

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.2 L 13.5	H 24.5 L 14.5	H 25.8 L 11.5	H 24.0 L 9.3	H 24.6 L 12.9	H 25.8 L 10.6	H 24.0 L 8.8	H 24.6 L 16.5

Mild to moderate cold wave may continue to sweep over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and Mymensingh, Tangail, Netrakona, Jessore, Chuadanga and Sreemangal. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am. Country's highest temperature 27.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 06.1 in Sreemangal.

Seven eminent citizens awarded Bangla Academy fellowship

Seven eminent personalities were awarded the Bangla Academy Fellowship -2015 yesterday for their contributions to different sectors.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder of non-government organisation Brac, was awarded for his contributions to education and social progress of the country.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and noted journalist Abed Khan were both awarded for their contributions to journalism.

In the field of economics, former Bangladesh Bank governor Prof Mohammad Farashuddin and honorary associate of University of Oxford Prof Shapan Adnan were awarded.

Prof Anupam Sen received the award for his contributions to the field of social science, and Papi Sarwar for her contributions to music.

The fellowships were conferred at the 38th annual meeting of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The Federation of Primary Assistant Teachers stages a rally on Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday demanding, among others, reduction of the gap between the pay of principals and assistant teachers, appointing principals from them instead of hiring from outside, and a separate pay scale for them based on the national education policy of 2010.

PHOTO: STAR

'LEAKED' PHONE TALK Section of JU teachers want removal of proctor

Section of Jahangirnagar University (JU) teachers yesterday demanded removal of the proctor who allegedly instigated, during a phone conversation, a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader to create unrest on the campus last week.

Proctor Tapan Kumar Saha has "lost moral ground to hold on to the position", Shikhhak Mancha said in a statement.

Seeking anonymity, some teachers said Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam was trying to protect the proctor instead of taking legal steps against him.

The VC does not take phone calls from journalists.

On December 18, the pharmacy department held a reunion but did not officially invite the proctor. In that evening a scuffle took place between some BCL men and pharmacy students.

When the proctor was contacted for intervention, he asked a BCL leader over the phone to confine the pharmacy department chairman, Prof Sukalyan Kumar Kundu, seeking a remedy.

The conversation was leaked later but the proctor denied the allegations.

On Thursday, Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (Juta) met the VC and demanded investigation of the allegations.

Make challenging Liberation War facts criminal offence

Demands Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee

Anti-war criminal platform Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday called for a new law to try people who challenge the historical facts of the Liberation War of 1971.

It also demanded another law to compensate the victims of the Liberation War.

Last week, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said there were controversies over how many people were martyred in the Liberation War.

In a paper, researcher and writer Shahriar Kabir placed eight demands at Dhaka Reporters Unity on behalf of the platform.

The demands include trying political organisations for 1971 crimes, giving citizenships to war children living abroad, if

they show interest, and declaring March 25 as "Genocide Day".

"The Liberation War Denial Crimes Act can be modelled after the laws that exist in 14 European countries. The laws are against holocaust denial," said Shahriar.

About a "Liberation War Victims' Compensation Act", Shahriar said the government must ask Pakistan to compensate the 1971 victims.

The provision for confiscating all properties and assets of war criminals must be incorporated in the law to compensate the victims, he said.

"The government should also bring to book those who had evicted martyrs' families and stopped freedom fighters' allowance during the regimes of anti-liberation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2015

Votes likely to be cast for parties, not individuals in Mirsarai

AL clears path for its Raozan nominee; apparently not bothered with two rebels in Sitakunda

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY and SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Cg

Awami League (AL) has managed to persuade a member to quit the Raozan municipality polls, clearing the path for its mayor candidate, while apparently it is not bothered with two who quit the party to compete with the party-nominated contestant in Sitakunda.

Meanwhile, although hectic campaigns are ongoing centring the Mirsarai municipality polls in Chittagong by the mayoral aspirants and their followers from early morning to midnight, the voters said they would exercise their franchise mainly based on the symbols of the mayoral candidates, not by judging the contestants themselves. And the main contest would be between "boat" and "sheaf of paddy", they added.

RAOZAN-SITAKUNDA Saiful Islam Chowdhury Rana announced quitting the race on Thursday following a meeting with AL organising secretaries Bir Bahadur and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and Health and Welfare Affairs Secretary Boduuzzaman Bhuiyan Dablu in Chittagong Circuit House.

With AL nominating Debashish

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

RU teachers to abstain from work today protesting Muhith's remarks

Rajshahi University Teachers Association (Ruta) will observe a work stoppage from 8:00am to 2:00pm today protesting Finance Minister AMA Muhith's comments on public university teachers' agitation against the newly announced eighth national pay scale.

Ruta also demanded a fresh pay structure restoring selection grade and time scale, and salaries for a certain percentage of the university professors that is equal to that of the senior secretaries.

On Wednesday, Muhith at a press conference said the teachers made the demands "out of ignorance" and the demands were "illogical".

Ruta urged Muhith to apologise for his comments. Ruta will also hold a press conference before the senate building at 11:00am.



Santa Claus greets a child during Christmas celebrations at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt action demanded to save Dhaka rivers

Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolon forms human chains

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolon formed several human chains beside the Turag river yesterday to call for saving the rivers of Dhaka from grabbing and pollution.

The organisation along with other like-minded ones formed human chains at 15 sites along the bank of the river between Bosila in the capital and Kaliakoir in Gazipur demanding government action in saving rivers.

Untreated industrial and chemical effluent along with human excreta and burnt oil directly released into the Turag, Balu, Buriganga and Shitalakkhya have poisoned the rivers and ruined riverine ecology and livelihood, said Md Anwar Hossain, general secretary of Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolon.

On the other hand, constant grabbing and wrongly demarcated boundaries have shrunk the rivers, particularly the Turag, said Hossain at one of the human chains on Tongi Bridge.

Water expert M Inamul Huq demanded political commitment for protecting the rivers in peril.

Green activists at the human chain at different sites, including Bosila, Dhur Bridge, Kamarpara Bridge, Kodda Bazar and Kashimpur Bazar Ghat, echoed Hossain and said the population would be wiped out if the rivers were not saved.

Gonoswasthya Kendra trustee Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed, among others, was present.

Dhaka city AL hasn't seen new leaders since 2003

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Dhaka city unit of the Awami League has been without new elected leadership for more than a decade now, and there are no signs that it would get fresh blood anytime soon.

AL held the last three-yearly council of the unit on December 27, 2012, but it did not see any voting, hence no new leaders. Today marks the end of that three-year tenure.

The city leaders, who were elected in 2003, are still at the helm.

When asked, the city leaders said they did not know whether the incumbent would run the city affairs or, as per a previous proposal, the existing committee would be split into two -- Dhaka north and south.

Sources within AL said two draft lists of committee members for two parts of Dhaka city were sent to the party president, Sheikh Hasina, for endorsement recently. The committees will be announced after her approval, but the central AL leaders do not know when the announcement will come.

In the last council, nearly 2,000 councillors and 3,000 delegates of Dhaka city AL gathered to elect new leadership through voting but it ended without any voting.

At the council, the city AL left the decision to pick new leaders with the party chief, while the AL central working committee decided that MA Aziz and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya would continue as acting president and general secretary of the city unit until a new committee was announced.

Dhaka city was supposed to get a new committee after AL's central council that was held on December 29, 2012.

The city unit's December 2012 council took place nine years after the previous one, held on June 18, 2003, where Mohammad Hanif was made president and Maya general secretary. After Hanif's demise on November 28, 2006, MA Aziz was made acting president.

After the council, the AL chief several times said the city committee would be announced after holding councils of all units under Dhaka city and asked city leaders to hold the councils immediately.

There are 26 thana, 103 ward and 17 union units under Dhaka city. The city AL held councils at all units except two -- Jatrabari and Demra thanas -- but announced full committees only in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

BERGER
Trusted Worldwide

INTRODUCING **BERGER PAINT APP**

ALL PAINT RELATED SOLUTIONS IN ONE APP

EMPOWERING YOUR PHONE TO PAINT YOUR HOME

SELECT SHADES | PAINT ROOMS | CALCULATE COST | FIND DEALERS

Download from Google play

Berger Colors of Happiness

Berger Paints

www.colors-of-happiness.com