

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.3L 24.0	CHITTAGONG H 31.8L 21.9	SYLHET H 28.7L 19.5	RAJSHAHI H 38.2L 25.0	KHULNA H 35.5L 26.0	BARISAL H 33.7L 26.0	RANGPUR H 31.8L 20.8	COX'S BAZAR H 32.5L 25.0
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at a few places across the country till 6:00pm today. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises tomorrow at 05:46am.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu with the recipients of National Film Award-2013 at a ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

DSCC POLLS

Khokon, Saifuddin 'violate' electoral code

Get show cause notices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The returning officer (RO) of Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday served show cause notices to Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Sayeed Khokon and Jatiya Party-blessed hopeful Haji Saifuddin Ahmed on the charge of violating the electoral code of conduct.

The duo have been asked to send explanations by 3:00pm today about why legal action will not be taken against them for the violation.

"In different media reports, we have seen that Sayeed Khokon sought blessings from people after Jumma prayers as a candidate," RO Mihir Sarwar Morshed told The Daily Star. "Besides, our magistrates have found that electoral posters of Saifuddin are still on display," he added.

Both acts are violation of the electoral code, he said, because candidates are not legally allowed to start campaign until 21 days from the polling day, or before April 7.

Meanwhile, AL-backed mayoral aspirant for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Anisul Huq in a press release yesterday said neither he nor any of his supporters was yet to launch his electoral campaign. "I will not be responsible if anybody driven by animosity conducts the electoral campaign including pasting posters," he claimed.

On Friday, an executive magistrate fined a person for pasting posters in favour of Anisul Huq. Elections to the Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations will be held on April 28.

Climate of intolerance breeding fanatics

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman tells Rukhe Darao Bangladesh discussion

DU CORRESPONDENT

Fanatics are killing people branding them followers of atheism, a belief at present considered a serious offence which contradicts the constitution of 1972, which encompassed socialism, democracy and secularism at a time when people had religious freedom, said Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman yesterday.

"This can not be the picture of Bangladesh," he said, adding that in a democracy, hurting religious beliefs and barring freedom of speech was an offence.

The government does not allow opposition parties freedom of expression and to hold rallies while the latter bars people's free movement and their means of making a living, he said, urging the government to be strict in dealing with fundamentalism and militancy.

Prof Anisuzzaman was addressing a discussion of Rukhe Darao Bangladesh, a platform against fundamentalism and militancy, in Dhaka University's RC Majumder Arts Auditorium marking Independence Day.

Ain o Salish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, one of the platform's conveners, condemned the Awami League for keeping Islam as state religion and the Arabic phrase -- BISMILLAH-AR-RAHMAN-AR-RAHIM -- above the constitution's preamble.

Militants will not spare anyone, even those who patronise them, she said.

Communalism has grown ten-fold compared to the time of East Pakistan, said another convener, cultural personality Ramendu Majumder, adding that the present education policy did not contain teachings on respecting differing beliefs while children addressed classmates as Hindus or Muslims.

Poet Syed Shamsul Huq as the keynote speaker urged BNP to sever ties with Jamaat-e-Islami and join hands with the Awami League and all secular parties to resist Jamaat, militancy and fundamentalism.

He also termed investigations in the recent murders of Avijit Roy and Oyasiqur Rahman "unsatisfactory".

3 detained for stealing electronic gadgets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested three people in Mohammadpur of the capital for allegedly stealing electronic gadgets from people through deception.

The detained are: Afsana, 19, Tanvir Hossain, 23, and Rana Raihan, 36.

Tipped-off, a Rab team conducted a drive at Shuchana Community Centre and arrested the trio.

At a press conference at Rab-2 office in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Masud Rana, commanding officer of Rab-2, said the detainees pretend to be interested in buying laptops and cell phones from people who post online advertisements.

The gang then asks the owners to meet at different places with the items they want to sell.

The trio then takes the gadgets on the pretense of showing their boss and flees with them, he added.

Rab recovered four laptops from their possession.

Country gets

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such e-learning process, said Zia Manzur, country business manager for Intel.

This site has been developed after two and a half years' study, said Iqbal, adding that students will get 60 percent of the contents for free and have to pay for the rest.

He has already made a team with 100 members from leading educational institutions to update the contents regularly.

NEWS IN brief

8 Myanmarese intruders, trafficker held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested eight Myanmar citizens and a middleman from Shah Amanat Bridge area in Chittagong city yesterday.

They entered Bangladesh illegally through Teknaf on Friday. The middleman Hossain Md Jasim, 22, of Cox's Bazar brought them in the city yesterday alluring them to give jobs, said police.

Two held with 1,600 Yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two persons and recovered 1,600 Yaba tablets and Tk 1.5 lakh from their possession in Patenga Muslimabad area of Chittagong city yesterday.

Tipped-off, police conducted a drive at a house and arrested Mahmudul Haque, 50, and Ayer Mahmud Peyaru, 45, of the area around 5:35am, said police.

Police claimed that the duo admitted their involvement in Yaba peddling for over a year.

NSU holds International Evening

CITY DESK

To create a platform for local students to interact with foreign nationals and grow a cosmopolitan worldview, North South University (NSU) organised an event titled International Evening-2015 on Wednesday.

A cultural program was also held where NSU's students from different countries participated.

Asaduzzaman Noor, cultural affairs minister; Helal Uddin, additional secretary to the education ministry; Muqeed Majumdar Babu, Channel-i director; Benajir Ahmed, BOT chairman; Amin Sarkar, NSU vice-chancellor and Mizan R Khan, external affairs director, were present.

Ctg steel factory sealed off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) sealed off a steel re-rolling mill and issued show-cause notices to seven other factories for polluting environment in Chittagong yesterday.

Ehsan Steel and Re-Rolling Mill in Karnaphuli area was sealed off for polluting the air by not installing the Air Treatment Plant.

Meanwhile, Ambia Knitting and Dying, Mostafa Paper Complex, TK Complex, MAE, Chemon Ispat, Hakkani Paper and Pulp in Patiya, and Masud Fish Processing in Ichanagar were issued notices to send officials to DoE office for a hearing on April 16.

PM distributes National

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supporting actress, Mamunur Rashid for best villain, Swachchha for best child actress, Syeda Ahida Sabrina for best child actress (special award), AK Azad for best music director, Chandan Sinha for best singer (male), Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin for best singers (female), Kabir Bakul for best songwriter, Koushik Hossain Tapas for best lyricist, Gazi Rakayet for best storywriter, best dialogue and best playwright Shariful Islam Rasel for best editor, Uttam Guha for best art director, Saiful Islam Badal for best photographer, Kazi Selim for best sound recorder, Wahida Mallik Joly for best costume and decoration, and Ali Babul for best makeup artist.

The information ministry organised the function with Minister Hasanul Haq Inu in the chair.

The government on March 10 announced the names of the artists and film professionals in 25 categories for the National Film Award-2013.

Three SIU students

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Supporting this claim, Assistant Proctor Tareq Ahmed Taj alleged that all of the students were involved with Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Mumin admitted to The Daily Star of having "an altercation" but denied having anything to do with the attack.

Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Asaduzzaman claimed they were trying to arrest the accused.

First digital designing

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design, animations etc.

For the work plan the organisation is seeking opinions on Facebook before April 30. Its facebook page is: viz. facebook.com/radiamedia, event page is: facebook.com/events/883739921689133 and email: mdc2015@gmail.com.



From left, historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir, and eminent artist Hashem Khan at the launch of "1971: Ganohatya-Nirjatan Nirghanto Granthamala", a collection of 11 books on the Liberation War, in the capital's WVA Auditorium yesterday. The 1971 Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum Trust, an organisation working on genocide, killing fields, and mass graves of the war, published the collection, edited by Prof Muntassir Mamoon. PHOTO: STAR

Supporters of Nasir flout

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All throughout the six-hour voting period till 4:00pm, hordes of his supporters, including two former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University unit leaders, thronged Ankur Society Girls' High School in Chittagong city's Nasirabad Housing Society to campaign.

"...we took it as an opportunity to campaign for the city polls also," one of the campaigners told The Daily Star.

One of the former BCL leaders, Joyanal Abedin, was by Nasir's side while the latter was greeting voters arriving at the polling centre.

"You know this is the time of CCC polls. Though this election is a different issue but the elite people of Chittagong who are the opinion leaders of the society are voters here," he said apparently justifying his actions over seeking votes for Nasir.

Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association Senior Vice Chairman Ahsanul Hoque Chowdhury, who contested for a member post, termed it "a bad practice".

Despite repeated attempts to reach Nasir on his cellphone following end of voting, calls were not received at the other end.

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