

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 25.1 L 12.5	CHITTAGONG H 25.4 L 17.5	SYLHET H 26.0 L 13.0	RAJSHAHI H 24.3 L 10.0	KHULNA H 26.6 L 12.6	BARISAL H 27.2 L 12.8	RANGPUR H 22.8 L 11.5	COX'S BAZAR H 26.0 L 17.6
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere till morning. Night temperature may fall by (1-2) degree Celsius over southern part and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 05:30pm and rises tomorrow at 06:44am.**

GRAFT CASES

3 sacked BASIC Bank officials on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three sacked officials of BASIC Bank on a three-day remand each in each of the two graft cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The arrestees are Fazlul Sobhan and Mohammad Selim, ex-deputy managing directors, and Shipar Ahmed, former deputy general manager of the bank's Gulshan branch. Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Tosruzzaman passed the order after two investigation officers (IOs) of the case produced them before it. The IOs said the arrestees need to be remanded to find out vital clues about the scam and whereabouts of other accused responsible for committing such offences. On Thursday, the ACC held them near Sena Kalyan Bhaban in the capital's Motijheel and showed them arrested in the cases. The same day, ACC produced them before a Dhaka court with a seven-day remand plea for each of the accused in each of the cases. Defence yesterday submitted two bail petitions for their clients, which were rejected. The arrest follows the filing of over 50 cases by the ACC last September against a number of bankers and borrowers linked with the Tk 5,000-crore BASIC Bank scam that took place between 2010 and 2013. One of the best banks until 2009, BASIC Bank has been mired in financial irregularities in recent years. Bangladesh Bank inspections found 12 counts of irregularities at BASIC Bank in giving loans. These include no verification of customer's creditworthiness, absence of KYC (know your customer) procedures, and giving loans to defaulters.



Advertisement boards nailed to a tree in Patul of Natore, damaging the tree and proving an eyesore. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

CONTEMPT OF COURT

ICT exonerates Salauddin's counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday exonerated a counsel of executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury from a contempt of court charge after he apologised unconditionally. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrawardi also cautioned Fakrul Islam and told him not to repeat his "conduct". In response to a petition filed by Fakrul, the tribunal on January 14, 2013 ordered him to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against him "for interfering in the tribunal's proceedings". Fakrul filed the petition in December 2012 against the backdrop of an alleged

PM accuses BNP chief for BDR mutiny

Slams her remarks on 1971 death toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to refrain from creating any barrier to the country's development, saying the process of development would continue. "There is a section of people who finds a 'but' in every development initiative and tries to hinder the process of development. But I believe the people would resist all such conspiracies," she said. Hasina, also the ruling Awami League president, was addressing a party rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital, marking Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bitterly criticising her political archrival, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, for her controversial remarks about the number of martyrs in the Liberation War, Hasina said, "It is an audacity of Khaleda to attempt to create a controversy over the contribution of freedom fighters, while an estimated 3 million people laid down their lives for the independence of Bangladesh." About the war crimes trial, the PM also said a section was out to obstruct the trial but no conspiracy would work. Hasina also accused Khaleda of being involved in the 2009 BDR mutiny. Bss reports: "The BDR mutiny was held with the direct patronization of Khaleda Zia and her son Tareq," the prime minister said, adding that Khaleda Zia's behaviour, telephone call and other activities give testimony to their link with the carnage. The premier said Khaleda Zia still cannot forget her love for Pakistan. So she talks for Pakistan in the same tune of the collaborators of Pakistan and dares to create controversy about the numbers of martyrs in the War of Liberation, she added.



Hasina needs more terms in office to do unfinished work

Says Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be allowed to stay in power for a few more terms for the sake of the country's development, Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said yesterday. "There are many unfinished tasks, so Sheikh Hasina should be given more time," he told a party rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, where Hasina also spoke. "She should be given several more terms in office. It is not for herself but rather for the people of this country." Ashraf said none would be able to stop Sheikh Hasina like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



BNP to adapt to changing political scenario: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the party would take the right course of action in the light of the "change" in global politics to restore democracy in the country. He did not explain the "change" but said globally people were talking less about democracy now. Fakhrul said, "We will have to cope with the changed global situation by bringing a change in our political thinking, activities and programmes. "We will have to properly assess the situation and take the right step to force this 'fascist' government to restore democracy, people's rights and hold an election under a neutral government." The BNP leader was addressing a discussion of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in the capital's Nayapalton to mark the ninth anniversary of the 1/11 political changeover. Amid a grave political situation over parliamentary polls slated for January 22 in 2007, then president Iajuddin Ahmed was forced to resign as chief adviser of the caretaker government and declare a state of emergency on the night of January 11. A section of army officials led by then Army Chief Moeen U Ahmed had played a crucial role in the changeover amid growing political turmoil mainly caused by the then



Ershad to blame for 1/11

Says Hannan Shah

STAR CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member ASM Hannan Shah yesterday held Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad responsible for the 1/11 political changeover in 2007. He said the former military ruler played an active role for creating the ground of the changeover, which paved the way for takeover by a military-backed caretaker administration. "Several meetings were held at Ershad's residence before 1/11," he told a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity, on "1/11 conspiracy", organised by pro-BNP Swadhinata Forum. Hannan said the masterminds of the changeover would be tried, be it today or tomorrow. Earlier BNP had blamed the Awami League for the 1/11.



MUNICIPAL POLLS

Re-vote at 51 centres today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voting will again be held today amid tight security at 51 polling stations of 20 municipalities in the country. The elections were suspended on December 30 last year due to violence and irregularities. "We will deploy at least 24 members of police in each polling centre while the number was 18 in the December 30 polls," the Election Commission's deputy secretary told The Daily Star yesterday. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) would also be deployed. Voting at around 3,555 stations of 234 municipalities was supposed to be held on December 30. Of the remaining 214 municipalities, the ruling Awami League nominated mayoral candidates won in 168 municipalities, BNP's candidates in 19, Jatiya Party's candidate in one and independent candidates in 26 municipalities.



President Abdul Hamid with officials and chiefs of navies at the opening ceremony of a three-day 5th biennial assembly of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium 2016 at the Radisson hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

Policies must to develop Indian Ocean region

President tells biennial assembly of IONS

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said developing effective maritime policies at national, sub-regional and regional levels was important to advance economic development of the Indian Ocean region. He also said a combined effort was necessary to overcome the adverse impacts of climate change and deal with natural disasters. "Formulation and effective implementation of a 'Blue Economy' is a demand of the time for the economic well-being of the region, which can be achieved by efficient use of resources at sea," he said. "I believe that we would be able to formulate required policies pertaining to all important issues using IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium) as a dialogue platform," the president said. Hamid was addressing the opening ceremony of the 5th biennial assembly of IONS 2016 in the capital. Officials from 33 countries including the chiefs of navies from 13 countries are attending the three-day symposium. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues. Hamid said while geographical borders divide the countries, friendship across the ocean can unite the nations. "IONS is not only a ray of hope for the Indian Ocean region but also a forum of immense importance for the Asia-Pacific and the adjoining oceans," he said. The Indian Ocean carries huge prospect and potentials both from geo-strategic and geo-economic point of views to facilitate maritime trade and commerce, economic prosperity and exploitation and exploration of the ocean resources, he said. "Proper management of this vast region

Thick fog disrupts flight, vessel operation in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

Thick fog and cold spell partially paralysed life in Chittagong and its adjacent areas with massive disruption of air, water and road communications causing untold sufferings to thousands of people. Traffic control room of Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport (CSAIA) sources said dense fog disrupted flight operations yesterday. The flight schedules of domestic and international flights were changed for one to three hours due to dense fogs, the airport sources added. Three regular international flights were scheduled to leave from Shah Amanat International Airport at 12:00am, 1:00am and 2:00am respectively on Sunday but could not leave before 10:00am, 12:00pm and 1:00pm yesterday respectively due to dense fog. Besides, a domestic flight was forced to land at CSAIA as they could not land at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka because of dense fog, and many of the flights have been rescheduled or delayed for one to three hours due to thick fog. Radio control room of Chittagong port authority sources said owing to poor visibility plying of all kinds of ships in port channels remained suspended since Sunday night. However, flight and vessel movements returned to normalcy around 12:00pm

2 factories, 2 individuals fined

Tk 48.77 lakh for power pilferage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special taskforce of Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) fined two factories and two individuals Tk 48.77 lakh for pilfering electricity during four separate drives conducted in the capital between January 6 and 10. In Kamrangirchar, a factory was fined Tk 15 lakh, and another factory Tk 6.54 lakh while Shafi Mahmud, a director of FBCCI, was fined Tk 12.23 lakh and another person Nazim Uddin Tk 15 lakh, said a DPDC press release. They also disconnected all the illegal power connections, said Chief of the taskforce Mohammad Munir Chowdhury.

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