

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 26.3 | L 17.3 MYMENSINGH 27.0 | L 16.0 CHITTAGONG 27.0 | L 16.9 SYLHET 27.9 | L 16.0 RAJSHAH 25.0 | L 13.2 RANGPUR 26.6 | L 14.8 KHULNA 25.5 | L 15.6 BARISAL 26.6 | L 15.5 COX'S BAZAR 28.0 | L 18.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during mid-night to till this morning, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.

RAPE OF 4 WOMEN
PBI starts probe, one 'rapist' held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Soon after taking over the multiple rape case from Karnaphuli police, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) in Chittagong on Monday night arrested one of the alleged rapists of four women of a family during a robbery on December 13.

Mizan Matabbar, 45, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, of Mongla in Bagerhat, was arrested in Chittagong city's EPZ area. During primary interrogation, Mizan admitted his involvement, said PBI's Inspector Santosh Kumar Chakma.

Mizan was giving confessional statement before

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RISING INSANITY... Apparently this biker has the skills to maintain control over his vehicle with a phone in one hand. And apparently he does not care whether he has the right to put others' lives in danger. With the rising trend of such display of public endangerment, one would wonder if there is a working mechanism in the country that would keep riders like him off the roads.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Talks with primary asst teachers soon: Minister

UNB, Dhaka

The government will soon hold a dialogue with the assistant teachers of primary schools over the demand of upgrading their pay scale.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman made the announcement yesterday.

"We've asked for a list of teacher representatives to initiate the talks," he told UNB.

The minister, however, could not specify the date for the discussion, but said, "We'll sit very soon."

Earlier on Monday, the demonstrating teachers ended their hunger strike upon assurance from the minister of meeting their demand. The agitating teachers said it was discriminatory and humiliating to be paid under the 14th grade when a head teacher gets salary under the 11th grade.

They demanded that their salary be upgraded to the 12th grade. Nearly 47 teachers among some 1,000 fell sick during the three days of hunger strike.

CU STUDENT TAPOSH KILLING

Family awaiting justice

MD ABBAS, CU

It has been three years since Taposh Chandra Sarkar was murdered, but his family is still waiting for justice.

Taposh, a first-year student of Sanskrit at Chittagong University (CU), was shot dead on December 14, 2014 when he came out of his room at Shah Amanat hall during a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus.

Two days after the incident, Hafizul Islam, a classmate of Taposh in the same department, filed a murder case with Hathazari Police Station accusing 45 men.

The case was transferred to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) in Chittagong on August 5, 2015. On May 2, 2016, a charge-

sheet was filed accusing 29 BCL activists including former cultural secretary Ashrafuzzaman Asha as the prime accused.

Asish, elder brother of Taposh, said "We feel frustrated as the killers are roaming freely. But, we are still hopeful that we will get justice."

Police had arrested 16 people in this connection, including the prime accused Asha. All of them are now freed on bail while Asha is behind bars.

The case, which is now awaiting trial, will be heard again on January 10 next year, said an official at the General Registrar's Office in Hathazari.

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Much-awaited JU registered graduate polls draw controversy

JU CORRESPONDENT

With the election to choose 25 registered graduate representatives for the Jahangirnagar University (JU) senate scheduled for Saturday (December 30), a pro-Awami League panel alleged that the vice chancellor has violated rules.

The panel, led by former JU vice chancellor Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir, alleged that the JU VC Prof Farzana Islam declared the election date before appointing the returning officer, violating the section 1.1 of the statute.

The allegation was made at a press conference organised by the panel -- Bangabandhu Adarsha o Muktijuddher Chetonay Bishwasi Pragatishil Jote -- at the teachers' lounge of the university cafeteria at 11:30am yesterday.

In a written statement, the panel also alleged that the VC through a written order had asked the officials of the election cell to make public the personal information of all voters.

It is a violation of election code, the panel alleged.

To verify the allegations, this correspondent talked to the VC.

Referring to the issue centring the appointment of returning officer, the VC said she in consultation with administrative body appointed the returning officer on September 11 and declared the election date on September 12, meaning the panel's allegation is not true.

Regarding disclosing voters' information, JU VC said some candidates from other panels earlier alleged that one panel (led by Sharif Enamul Kabir) had got personal phone numbers of all voters, which is not fair.

To cope with the situation, only voters' phone numbers were made public so that all panels get an equal chance to reach the voters, said VC Farzana.

Meanwhile, on December 21, a national Bangla daily published a report against the panel for obtaining personal information of voters.

Referring to that, the JU VC alleged that after publishing the report, the panel called on her on December 22 at the senate hall of the university and misbehaved with her.

They also asked her in a rude manner to take action against the national daily journalist, she alleged.

Asked, Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir, denied the allegation of misbehaviour. He said they met the VC to remind her that she cannot make public the voters' personal information.

He also said they did not take the voters' information in an underhand way. Rather, his panel has collected the information over the years, he added.

Asked about her decision of making public the voters' information, the VC said her decision did not violate the election rules.

It is worth mentioning that a total of 119 candidates, from three panels and 44 individual candidates, are vying for 25 posts.

Of the three panels, two are pro-Awami League -- Bangabandhu Adarsha o Muktijuddher Chetonay Bishwasi Pragatishil Jote [led by Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir] and Bangabandhu Adarsha o Muktijuddher Chetonay Bishwasi Graduate Mancho [led by another former VC Professor MA Matin].

The pro-BNP panel is Swadhinata, Sarbhoumota, Bahudaliya Ganatantra o Bangladeshi Jatiyatabadey Bishwasi Panel, led by Prof Shamsul Alam Selim.

In the meantime, ahead of the election, the university campus has worn a festive look as the election will be held after 19 years. The last election to choose registered graduate representatives took place in 1998.

The university authorities are taking preparation for the polls, said JU Treasurer Prof Sheikh Md Monzurul Huq, also returning officer of the election.

Next polls under current govt

Says Tofail

UNB, Bhola

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said the next national elections will be held under the existing government.

He said the constitution allows the government to be in power until January 29, 2019 and the election will be held without dissolving it.

Commerce Minister made the remarks in response to journalists' queries after a meeting of Bhola district unit of Awami League.

Tofail Ahmed claimed that elections in most countries in the world are held under the ruling party.

No matter what BNP says, the next national election will be conducted by the Election Commission under the existing government and the ruling party, the minister said.

There are no alternatives to it, the minister added.

He said if BNP goes for another movement against the government, they would fail, adding that it will be practical for BNP to take preparation for the election.

Ali Azam, MP of Bhola constituency; Abdul Momin Tulu, chairman of Bhola zila parishad and general secretary of district Awami League; Habidul Haque Bahalul, AL organizing secretary; and Mohammad Moniruzzaman, mayor of Bhola municipality, were present among others.

NEWS IN brief

19 artistes, officials of Swadhin Bangla Betar awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh History Heritage Centre yesterday awarded 19 artistes, presenters and officials of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra for their outstanding contribution to the country's Liberation War in 1971.

The awards were handed over during a ceremony at Central Public Library in the capital's Shahbagh.

Eminent cultural personality Syed Hasan Imam, and eminent singers Fakir Alamgir, Shaheen Samad and Dalia Nowshin, among others, received the awards.

Speaking at the programme, Hasan Imam said the artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra struggled immensely to operate the radio station and faced innumerable hurdles.

Death anniversary of Habibur Rahman Bir Bikram today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Commander Habibur Rahman Bir Bikram alias Jahajmara Habib.

Freedom fighters of Kaderia Bahini led by Habibur Rahman destroyed two war ships of the Pakistani army at the Jamuna river at Matikata in Bhupur of Tangail on August 11 in 1971. They also seized a huge amount of arms and ammunition from the vessels.

Afterwards, Habibur became famous as Jahajmara Habib. He died of cardiac arrest on December 27, 1998.

Jahajmara Habibur Rahman Smriti Sangsad and Ghatal Press Club will hold a doa mahfil and a discussion in Ghatal on this occasion.

Fire guts 10 houses in Khulna

UNB, Dhaka

Ten houses were gutted as a fire broke out at Garuikhali Housing project in Paikgacha upazila in Khulna on Monday.

Locals said the fire originated from a kitchen in a house at 8:00pm and it soon engulfed adjoining nine houses. After two and half hours of frantic efforts, around 10:30pm, they managed to douse the fire.

No casualties were reported.

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Potential candidates are requested to send resumes to hr@jamunagroupbd.com or General Manager (HR & Admin), Jamuna Group of Industries Limited, Jamuna Future Park, Ka-244, Progati Sarani, Kuril, Baridhara, Dhaka 1229.

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১২ মার্চ ২০১৭ থেকে হস্তস্থৃত মুদ্রণ পাইপ বিক্রয় হচ্ছে।

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited by Managing Director, **National Tubes Ltd.** for Supplying of 100 MT Zinc Ingot & 10 Pcs Circular Saw Blade from the Manufacturer / Principal Supplier through their authorized local Agent in Bangladesh on CFR Chittagong basis:

SI No.	Reference No.	Description of goods	Earnest Money	Price of Tender documents	Last Selling date of tender document	Closing / Opening Date & Time
1.	COM(I) / Zinc-100 MT Re:Tender-02/17 Date: 26/12/2017	Zinc Ingot-100 MT	US \$ 7000.00 or Tk. 5,78,000.00	Tk. 3000.00 (Taka Three thousand) only (non-refundable)	16-01-2018 (within office hour)	Closing 17-01-2018 at 11-30 AM Opening on the same date at 12.30 PM
2.	COM(I)/02(Spares)/ Tender-03/17 Date: 26/12/2017	Circular Saw Blade-10 Pcs	US \$ 145.00 or Tk. 12,000.00	Tk. 1000.00 (Taka One thousand) only (non-refundable)	28-01-2018 (within office hour)	Closing 29-01-2018 at 11-30 AM Opening on the same date at 12.30 PM

In case of unavoidable circumstances the offer will be received on the next working day and opened at the same place and time. Tender documents may be obtained during working hours (excepting on opening date) on cash payment from the following addresses :

1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.