

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.6   L 19.6	H 31.6   L 20.4	H 31.5   L 16.8	H 30.7   L 18.6	H 31.5   L 20.6	H 31.6   L 19.8	H 28.4   L 16.0	H 32.5   L 21.8

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during late night till morning. Met Office said. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises tomorrow at 6:31am.

**Mirza Fakhrul defends Khaleda's remarks about number of martyrs**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief Khaleda Zia's remarks on the number of martyrs during the 1971 Liberation War were "contextually correct", party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir claimed yesterday, without elaborating his statement.

"Awami League leaders and activists distorted Khaleda Zia's comments on the number of the 1971 martyrs to keep her off politics," he told a seminar on the "violation of the constitution", organised by the Bangladesh Nationalist British Law Students' Alliance in the capital's Supreme Court auditorium.

Criticising the ruling party leaders for calling Khaleda an associate of the Pakistan army, he said people falsely accused others when they failed to defend themselves.

Pointing to the "false" cases and remarks against Khaleda, he said AL's activities proved that the party had become politically bankrupt.

On December 21, Khaleda, in her first public address in more than a year, said, "There are controversies over how many were martyred in the Liberation War." Her comments drew widespread criticism, while many slammed her as an "agent of Pakistan" and demanded that she leave Bangladesh. She was also sued for sedition.

Without giving any time period, Fakhrul said more than 600 people were killed extra judicially, 460 fell victim to forced disappearance, and around 17,000 cases were filed against BNP workers. Last year, 4.6 lakh BNP leaders and activists were accused, he added.

Fakhrul claimed that democracy was under threat, and requested the government to hold an election after talking to BNP.



A human chain of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, which protested Pakistan's meddling in Bangladesh's internal affairs, turns into a huge rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## End diplomatic ties with Pakistan

AL-led 14-party urges govt; demands trial of Khaleda, Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday demanded an end to diplomatic relations with Pakistan for interfering in Bangladesh's internal affairs and trial of the Jamaat-e-Islami for its alleged involvement in war crimes in 1971.

They also called BNP chief Khaleda Zia a traitor for questioning the number of martyrs in the 1971 Liberation War and demanded her trial too.

The demands were raised at a human chain, held at different points on the 14km route between Gabtoli and Sayedabad in the capital. The alliance organised it protesting Pakistan's denial of the 1971 atrocities and Khaleda's remarks that there were controversies over how many were martyred in the war.

The protesters said Pakistan had overstepped the boundaries of diplomatic decency by meddling in Bangladesh's affairs and requested refrainment in the future.

Several hundred leaders and activists joined the hour-long human chain, which started at 4:00pm and created traffic congestion in different parts of the city.

Though the human chain aimed to protest Pakistan's meddling and Khaleda's remarks, there were some banners demanding immediate arrest of The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and shutdown of the newspaper.

The alliance announced to hold human chains to protest the same in the district headquarters on February 24.

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## Schoolboy framed in drug peddling case in capital

Alleges family, saying cops did it in collusion with real dealers to stifle murder case; police deny saying whole family involved in narcotics business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drug peddlers allegedly had police implicate a teenager in a narcotic case to compel his family to withdraw a case filed against them, the family claimed yesterday at a press conference, held at the office of Crime Reporters' Association in the capital.

Al Amin, an eighth-grader of Pragati High School in the capital's Pallabi, was supposed to get admitted to the ninth grade, but he is now in Dhaka Central Jail, they added.

According to the family, drug peddlers had 14-year-old Al Amin arrested, showing him to be 21, so that they could get discharged from a murder case filed by the teenager's father.

"We went to police seeking justice for the killing of our uncle Md Shawkot, who was murdered for protesting drug



Al Amin

trading in the area. But now we are becoming the victim of injustice by police," said Shahidul Islam Hira, eldest brother of Al Amin.

"To force us to have their names dropped from the murder case, Pallabi's notorious drug peddling squad, Kalu-Liton gang, had police arrest my brother," he told journalists.

In October 2010, following the murder of Shawkot, his brother Md Kawsar, father of Al Amin, filed a case with Pallabi Police Station accusing eight, including Kalu and his brothers Liton and Jahid, said Shahidul. The gang threatened the family and asked them to drop their names from the case, he added.

"As we took a strong stand, Jahid, a member of the gang,

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## Book fair stall shut down for carrying questionable item

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Amar Ekushey Granthamela shut down a book stall on charge of selling a book that reportedly hurt religious sentiments.

Ba-Dwip Prakashan (stall no 191) at the Suhrawardy Udyan was shut down soon after the fair opened at 3:00pm, said Dr Jalal Ahmed, acting director (sales, marketing and reprinting) of Bangla Academy.

Wishing to be anonymous, an officer of the police control room on the fair premises said, the book, Islam Bitarka (debate on Islam) allegedly contained derogatory remarks on Islam and the Prophet.

Edited by Shamsuzzoha Manik, the book was first published in 2010 and brought in the Ekushey book fair in 2012.

Jalal Ahmed told The Daily Star such a "controversial" book can hurt religious sentiments so they have decided to shut down the stall. Law enforcers were deployed at the closed book stall to prevent any untoward situation.

The Daily Star tried to communicate with the publisher but failed. This correspondent went to the publication store at the capital's Kataban but found it closed.

Meanwhile, a taskforce shut down two stalls, "Rongin Ful" and "Nil Pori" for selling pirated copies of books. A taskforce led by Joint Secretary Manzurur Rahman found the stalls were selling pirated copies of foreign books.

Yesterday, Anyaprokash launched a photo album titled "Humayun Ahmed Ananta Jibon Jodi" containing rare photographs of Humayun Ahmed through a publication ceremony organised at Poet Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy.

Humayun, in a photo, is seen with his daughter Shila, while in another, he is giving autographs to some lucky fans at a book stall.

The wizard of words passed away in 2012, leaving so many memories, and some of those (from 2005-2012) are captured by photographer Nasir Ali Mamun. The book is priced Tk 800, contains over 100 photographs, and will be found at the Anyaprokash's stall.

Mutual Trust Bank sponsored the Photo Album.

At the launching ceremony, professor emeritus



## Several DNA profiles found in evidence

Says DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday said several DNA profiles have been found in 11 evidences provided to an FBI team on March 13 last year on being collected following the murder of blogger-writer Avijit Roy near a book fair in Dhaka University.

"The tests of the evidences (in a US laboratory) have been completed. The reports will be handed over to us (quickly)," said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam.

Police will compare the profiles with those of eight

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## JnU 'BCL men' accused of attacking journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bdnews24.com reporter filed a case with Kotwali Police Station yesterday alleging that some five to six Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Jagannath University unit attacked him near the university's main gate around 3:00pm.

"They attacked me with sharp weapons without any provocation. I do not know their motive," Kazi Mobarak Hossain claimed to The Daily Star last night, adding that another reporter was with him.

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Garbage piled up on the Buriganga river and its banks near Shyambazar area, on the outskirts of the capital, threatening the city's lifeline and polluting the environment. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## MA Latif made persona non grata by Ctg AL

For Bangabandhu's photo doctored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

For distorting the image of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibir Rahman, ruling party lawmaker MA Latif was declared persona non grata yesterday at a rally held in the port city's Laldighi Maydan.

Awami League Chittagong city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury made the declaration and also gave a 15-day ultimatum to arrest Latif and bring him to book.

Demanding immediate trial of Latif, Nagarik Mancha Chatragram held a rally where several thousands activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jubo League and other wings of the ruling party participated.

On January 30, on the occasion of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit in Chittagong, the festoons and banners with tampered image of Bangabandhu were hung in the Bandar and Patnga areas. In those pictures, the face was of Bangabandhu but the figure was not of him. Name of Latif was at the bottom of the festoons.

Latif, at a press conference on February 7, said he was kept in the dark, the designer of the festoons and banners tampered the photo of Bangabandhu.

Termining MA Latif as a plotter and a black sheep, Mohiuddin said, Latif is working in support of Pakistan and demanded exemplary punishment and cancellation of Latif's parliament membership.

He also urged the government to confiscate Latif's property and stressed that Latif

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## HC printed cause lists to go on till March 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The system of printed cause list, a roll of cases to be heard by the High Court any day, will run till March 31.

The Supreme Court authorities were set to abolish this age-old system through introducing online cause list yesterday.

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has changed this earlier decision in this regard and asked the officials concerned to keep the printed cause list running till March 31, SC Registrar General Syed Aminul Islam told The Daily Star.

He said the chief justice changed the decision at the request from the SC lawyers.

## WAR CRIME TRIALS

### Man links 9 of Jessore to killing of father, brother

Tribunal orders ads for surrender of Kishoreganj fugitive suspect Syed Hussain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday linked nine men of Jessore, including former BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain, to the killing of his father and younger brother during the Liberation War in 1971.

Gaziur Rahman, the son of martyr Chadtulla Gazi of Chingra village in Jessore's Keshabpur upazila, narrated the killings before the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

He is the first witness in the case against the nine, all from Keshabpur.

Shakhawat is now involved with Jatiya Party, and in jail along with two other accused Billal Hossain Biswas of Nehelpur and Lutfar Morol of Porchakra.

The rest are Ibrahim Hossain of

Nehalpur, Sheikh Md Mujibur Rahman and Kazi Ohidul Islam of Shekhpur, Aziz Sardar of Mominpur, Aziz Sardar of Boga, and Abdul Khaleq Morol of Altapol.

The nine face five charges, but the detained three pleaded not guilty before the tribunal.

Gaziur said he was 17 years old, and his father was president of Sagardari Union Awami League in 1971.

In mid-Sraban, a Bangla month, accused Shakhawat, along with 30 to 40 Razakars, met at the house of Muslim League leader Munshi Salimullah in Chingra Bazar, where Shakhawat asked his men to keep eyes on the ferry ghats which freedom fighters often used, he said.

"I was sitting inside a shop in Chingra

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**SELECTED MACROECONOMIC ISSUES... THEORY AND PRACTICE**

MIRZA AZIZUL ISLAM

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