

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 24.6/L 14.0	H 27.0/L 16.0	H 25.0/L 11.4	H 22.4/L 12.5	H 24.8/L 17.0	H 25.0/L 14.8	H 23.4/L 09.4	H 27.0/L 17.0

Mild cold wave may continue over Rangpur division and the regions of Mymensingh, Netrakona, Sreemangal and Naogaon. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39am. Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 06.6 in Sreemangal.

### SC clears way for holding Ranisankail, Gafargaon municipality polls on Dec 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding election to Ranisankail and Gafargaon municipalities in Thakurgaon and Mymensingh districts respectively on December 30.

The High Court on December 9 and 22 stayed the process for holding election to Ranisankail and Gafargaon municipalities following two writ petitions claiming complexity in demarcating their areas.

The SC yesterday stayed the HC orders for six weeks on the ground that there is no scope for raising questions about demarcation of the areas of municipalities as the Election Commission has already announced their election schedules. Additional Attorney General Murad Reza said.

The order came following two petitions filed by the government seeking



**A youth breaks a boulder to make mealing stones, at Bisnakandi, a tourist attraction in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila. The spot has started being frequented by people from all parts of the country to enjoy the waterfalls cascading down the verdant hills at Bangladesh-India border. On one hand, unregulated visits are gradually making the place dirtier, and stone business is thriving there on the other. Though mealing stones are an everyday necessity in many households, unregulated extraction of stones from the spot may cause serious ecological ramifications. The photo was taken recently.**

### Hasina seeks entrepreneurs' support for health sector development

*Distributes Nitol-Niloy donated ten ambulances to govt hospitals, health complexes*

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the private sector entrepreneurs to supplement the government efforts in providing better healthcare services to the people.

"It's possible to take the country with the united efforts of all," she said while addressing a function at her official residence Gono Bhaban marking the hand-over of ambulances to 10 hospitals and institutions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Hasina handed over the keys of the ambulances to the authorities concerned of the hospitals and institutions.

Nitol-Niloy donated the "Tata Sumo" ambulances to further improve the healthcare services.

Referring to Nitol-Niloy Group chairman Abdul Matlub Ahmed, also the president of FBCCI, Hasina said, "When the FBCCI president supports the health sector, then I expect the other businesspersons will also come forward... if the private entrepreneurs come forward, then it is much better for us."

Of the 10 ambulances, one was handed over to Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital and Nursing College in Gazipur, three each to Patuakhali, Sherpur and Dinajpur sadar hospitals, one to Bangabandhu Science and Technology University in Gopalganj, and five each to Mongla, NIKKHYANGCHHARI, Pirganj, Melandaho and Ramgarh upazila health complexes.

She also urged the Nitol-Niloy Group to extend their support and provide water ambulances for haor areas, and suggested forming a special fund for maintenance of the ambulances.

### Juta demands legal step against proctor

*His 'leaked' phone conversation sparks protest*

JU CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (Juta) yesterday met the vice chancellor and demanded that the administration take legal action against Proctor Prof Tapan Kumar Saha after investigating his "leaked" conversation with a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader.

In the phone conversation, the proctor "incited BCL men to create unrest" on the campus, JU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union said in a statement, expressing concern at the proctor's conduct. Samajtantrik Chhatra Front expressed the same concern.

On December 18, the pharmacy department held a reunion but did not officially invite the proctor "by mistake". In that evening some BCL men and pharmacy students were locked into a scuffle at the programme over carrying a student to hospital.

The scuffle soon turned into a conflict between students of two dormitories, after a BCL man of Bangabandhu Hall beat up two pharmacy students of Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall, leaving them injured.

When some 25 BCL men of MH hall met the pharmacy department chairman, Prof Sukalyan Kundu, he asked them to talk to the proctor.

Bashirul Haque, deputy social welfare secretary of JU BCL, then called up the

### DEC 30 MUNICIPAL POLLS EC, JP differ on number of vulnerable polling centres

UNB, Dhaka

The Jatiya Party has provided the EC with a list of 1,500 vulnerable polling stations and demanded that adequate security measures be taken for the centres.

The party also demanded deployment of a magistrate to curb election violence and irregularities in the vulnerable polling stations, according to presidium member SM Foysal.

However, according to the EC Secretariat, the number of vulnerable polling stations is 1,184 out of 3,403 across the 233 municipalities witnessing elections.

As ballot is not required in Parshuram municipality, where all the mayor and councillor posts have been filled unopposed, the votes will be cast in 233 municipalities on December 30.

Of the 1,184 vulnerable centres, 348 out of 991 in Dhaka division, 118 out of 304 in Rangpur, 246 out of 801 in Rajshahi, 195 out of 471 in Khulna, 45 out of 189 in Sylhet, 63 out of 167 in Barisal and 169 out of 480 in Chittagong.

SM Foysal yesterday alleged that ruling party men are carrying out attacks and harassing Jatiya Party's candidates and activists ahead of the December 30 municipal elections.

"Awami League candidates are attacking our candidates, obstructing their electioneering and intimidating them to pull out from the election race in many places," he told reporters after a meeting between the Jatiya Party's delegation and Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad at the EC Secretariat.

He said they raised some specific complaints at the meeting and the CEC assured them of taking steps regarding their allegations.

SM Foysal said they noticed the EC with grave concern that their candidates were being harassed in different areas.



**BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir takes part in election campaigning for BNP mayoral candidate in Saidpur of Nilphamari, Md Amzad Hossain Sarker, in the upcoming municipality polls. Amzad is also the incumbent. The photo was taken on Shaheed Dr Jikrul Road yesterday.**

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

### PGCB moves to improve power supply in Ctg city

UNB, Dhaka

Hitachi will supply the substation's equipment.

The Chinese company will construct a six-km long double circuit transmission line from Agrabad to Rampur and a three-km long four-circuit underground transmission line from Khulshi to Halishahar to replace the existing overhead transmission line.

Both the two-year schemes are being implemented under PGCB's National Power Transmission Network Development Project, informed the official.

PGCB Company Secretary Md Ashraf Hossain and Hua Jie Jack of Jiang Su Etern company signed the contracts where PGCB Managing Director Masum Al Beruni and its Executive Director (P&D) Chowdhury Alamgir Hossain were present among others.

A top official said famous Japanese firm

### Razzak's life paralleled country's history

*Memorial meeting told*

DU CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader and Liberation War organiser Abdur Razzak had made sacrifices time and again for different democratic movements and the country's independence, a commemorative meeting was told at Dhaka University yesterday.

His political colleagues discussed the life of the freedom fighter on the 4th anniversary of his death.

The meeting was organised by Razzak Smriti Sangsad at TSC.

While AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam highlighted Razzak's illustrious role in 1971, party lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta called for opening a research centre on Abdur Razzak since he said Razzak's life and history of political movements of Bangladesh was almost same.



### Two arrested for murder in capital

*Extramarital affair was reason behind*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-puller hauling a headless body hid in a luggage was arrested in the capital's Basabo yesterday.

In primary interrogation, the rickshaw-puller admitted that he along with another man killed Ibrahim Khalil Sumon, 23. His accomplice was later held by police.

The victim's head was found buried behind the rickshaw-puller's home, said Sabujbagh police Sub-inspector Sulaiman Gazi.

The duo claimed that they killed Sumon, who worked for a bakery, because he had an "extramarital affair" with one of their wives, added Sulaiman.

The rickshaw, which was passing through Ahmedbagh area around 6:00am with only a big luggage, was halted by a couple of security guards and they asked him about the luggage, said Md Noor Alam, assistant commissioner of police (Khilgaon zone).

Later, locals noticed blood dripping from the luggage and opened it ignoring the rickshaw-puller's protest, he added. After discovering the beheaded body, they called police.

### Govt plans rubber wood treatment plant in Sreemangal

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) will set up a rubber wood pressure treating plant at Sreemangal in Moulvibazar.

The project estimated to cost Tk 18.38 crore would help treat around 13.20 crore rubber wood annually, said a press release.

A total of 132,817 rubber trees in four gardens in Sreemangal have passed their economic life cycle. If the trees are sold as firewood they would get Tk 4 crore, but their value would jump to Tk 74 crore if treated, it added.

To implement the project, BFIDC Secretary Gias Uddin and Managing Director of GEN AIR BD Limited M Zobaidul Islam Chowdhury signed a contract at BFIDC office in the capital's Motijheel.

Environment and Forests Secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, among others, was present at the signing ceremony.

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