

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 27.7 L 13.4	H 27.5 L 10.0	H 29.0 L 15.2	H 28.3 L 12.3	H 25.0 L 10.0	H 25.5 L 9.5	H 27.0 L 11.2	H 27.5 L 10.6	H 28.6 L 16.2

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, UNB said quoting the Met Office. Severe cold wave is sweeping over the region of Panchagarh and mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the rest part of Rangpur division. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

IAB demands re-election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the 11th national election "farical", Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) yesterday rejected the polls result and demanded immediate re-election under a non-partisan government.

"We are rejecting the election result as the opinion of the masses was not reflected in the polls. We strongly demand holding an immediate re-election under a non-partisan government," said IAB Ameer Mufti Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim.

Rezaul Karim raised the demand at a press conference held at the party's central office in the capital's Paltan area.

The Islami Andolon Bangladesh chief said they will launch a strong movement by creating national unity if the demand is not met.

The party might unite with Jatiya Oikyafront for a

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Boys play football on the beach as the setting sun streaks across the horizon over the Bay of Bengal. The photo was taken from Uttar Kattoli beach in Chattogram on Monday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Two leftist parties reject election results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the results of the 11th parliamentary election, two leftist political parties yesterday demanded a fresh election under a non-partisan polls-time government.

Khalequzzaman, general secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, and Moshrefa Mishu, general secretary of Ganatantrik Biplobi Party, came up with this demand in separate statements.

Raising allegations of widespread vote rigging and snatching people's voting right, Khalequzzaman demanded that the Election Commission (EC) do not publish the gazette of the election results.

"The December 30 election has proved once again that a free, fair and acceptable election is not possible under a partisan government. So, we demand a fresh general election under a non-partisan government," he said.

He also demanded that the EC introduce proportional representa-

tion and the "No Vote" option and urged it to ensure an election environment free of "black money and administrative bias".

In a separate statement, Moshrefa Mishu alleged, "The ruling Awami League has banished people's voting right through illegal occupation [of polling centres], and spreading fear and terror during the December 30 election."

"The authoritarian use of state organisations including the EC as their servant is against the spirit of the Liberation War... The unprecedented poll results have surprised the nation. The vote snatchers have been defeated ethically," she added.

"We are rejecting the results. We demand cancellation of this farcical election.... We demand a fresh general election under a non-partisan government," she said.

She also urged the people to wage a mass-movement to press home the demand.

Road accidents take seven lives

STAR REPORT

No sooner had a three-day holiday ended on Monday, the number of road accidents increased with seven people being killed and five others injured in five districts in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Natore, two university students were killed as their motorbike hit a roadside tree in Walia area of Lalpur upazila on Monday night.

Jalal Uddin, 22, and Sharif Hossain, 22, died on the spot, said Nazrul Islam Juwel, officer-in-charge of Lalpur Police Station.

Both of them were students of Bangladesh Army University of Engineering and Technology in Dayarampur area under

Bagatipara upazila in the district.

In Jashore, another two motorcyclists were killed when a bus rammed their bike on Jashore-Magura road in Sadipur-Rampur Bottala area on Monday night.

Milon Roy, 45, and Mohammad Abdullah, 30, died instantly, said police.

They seized the bus but the driver and his helper fled, said Khajura Police outpost Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam.

In Sylhet, a man was killed and five others were injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway in Mahtabpur area of Bishwanath upazila on Monday night.

Foyzur Rahman Juwel, 45, was a teacher of Darul Azhar Madrasa in the city.

In Faridpur, a man was killed as a bus ran him over while he was crossing Dhaka-Barishal highway in Nowpara bus stand area under Bhanga upazila yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately, said police.

In Lalmonirhat, a banker was killed as his motorcycle was hit by an oncoming truck on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Amtola area of Hatibandha upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- Shaheen Shahed -- was the manager of Hatibandha branch of Prime Bank, said police.

The trucker fled with the vehicle, said Hatibandha Police Station Officer-in-Charge Omar Farooque.



Posters still hang in Askar Dighi area of Chattogram city yesterday, two days after the election. City corporation workers, however, started removing those in Customs area on Monday night, inset.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN, FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

CCC dumps posters without separating polythene covers

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

Authorities of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) were found disposing of election posters hanged by candidates of the 11th parliamentary polls in the port city, without separating polythene covers on them, which according to experts is posing threats to environment.

Conservancy workers started to remove the posters and banners in the city since Monday, the day after the polls, said sources at CCC.

They were seen collecting posters and banners and putting them in the dumping grounds of the CCC in Halishahar and Bayezid Bostami areas in the city, said eyewitnesses, adding that the posters, most of which were covered with polythene, were being dumped on the grounds without separating the polythene covers.

A total of 80 candidates contested

in the 11th parliamentary polls in six constituencies located fully or partly in the city. While it is difficult to find the exact number of posters published, it could safely be assumed at tens of thousands.

Environmental experts said if CCC disposes the posters without separating the polythene covers, it would be a threat to the environment.

Contacted, Dr Alak Paul, a professor at Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of Chittagong University, said dumping posters without removing polythene covers would definitely pollute the environment.

"Polythene does not decompose and so it would remain in the soil year after year," he said, adding, "The CCC should go for separating the polythene covers before dumping those, and the polythene should be either

recycled or reused."

Mazharul Islam, assistant professor at Department of Soil Science of CU, told The Daily Star that polythene harms soil in more ways than one.

"Fertility of soil remains in the top-soil... if polythene mixes with top-soil, the soil loses its fertility," he said, adding, "Moreover, water gets obstructed to go deep into the soil due to this polythene."

"These unprocessed polythene in the dumping grounds would spread to adjacent areas and would create water-logging during the rainy season," he said.

"So recycling or reusing polythene after separating from posters is the best way of disposal," said Mazharul.

Contacted, CCC chief conservancy officer Shafiqul Mannan Siddique said a total of 3,500 CCC conservancy

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8,428 babies born on New Year's Day in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Unicef yesterday said according to their estimations, as many as 8,428 babies would be born in Bangladesh on New Year's Day (yesterday).

In a report released in Dhaka and New York concurrently, Unicef said the babies born in Bangladesh will account for 2.13 percent of 395,072 babies that they estimated to be born on the day across the globe. And, of those, a quarter would be born in South Asia alone.

People all around the world welcomed not only the New Year with great festivities but also their newest and tiniest members of their families.

At the stroke of midnight, Sydney was to greet an estimated 168 babies, followed by 310 in Tokyo, 605 in Beijing, 166 in Madrid and finally, 317 in New York.

Fiji in the Pacific most likely delivered 2019's first baby; the United

States, its last.

Globally, over half of these births are estimated to take place in eight countries -- India 69,944 babies, China 44,940, Nigeria 25,685, Pakistan 15,112, Indonesia 13,256, the United States 11,086, Democratic Republic of Congo 10,053 and Bangladesh 8,428 babies.

"This New Year Day, let's all make a resolution to fulfill every right of every child, starting with the right to survive," said Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Unicef deputy executive director. "We can save millions of babies if we invest in training and equipping local health workers so that every newborn is born into a safe pair of hands."

Around the world on January 1, families will welcome countless Alexanders and Ayeshas, Zixuans and Zainabs. But in several countries, many babies will not even be named as they will not make it past their first day, the Unicef statement read.

In 2017, about 1 million babies died the day they were born, and 2.5 million in just their first month of life. Among those children, most died from preventable causes such as premature birth, complications during delivery, and infections like sepsis and pneumonia, a violation of their basic right to survival.

2019 also marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Unicef will be commemorating with worldwide events throughout the year.

Under the convention, governments committed to, among other things, taking measures to save every child by providing good quality health care.

Over the past three decades, the world has seen remarkable progress in child survival, cutting the number of children who die before their fifth birthday, by more than half. But there has been slower progress for

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NEWSIN brief

ASM Firoz-UI-Hasan appointed acting proctor of JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Associate Professor ASM Firoz-UI-Hasan of government and politics department was yesterday appointed the acting proctor of Jahangirnagar University (JU).

JU authorities appointed Prof Firoz, replacing Associate Prof Sikder Md Zulkarnine of archaeology department, as he went abroad for higher education, said JU Acting Registrar Rahima Kaniz.

"Prof Firoz will discharge duties as the proctor until JU authorities impose a fresh office order," she added.

The new proctor Prof Firoz has sought cooperation from teachers, students and staff members of the university.

Man held with firearm, ammo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested a man with a firearm and two rounds of bullets in his possession in the port city's Amtol area.

The arrestee is Shahadat Hossain alias Sazzad, 26, from Patiya upazila, said Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Mohammed Mohsin.

A police patrol team arrested Sazzad at a check post set up in front of Hotel Safina and recovered the firearm and ammunition from his possession, the OC said.

During primary interrogation, Sazzad admitted that he is a professional mugger, the OC claimed.

A case was filed against him and his cohorts with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Dr ABM Abdullah given farewell reception at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr ABM Abdullah of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) was given a farewell reception by his colleagues on the university campus, marking his retirement on December 27 last week.

Dr Abdullah is a prominent physician in the country. He was a professor of the Department of Internal Medicine and the dean of Faculty of Medicine at BSMMU.

He was accorded Ekushey Padak in 2016 and University Grants Commission (UGC) award in 2013.

Speaking at the reception, BSMMU Vice Chancellor Dr Kanak Kanti Barua said Prof Abdullah is an inspiring teacher, researcher, trainer and doctor.

Among others, BSMMU Pro-VC (research and development) Prof Md Shahidullah Sikder and Pro-VC (academic) Prof Shahana Akhter Rahman were present on the occasion.



Classmates, guardians and locals form a human chain at Faugan Bazar in Sreepur, Gazipur yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment for the killers of Sadman Iqbal Rakin, 10. The boy was abducted and killed on December 5. Parvez Sikder, 18, tutor of the boy, allegedly committed the crime for money. Later, Rapid Action Battalion arrested him along with his aide Faisal Ahmed, 19. In primary interrogation, the youths said they were inspired by a TV show to abduct him as a means to make quick money, according to Rab.

PHOTO: STAR