capital's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) yesterday. The ragpicker is about to lose the right hand and right eye for wounds from a cocktail he took for a toy in Lalbagh.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

What will politicians tell Abed?

Ten-year-old ragpicker about to lose a hand, an eye after finding a cocktail in a garbage pile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When 10-year-old Abed was being taken to hospital, his right hand was dangling from the arm. Doctors operated on the limb but thought it was unlikely to save his hand. The ragpicker is yet another example of how the politics of violence is taking its toll on the innocent.

While scavenging in a pile of garbage for recyclables in the capital's Lalbagh yesterday, Abed Hossain Rakib picked up a stray bomb taking it for a toy, and it went off on his hand.

"His hand was barely attached to his wrist when we brought him to the hospital. The doctors had to insert steel rods into each of his fingers to put the hand in place. But they say they will have to amputate his hand sooner or later," Abed's aunt Mehnaz told this correspondent.

He also sustained splinter injuries to both his eyes, and is at risk of losing vision

of the right eye, she said, quoting doctors.

Abed's mother Rashida was shell-shocked. "They showed my son on television today. I watched him on television while waiting outside the operation theater. I always dreamed he would be shown on television for doing something [great] in life—not because of something like this," she said quietly. The incident happened around 6:00am in the morning, right after Abed set out from home for work. He did not go to school.

Abed is currently receiving treatment at national eye hospital and is scheduled for an eye surgery in a desperate bid to save his sight. Before that he was treated in the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

His mother is employed in a plastic recycling factory where she sorts out waste. His father died five years back. "How will I bring up a crippled child? I don't earn enough to

bring up a healthy one—I have to make them work instead of going to school," she said.

Since October 26, at least 14 children have been severely injured and lost body parts because they picked up cocktails strewn by political miscreants.

Abed is only the 15th victim. Before him, five-year-old Mahin in Rajshahi and three-year-old Lima in the capital had similarly picked up such bombs.

All the 15 children thought that the red cylindrical objects were toys to play with, and all of them belong to poor families who cannot buy toys for their children.

Eight-year-old Sumra stumbled across a cocktail thinking it to be a ball in Chittagong on November 4. His father lamented, "We are poor. She plays with whatever she finds on the streets. How do we bring up our children if even the streets become unsafe for them?"

India plans to muster int'l support for Hasina

Reports The Indian Express

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India is bracing for a major diplomatic challenge over Bangladesh in the days ahead with New Delhi deciding to take the lead in securing as much support for the Sheikh Hasina government after the 10th general elections. The Indian Express newspaper reported yesterday.

India, it is learnt, plans to step up diplomatic efforts with all major powers and within relevant multilateral forums to prevent any significant international backlash or censure after yesterday's elections, it said in a front-page story.

"While Hasina has promised dialogue with other parties after she returns to power, the problem is that many Western countries, particularly the US, have voiced concerns over such elections lacking legitimacy."

In fact, the newspaper said, quoting unnamed sources, some US interlocutors have even indicated to Indian officials that Hasina could have accepted opposition demands and resigned for the sake of upholding democracy.

The Bangladesh prime minister, however, did not want to leave a vacuum that may allow a third force to seize power and

wanted to fulfil this constitutional requirement. She has indicated that her party is agreeable to holding elections again if that is the outcome of the dialogue with other parties after the polls, it said.

"The fear in New Delhi is that many countries like the US may go to the extent of not recognising the Hasina government, leading to a host of negative repercussions. In 1996, Khaleda Zia won in the same situation as Hasina and at that point, no major power had raised serious concerns. However, the Zia government fell because of a massive popular unrest," said the daily.

It is learnt that in several meetings between Indian officials and US interlocutors, the main point of difference has been over the right wing Jamaat-e-Islami, a BNP ally, it added.

"US officials, sources said, have been more positive about the Jamaat, even conveying that it had begun to emerge as a legitimate Islamic party. But for India, Jamaat is a security issue and its radical elements constitute a serious terror threat to Bangladesh and India."

In fact, for the past month or so, Indian interlocutors have been in touch with Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader

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Law enforcers lash out at a BNP activist while manhandling an old man during a clash with the opposition men in Gabtoli of Bogra yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BAU unit JCD men explode cocktails before VC's residence

Two persons were injured after Jaiyatabadi Chhanta Dal (JCD) activists of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) unit exploded at least four cocktails before the vice-chancellor's residence and broke some of its windows-panes in the Mymensingh city campus yesterday.

The two, a staff, Sumon, and a mason, Mustafa, engaged in renovating the residence, received first aid at the BAU healthcare centre.

Eyewitnesses said the 25-30 activists were in a procession brought out



TOAST OF MEDIA

Photojournalists and a videographer mob a woman as she casts her vote in the capital's Azimpur Girls School and College polling centre where the presence of voters was a rarity as elsewhere in the country yesterday. The 10th parliamentary elections marked a record low in turnout amid a boycott by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance and some other parties.

PHOTO: KASHED SHURION

Indigenous fishes face extinction in Barind tract

Indigenous fish species, particularly the small ones, are on the verge of extinction due to sharp decline in their breeding and feeding grounds in the vast Barind tract.

The breeding and feeding grounds have been drastically reduced due to siltation in the big rivers and their tributaries, and other water-bodies and wetlands, and promotion of modern fish culture in enclosed water-bodies.

Besides, frequent and indiscriminate use of harmful pesticides and chemical fertilisers in agricultural land, water-bodies and wetland has aggravated the situation.

Various organisations, including the Department

RANA PLAZA RUINS Many more human remains lie neglected

Authorities concerned apparently reluctant to find identities

LABOUR RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND relatives of the missing victims of the Rana Plaza collapse believe there are many more human remains under the rubble in Savar.

Their conviction has been strengthened with the recovery of about 100 bones, those skulls and other human remains found under the debris by street scavengers, survivors and labour rights activists between December 13 and January 3.

The tragic incident on April 24 last year left more than 1,100 dead while 159 victims were missing, according to Bangladesh Army, which conducted a 20-day rescue and recovery operation till May 13.

"I saw many bones but those were buried under iron rods and so were not reachable," one relative of a missing victim told The Daily Star on Friday after recovering some bones from under the rubble.

"How will it be possible for me to get a DNA match if my daughter's remains still lie under the rubble?" asked Jameela Begum, mother of missing Parvin Akter.

The government has been trying to identify the remains found at the site by taking DNA samples from people claiming to be relatives of the missing.

Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation

HIGH-PRICED FRUITS Hundreds achieve self-reliance through cultivation in northern region

Hundreds of Bangladeshis, including small and marginal farmers, have achieved self-reliance through commercial cultivation of high-priced and quick-growing fruits in the northern region in recent years.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and non-government organisation (NGO) sources, such farming expanded fast mostly through private initiatives and integrated approaches, bringing a silent revolution in the rural economy.

Over 30,000 families, including the landless, ultra poor and share of distressed women, achieved self-reliance by cultivating these

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