



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.1/L 21.0

MYMENSINGH H 30.4/L 18.6

CHITTAGONG H 30.8/L 22.8

SYLHET H 31.6/L 19.5

RAJSHAHI H 29.7/L 18.6

RANGPUR H 29.0/L 19.8

KHULNA H 30.6/L 20.0

BARISAL H 31.6/L 20.0

COX'S BAZAR H 28.8/L 22.5

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. Met office says the sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.

Three Apan Jewellers owners remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT
Three owners of Apan Jewellers have been placed on a one-day remand each in connection with three money laundering cases in Dhaka.

Dildar Ahmed Selim, one of the owners, was placed on remand in the case filed with Ramna Police Station.

While Gulzar Ahmed and Azad Ahmed, two other owners and brothers of Dildar, were remanded in the cases lodged with Gulshan Police Station.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Muminul Siddique gave the order yesterday after Farid Ahmed, assistant revenue office of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department (CID), produced Dildar before the court seeking a three-day remand.

Another Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbit Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury granted remand for Gulzar and Azad.

On October 24, Dildar was sent to prison after he surrendered before three Dhaka courts, seeking bail in three money laundering cases filed with Ramna, Dhahmondini and Uttara West police stations.

Gulzar and Azad were also sent to jail on the same day after they surrendered before a Dhaka court.

Dildar is the father of Banani rape case accused Shafat Ahmed.

On October 23, two Dhaka courts issued arrest warrants against the three owners.

On August 12, CID filed five cases against them. According to the case statements, the accused imported around 15 maunds of gold and diamonds by "dodging tax".



Speaker Shirin Sharmar Chaudhury with delegates of the 36th Small Branches Conference of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)-2017 at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Of the over 180 branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, 43 are classified as "Small Branches", which are defined as jurisdictions having populations below 500,000.

BNP's 10-day events marking 'Solidarity Day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The BNP has chalked out a 10-day programme to observe "National Revolution and Solidarity Day", marking the "civil-military uprising" on November 7, 1975.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, party's senior joint secretary general, made this announcement at a press briefing at the party's Nayapalim headquarters yesterday. He said the programmes will begin on November 5.

The events include hoisting of party flag atop its all offices on November 7, and placing wreaths at late president and party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave.

Besides, the party's associate bodies will also hold various programmes, including discussions, cultural events, and publish supplements.

'Missing' list gets longer

Another youth traceless in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the reports of untraced persons continuing to surface on the media, another youth allegedly went missing in the capital on October 7.

Arafat Rahman, 24, reached the capital on September 17 from Nilphamari to visit his parents in Mohammodpur, said his father Mominul Haq.

He said Arafat went to attend a two-day Tabligh Jamaat in Amin Bazar area, on the outskirts of Dhaka on October 7.

But since then, he has not returned and his phone was found switched off. A general diary was filed with Mohammodpur Police Station on October 10. Mominul said at a press briefing in the capital yesterday. The family also contacted Rapid Action Battalion-2 on two days, after a message was sent to his elder brother from Arafat's facebook account, said the father.

It read: "I am being held at an unknown place for the last 20 days and I don't know if I can come back home."

Mominul said Arafat's wife also received another message the same day, which read: "I'm fine. Please pray for me."

Arafat, who got married in 2016, has a two-and-a-half-month-old girl. After passing HSC from Mirpur

Commerce College, he used to work from his family home in Saidpur of Nilphamari. In a span of just three months, 10 people including a journalist had gone missing or were abducted since August 22 from the capital. Only two of them returned while the other eight are still untraced.

Journalist Utpal Das, 27, went traceless on October 10 on his way to office in Motijheel.

Meanwhile, Mithun Chowdhury, president of newly formed Bangladesh Janata Party, and his associate Ashik Ghosh have been missing since October 27, alleged Mithun's wife Sumona Chowdhury at a press briefing at Sylhet District Press Club on Tuesday. Sumona alleged that some people introducing them as law enforcers picked up the duo on a black microbus from Farangganj in the capital.

Moreover, four people went missing or were abducted from the capital within four days in August.

They are managing director of RMM Group Aniruddh Kalyan Party Secretary General MM Aminur Rahman, and businessman Syed Sadat Ahmed, also a BNP leader.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, as many as 540 people have allegedly fallen victim to forced disappearances between 2007 and July 2017 in the country and 347 of them are still missing.



Arafat Rahman

Kurigram journo held under Section 57 gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A Kurigram court yesterday gave bail to a Roumari upazila-based journalist, who had been arrested for allegedly taking a screenshot of a fake Facebook photo of the president and the prime minister and showing it to the public.

Anisur Rahman, 33, the upazila correspondent of the daily Sangbad, and resident of Kattiman, was arrested on Tuesday night. He denied the allegation.

A Juba League leader filed the case under Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Dhaka canals will be recovered gradually

Says Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday said they will gradually recover all canals of Dhaka from encroachers.

He said this at the inauguration ceremony of 12-storey Chankharpool Market and Nazimuddin road development work, said a press release.

Dhaka District Administration (DDA), DSCC and Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) will jointly carry out the recovery.

As part of the drive, DDA conducted a canal recovery drive yesterday at Kamrangirchar, he said.

The mayor also instructed the departments concerned of DSCC to start cleaning the sewerage line from Mokshi Bazar to Dhakeshwari Mandir from today.

Dhaka city has been suffering from many problems including flooding and waterlogging due to the encroachment of canals.

Canals are being encroached upon in various methods that include unauthorised land filling, construction of buildings, expansion of slums, and dumping of waste.



A bus stuck on Dhaka-Aricha highway after hitting the median strip yesterday, causing a long tailback up to Gabtoli from Baharipur, a few kilometres north of Dhaka. Though there was no casualty reported, the traffic jam made thousands of people suffer. The mishap took place around 9:00am when the bus was heading towards Savar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Mobile courts can continue till Dec 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The executive magistrates can run mobile courts till December 6 as the Supreme Court on Wednesday once again extended its stay order on the High Court verdict that declared unconstitutional the rules under which they are operating such benches.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Khalil, who is performing functions of the chief justice, passed the order following three separate leave to appeal petitions filed by the government challenging the HC verdict.

The apex court also adjourned hearing on the petitions till December 6.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, who moved the leave to appeal petitions, told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the executive magistrates to conduct mobile courts till Dec 6 following the SC order.

He also said he sought extension of the SC stay order and adjournment of hearing on the leave to appeal petition for six weeks in order to take preparation for placing arguments before the Appellate Division against the HC verdict.

Earlier on May 11 this year, the HC declared unconstitutional the rule under which executive magistrates can run mobile courts.

Delivering a verdict on three writ petitions, the HC also observed that empowering executive magistrates with judicial powers is "a frontal attack on the independence of the judiciary and is violative of the theory of separation of powers".

Test your popularity thru elections

Quader asks BNP

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday BNP

to evaluate the party's popularity by taking part in the next parliament election.

"We want BNP to participate..." he told a seminar at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Awami League Publicity and Publications Subcommittee organised the seminar on the party's 11-point proposal to EC.

About the recent attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade in Feni, Quader said it was now clear that "BNP has orchestrated a drama".

EC asks parties for registration information

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission sent letters to 40 registered political parties on Wednesday, asking them to report whether they have fulfilled the conditions of registration.

The commission warned that failure to fulfil the conditions would result to cancellation of registration.

According to the letter signed by EC Joint Secretary Abul Kasem, political parties have to inform the commission about their status within 15 working days.

An official said after receiving the reports, the commission would verify their authenticity, and if any incongruity was found, the party concerned would get a show cause notice.

Registration of political parties started in 2008. So far 42 parties have registered with EC, but the registration of the Freedom Party was scrapped in 2009, while Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's registration was declared illegal by the court in 2013.

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