

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 24.4 L 11.5	H 25.5 L 14.6	H 25.1 L 11.7	H 24.0 L 10.3	H 24.7 L 11.6	H 25.3 L 10.9	H 22.8 L 10.0	H 26.0 L 15.5

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today. Met Office said. Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Gopalganj, Tangail, Srimangal, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Jessore & Chuadanga and prevailing cold wave condition may improve. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.

MUNICIPAL POLLS
Joining in fear of being branded as militant
Claims BNP saying foreigners could be duped otherwise
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP is taking part in the December 30 municipality election, fearing that the government might brand the party a militant organisation before foreigners if it boycotts the polls, the party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

"The interesting thing is the foreigners would have believed it," he told the two-yearly council of a faction of the Dhaka Union of Journalists.

Fakhru said the government was hurriedly holding the municipality polls under political banners with the aim to defeat BNP.

"The government will get many benefits if it can show the defeat of the country's popular [electoral] symbol, the sheaf of paddy," he said. "Yet, BNP is participating in the municipality polls for the sake of democracy and people's voting rights."

Meanwhile, BNP joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that opposition candidates and their supporters were being barred from campaigning following a style introduced by the incumbent prime minister, Sheikh Hasina.

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The Daily Star Photo Contest in Pixel



A soggy walk among colours. The photo, taken on Jahangirnagar University campus last year, is one of the 10 shortlisted photographs in The Daily Star's photo contest inPixel under the category "Rain".

PHOTO: GAZI TAREK

New list of freedom fighters by March 26
Says liberation war affairs minister
 BSS, Dhaka

The government will publish a new list of freedom fighters by March 26 (Independence Day) next year.

Certificates of 2,400 fake freedom fighters have already been cancelled and investigation is going on against some others.

The Liberation War affairs ministry will take legal actions against those who enjoyed facilities in the name of freedom fighters, said Minister AKM Mozammel Huq in an interview with the news agency on the occasion of Victory Day 2015.

He said every freedom fighter would be provided with digital certificates and identity cards to prevent forgery. They would be given honour of special citizens too, he added.

After their deaths, all freedom fighters would be buried in graves of an identical design all over the country and this initiative would be taken from March 2016, the minister said.

About 28,000 freedom fighters died in last 44 years and currently 1,70,000 freedom fighters are alive.

The minister said finalisation of the list of freedom

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Victory Day celebrated at missions abroad
 DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh missions abroad celebrated the 45th Victory Day on Wednesday with a renewed pledge to build "Golden Bangla" being imbued with the Liberation War spirit.

According to press releases from different missions, the embassies and high commissions chalked out elaborate programmes, including hoisting of Bangladesh national flag and playing of its national anthem in the morning.

The Victory Day messages of the president, prime minister, foreign minister and state minister for foreign affairs were read out.

In Washington DC, the national flag was hoisted by the embassy's Charge d'Affaires Md Shahabuddin Patwari.

The flag was also hoisted at the newly opened Bangladesh embassy in Copenhagen.

In Qatar, a discussion was also held at the embassy in Doha.

In Thailand, the diplomats from different countries, including Russia, India and Japan, joined the flag hoisting programme, to express solidarity with Bangladesh's Victory Day.

Saudis want female workers as precondition for hiring males
Alleges BMET DG, claiming situation has been such since signing of agreement, although they never put it in writing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Saudi government has always been pushing Bangladesh to send female workers since an agreement was signed early this year, implying in conversations that otherwise male workers would not be hired, although they never put it in writing, said BMET Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar yesterday.

Talking to journalists at Probashi Kalyan Bhaban in the capital, she said the response to government efforts to attract female jobseekers was always poor.

The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) had opened for registrations online following a deal Dhaka and Riyadh inked on February 11 for 12 types of workers such as maids, drivers, housekeepers, security guards and gardeners.

"We have told the Saudi authorities to increase female workers' wages and ensure better protection for them, otherwise it is difficult to motivate females to go to that country," added Shamsun Nahar.

Earlier in the day, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam said the government would continue sending migrants as per the agreement.

On another note, he said the government welcomes any form of legal migration and was working, along with Malaysia and Thailand, to prevent irregular migration like those

over the sea by boats.

Briefing journalists on the ministry's activities marking International Migrants Day today, he said an agreement was finalised to expedite the process for Malaysia to recruit Bangladeshi workers under a govern-

ment from a migrants' welfare fund so that returnees can be provided loans and be rehabilitated.

Later, Nurul attended a seminar, "Migration in the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals," in the ministry's briefing centre.



Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam briefing journalists at Probashi Kalyan Bhaban in the capital yesterday on the ministry's activities marking International Migrants Day today. On his left is Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar and on his right is Additional Secretary to the ministry Hazrat Ali.

ment to government contract.

It will be signed soon, said Nurul, adding that this year, till December 15, at least 5.23 lakh male migrants found jobs in different countries.

Moreover, he said Probashi Kalyan Bank would be converted into a regular bank and Tk 300 crore transferred to it

FIVE KISHOREGANJ WAR CRIME SUSPECTS
Two abducted by them were never found
Witness says one abductee was fellow freedom fighter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18th witness in a war crimes case yesterday testified that a fellow freedom fighter and a villager had never been found after being abducted by the five accused and other eight to 10 alleged Razakars from Kishoreganj's Karimganj upazila during the 1971 Liberation War.

Gazi Abdul Mannan, 88, was the alleged commander of Karimganj Razakar camp while its members were Nasiruddin Ahmed, 62, his brother Shamsuddin Ahmed, 60, Hafiz Uddin, 66, and Azharul Islam, 60.

Only Shamsuddin is now in jail while the rest on the run. He pleads not guilty to the seven charges they face.

Kazi Ruhul Amin, 65, identified Shamsuddin at the dock and told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he knew the five since they went to a local market of Karimganj.

He said he and his friend Abu Bakar Siddique were "involved in the politics of

Awami League's student organisation" and the latter had trained for the Liberation War in India.

"We could not stay home," he said, while informing that a Peace Committee had provided the Razakar Bahini, another auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, a list of Liberation War supporters, including him and Bakar.

Ruhul said as an alternative, they used to live in the house of a financially insolvent neighbour, Abdul Hamid, and the five along with the other armed Razakars had entered the village on the morning of August 25, 1971 looking for them.

That morning, before going for Fazr prayers, Bakar had suggested that Ruhul leave the house, he said, adding that four to five minutes after Bakar left, he heard screams and hid in a bush.

Ruhul said he saw the Razakars take Bakar, whose hands were tied behind his back, and Rupali some 100 feet away from

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A procession brought out by Transcom Foods Limited in the capital's Gulshan on Wednesday celebrating Victory Day.

Fakhru's indictment hearing in arson case deferred
 COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred to January 28 the hearing on charge framing against 46 opposition leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, in an arson case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ataul Haque passed the order after lawyers for Fakhru and 31 others who remained absent yesterday, sought adjournment on different excuses.

In their petitions, the lawyers said they had earlier filed leave-to-appeals with the Supreme Court against the High Court

The Daily Star Standard Chartered

CELEBRATING LIFE
 District Festivals
 CONCERT. PHOTO EXHIBITION

This event is free for all. Registration is a prerequisite. visit: www.imdhaka.com/celebratinglifebd

We will be at
Shahid Sukhranjan Samaddar Teacher Student Cultural Center
Rajshahi University
 Date: December 19, 2015

Photography Exhibition
 Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

CONCERT
 Performance by **Chandana Majumder**
 Time: 4 PM to 6 PM

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