

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.5 L 27.0

MYMENSINGH H 31.7 L 27.0

CHITTAGONG H 32.0 L 26.5

SYLHET H 30.0 L 25.4

RAJSHAHI H 34.2 L 26.3

RANGPUR H 34.0 L 27.4

KHULNA H 34.5 L 26.8

BARISAL H 33.6 L 25.5

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 26.6

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rangpur division with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:18pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am, said Met office.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

No matter how troublesome the journey is, to be able to spend time with family members makes it all worthwhile. Clockwise from top left, A launch leaves Dhaka with hundreds of people on board, eager to meet family members and spend the Eid holidays. The photo was taken from Postogola bridge on the Buriganga yesterday around 4:20pm. People climb to the roof of a train at the Airport Railway Station. In their desperate bid to leave the capital to celebrate Eid with family members, people travel on bus roofs in Hemayetpur area of Savar. People board an already-packed launch at Shimulia ferry ghat in Munshiganj.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN, FARHANA MIRZA



Abdul Jabbar's death mourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An irreplaceable vacuum has been created in the cultural arena. Bangladesh has lost a legendary singer who inspired freedom fighters through his songs. That is how the country yesterday mourned the death of eminent singer Abdul Jabbar.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, several cabinet members, and different socio-political and cultural organisations mourned his death and conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family members.

Known for his patriotic songs such as, "Salam Salam Hajar Salam" and "Share Shat Koti Manusher Aaj Ekti Naam", Jabbar breathed his last at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital yesterday morning, aged 80.

He was suffering from acute kidney and heart diseases.

President Abdul Hamid

Deal on nuclear waste disposal inked

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday signed a crucial deal with Russia in Moscow on return of highly hazardous nuclear waste to be discharged from Rooppur Nuclear Plant being constructed with Russian assistance.

"Science and Technology Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman signed the agreement on Bangladesh's behalf... on the Russian side, Director General of the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" Alexey E. Likhachev is the signatory of the deal," an official of Bangladesh embassy in Moscow told the news agency with the phone.

He said Yeafesh held a brief discussion with the Rosatom ahead of signing the deal when they talked on the necessary initiatives for expediting the Rooppur project through signing of the related "integrated contracts and construction licence".

Officials familiar with the process in Dhaka said the deal signed yesterday titled "Agreement between Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation on Concerning Returning of Spent Nuclear Fuel from Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant to the Russian Federation".

Bangladesh ambassador in Moscow Dr Saiful Hoque, Science and Technology Secretary M Anwar Hossain, Rooppur plant's Project Director Dr Shawkat Akber and Deputy Secretary of the Ministry Hafizur Rahman were present, among others, during the signing at the Rosatom headquarters in the Russian capital.

Termed it as a historic deal, the science and technology secretary said the deal "provides a framework to return the spent nuclear fuel to the Russian Federation for

temporary technological storage, further reprocessing and management of the product of its reprocessing".

Ambassador Hoque earlier said such Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) would enhance the trust and confidence of all stakeholders of the project.

"It bears the testimony of the Russian side of their commitment and also manifests the dedication of the present government to take forward the biggest technological venture in the history of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Russia earlier agreed to sign the agreement to return RNPP's spent fuel while the Bangladesh cabinet on June 5, this year approved a draft of the treaty titled "Agreement between the Russian Federation and Bangladesh on Cooperation Concerning Return of Spent Nuclear Fuel from Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant to the Russian Federation".

According to an official familiar with the process, the agreement will safeguard the country from the hazard of nuclear waste and it would help dispose of nuclear waste in accordance with nuclear safety standards.

Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom is building the 2400 megawatt nuclear power plant at Rooppur in Pabna district and the first two units of the plant are expected to be operational in 2023.

According to the ministry statement, Bangladesh government has been attaching importance to returning the Spent Nuclear Fuel to Russia from the very beginning of the setting up of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. This matter was also mentioned in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) signed between Bangladesh and Russia in 2011, it said.

Khaleda blames AL for enforced disappearances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has turned the country into a breeding ground for murder, abduction and enforced disappearances, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said in a statement yesterday.

Her statement was issued after MM Aminur Rahman, secretary general of Bangladesh Kalyan Party, disappeared on the night of August 27.

Bangladesh Kalyan Party is an alliance partner of BNP.

"Since it assumed power, the present despotic government has turned the country into a breeding ground for murder, abduction and enforced disappearances," the BNP chief said.

In its desperate bid to create a single-party

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Two more parties want army, JS dissolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more political parties during their electoral talks with the Election Commission (EC) yesterday demanded dissolution of parliament before the general elections and deployment of army during the election.

The two parties -- Bangladesher Jatiya Gonoratrik Party (Jagpa) -- made a number of other suggestions during their meetings presided over by Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda at the EC secretariat.

BBWP also demanded restoration of the "no-vote" provision and proposed that the Election Commission (EC) should play the role of a supervi-

sory government during the election.

A 13-member delegation of the party led by its Secretary General Saiful Haque placed a 23-point proposal to the EC members.

"We demanded deployment of army during the next general elections and urged [the EC] to ensure a level-playing field before the election," Saiful Haque said after the meeting.

He also said his party suggested bringing some important ministries under the EC during the election. "We also urged the EC to set a process for online submission of nomination papers."

Later, a 13-member delegation of Jagpa, a component of BNP-led

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International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary General Kitack Lim meets President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the capital on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PID

প্ৰিমিয়ার
সিমেন্ট

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