

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.2 L 19.0	H 29.6 L 18.6	H 30.2 L 21.1	H 30.5 L 18.2	H 29.1 L 16.3	H 30.0 L 16.7	H 30.5 L 18.5	H 20.4 L 17.2	H 30.5 L 23.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky 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 05:13pm and rises tomorrow at 6:13am.

HC order on Khaleda's plea tomorrow

Charge framing in two cases deferred till Dec 13
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will pass an order tomorrow on a writ petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, challenging the government's decision to send her back to jail from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). The BNP chief submitted the petition on Sunday, seeking an HC order on the government to send her to a specialised hospital.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil yesterday fixed the date after hearing on the petition, Khaleda's lawyer Barrister Kayser Kamal said. The government violated the BNP chief's fundamental rights by taking her back to jail without completing her treatment, Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali argued.

Opposing the writ petition, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza produced relevant documents saying that it was not necessary to keep Khaleda at BSMMU.

"Khaleda was released as per the medical board's recommendation," he added. She was admitted to BSMMU on October 6 as per an earlier HC directive and taken back to jail on November 8.

OBSERVING FAKE BIRTHDAY
A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till December 13 the hearing on charge framing against Khaleda in the cases filed over undermining the national flag and observing "fake

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUON

READY TO SET SAIL ON BOAT! Mahi B Chowdhury, a top leader of Juktofront, converses with Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi yesterday. Juktofront has expressed its willingness to join the ruling alliance to contest the upcoming national election.

LDA to join election

Says it's part of their movement

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) yesterday formally announced of taking part in the 11th parliamentary polls.

The coalition of eight left-leaning political parties made the announcement at a press conference held at Mukti Bhaban in the capital, claiming this is "part of its movement for fair polls and not to allow the government to hold a one-sided election."

"We want to continue our movement till the end... It depends on the attitude of the government and Election Commission (EC) whether we will stay in the election or not in the end," LDA Coordinator Shah Alam said at the conference.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "Our participation in the election doesn't mean that we acknowledge the election will be fair... We may boycott the election if the situation demands."

For the last several months, LDA leaders have been demanding formation of a neutral caretaker government for the upcoming polls, dissolution of the current parliament and reconstruction of the EC.

The alliance had hoped that after the prime minister's dialogue with political parties, the government would change its stance on the issues, but to no avail.

The national election is scheduled

to be held on December 30, and almost all political parties, including the key opposition alliance Jatiya Oikyafront, have already started selling nomination papers for the polls.

CPB, Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB), Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh (RWPB), Ganosamhati Andolan, Socialist Party of Bangladesh - Marxist, United Communist League of Bangladesh, Ganatantrik Biplobi Party and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Andolan -- are components of the alliance.

Of those, only the first three are registered with the EC and have election symbols -- sickle for CPB, ladder for SPB and spade for RWPB.

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Tormented there, neglected here

Sufferings of girl tortured in Mideast far from over even after returning home

PORIMOL PALMA

When 15-year-old Shima Begum, who worked as a house help in Jordan for 17 months, arrived in Dhaka on October 19, there was nobody waiting for her at the airport.

The orphan was crying in front of other passengers of the plane, saying her guardian uncle had forced her to go to Jordan. She feared that she would be sent back if she went to her Joynagar village home in Sunamganj.

Fellow passengers took Shima to the office of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Abdur Rahman, additional superin-

tendent of police at the APBn, said, "Our staffers then informed Brac official Al Amin Noyon of the matter. Brac runs a training centre at Ashkona, Dakkhinkhan nearby [the airport]."

Shima's parents passed away when she was a child. Her uncle Abu Tayeb, who looked after her, forcibly sent her to Jordan in June last year, she told this correspondent at the centre.

Claiming that she was abused at the house where she worked, the teenager said she was not allowed to make calls to her family and felt lonely.

Instead of enjoying school and pursuing education, the girl was forced to work and send her earnings to the uncle.

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Speakers announcing the release of a docudrama on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale", at a meet the press in Dhaka yesterday. The film will premiere tomorrow at Star Cineplex and release on November 16 in Dhaka and Chattogram. Directed by Piplu Khan, it is produced by Radwan Mujib Siddiq and Nasrul Hamid Bipu.

PHOTO: STAR



Two women break down in tears, seeing their loved ones being brought in a prison van to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court premises in Dhaka yesterday. Relatives of the arrestees, inset, alleged that they were picked up by law enforcers without any specific charges.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Women should get 30pc nomination for nat'l polls

Speakers tell conference
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female aspirants from political parties demand at least 30 percent nomination for the 11th parliamentary election -- based on honesty, intellectual ability, and their contribution at the grassroots level.

One hundred and fifty female politicians from Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party placed the demand at a conference organised by Democracy International on "Advancing women's leadership in the national election" at a city hotel yesterday.

No woman contested general seats in the country's first ever parliamentary election held in 1973. With time, women's direct participation in election increased by very small margins to 5.3 percent in 2014, according to a press statement issued by the NGO that works to strengthen democracy.

Holding some key political positions is not a reflection of women's empowerment in general, speakers said. It is rather more and significant presence of women across political hierarchies which can help the nation move towards achieving gender equality, they added.

Some of the speakers from both the ruling Awami League and opposition alliances argued that the 50 reserved seats kept for women in parliament facilitated women's participation in politics, but time has come for competing for seats through direct election.

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Continue pressure on Myanmar for safe Rohingya repatriation

Bangladesh high commissioner urges foreign diplomats in New Delhi
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has reiterated its call for sustained international pressure on Myanmar for safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingya refugees who took shelter in Bangladesh to flee persecution in their home country.

Syed Muazzem Ali, Bangladesh high commissioner to India, made the call yesterday in a briefing arranged for over 60 diplomats representing their New Delhi-based missions.

"A continued and sustained international pressure on Myanmar would be a catalyst for a long-term solution" to one of the worst humanitarian crises that was created by Myanmar and forced Bangladesh to bear its brunt, said Muazzem.

The briefing session was held to update the diplomats on latest developments regarding the Rohingya crisis and to seek support for the OIC and EU resolution entitled "Human Rights Situation in Myanmar", at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Third Committee.

The resolution, already co-sponsored by 99 countries, will be considered by the Third Committee on November 15, said a press release of Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India.

Referring to the influx of over 700,000 Rohingyas since August 25 in 2017, the high commissioner said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomed the persecuted men, women and children into Bangladesh considering humanitarian aspects.

It is now time for the refugees to return to their homes under a continued and sustainable repatriation programme, he said, adding that a permanent solution to the crisis lies in the implementation of the three-point solution proposed by Sheikh Hasina at the last UNGA session.

The essence of the three points is that Myanmar must end discriminatory laws, policies and practices against the minority group, create a

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200 BNP men secure anticipatory bail from High Court

STAR REPORT

Around 200 BNP men of different districts secured anticipatory bail from the High Court yesterday in connection with the cases recently filed against them.

The bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Zafar Ahmed granted them anticipatory bail for eight weeks following separate bail petitions filed by the accused, Deputy Attorney General Khurshidul Alam told The Daily Star.

He said 150 to 200 BNP leaders and activists from different districts including Mymensingh, Netrakona, Chapainawabganj and Jashore were granted anticipatory bail after they appeared before the HC bench with bail petitions in connection with the cases.

The HC also directed the accused to surrender before the trial courts concerned after eight weeks, in connection with the cases.

The cases were filed on different charges, including preventing police from discharging duties and hatching conspiracy against the government, DAG Khurshidul added.

Our Pabna correspondent reports that 100 BNP men yesterday got anticipatory bail from the High Court in a case filed on charges of exploding bombs at the local Mohila Awami League office.

General Secretary of BNP's Sirajganj district unit, Saidur Rahman Bachhu, said, "From now on, we think we will face no trouble from police in conducting electoral campaign as our party men have secured bail."

Contacted, Abu Daud, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sirajganj Police Station, said they had not received the copy of the bail.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports that five BNP nomination aspirants got bail from the High Court.

Unilever, DFID to support 5 local enterprises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unilever, in partnership with UK's Department for International Development (DFID), will support five social enterprises in Bangladesh through a joint initiative, TRANSFORM.

Founded in 2015, the initiative brings private sector creativity and commercial approaches to solve persistent global development challenges.

TRANSFORM assists in providing market-based solutions that meet low-income household needs in developing countries through financial and business support for social enterprises.

So far, it has supported 32 projects across 10 countries, with the number of beneficiaries exceeding 5 lakh.

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Participants at the press conference.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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