

## WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 26.3 | L 23.2 MYMENSINGH 25.4 | L 23.2 CHATTOGRAM 27.0 | L 24.8 SYLHET 23.3 | L 21.4 RAJSHAHI 30.5 | L 18.9 RANGPUR 28.3 | L 20.6 KHULNA 29.2 | L 23.0 BARISHAL 26.0 | L 22.5 COX'S BAZAR 30.5 | L 24.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chattogram, Dhaka, Sylhet, Barishal, Mymensingh and at one or two places over Khulna, Rangpur and Rajshahi till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am.

## COMMUTERS HELD HOSTAGE



Public suffering reached an unprecedented proportion, especially in Dhaka, yesterday as transport workers enforced a countrywide 48-hour strike. At Amin Bazar, regular commuters have to walk to their destinations, while an elderly patient uses a wheelchair. Passengers get stuck in Gabtoli bus terminal. A worker with writing on his torso saying, "We are people's servants, not enemies" in front of a mini-truck stopped on Mayor Hanif Flyover. A packed train at Airport Railway Station as it becomes the last resort for many who had to go to work. Picketers stop an emergency med cine-carrying vehicle in Jatrabari.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN



We've already set example of fair polls  
Muhiith tells reporters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP would participate in the next general elections and the country's situation will remain peaceful, said Finance Minister AMA Muhiith yesterday.

"I am not at all worried about the political situation [in the country]," Muhiith said while replying to a question from reporters at his secretariat office after distribution of dividend by Sadharan Bima Corporation.

He said the election will be held in December and there is no cause for worry regarding the prevailing political situation. "I don't think anybody will try to hamper this and no one will succeed in such attempt that I can assure you."

"I have long been saying that all will participate in the election. BNP will of course take part in it," he said. He reiterated if they (BNP) do not participate, they will not exist as a party.

Muhiith also said, "It will be a very good election. We have set an example recently that elections can be free and fair. We don't have to prove it all over again."

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## Siddique brothers share stage after a decade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Siddique brothers -- former Awami League leaders Abdul Latif Siddique and Abdul Kader Siddique -- with a long history of political feud, shared stage at a programme yesterday after nearly a decade.

At his first appearance to any public event in a couple of years, former AL presidium member Latif participated at a conference organised by his younger brother Kader, president of Krishak Janata League.

Latif, also a former posts, telecommunications and ICT minister, refrained from participating in political activities since he was sacked from the cabinet and the AL's presidium in

October 2015, following controversial remarks on hajj and Tabligh Jamaat.

Kader, meanwhile, resigned from AL in 1999, to form the Krishak Sramik Janata League.

Kader Siddique organised yesterday's programme at Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) in Dhaka, demanding state recognition for people who forged a "resistance movement" after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On August 15, 1975, a section of army officials killed Bangabandhu along with his family members. After the assassination, a number of groups of freedom fighters and army personnel waged a movement protesting it.

Of those, the toughest resistance was led by Kader, a prominent freedom fighter who earned "Bangabir" title for his bravery during the Liberation War in 1971.

Speaking at the event, attended by several hundred people, Kader said, "If the government doesn't give us national recognition, it should bring us under a trial for organising such movement." He threatened to go tough to press home their demand.

About re-joining AL, Kader said he was asked to join the party several times, but he denied, because he "does not like" the current activities and past roles of a number of leaders of the party.

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## We want no more conflict in CHT: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised maintaining peace in the hills and urged all to extend cooperation to the Land Commission to solve the land dispute in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

"We want no more unrest and conflict in CHT... we want people of the region to stay well, we want peace to be maintained there," she said while inaugurating "Sheikh Hasina Chittagong Hill Tracts Complex" on Bailey Road in Dhaka in the afternoon.

Hasina said the country including the CHT region will achieve prosperity through peace.

The premier said her government has done everything necessary for implementing the CHT Peace Accord and formed the Land Commission to solve land dispute in the region.

But, she said, there is a problem in giving compensation to the hill people during land acquisition. "They don't get compensation as per rule followed to provide compensation for people of other parts of the country," she said, adding that the reason is that a problem regarding ownership exists there.

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EXTENSION OF AGE LIMIT IN PUBLIC SERVICE  
Police foils Shahbagh blockade, ejects protesters

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled the Shahbagh blockade programme of a group of jobseekers, demanding extension of age limit to 35 from 30 for entering government jobs.

Around 11:00am, law enforcers ejected the agitators from Shahbagh intersection and detained four of them from the spot.

Vehicular movement became normal after law enforcers cleared the intersection.

Earlier, protesters continued their agitation for the second day yesterday but police intercepted them and asked them to leave the intersection.

As protesters did not comply with their request, law enforcers forcefully evicted them from the place.

"This is one of the busiest intersections of the city and there are two hospitals in the area. We asked them to demonstrate peacefully but they did not pay heed to that. We were left with no option but to eject them," Dhaka Metropolitan Police Assistant Deputy Commissioner (Ramma Zone) Azimul

Haque told the reporters, adding that none will be allowed to cause public suffering.

He also said the detained demonstrators will be questioned.

Meanwhile, Sanjoy Das, convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Parishad, told journalists that the protesters will announce their next course of action soon.

Five joint conveners of the Parishad were detained by police, he claimed.

On Saturday, some 500 students from different colleges and universities, under the banner of the Parishad, blocked Shahbagh intersection to press home their demand. They remained on the street throughout the night.

In June, a parliamentary committee on public administration had recommended to increase the age limit for entering civil service to 35 years.

It again made the same recommendation on September 10.

Currently, the age limit for entering public service is 30 and the retirement age 59.

## 30 organisations receive Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018

BSS, Savar

Thirty organisations won the Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018 for their outstanding contributions to promoting youth employability, education, sports, cultural activities, and an end to violence against women.

The 30 organisations were selected from a short-list of 50-nominated organisations under 10 categories, including skill development, universal education, job management for differently-abled people, cultural revolution, innovation, sports and fitness, creating public awareness and reducing gender discrimination.

Prime Minister's Information and Communication Technology Affairs Adviser and Centre for Research and Information (CRI) Chairperson Sajeeb Wazed Joy handed over the awards to top 10 organisations at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Center in Savar yesterday afternoon.

The award recipients are: All for One



Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser and Centre for Research and Information Chairperson Sajeeb Wazed Joy along with winners of Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018 yesterday.

## EC being run by sellouts: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged the Election Commission of working to meet the agenda of the government.

"The Election Commission is being run by those who have sold themselves out," said Rizvi Ahmed, the party's senior joint secretary general.

The Chief Election Commissioner and his secretary are serving Sheikh Hasina, he alleged at a press conference at Nayapaltan.

The EC is hatching a plan to use EVMs on a large scale by amending the Representation of People Order (RPO), he alleged. "It wants to use EVM as a weapon to hang on to power."

He also called upon his party men and people to thwart the Election Commission's plan to take away people's voting rights.

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