

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 24.6 L 11.8	H 23.1 L 8.6	H 25.0 L 12.0	H 23.8 L 10.5	H 24.0 L 8.0	H 22.0 L 9.0	H 26.5 L 11.5	H 26.5 L 10.0	H 26.4 L 12.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during mid-night till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:43pm and rises tomorrow at 06:41am. Highest and lowest temperature recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Political prudence a prerequisite

Says SHUIAN Secretary Badiul Alam about forming polls-time govt; cautions against rise of 'third force'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The political parties should reach a consensus over the formation of polls-time government to avert untoward situation during the upcoming national election, said Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik (SHUIAN) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder yesterday.

"It's my apprehension that if once again one-sided election takes place in 2018, the third force, which is more powerful, will emerge," he said.

Badiul was addressing a discussion, "Eleventh Election: Present Politics and Continuation of Development," organised at Jatiya Press Club by Citizens for Responsible Democracy, a platform of civil society and politicians. Underscoring the need for both fair and peaceful election, Badiul said the administration will be a big hindrance to conducting fair polls as it has been politicised.

Terming law enforcement agencies and administration important components of polls-time government, he said, "If the government doesn't act responsibly during the election, it is not possible for the most powerful, impartial and effective election commission to hold fair polls. "That's why, it is seen that all

the elections that took place under previous governments were not fair," he said.

However, Awami League Joint Secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif said, "Previous elections under caretaker governments were also questioned; so such government is not needed in the upcoming 11th national election."

Many violence incidents also took place during the tenure of the caretaker government, he said, adding that several fair polls had taken place under the incumbent government.

Criticising BNP leader for making sub-judice comment over Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, to be delivered February 8, he claimed that BNP men are threatening with violent movement because they know "Khaleda Zia is guilty".

After the verdict, the BNP chairperson can go to the High Court if she thinks that the lower court verdict was not appropriate, Hanif said.

Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta, and AL Organising Secretary Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Noufel also spoke in the discussion coordinated by Dr Ashikur Rahman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI).



Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority is installing a pipeline occupying an entire portion of the road up to its median on Arakan Road in the port city. A large stretch of the road in Bahaddarhat area has been in such a condition for almost two years.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Japan offers more jobs

Deal signed with the country widens opportunities for Bangladeshi youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with Japan to widen the scope of training and jobs for Bangladeshi youths in the East Asian developed country.

Bangladesh's Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry Acting Secretary Dr Nomita Halder and Japan's Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry Policy-Coordination Vice Minister Jinichi Miyano signed the document on recruitment of technical interns in Tokyo.

Hiromu Kurokawa, vice minister of Japan's Justice Affairs Ministry

Administrative, Koichi Aoboshi, director general of Japanese Foreign Ministry's Consular Affairs Bureau, and Rabab Fatima, Bangladesh's ambassador to Japan, were also present.

Nomita said Bangladeshi youths can get training and work in 77 occupations in Japan now.

At present, Bangladeshis can have training and work in 30 occupations. Yearly recruitment of Bangladeshi interns in Japan is around 150 now, said Officials of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

Technical interns can work and have training for three to five years in Japan based on their performance. Once they

return home, they can utilise the know-how back in the country, said Nomita in a statement issued by the expatriates' welfare ministry.

Japan has shortage of workforce in construction, manufacturing, garment, agriculture, food processing and care giving sectors and Bangladesh can take advantage of this shortage, she said.

Dr Nurul Islam, director at the BMET, told The Daily Star that the technical interns would require four-month training on Japanese language after they get selected by Japanese companies.

And, those companies will bear all the cost, he added.

Rab releases video to fight militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday released a video showing how involvement in militancy can destroy a family and shatter their dreams, in a bid to raise awareness among the people.

The sixty second video clip started circulating on television channels and went viral on social media soon after Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan inaugurated it at the Rab Media centre in Dhaka.

The minister stressed on circulation of such videos, short films, songs and poems to raise awareness, alongside carrying out operation against militancy.

Newly appointed Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary termed the de-radicalisation of the arrested militants as one of the major challenges and urged all to fight it in a coordinated way.

Militants gained strength when law enforcers were busy in tackling arson attacks in 2013, said Rab director General Benazir Ahmed, adding "we would not be out of focus about militancy in in future."

Additional Inspector General of Police Shafiqul Islam, also chief of the newly formed Anti-Terrorism Unit, top Rab officials were also present.



Buses navigate through a narrow passage in front of Jatiya Press Club on Topkhana Road that is swarmed with demonstrators, including teachers and community health workers, who had been continuing their programmes demanding nationalisation of their jobs. As the vehicles have to move at a snail's pace on this portion of the road, one of the busiest in the capital, the traffic situation in surrounding areas also gets worse. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Govt on

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 during an emergency press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan office in the capital.

Meanwhile, at a separate meeting, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, the BNP secretary general, said the government, in a bid to clear its way to staying in power, is trying to keep Khaleda away from politics by getting her convicted for a "false and fabricated" case.

If the BNP chief is "unlawfully" convicted, a "tsunami of people" will bring down the government.

"Our target is to create a tsunami of people... A strong wave like a tsunami can be created by uniting the people and no one will be able to resist it," Fakhrul said at a meeting of Dhaka south city BNP at Nayapaltan's Maulana Bhasani Auditorium.

The government will not be able to defeat Khaleda by hatching conspiracies against her, he also said.

Prosecution witnesses' testimonies contradict

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The defence lawyer for Huji leader Abu Sayeed alias Dr Zafar yesterday started his closing arguments in cases filed over the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004.

During the yesterday's arguments, lawyer Mohammad Ali read out the statements of 104 out of 225 prosecution witnesses (PWs) and cited contradictions in their statements.

Later, Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka set up adjacent to Dhaka Central Jail, adjourned the hearing till today when the defence counsel will resume his arguments.

In his arguments, Ali said police filed a case with Motijheel Police Station on the following day of the attack, but his client Sayeed's name was not there.

The lawyer said his client was arrested in his Uttara residence on September 2, 2006 and he was confined to an unknown place since September 13. Later, his client was remanded

in a case filed with Sylhet Police Station and interrogated in TFI cell since October 5.

Later on October 23, 2007, his client was placed on a 10-day remand in the August 21 grenade attack cases and forced him to give a confessional statement on November 2.

Meanwhile, defence lawyers for 17 other accused including former BNP lawmaker Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad also completed their closing arguments and sought acquittal of their clients of the charges.

Twenty-four leaders and activists of the AL and its associate bodies were killed and over 300 others injured in the attack. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, then opposition leader, narrowly survived.

Of the 49 accused, eight are now on bail while 18, including BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, absconding. Twenty-three accused, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and ex-deputy minister for education Abdus Salam Pintu, are in jail.

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BIID-2018 Made Further Eco Accelerating Industrialization

The 9th edition of Bangladesh Infrastructure, Innovation and Development (BIID) expo and dialogue will take place on March 1-4, aiming to attract development of green industries and raise awareness on environment protection, technology and innovation stakeholders. Trade event organizer ExpoNet Exhibition Pvt. Ltd is organizing the expo and dialogue event in collaboration with the Sustainable And Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) and the Power Cell under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. "It will take place at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre-BICC," SREDA Chairman Md Helal Uddin said during a press briefing at the SREDA office in Dhaka on Sunday. He further said a large number of international experts, government high officials, local businessmen and specialists including 60 highly reputed speakers would exchange knowledge on eco-industry in six different sessions during the expo. "The sessions will discuss topics such as innovation and development of pharmaceuticals and healthcare industry, knitting, garments and textile industry, construction infrastructure industry, leather and PVC industry, power and energy infrastructure industry, and sustainable

investment and CSR benefits or burden," the SREDA chief added. ExpoNet Managing Director Rashedul Haque said 90 global leading companies from 14 countries, including Bangladesh, would showcase their energy-efficient and innovative industrial technology such as power plant & power production equipment, electrical & electronics equipment, building materials, heat control & air conditioning systems, LED & new lighting, Motor & Pumps, intelligent pharmaceuticals & healthcare, green growth textile & garments technology Brick Machinery, MEP, fire safety & security automation, steel building, Paints & Chemicals, Water & Sewerage Treatment, Heat control Glass, Green Financing, Certification at the expo. **Elite Paint** as Lead Safe Color Partner and **GTS Group** and **Confidence Group** as Gold Sponsor and Confidence Infrastructure is sponsoring this eco event as Silver Sponsor. **US Green Building Council-USGBC**, **Green Building Certification Inc-GBCI**, The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers-**ASHRAE**, Indian Green Building Council-IGBC, Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers-**ISHRAE**, Fire & Security Association of

India-**FSAI**, Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited-**BIFFL**, Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce & Industry-**BCCCI**, **Dhaka WASA**, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association-**BKMEA**, SR Asia Bangladesh also extended their hands as BIID Partners to mitigate trade barriers, help transform and share latest technology & knowledge on the other hand. BRB Hospitals Limited would provide free health check-up during this event. SREDA Member (EE&C) and Additional Secretary Siddique Zohair, Sk. Munir Ahmed, Director of Power Cell, Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Ltd CEO and Executive Director SM Formanul Islam, and BIID 2018 Principal Adviser and Brand Ambassador Dilder Ahmed Taufiq, SR Asia Bangladesh Country Director Sumaya Rashid and Sanjeevani Vyas, Chapter Coordinator of Fire & Security Association of India were also present at the press event. BIID is always a great opportunity for wide strata of Industries & Traders to learn what offers and getting extra unique tips on what to expect. To online register for this event, www.biidexpo.com, www.facebook.com/biidexpo or contact at 01713176422