

WEATHER FORECAST	YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES		DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
			H 34.7 L 26.9	H 34.6 L 27.4	H 33.0 L 26.8	H 36.5 L 26.2	H 34.7 L 26.8	H 34.5 L 27.8	H 34.6 L 27.2	H 33.5 L 26.4	H 31.6 L 25.6

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary wind may occur at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.

CITY CORPORATION

ELECTIONS 2018

BARISAL

For some, it's also a money-making opportunity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

With election to Barisal City Corporation less than two weeks away, campaigning is going on in full swing. Not just candidates, their supporters are also holding rallies, bringing out processions and going door-to-door to woo voters.

The election, scheduled to be held on July 30, also brought opportunities for many to make a quick buck by working for the candidates.

These part-timers distribute leaflets in different city areas in support of their candidates, help people with their voter serial numbers and even explain to the city dwellers about the election pledges.

"We usually start working around 10:30am and work till 2:00pm," said Bithi, a university student. "I distribute leaflets in Kaunia area and talk to people."

Each part-timer makes around Tk 200 to Tk 300 per shift, said many of them.

Shima Ghosh also works in the same area. "I work from 3:00pm to 7:00pm."

She was carrying her son in her arms. "I have no other option but to bring my child along. The money helps me support my family," she added.

According to locals, around 15,000 people from all walks of life are working part-time during the election month. Most of them are women.

Local Awami League and BNP leaders, however, denied engaging them. They said those involved in campaigning were their activists.

But locals and election workers said AL and BNP have engaged most of the part-timers.

Meanwhile, many locals also alleged that at times, all these different ways of wooing the voters were getting

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

RAJSHAHI

EC urges candidates to have faith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury yesterday urged mayoral and councillor candidates of the Rajshahi city polls to have faith in the election commission and the administration, assuring that the Election Commission (EC) would do everything possible to ensure free and fair elections.

"I want you to have faith in the Election Commission," he told candidates, while also telling the administration, police and those engaged in the election processes that they have to regain candidates' and voters' trust.

The election commissioner was addressing a views exchange meeting with five mayoral candidates and most of 212 councillor candidates of Rajshahi City Corporation elections at Bangladesh Karmachari Kalyan Board auditorium in the city.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Nur-ur Rahman chaired the session, which was also attended by senior officials of law enforcement agencies, election officials and the candidates.

BNP's mayoral candidate Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul alleged the use of black money and muscle power by the ruling party's candidate. He said his election offices were attacked and his campaigners were bombed.

"The entire city is covered with posters, banners and festoons for boat [the electoral symbol of Awami League]. It looks like no one else is taking part in the election," he said, adding that the AL candidate was spending black money to bear his election expenditures.

AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, the AL-backed candidate, counter-alleged of propaganda being circulated against him from the election campaign for Bulbul. He denied Bulbul's allegations, saying, "Citizens of Rajshahi are well aware of who possesses black money and who is engaged in corruption."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

SYLHET

JP's dilemma: To support AL or not

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

First it was internal conflict that kept Jatiya Party from fielding a candidate. Then came the dilemma about whether they should support the ruling Awami League, an ally, or simply play the role of the opposition party.

The situation is playing out in Sylhet ahead of the July 30 city corporation poll. However, as the election day draws nearer, party insiders say, JP is likely to throw its weight behind AL mayoral candidate Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran.

"We are not giving support to anyone yet, but in a couple of days, we will start our work in favour of the AL candidate honouring the decision of the alliance," said Md Yahya Chowdhury, joint secretary general of Jatiya Party.

He also said they tried to nominate Abdul Hye Kaiyum, member secretary of JP's Sylhet city unit, but it did not work out for "many reasons".

Party sources said the leaders could neither decide on a candidate of their own nor they could support any other candidate. The leaders are confused about whether they are part of the AL-led 14-party alliance or the opposition party in parliament, the insiders said.

In the 2013 mayoral election, JP rallied behind the same AL candidate. However, five years earlier, in 2008, five of its leaders contested in the city polls.

Meanwhile, the local AL is apparently not bothered about JP.

"The absence of JP won't matter because the party does not belong to politics anymore. But we will ask their leaders to work with us as they are our ally," said AL's Sylhet city unit general secretary Asad Uddin Ahmed.

4 COMPLAINTS FROM BNP

In the last two days, BNP has filed four written complaints to the Election Commission (EC) regarding violation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Rajuk chalking out law for redevelopment of private property

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is working out an appropriate guideline and law, to facilitate redevelopment of private property and to ensure a modern urban life with basic civic amenities.

Project director of Dhaka's revised detailed area plan (DAP) Md Ashrafur Islam made the disclosures in the capital yesterday.

"A new law might be enacted to help this concept of urban renewal come true," he said at a discussion of Rajuk town planners on proposed guidelines for redevelopment, in the DAP project office.

"The concept is a rearrangement of available land, incorporating modern civic amenities keeping existing land ownership and social character intact," said Islam.

Implementation of the idea could greatly improve livability, particularly in Old Dhaka that is afflicted with overwhelming population density, narrow lanes, open spaces and playgrounds, he said.

For example, a 2.2-acre area in Bongshal has 77 structures with 316 dwelling units. If rearranged, the same area can accommodate eight 24-storied buildings with 768 apartments, along with wide roads, car parking facilities, commercial spaces, community centres and mosques, he said.

Quamrul Hasan Sohag, a deputy town planner of Rajuk, however, said Rajuk has to take the people into confidence to spearhead the concept, as Bangladeshi people have deep-rooted emotional bonding with their ancestral land.

According to the draft guidelines, supposed to be incorporated into the DAP once finalised, a proposed redevelopment scheme might be implemented either by land owners, a real estate developer or Rajuk, on a mutually-agreed contract.

The guidelines would provide interim financial and rehabilitation plans. Rajuk would promote the idea with technical assistance and various development incentives and benefits within the purview of rules.

An advisory body, a managing committee and a property valuation committee with representatives of the city mayor, Rajuk chairman, heads of government organisations and professional experts would implement the redevelopment process.



Students of Sylhet Model School and College take part in a government campaign to plant 30 lakh saplings across the country to pay tributes to as many martyrs of the Liberation War. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Numeri Jaman was present, among others, and himself planted a few on the college compound.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

CTTC arrests 'top Ansar al-Islam leader'

Claims he was involved in Avijit Roy murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials yesterday claimed to have arrested a top leader of Ansar al-Islam in Chittagong.

The 27-year-old, a Majlis-e-Shura member of the militant outfit, was involved in the killing of blogger writer Avijit Roy, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police identified the operative as Sheikh Abdullah alias Abu Omayr alias Zubair alias Jayed alias Javed.

A CTTC team made the arrest around 12:30pm on Tuesday in front of the east gate of Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said CTTC officials.

Sheikh Abdullah Joined Ansar al-Islam in 2013 and used to invite youths to the ideology of the outfit in Chittagong and elsewhere.

During primary interrogation, he gave information regarding the murders of Avijit, Jagannath University student Nazim Uddin Samad and LGBT activists Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy, the officials claimed.

Man burned by acid in capital

One detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 45-year-old man was injured as an alleged drug addict threw acid on him at a Bihari camp in Mirpur Tuesday evening.

Victim Mohammad Parvez, 45, a barber from Kalshi area in city's Pallabi, is now being treated at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 12 percent burn injuries on his face, throat, chest and abdomen.

The victim, who is at the High Dependency Unit (HDU) of the Burn Unit, told The Daily Star that he was chitchatting with a colleague at Millat camp at Mirpur 11, some 50 yards away from his residence.

At one point, two local youths, Jonny and Sunil, arrived at the place. Jonny flung a liquid substance from a can at Parvez. Sunil fled, but locals detained Jonny and handed him over to police.

Parvez said he and his brother Munna had an altercation with Jonny and Sunil two days before the Eid-ul-Fitr, as the latter were taking heroin in front of his house at Millat camp.

Jonny inflicted a minor stab wound on Munna following the incident. He was handed over to police by locals, but was released as the families of the two reached a mutual understanding.

However, earlier in the day of the attack, Jonny had threatened Parvez to burn him with acid, but he did not take it seriously.

Officer-in-Charge of Pallabi Police Station Dadan Fakir said they have detained Jonny in this connection. He said police will investigate into the allegation.

CANING STUDENT

Madrasa principal, teacher suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The principal and a teacher of a madrasa were suspended on Tuesday following allegations of caning and injuring an eight-year-old student in Banskhali upazila of Chittagong.

The victim, Enamul Haque, is a student of Guillaikhali Kaderia Tajbidul Quran Darul Ulum Madrasa, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Momema Akter.

He received primary treatment at a local hospital. The suspended teachers are Mowlana Anwar Hossain, the principal of the madrasa, and Mohammad Mujib.

Mujib beat the student on suspicion that he stole Tk 200 from his pocket, said the UNO quoting the student.

Subsequently, Enamul's father lodged a complaint with the UNO's office to take appropriate action in this regard.

After hearing from both sides, the madrasa managing committee was asked to suspend the accused teacher Mujib and principal Anwar, said the UNO.

Apart from the suspension order of the teachers, the madrasa authorities were asked to pay Tk 10,000 as treatment cost to the victim, UNO Momema Akhter added.

KURIGRAM-3 CONSTITUENCY

Petition filed seeking stay on by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday seeking stay on the process for holding by-polls to Kurigram-3 constituency, on grounds that the election schedule is illegal.

The by-election to Kurigram-3, which is vacant since the death of Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Maidul Islam on May 11, is scheduled for July 25.

The petitioner SM Mostafizur Rahman, a resident of Ramna union under Chilmari upazila in Kurigram district, submitted the petition to the High Court (HC), challenging the legality of the schedule issued by Election Commission (EC) on June 10.

In December 2013, the EC issued a gazette notification including the Chilmari, Ramna, Raniganj and Thanahat unions in

Kurigram-3 constituency, petitioner's lawyer Advocate Sheikh Jahangir Alam told The Daily Star.

However, on April 30 this year, EC issued another gazette notification including the same unions with Kurigram-4 constituency.

Later on June 10 this year, in the election schedule, EC said the residents of these four unions can cast votes in the by-election to Kurigram-3 constituency.

According to the petition, Mostafizur is a voter of Kurigram-4 constituency, as per the gazette notification issued by EC on April 30.

But he is allowed to cast vote in the by-election to Kurigram-3, which is illegal, Advocate Sheikh Jahangir Alam said.

HC may hold hearing on the writ petition today, the lawyer added.

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