

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 20.0   L 16.2	H 20.8   L 15.6	H 23.4   L 18.4	H 21.2   L 16.4	H 21.8   L 12.4	H 21.8   L 12.6	H 23.2   L 16.0	H 18.8   L 16.0	H 24.4   L 19.6

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the country during midnight to morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:16pm and rises on Friday at 6:36am.

## Tight security on Christmas Day, 31st night: DMP

**BSS, Dhaka**

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has planned stringent security measures for Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Eve (December 31 night).

"We will provide all possible security to ensure peaceful and smooth celebrations of Christmas and [December] 31st night," said DMP Commissioner Md Asaduzzaman Mia after a meeting on security and traffic management.

Elaborating on the security arrangement for Christmas Day, he said, "No one will be allowed to enter any of the 68 churches in the DMP area without going through metal detectors and proper search."

Regarding security arrangement for December 31 night, Asaduzzaman said, "The government has

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



**MORE VALUABLE THAN LIFE? A man jumps off a moving train with another about to follow suit. This kind of recklessness can turn fatal within a matter of seconds. The photo was taken near Tejgaon rail station in Dhaka yesterday.**

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Dire consequences if election isn't fair: Dr Kamal

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Jatiya Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday warned that the country and its people will face dire consequences if the upcoming national election is not held in a free and fair manner.

The eminent jurist termed the act of snatching the citizens' voting rights as an "attack" on the country's independence, saying that the attack is tantamount to "treason".

Addressing a discussion at Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in Dhaka, he said that the next 10 days ahead of the 11th parliamentary polls are very crucial for the future and independence of the country.

"If the election is not free and fair, there will be dire consequences -- everyone should understand this," said the top leader of Oikyafront, the major alliance of opposition parties including BNP.

Bangladesh Human Rights Federation (BHRF), a forum of rights organisations, arranged the discussion on "human rights, good governance and right to vote".

Referring to the prime minister, Dr Kamal said, "Tell us if you want all 300 seats, we'll oblige... Ask everyone to raise their hands and show their support for you."

"Election has turned into a farce," he said.

About the role of the law enforcing agencies ahead of the election, the constitution expert said, "Police are arresting people [opposition leaders and activists] without any reason... I have never seen such situation... This is truly shameful."

Police do not have the authority to do so, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## 1971 through Pakistani eyes

**Documentary 'Merciless Mayhem' screened at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

British India was divided in 1947 into India and Pakistan based on religion; East Bengal became East Pakistan, despite geographical separation and little cultural and historical connections. Punjabis and Sindhis, at the helm of power in Pakistan, could not accept Bengal as fellow citizens, which eventually gave rise to discrimination, violence and then genocide against people of East Pakistan.

In his documentary titled "Merciless Mayhem", filmmaker Fuad Chowdhury has tried to recount the events leading to the emancipation of Bengal from the West Pakistan [now Pakistan] perspective. The documentary was screened yesterday at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

The documentary features mostly interviews of West Pakistanis, some of whom had spent considerable time in the eastern wing working as military officials, bureaucrats and journalists. TV footage of Pakistani politicians sharing some details on the history helped link the narratives and depict a picture of what was happening on the other side when Bengalis were being massacred.

Discrimination and hatred against dark-skinned Bengalis had been visible since Pakistan's formation. Though they comprised 55 percent of the population, only 20 percent resources were allocated to Bengalis.

Almost all of the income from jute export was coming from its cultivation in East Pakistan but the money went to West, apparent from its economic growth and industrialisation.

On November 12, 1970, when a cyclone devastated coastal areas of East Pakistan, around 5 lakh people were killed. Aid and relief materials came from international communities but Pakistani army personnel didn't deliver those to the survivors until November 22-23 on the pretext of not getting transport, said Roshan Zamir, former federal secretary of Pakistan Government, in the documentary.

Then came general election on December 7. A majority in Pakistan anticipated Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's victory after the Awami League's landslide victory under his leadership. That was the first time in 23 years after independence from the British that Pakistanis thought democracy was imminent. Though he was a Bengali, Sheikh Mujib was very popular even among the people in West Pakistan.

Those who were at the helm, however, had something else on their minds. The announcement of Urdu to become the national language by Muhammad Ali Jinnah sowed the seeds of discord. The following events, one after another, only helped create a situation leading to war. Ethnicity, religion, culture, language all played their part. The rulers of West Pakistan thought Bengali Muslims were not true Muslims as they spoke Bangla which originated from Sanskrit.

Pakistan could have been a utopia had the power been handed over to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said a journalist living in Canada in the documentary. "In the name of religion, it had been turned into hell," he added.

## Case filed over attack on AL candidate's office

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A case was filed yesterday with Mirpur Police Station, accusing 191 BNP-Jamaat men over the attack on Krishak Sramik Janata League leader Harunur Rashid inside the campaign office of Awami League candidate for Dhaka-15 constituency Kamal Ahmed Majumder.

According to the case statement, Majumder's campaign office in Mirpur was also vandalised.

SM Mosharrif Hossain, secretary of Dhaka North Tanti League unit, a pro-AL body, filed the case, said Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

Police detained ten suspects in this connection, said the OC, adding three of them are activists of Jamaat-Shibir.

The arrestees were placed before a Dhaka court with a seven-day remand prayer. However, the court rejected the petition and granted one day remand for interrogation.

On Tuesday, four persons on two motorbikes went to Majumder's campaign office, said eyewitness Mokter Hossain, a tea-stall vendor in the area.

They entered the office and attacked Harunur Rashid, 45, with a heavy object, he said.

Harun is the incumbent vice president of Krishak Sramik Janata League's Dhaka North unit.

According to the case

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Will ensure disclosure of wealth statement of PM, lawmakers

**JSD unveils manifesto**

একাদশ জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচন-২০১৮  
বর্তনের ধারা সংহত করা ও এগিয়ে নেয়াই আমাদের লক্ষ্য

নির্বাচনী ইশতেহার

৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৮, সকাল ১০ টা, শহীদ কাদের তাহের মিলনায়তন

জাতীয় সমাজতান্ত্রিক দল- জাসদ

জাতীয় সমাজতান্ত্রিক দল

Jatiyatabadi Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu presents his party's manifesto at Shaheed Colonel Taher Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), a component of Awami League-led 14-party alliance, yesterday pledged to form a bicameral (two-chamber) parliament in its 38-point manifesto.

"The bicameral parliamentary system will be formed to ensure representation of workers, women and minority communities," JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said while unveiling the party's manifesto at a press conference at its office in Dhaka.

"We will follow four principles of the state and bring balance in the government system," he said.

To address influence of ministers, lawmakers and bureaucrats on the local government system and to make it dynamic and strong, they will form a local government commission, Inu said.

Pointing out that the education system of the country is gripped by anarchy and corruption, he said JSD will give highest priority to formulating a national education policy.

If voted to power, JSD from the first day of the government will collect daily commodities from local and international markets and reduce dependency on businessmen to ensure food security of the people, the manifesto read.

JSD will formulate a coordinated national defence policy through discussions with all. "Persons over the age of 18 will be given mandatory military training," it read. The party will strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission and take steps so that people including the prime minister, the president, ministers, lawmakers and bureaucrats have to disclose their wealth statements in public.

JSD will work to create a police commission in a bid to bring discipline in the department.

Prior to unveiling the manifesto, Inu reiterated that Jatiya Oikyafront and the 20-party alliance are trying to foil the election slated for December 30.

Four candidates of JSD are contesting the election with the party symbol "torch", while three are contesting with "boat".



**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses an election rally in Pirojpur through videoconference from her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhaka yesterday.**



PHOTO: PID

## Beware of BNP's conspiracies: Hasina

**PM addresses polls rallies through videoconference**

**BSS, Dhaka**

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused BNP of printing fake ballot papers and spreading money to win the polls and urged all to remain alert to its (BNP) conspiracies.

"BNP is printing fake ballot papers and spreading money to win polls. ...find out where and in which presses they are printing such false ballot papers," she said.

The prime minister was addressing election rallies in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Brahmanbaria and Pirojpur via videoconferencing from her Sudha Sadan residence at Dhaka's Dhanmondi in the afternoon.

The AL president said a BNP leader from London is orchestrat-

## CONTEMPT OF COURT HC summons MD, secy of freedom fighters' trust

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court has summoned the managing director and secretary of Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust (BFFWT) to appear before it on January 10, 2019 on charge of committing contempt of court.

The HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal passed the summons order on Monday following a contempt of court petition filed by a Yeasir Arafat, a terminated official of the trust.

On January 10, the trust's managing director Md Iftekharul Islam Khan and secretary Sayed Mahmud Belal Haider will have to appear before the bench and explain why they did not comply with the court's previous order on them, Barister Md Abdul Halim, the petitioner's lawyer told The Daily Star.

During its 41st meeting in May, the trust terminated Yeasir, an engineer and employee of the organisation, as his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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