

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during early night till morning, Met Office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Tangail, Rajshahi, Pabna and Kushtia and it may continue. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:27pm

and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 27.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.2 degrees at Ishwardi. 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	
ee and	Dhaka	22.7	12.0	99	75	Khulna	24.5	13.0	91	79
	Chittagong	25.7	14.6	83	59	Barisal	23.9	12.5	100	84
ity	Rajshahi	23.2	09.6	97	55	Sylhet	23.0	12.2	97	89
ge:	Rangpur	20.4	11.0	93	83	Cox's Bazar	27.8	15.0	68	63

VIOLENCE-HIT GAIBANDHA EC wants transfer of all 5 UNOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday sought transfer of all five upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) of Gaibandha to the public administration ministry for their neglect in election duties.

A day ago, the commission sought transfer of the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of the district, which was badly hit by election-time violence.

Voting was supposed to take place in 147 constituencies across 59 districts on Sunday. But due to violence, polling at over 550 centres was postponed around the county.

Among these, eight constituencies witnessed worst violence where voting of over 350 polling centres were postponed. Re-elections will be held in these polling centres of the eight constituencies on January 16. Among the eight, three constituencies lie in Gaibandha.

Seeking anonymity, an election commissioner told The Daily Star, "Gaibandha is a small district. It is a question why law and order situation could not be controlled there. We have some confusion over the role of DC, SP and UNOs. That's why, we want new faces there."

The divisional commissioner of Rangpur also advised the EC to have them transferred.

Apart from this, the EC wants transfer of one UNO from each of the three districts--Panchagarh, Dinajpur, and Kurigram--for negligence in duties.

NEWSIN brief

Four jailed for supplying gas through illegal connections

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A mobile court in Gazipur in the last two days sentenced four labourers to different terms in jail for supplying gas to different houses through illegal connections.

Majibur Rahman was sentenced for three months and Masud, Mobarak Hossain and Abul Basar, were sentenced to two-month imprisonment each.

Majibur and Masud were caught in Sreepur municipality while they were trying to supply gas to one Nasir Mouli's house through illegal connection while the other two were caught while they were working for one Jasim Uddin.

Masked robbers loot house in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Masked robbers looted gold ornaments and cash from a businessman's house at Genda in Savar municipality, on the outskirts of the capital, early yesterday.

The victim, Nurul Anower, a jhut (scraps of fabric) trader, said around 15 robbers broke open the door of his tin-shed house around 2:30am.

They looted Tk 11,000, four tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables at gunpoint, he added.

Savar police said they had visited the spot and were trying to arrest the miscreants.

DHAKA TODAY

- Human chain**
SHUJAN will form a human chain protesting the attacks on the minority communities; Venue: In front of National Museum; Time: 3:30pm.
- Rally**
The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will stage a rally protesting the attacks on the minority communities by Jamaat-Shibir activists; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.
- Discussion**
Sector Commanders Forum will hold a discussion on the current political situation; Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum; Time: 2:30pm.
- Seminar**
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, and Bangladesh Paribesh Network will arrange a seminar on the movement for environment; Venue: H-20, R-16, Dhanmondi; Time: 10:00am.



Sammilito Sangskritik Jote brings out a procession in the capital yesterday demanding punishment for perpetrators of attacks on Hindu communities in the wake of the January 5 election.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

SCBA protests arrest of Mahbub

Pro-AL lawyers urge HC judges to continue activities during blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday strongly protested and condemned the arrest of Bangladesh Bar Council Vice Chairman Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, and also demanded his immediate release.

At a press conference in the association's south hall, SCBA President AJ Mohammad Ali said this desperate arrest (of Khandaker Mahbub Hossain) after the farcical January 5 election reflects the government's future mala fide activities.

He said the government is blocking the door of democracy this way and moving ahead to establish a one-party rule.

The whole world and the country's 16 crore people have witnessed the farce and drama staged in the name of holding election on January 5 by keeping the BNP chairperson in confinement at her house and arresting the party's senior leaders, Mohammad Ali said.

Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was arrested because he protested the unprecedented and scandalous election, the SCBA president said, adding that this was an undemocratic move of the government.

Earlier in the day, a

Punish pogromists Demand cross-section of people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different rights bodies and socio-cultural organisations yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of the attacks on minority communities in different districts of the country in the wake of the election.

They also demanded that the government rehabilitate the victims who lost their homes, businesses and properties in the attacks.

As soon as the voting ended on Sunday afternoon, BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men looted, vandalised and burned Hindu houses in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Jessore.

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam in a statement yesterday urged all progressive forces of the country to stay alert and resist the communal atrocities of the BNP-Jamaat.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman in a statement said, "The calculated attacks on minority communities and their worship places are the vilest form

of human rights violation."

Stating that the attacks are similar to the 2001 post-polls violence, the TIB statement said the "savagery" could have been averted if the administration took preventive measures beforehand.

The Election Commission, administration and law enforcers have utterly failed to perform their duties, it added.

National Human Rights Commission said if attacks on the minority communities continue, the nation's secular values will be at stake.

Condemning the atrocities, Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee and Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals in a joint statement demanded exemplary punishment for administration officials who neglected their duties or assisted the attackers.

Some 600 pro-AL Dhaka University teachers in statement demanded proper investigation into the matter and called on the people to stand united against such atrocities.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad formed human chain in

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Mid-term poll may happen anytime on consensus with BNP Says AL leader Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium Member Obaidul Quader yesterday said mid-term elections could be held anytime following a consensus with the main opposition BNP over some matters.

He said violence and consensus could not go together, so BNP must stop violence and sever relations with the extremists.

Quader was talking to journalists after a meeting with AL presidents, general secretaries and lawmakers from Dhaka and several adjacent districts at AL president's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

The meeting was organised to take preparation to arrange a massive showdown in the capital on January 10, homecoming day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at historic Suhrawardy Udyan.

About the January 5 national election, he said that though it had not become universally accepted, it had not been unacceptable to national and international quarters.

The AL leader said the BNP had lost courage and capability to wage movement, but observed that the ruling party would have to go through a very challenging time in the days to come.

"Their [BNP-Jamaat] efforts to foil the election have failed as people are not involved with their movement," he

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BREACHING ELECTORAL CODE EC asks for explanation from two AL MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) last night issued show cause notices to two ruling Awami League MPs-elect asking them to explain why their candidatures will not be cancelled for violating electoral code ahead of the January 5 poll.

The MPs-elect are Sheikh Afil Uddin, who was elected uncontested from Jessore-1 constituency, and Monirul Islam from Jessore 2. "We have issued show cause notices to them asking for their explanation," an election commissioner told The Daily Star last night.

Alif unlawfully instructed the party men in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore on December 30 to vote again and again for Monirul Islam during the January 5 polling. These instructions were taped and reported in the media. Later, an electoral inquiry committee on Jessore-2 constituency investigated the allegation and found it true.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets President Abdul Hamid in his residence Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

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