

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, said Met Office.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05am.**

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 16.8 degrees in 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 31.6             | 20.1 | 61                     | 57      | Khulna 31.4            | 20.1 | 71                     | 69      |
| Chittagong 29.2        | 23.4 | 79                     | 85      | Barisal 31.2           | 20.2 | 87                     | 93      |
| Rajshahi 29.8          | 19.5 | 90                     | 85      | Sylhet 32.8            | 20.1 | 63                     | 69      |
| Rangpur 29.8           | 20.0 | 78                     | 73      | Cox's Bazar 30.5       | 24.5 | 83                     | 79      |



Only four kilometres of the Mongla-Ghashiakhali channel has been dredged in the last four months while the Tk 250-crore BIWTA project to dredge 22 kilometres of the channel is supposed to end by June next year. During a visit yesterday, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Chairman Md Samsuddoha Khondaker acknowledged the slow progress. The dredging is expected to reopen an international shipping route between India and Bangladesh after three years. Excessive siltation in the Kumarkhali river led to the loss of navigability for which ships had to take a route through the Sundarbans, threatening the biodiversity of the world's largest mangrove forest. The photo was taken at one of the ghats on the Kumarkhali river in Bagerhat's Rampal.

PHOTO: STAR

## Jubo Dal President Alal denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions and sent six Jubo Dal activists including its President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal to jail in a case filed for plotting subversive activities during Sunday's hartal.

The five other accused are Saidur Rahman, 40, Jahangir Hossain Howlader, 38, Kamrul Islam, 46, Abul Kalam Azad, 51, and Rubel Howlader, 19.

Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur passed the order after Mohammadpur police had produced the six leaders and activists of the youth wing of BNP, before it on completion of their three-day remand.

Police on Saturday arrested Alal along with 62 activists of the BNP and its front organisations from his Lalmatia residence in Dhaka.

**CASE AGAINST MOUDUD AND FAKHRUL**

Another Dhaka court yesterday fixed February 15, next year for hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Moudud Ahmed and 27 others in a vandalism case.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Masud Sheikh passed the order after lawyers of Fakhrul and others sought time for adjournment of the hearing.

Fakhrul, Moudud and 19 others were absent in the court yesterday due to

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## Dhaka, Washington agree to fight terrorism, extremism

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington have expressed deep commitment in continuing to cooperate to counter terrorist financing and violent extremism.

The US embassy in Dhaka and the State Department, in collaboration with the Bangladesh government, will host a South Asia regional workshop in December to focus on best practices to counter terrorist financing and extremism.

It will be held as a part of the glob-

ally recognised Financial Action Task Force (FATF) framework, according to a joint statement issued on conclusion of the two-day Third US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue at the State Department in Washington DC on October 29.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque led a nine-member delegation at the dialogue, and the US Delegation was led by US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman.

The US acknowledged the presence of a vibrant civil society in Bangladesh, and both nations discussed ways to protect the important work of civil society along with broader citizens' rights and fundamental freedom.

Both sides agreed to continue working together to address outstanding needs to safeguard labour rights and workers' health and safety, and continue to work to reauthorize Bangladesh's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3 | full statement at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## Rab official admits link to N'ganj seven murders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Rab-11 official Ruhul Amin gave a confessional statement before a Narayanganj court yesterday, admitting his involvement in the killing of seven people in Narayanganj city in April.

Ruhul, a lance corporal at Bangladesh Army, was on deputation at Rab-11 during the time the seven murders were committed. He had gone on the run after the incident. Ruhul was arrested at his village in Patuakhali on October 7.

Before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate HM Shafiqul Islam yesterday, Ruhul also narrated how the murders were carried out, said advocate Shakhawat Hossain, president of Narayanganj District Lawyers' Association.

After the confession, he was sent to jail.

On April 27, Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, his driver and three associates, and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver were abducted separately but around the same time from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road.

Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river a few days later.

So far, 11 Rab officials have confessed their involvement in the murders.

## Salahuddin's life, works encompassed truth

Citizens tell Bangla Academy memorial meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed led a truthful, purist and modest life, never hesitating to speak out what he knew as the truth, said speakers reminiscing about the national professor and historian who passed away on October 21 at the age of 92.

Chairing a citizens' condolence meeting arranged by Bangla Academy at its premises yesterday afternoon, eminent educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui recounted anecdotes from Salahuddin's life citing examples of his courage on speaking the truth.

Siddiqui referred to Salahuddin's last writing

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## 'RECEIVING FOREIGN FUND FOR MILITANCY' Govt official, three others sued in Ctg

Police sends FIR to ACC for probe

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Chittagong police have sued four people including a government official for receiving Tk 19 crore fund from London for their alleged attempt to strengthen militancy in Bangladesh.

The case was filed with Kotwali Police Station on Monday nearly five months after Bangladesh Tariqat Federation Chairman and lawmaker Nazibul Bashar Majibhandari had filed a general diary with the station alleging that the fund was brought to intensify militant activities.

The accused are Abul Kalam Azad, assistant director of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education; Shahjahan Majibhandari, general secretary of Majibbandar Sharif Shahi Mosque regulatory committee; Syed Mohammad Sahibul Alam, its cashier; and one Rakib.

Kotwali police Inspector (investigation) Nezam Uddin on Wednesday sent the first information report (FIR) to the Anti-Corruption Commission in Chittagong to investigate the matter.

According to the case statement, Shahjahan Majibbandari and Sahibul Alam opened a joint account on May 7 this year with Janata Bank, Laldighi Branch in the name of the mosque regulatory committee.

In this regard, they submitted a copy of a letter of Nazibul, also president of the committee, that permitted them to open the bank account.

On May 17, Nazibul, a lawmaker of Chittagong-2 constituency, lodged the GD with the police station saying that his signature was forged in that letter.

Following the GD, police conducted an investigation.

The cheque of a UK-based bank in London for Tk 19 crore was of one Alamgir, the case statement said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chittagong ACC director Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan said the cheque bounced after it had been deposited into the account of Janata Bank.

The names of Azad and Rakib were included in the case as

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## UPAZILA PARISHAD Women's reserved seats elections in December

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will hold elections to the reserved seats for women in more than 350 upazila parishads across the country in December.

"The commissioners have decided to hold the elections. But the schedule is yet to be finalised," an assistant secretary of the EC told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the Upazila Parishad Act 1998, the number of seats equal to one-third the number of union parishads or municipalities located in an upazila will be reserved for women who will be appointed as member of that particular upazila parishad.

Out of 487 upazilas, elections to 472 of them across the country were held in different phases from February 19 to May 19. Until elections to the seats reserved for women are held, formation of upazila parishads will remain unfinished as the elected women are entitled to act as members of the parishads.

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## Thought for food

### Eat Safe Fruits and Live Well

A good portion of safe fruits should be added to our daily diet which provides fructose. It is directly absorbed by the bloodstream during digestion similar to galactose and glucose. Fresh fruits are healthy and nutritious and very good source of vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals (Beta-carotene, Lycopene etc) and fiber. Mango, Jackfruit, Litchi, Blackberry, Strawberry, Banana, Pineapple, Guava and Citrus are popular fruits. Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Plums, Rambutan are well liked also but imported fruits. Unsafe fruit is a big threat and it is time to take safety measures in order to eliminate or reduce risk to food safety to an acceptable level. Usually fruits may get contaminated throughout the food chain, farm to table.

Soil, live or dead insects or body parts (Litchi, Mango, and Guava) may exist as physical contaminants in the fresh fruits. Chipping and flaking of nail polish, hair, and false nail get into fruits or salad during preparation due to lack of personal hygiene. Parts of broken knife, nuts, bolts, screws cab may be found in the commercially pre packed salads due to lack of metal detection. Customer complaint, choking (fruits stone), injury are common effect.


**Prevention:**

- Consumers should wash with clean water and primary growers should ensure transport hygiene.
- Purchase from approved supplier.
- Practise personal hygiene.
- Maintenance check before starting transportation.
- Store at below 8°C and segregate from raw product.

Common chemical contaminants are residues (pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers), ripening agents and preservatives. Fruits itself produces natural toxins such as- allergens, mycotoxins (aflatoxins) and accidentally detergents and sanitizer may get introduced due to improper dosing. Poisonous calcium carbide and hormones are used to ripen fruits (Mango, Jackfruit and litchi) and formalin is being used as preservative. Toxic metal arsenic, lead may be found in fruits because of it's presence in soil and deep water. Vulnerable people are (Young children below five and elderly people over 65, pregnant women, organ transplant patients) commonly affected. Vomiting, nausea, stomachache, cramp and swollen throat and mouth, Body rashes are immediate effects and long run effect are cancer, skin disease, and organs failure (liver, kidney).

**Prevention:**

- Good agricultural practices (GAP)- Good post harvest management, safe level of permitted chemicals, Integrated Pest Management, Good manufacturing practices, Good handling practices.





- Food retailer purchases fresh fruits/pre-packed salads from approved suppliers.
- Be aware and do not purchase out of season and unusually colored fruits.
- Soak fruits into drinking water and vinegar solution for 30-40mint.
- Wise to remove thin skin before consuming.
- Foreign fruits must be quarantined and chemically tested before getting port entry.
- Strong monitoring by the enforcement authority.

Microorganisms may be present in fruits or get into fruits and manure, untreated irrigation water, equipment, vehicle; people are the common source of contamination. Cyclospora, Hepatitis A, Norovirus, Salmonella spp, Shigella spp and moulds and yeasts are common microorganisms associated with fruits. Sometimes fruit's (internal injury or bruise) appearance looks good due to presence of insufficient microbes which prevent fruits decay but enough to cause toxic infections in human body. Food borne illness is caused by the toxins either produced by the microbes or microbes itself present in the food.

- Good agricultural practices (GAP).
- Ignore and do not purchase bruised or injurious fruits to prevent multiplication of microbes
- Soak and wash with clean water first and treat with chlorinated water with appropriate dose and contact time and rinse before consuming.
- Maintain good personal hygiene including hand washing to prevent microbial contamination.
- Once fruits are stored in the chiller never display or keep outside the chiller in order to prevent shrink age due to moisture loss.
- Store fruits in the refrigerator at or below 8°C to keep fresh for longer period and slow microbial multiplication.

**MD. SAIFUL KAMAL AZAD**  
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an initiative of:





(From left) Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman at a citizens' condolence meeting on Prof Salahuddin Ahmed arranged by Bangla Academy at its premises in the capital yesterday afternoon. The national professor and historian passed away on October 21 at the age of 92.

PHOTO: STAR