

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 29.9 | L 25.6 MYMENSINGH 29.4 | L 25.4 CHITTAGONG 30.5 | L 25.2 SYLHET 31.8 | L 25.3 RAJSHAHI 33.3 | L 25.5 RANGPUR 32.1 | L 26.4 KHULNA 30.0 | L 27.5 BARISAL 28.3 | L 26.2 COX'S BAZAR 28.0 | L 24.5

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:45pm and rises tomorrow at 5:26am.

CITY CORPORATION

ELECTIONS 2018



BARISAL

RAJSHAHI

Is JP contesting or not? Contradictory remarks from central leader and candidate

SUSANTA GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barisal

Jatiya Party's central leadership yesterday said their party's candidate has stepped down from the mayoral race for Barisal, but the candidate himself said otherwise.

ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader, secretary general of Jatiya Party (JP), yesterday said his party's nominated mayoral candidate Iqbal Hossain Taposh has quit the electoral race supporting Awami League's Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, for the betterment of the city.

But Taposh said he did not get any such directives. "I am in the electoral race, as I did not get any directives."

Contacted, Howlader said, "We are still trying to persuade him. If he does not pay heed to the party's decision, action will be taken against him as per party charter."

Meanwhile, independent mayor candidate Nasir Ahmed Jhunu also quit the electoral race and extended support to Sadik.

TOP POLICE OFFICIALS TRANSFERRED

Less than a week before the mayoral and councilor elections in Barisal, two top police officials have been transferred.

Deputy Police Commissioner (South) Golam Rouf Khan and Uttam Kumar Paul (Traffic) of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) have been transferred to Industrial Police as Superintendents.

A letter in this regard was signed by Dhananjoy Kumar Das, deputy secretary of home ministry, on July 23, and the two police officials were released from BMP on July 24, confirmed Acting Police Commissioner of BMP Mahafuzur Rahaman.

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Model Police Station Awlad Hossain has also been transferred ahead of the election.

Mahafuzur Rahaman said the transfer of two top officials is normal, and not related to the election. "I think it would not have any influence on the city corporation polls," he said.

Liton 'facing' propaganda, Bulbul police harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League mayor candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton at a dialogue yesterday said he was facing propaganda by fundamentalists while BNP's Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul said his workers were being arrested and harassed by police.

DBC, a television news channel, organised the dialogue at Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries auditorium and telecast it live for an hour from 11:00am.

Among the five mayor hopefuls, independent candidate and Gana Samhati Andolan leader Murad Morshed and Jatiya Party's Habibur Rahman also attended the dialogue. Islami Andolan's Shafikul Islam skipped the programme.

In his speech, Liton said fundamentalists were spreading lies that he would evict slum dwellers on the Padma river bank and by the railway tracks.

"I faced propaganda in the last election, and it's happening now, too. Fundamentalists belonging to BNP-Jamaat do it against all Awami League leaders during elections," he said.

When asked whether he is facing a shortage of workers, Bulbul said it was due to arrests of BNP activists engaged in his campaign.

"Police are using a strange tactic -- BNP leaders of Rajshahi city are being arrested by police of Pabna, Natore and Chapainawabganj," he said.

The BNP men are not accused in any new cases; they were shown arrested in cases filed in January and February, Bulbul told The Daily Star later. He said the Election Commission gave assurance of not harassing BNP men in old cases.

When asked about achievements of his election

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

SYLHET

Kamran, Jafor place manifestos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Promoting education, digitising city wards with "e-information centres" and bringing back greenery in Sylhet city are a few of the key agendas mentioned in the 33-point electoral manifesto announced yesterday by AL mayoral candidate Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran.

Meanwhile, CPB-BSF candidate Abu Jafor also placed his manifesto, setting priority on adopting a long-term development plan for the city.

Kamran in his manifesto pledged to establish educational institutes including madrasas in the city, maintaining global standards and endow a scholarships programme for meritorious students.

Tree planting campaigns will be undertaken to cover the city with greenery and, in order to lead the city towards the digital era, his manifesto envisions setting up of an IT park in the city and "e-information centres" in all wards.

Among other issues, the AL candidate in the manifesto promised to ensure uninterrupted power supply and to introduce modern amenities to the city by setting up modern traffic lights, widening roads and footpaths, and building separate bicycle lanes, footbridges, bus stands, car parking lots and truck stands.

"I request the citizens to put their faith in me for the last time as I am placing my electoral manifesto for the last time," Kamran said.

Abu Jafor, the CPB-BSF candidate, in his manifesto said he would engage urban experts to prepare a long-term development plan.

He would form a "citizens forum" to eradicate corruption and bring accountability in the city corporation.

As a solution to the city's traffic congestion situation, he

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

NEWS IN brief

Five 'robbers' arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested five alleged robbers on Chittagong city's Railway Station Road early yesterday.

The gang comprising Nayan, 25, Jamal alias Jambu, 32, Sumon, 21, Al Islam, 35, and Abdul alias Kalu, 18, was preparing to commit robbery there, said police.

Officer-in-Charge Mohammed Mohsin of Kotwali Police Station said they used to mug and rob people in Kotwali area.

A case was filed against them, said the OC.

MA Chaklader's death anniv today

CITY DESK



Today is the 18th death anniversary of MA Chaklader, an industrialist, founder chairman of Maxwell Group, a novelist and social worker.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil, Qurankhani and food distribution programme will be held at his apartment and family graveyard, says a press release.

Alhaj MA Chaklader Foundation has also arranged similar programme at its office.

His family and the foundation have requested all of his relatives and well-wishers to attend the programmes.

BB official drowns in Thai pool

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

An assistant director of Bangladesh Bank drowned while swimming in a pool in Thailand yesterday.

Rashedul Bashar, 34, son of freedom fighter Abul Bashar Talukder from Chandpur, went to Thailand on May 6 for one-year scholarship programme of the central bank, said victim's maternal uncle Ekram Chowdhury.

Why he drowned could not be known immediately.

His family used to live in Chittagong city's Chandaon area. He will be buried there today after a namaz-e-janaza.

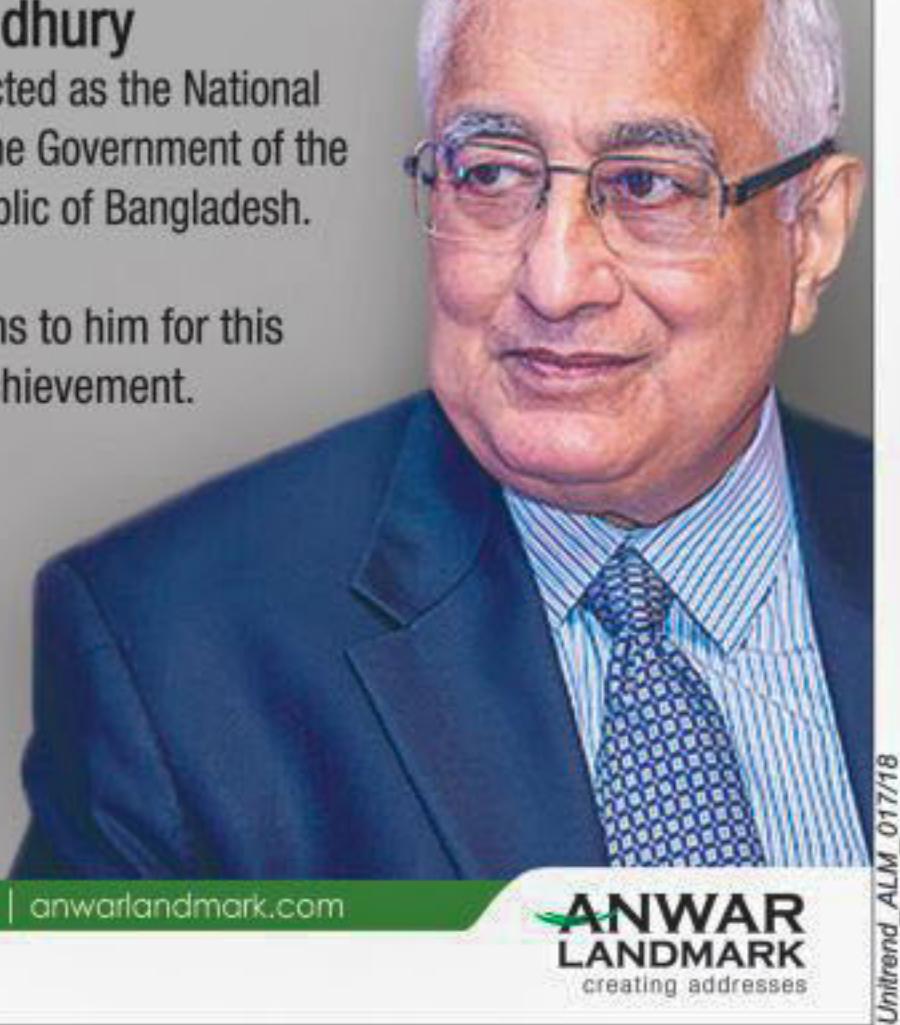


Renowned structural engineer of the sub-continent,

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury

has been selected as the National Professor by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Congratulations to him for this honourable achievement.



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KNIFE ATTACK ON PROF ZAFAR IQBAL Charge sheet against six accused today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) will file charge sheet against six persons today in connection with the knife attack on writer-educationist Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal.

Paritosh Ghose, additional commissioner of SMP, made the announcement during a press conference at SMP headquarters yesterday.

The accused are attacker Foyzur Hasan of Dirai upazila, Sunamganj, Foyzur's father Atiqur Rahman, mother Minara Begum, brother Enamul Hasan, uncle Fozlur Rahman and Foyzur's accomplice Sohag Miah of the same upazila. All six are in jail.

Foyzur stabbed Zafar Iqbal, a professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), with a knife on the campus on March 3.

Caught by students immediately, Foyzur was then beaten up and handed over to the Rapid Action Battalion. The next day, Ishfaqul Haque, registrar of Sust, filed a case accusing Foyzur and several unidentified assailants with Jalalabad Police Station.

ARAIHAZAR, GOPALDI MUNICIPALITY POLLS Pro-AL mayoral candidates win amid allegations of rigging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police, Awami League leaders and the personal secretary of a ruling party lawmaker allegedly beat up the polling agents of BNP-backed mayoral candidate, drove them out of polling centres and rigged the voting during the Araihaazar municipality election in Narayanganj yesterday.

Pro-AL mayoral candidate Sundar Ali won the Araihaazar municipality polls. He got 13,398 votes while his nearest candidate Parveen Akter got 2,314 votes.

In Gopaldi municipality, AL-backed candidate MA Halim Shikder won the polls by getting 18,827 votes while his nearest pro-BNP contender Musfiqur Rahman Milon got 3,163 votes.

In a complaint to the returning officer, the pro-BNP candidate demanded reelection to the municipality.

On information that her polling agents were being evicted from Kamrangirchar voting centre in ward-1, she rushed to the spot and witnessed a sub-inspector casting ballots in favour of the AL-backed candidate, alleged Parveen at a press conference at her Araihaazar residence.

The officer threatened to shoot her when she protested against it, said the candidate, adding that the policeman also asked her to leave the place saying, "We are ordered to make the candidate belonging to 'boat' symbol winner."

Parveen brought similar allegations against the law enforcers in Nagerchar centre of ward-5. She demanded that the voting at nine centres be postponed.

On the other hand, Mohammad Julhassan, an agent of the pro-BNP mayoral candidate, alleged that the people belonging to 'boat' symbol beat him up and gave him death threat at Gazipur centre in ward-6.

Similarly, Ebadul Islam, such an agent, said he was dragged out of Hafizia Forkania Madrasa centre in ward-2.

Anwar Hossain, chief agent of the pro-BNP candidate, said Narayanganj-2 MP Nazrul Islam Babu's PS Waliullah cast ballot although he is not a voter in the area. He also got the agents of BNP-backed candidate out of a centre.

Returning Officer Faisal Quader said the presiding officers concerned informed them that there were no such irregularities during the election.

When contacted, MP Nazrul and his PS denied the allegations.

Araihaazar Police Station Officer-in-Charge MA Haque said he did not know that any policeman cast vote. The election was held in a free and fair manner, he added.

Similar comments came from Superintendent of Police Moinul Haque.

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Gazipur-1703

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