

WEATHER FORECAST

TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
YESTERDAY'S	H 29.6 L 18.8	H 29.2 L 16.5	H 31.2 L 19.6	H 30.5 L 19.0	H 30.0 L 16.6	H 30.0 L 18.0	H 31.0 L 18.5	H 30.5 L 17.2	H 30.2 L 21.0

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:12am.

Admission tests at public schools of Dhaka after polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to reschedule admission tests of public schools of the capital, after the 11th parliamentary election to be held on December 23.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) officials preparing guidelines for the admission test said they are thinking about holding the admission tests between December 26 and 30.

Government secondary schools in Dhaka will be divided into three categories -- A, Band C -- on the basis of their locations.

Distribution of forms for admission in the government schools in the capital will begin on December 1 and will continue till December 13.

About 75,700 aspiring students applied for 10,230 seats in 35 government schools of the city last year.

The draft guideline for admission tests of 38 government schools had originally proposed exam dates of December 17, 18 and 19, said a DSHE director.

"We will need to reschedule the admission test due to the election," DSHE Director Prof Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star.

Work of finalising the date of admission tests and

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Clockwise from left, President of e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) and media personality Shomi Kaiser visits the Awami League president's office at Dhanmondi yesterday to collect the party's nomination form. A sea of people, mostly supporters of aspirants, wait in front of the office. Many of the hopefuls fill out the nomination forms inside the office.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

New study finds dismal state of nutritional services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new study has found dismal state of nutritional services at public health facilities in the country's hard-to-reach areas -- something that goes against the principle of inclusive development.

For example, no pregnant woman or children under five years had their weight or height measured at upazila- and union-level health facilities in haor (wetlands) areas of the country, though it is a must to assess nutritional status, says the study.

The study, titled "Situation analysis and needs assessment for nutrition services in hard-to-reach areas in Bangladesh" was conducted by the Department of Public Health and Informatics of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) between February and September this year. National Nutrition Services (NNS) commissioned the study that was presented at BSMMU yesterday.

Only 33 percent mothers of children under the age of five were provided calcium, iron and folic acid, while vitamin A was provided to only 18 percent children under five in the haor areas, the study said.

The study covered 15 upazila health complexes (UHC) and 14 union sub-centers (USC) in 11 districts -- Kurigram, Sirajganj, Bagerhat, Khulna, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj, Netrokona, Rangamati, Bhola, Cox's Bazar and Noakhali -- all of them localities on haor, char, hills, coast or island.

According to the study, 64 percent of the public health facilities of these areas have Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and Nutrition; 52 percent have antenatal care corners; 38 percent have breastfeeding corners and only 14 percent of the facilities have adolescent corners.

"These facilities don't have skilled manpower or logistics. Whatever is available is not properly utilised," said Dr M Khalequzzaman, one of the researchers.

He said on an average, around 90 percent of the facilities have weighing scales to assess nutritional status of pregnant women, 77 percent of which are functional in the above-mentioned areas.

However, only 50 percent of it is utilised, he said.

For measuring weight of children under five, only 33 percent facilities

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Passengers endure ordeal due to inadequate services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passengers at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) endure ordeals due to inadequate services from authorities that tarnish the reputation of the airport, participants at a public hearing said yesterday.

They said incidents like mismanagement in baggage handling and unsatisfactory service to passengers in case of flight delay are frequent at the airport. They also blamed lack of coordination among different departments.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) organised the public hearing at its premise in the capital's Kurmitola. Mostly officials from CAAB and different private carriers spoke at the programme.

A participant alleged that one of his relatives lost luggage at the airport upon returning from abroad recently. Despite filing a written complaint to the authorities, no step has been taken to address the issue, he said.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Naim Hassan said they will take prompt action on specific allegations.

Moderating the hearing, the CAAB chief stressed on better management at HSIA and other airports across the country.

CAAB has undertaken a number of projects. Once implemented, those will help reduce passengers' sufferings and improve the quality of service, he claimed.

A third terminal at HSIA will be built and space will be increased to accommodate more planes, he added.

The CAAB chief also said some domestic airlines have already increased number of flights to facilitate local passengers.

AKM Junaied, director of customer services of US-Bangla Airlines, said in case of flight delay their officials take prompt action and look after the requirements of passengers.

Officials from Novoair and Regent Airways also spoke at the programme.

'Arrest me, I killed my brother'

Man tells Ashulia police during surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

With a bloodstained sharp weapon, a man surrendered to police on Saturday night, hours after he had killed his brother in Ashulia, said law enforcers.

Jahed Ali, 26, son of late Fazor Ali, came to Ashulia Police Station around 10:00pm, said Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Javed Masud.

"Arrest me; I killed my brother," the OC quoted Jahed as saying.

A conflict arose between Jahed and his elder brother Abu Taher over a piece of land which is their ancestral property, said the family.

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Judiciary wasn't always free: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the judiciary was not always independent as the provisions on independence of the judiciary in the constitution were amended several times in the past and used for personal and political gains.

"If the judiciary had always been independent, the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case would not start 21 years after the incident," he said.

He made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural programme of an orientation course, organised for chief judicial magistrates and chief metropolitan magistrates, at Judicial Administration Training Institute (Jati) in Dhaka.

The judiciary was independent during the 2007 caretaker government, the law minister observed.

He also said if the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not formulate relevant laws, the judges would be under the government's executive branch.

Jati Director General Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Law Secretary ASSM Zahirul Haque Dulal, among others, spoke at the programme.

Rampal plant violates Paris Agreement

Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists have urged government to immediately cancel the Rampal power plant project.

They made the call at a meeting in London on Saturday, observing World Peace Day for Sundarbans, organised by the UK chapter of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

"Rampal plant violates the Paris Agreement on climate change," they added.

Mostafa Faruk, convener of the committee's Europe unit, spoke at the event.

No legal bar to continue trial of Mirza Abbas

ACC says after HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to continue the trial of a corruption case filed against BNP leader Mirza Abbas.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam, after hearing, passed an order rejecting a petition filed by Mirza Abbas for scrapping the case proceedings.

Following the HC order there is no legal bar on the court to continue the trial proceedings against Abbas, said Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, lawyer for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Abbas filed a petition with the HC on October 4 for scrapping the trial proceedings of the case.

ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station on 2007 accusing Abbas of amassing illegal wealth beyond known sources of income and concealing information about his wealth.

Why not register Ganasamhati Andolon

HC asks Election Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the Election Commission (EC) to explain in 10 days why it should not be directed to register Ganasamhati Andolon as a political party.

The bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashrafal Kamal issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Ganasamhati Andolon's Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki, challenging a decision of the EC that rejected its application for registration.

In the rule, the court also asked the EC to explain why its decision to reject the party's application for registration should not be declared illegal.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told reporters that Ganasamhati Andolon submitted the application with the EC on December 31, 2017.

On April 8, 2018 the EC issued a notice to the party saying that its application was not prepared in line with the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

Saki later submitted another application that included necessary info and data in line with the RPO to the EC on April 22 this year.

However, the EC on June 19 again rejected the application saying that it was not prepared properly, the barrister added.

Zonayed Saki recently submitted the writ petition with the HC, challenging the EC's June 19 decision, the lawyer said.

Pneumonia still fatal for children

Experts say at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made significant progress in reducing infant mortality in the last two decades, but pneumonia still remains one of the most fatal causes, health experts said yesterday.

They said every year, pneumonia -- a lung infection caused by virus, bacteria or fungi -- kills around 16,960 children under five years of age in the county; close to two deaths per hour.

The experts came up with the facts at a roundtable discussion jointly organised by Unicef, Save the Children

Speakers at the roundtable discussion at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

ing, indoor air pollution, parental smoking and late detection as the major risk factors for pneumonia. They urged people to be aware of the risk factors and suggested that the government take necessary steps in this regard in order to reduce infant mortality and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Citing a recent study of World Health Organisation, paediatric specialist Dr Mohammad Shahidullah said about 16 percent of the total under-five deaths were caused by pneumonia in 2016 -- the highest among infectious causes of death. Pneumonia is usually referred to as the "forgotten killer" as historically the disease received little attention despite its severity, he said in his keynote.

"We are bogged down with so many health issues we forget that pneumonia is a killer," said Shahidullah, president of Bangladesh Paediatric Association (BPA).

He also said the country's primary target should be to reduce child deaths caused by pneumonia by half. He called for following the "Protect, Prevent and Treat" framework to combat the disease.

Prof MAK Azad Chowdhury, secretary general of BPA, said early detection is a must to cure the disease. "In most cases, parents do not bring their children to doctors in time," he said.

Dr Samir K Saha, a noted paediatric specialist at Dhaka Shishu Hospital, urged the government to consult donor organisations so the country-wide free immunisation programme does not stop even when Bangladesh becomes a middle-income country.

Dr SM Shamsuzzaman, a line director at Directorate General of Health Services, and Dr Sabbir Ahmed, an adviser of Save the Children, also spoke at the programme, among others.



Speakers at the roundtable discussion at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

HC rejects petition on dissolution of parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that sought its directive on the authorities concerned to dissolve the current parliament in 42 days before the upcoming election.

The bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashrafal Kamal passed the order considering that the petition was not properly placed before it.

Advocate Md Eunus Ali Akond, the petitioner, told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the Election Commission to hold the upcoming parliamentary election as per its schedule.

The Supreme Court lawyer filed the petition with the HC on October 1. In the petition, he also prayed for an order to hold the election under a "caretaker government in a new shape".

Advocate Eunus said in the petition that the Supreme Court in its 13th

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নির্বাচনী তথ্য কণিকা- ২

বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

Website: www.ecs.gov.bd

একাদশ জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচন - ২০১৮

পোস্টার ব্যানারসহ নির্বাচনী প্রচার সামগ্রী অপসারণ

আগামী ২৩ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৮ একাদশ জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। এ নির্বাচনে সম্ভাব্য প্রার্থী বা প্রার্থীর পক্ষে নির্বাচনী প্রচার সংক্রান্ত পোস্টার, ব্যানার, দেয়াল লিখন, বিলবোর্ড, গেইট, তোরণ বা ঘের, প্যাভেল ও আলোকসজ্জা ইত্যাদি প্রচার সামগ্রী ও নির্বাচনী ক্যাম্প থাকলে তা আগামী **১৪ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ তারিখ রাত ১২টার** পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তিগণকে নিজ খরচে অপসারণের জন্য মাননীয় নির্বাচন কমিশন নির্দেশ প্রদান করেছেন। এ লক্ষ্যে সিটি কর্পোরেশন, পৌরসভাসহ বিভিন্ন স্থানীয় সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রয়োজনীয় কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করারও নির্দেশনা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। **কেহ নির্বাচন কমিশনের এ নির্দেশ অমান্য করলে তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।**

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