

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.3 L 17.3	H 27.5 L 19.3	H 28.2 L 16.3	H 27.8 L 16.7	H 29.6 L 20.5	H 28.2 L 19.6	H 23.6 L 17.3	H 28.2 L 29.0

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am.

Nation to observe Democracy Restoration Day today

Erstwhile dictator Ershad's Jatiya Party observes 'Constitution Protection Day'

The nation will observe "Democracy Restoration Day" today marking the fall of the then military dictator HM Ershad who was forced to step down on this day in 1990 in the face of a mass uprising.

Marking the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia issued separate messages.

Opposition leader Rowshan Ershad, however, did not issue any statement.

Her Jatiya Party will observe the day as "Constitution Protection Day" and will organise a discussion at the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh where Ershad, now the prime minister's special envoy, will speak as the chief guest.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message called upon all to work together to strengthen the foundations of democracy for the development and welfare of the nation.

She said in the last two decades after 1990, the Awami League played a responsible role to protect people's right to vote and food. She said the scope for power grab was removed through the 15th constitutional amendment.

Khaleda alleged that the country's democracy was at risk now and



A human chain organised in front of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital yesterday by people doing business on Facebook, urging the government to remove the ongoing block on the popular social media.

BNP, government agree on no presence of IS

Says Ripon urging ministers to refrain from blaming foreign friends

BNP yesterday said both it and the government had taken an identical stance over the fact that IS was nonexistent in Bangladesh, and suggested ministers to refrain from commenting against "foreign friends" which may affect bilateral ties.

Addressing a briefing at the party's Nayapaltn central office in the capital, BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon voiced concern over some ministers' recent remarks blaming the USA for the emergence of Islamic State.

"US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal is scheduled to arrive here with another top leader on December 12. Ahead of such an important visit, some ministers, especially the ones of information, civil aviation and food, are making various comments against the US," Ripon said.

He said, "There is no reason for us to debate over which country is behind the creation of IS. Our foreign policy is friendship towards all and malice towards none. So, if the government points

DALITS, HARIJANS Discrimination impedes community's progress

Leaders tell rally organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Dalit Parishad

Discrimination against so called "lower caste Dalit Harijans" is a violation of the country's constitution and it deprives the community of economic and social development, said Dalit leaders at a rally in the capital yesterday.

They demanded immediate passage of the proposed "discrimination elimination act" to end the deprivation faced by caste-based communities regarding access to mainstream social, economic and educational development.

"According to the constitution, there is no scope for discrimination against any community in the country but still there are incidences of discrimination," said Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad.

The law will help end such discrimination but meanwhile Dalit and Harijan communities must be advanced with affirmative reservation and enhanced inclusion and access to various social safety net programmes of the government, she said.

Bangladesh has to put an end to discrimination against any community if it wants to achieve the middle income goal and meet the UN's sustainable development goals, she said.

Manusher Jonno Foundation, which works for human rights and good governance, along with Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad (BHOP) and Bangladesh Dalit Parishad organised the rally and a discussion at the BMA auditorium on Global Dignity Day.



A procession brought out from Central Shaheed Minar to Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday by Manusher Jonno Foundation, along with Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Dalit Parishad, on Global Dignity Day.

Ten injured in post quarrel attack in capital

Two held

At least 10 persons, including five women, were injured as local miscreants attacked a family yesterday following a quarrel at Rayer Bazar in the capital's Hazaribagh.

Of the injured, Moniruddin, 70, and his son Badal, 42, needed stitches at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Others were treated at local clinics.

Moniruddin's daughter Monwara Khatun Munni said some 40 people armed with sticks, machetes and other weapons, led by local 'goon' Julhas, entered their house in the afternoon and beat them all. They also looted money and gold ornaments worth Tk 2 lakh.

On Thursday afternoon, the family had a quarrel with local grocer Tutul as he slapped Munni's nephew Rifat, following an argument with the sixth grader.

Tutul had an acquaintance with Julhas, said Munni, adding that Julhas and his group were angry at the family as it on many occasions refused to provide money to the group for arranging cultural or political events, added Munni.

Hazaribag police arrested two including Julhas.

Govt not only player to curtail press freedom

Gowher Rizvi tells TIB Investigative Journalism Award ceremony

Freedom of the press is not only impeded by the government but by players including different individuals and agencies, said Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi yesterday morning.

He said it was no longer possible for the government to put pressure and stop advertisements in the media because of the varied ads they receive nowadays beside the government ones. He was addressing Transparency International Bangladesh's (TIB) Investigative Journalism Award 2015 ceremony and a discussion on "Media and Good Governance" at the corruption watchdog's Dhanmondi office in the capital. "There is no way to close down a newspaper now. If one is closed, another 50 different will crop up," he said referring to online and social media. "No government has the power to suppress any news nowadays," he said, adding that he personally did not believe in restricting the media.

Chairing the event, Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government and also TIB trustee board member,

3 hurt in DU BCL factional clash

Zia hall leader beats 7 for being late at event

At least three Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of its now dissolved unit of Dhaka University's Sir AF Rahman Hall were injured allegedly in a factional clash over grabbing rooms early yesterday.

In another incident in the morning, at least seven resident students of Ziaur Rahman Hall were beat up reportedly for being late at a BCL programme marking the 52nd death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.

CLASH

Mahmudul Hasan Tusher, a third year student of disaster management who jumped off a second floor balcony, Humayun Kabir and Abul Basher took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The latter two were beaten up.

Witnesses and BCL sources told The Daily Star that followers of the hall's former joint secretary HM Imran and vice president Masud Alam first engaged in an altercation.

Afterwards, some 20 of Imran's followers, following his instructions, vandalised rooms of Masud's followers with iron rods, cricket stumps and hockey sticks around 3:00am, leading to the around one hour

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