

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 26.5°C | 13.0°C MYMENSINGH 25.0°C | 10.5°C CHITTAGONG 28.0°C | 15.0°C SYLHET 26.9°C | 13.2°C RAJSHAHI 24.6°C | 8.4°C RANGPUR 25.4°C | 9.8°C KHULNA 26.7°C | 12.0°C BARISHAL 27.0°C | 10.0°C COX'S BAZAR 29.0°C | 15.3°C

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. Severe cold wave is sweeping over Panchagarh district. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the rest part of Rangpur division and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:25pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

DHAKA-8
HC rejects
writ petition
challenging
election result
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday refused to hear a writ petition that challenged the election result of Dhaka-8 constituency.

The bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton also dropped the petition from its hearing list, saying that it has no jurisdiction to hear the election-related petition.

The bench, however, said the petitioner has liberty to move the same petition before any other HC bench.

Writ petitioner Advocate Md Eunus Ali Akond, who

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Left, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signs the parliament members' book following the oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected lawmakers at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Right, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administers oath to MPs-elect.

PHOTO: PID, BSS



Voting was meaningless: LDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voting was meaningless in the 11th national election, well-orchestrated by Awami League to get its desired outcome, according to Left Democratic Alliance, comprised of eight left-leaning parties.

Public opinion has not been reflected in the "manipulated election", the alliance claimed from a rally at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday and demanded re-election under a neutral caretaker government.

Since early morning on election day, polling centres were taken over by the ruling party activists across the country; opposition parties' polling agents were not allowed in or were driven away, said Ruhin Hossain Prince, secretariat member of the Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB), reading out a statement.

People have been deprived of their voting right through stuffing of ballot boxes with full control over the administration and law enforcement agencies, he said, adding that there were many centres that ran out of ballot papers by 10am-12pm.

"These incidents made the election meaningless and farcical," he said.

All the attempts to influence election results also caused voters to lose interest that had picked up momentum ahead of the election, Ruhin said. "It was again proved that the country cannot have a fair and acceptable election under a partisan government."

Around 11am yesterday, leaders and activists of CPB, Revolutionary

Workers Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) started gathering in front of the press club in the capital with placards.

While their agitation went on outside the premises of the Press Club, inside at a press conference Ain Sohayota Kendro Foundation - registered with the Election Commission as election observer - said the latest election was very different from previous polls in terms of voters exercising their voting right freely, fairly and in a peaceful environment.

The Left Democratic Alliance condemned election violence and the gang-rape of a woman in Noakhali, allegedly because of voting for the election symbol "sheaf of paddy".

It rejected the election results and demanded that the Election Commission be reformed before a re-election under a non-partisan government.

Ruhin said people didn't consider those elected as MPs as their representatives since they were elected in rigged polls.

CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim, Revolutionary Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Huq and Ganatantrik Biplobi Party General Secretary Moshrefa Mishu were among those present at the rally.

The whole electoral process needs to be overhauled for fair election, Ruhin said, calling on the government and relevant authorities to make necessary steps for a re-election.

AL fronts' infighting sparks panic in Segunbagicha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Panic gripped residents of Segunbagicha in the capital on Wednesday night when activists of two associate bodies of the ruling Awami League -- Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Sweekhahsebok League -- locked in clashes for about an hour and a half.

At least two persons were injured in chase and counter chase that started with an alteration over installing a sign near Segunbagicha kitchen market, locals said.

Around 10:30pm, activists of Sweekhahsebok League were resisted and chased away by BCL men when the former tried to put the sign up.

Sweekhahsebok League activists soon regrouped and came back to the spot about

20 minutes later. They attacked the BCL activists who had driven them away before.

A local said he heard several gunshot sounds and chanting of slogans against "Jamaat-Shibir" while the chase and counter-chase were going on.

During the counter-attack, two people were injured and several motorbikes were vandalised, said a police official, requesting no to be named.

However, he did not confirm whether any gunshot was fired.

Around 11:30pm, soon after the Sweekhahsebok League men left the scene for the second time, no less than 200 activists of BCL took control of the area.

Tension among residents heightened in the area as BCL activists, till midnight, kept

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

The toll collector who made 'millions'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He is a toll collector of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) but by "misusing power" and "taking bribe" Kamal Aktaruzzaman has made a fortune.

Kamal, now working at Ashulia Toll Plaza, joined RHD in 1986 and earned Tk 17.26 lakh from his salary and bank interest until April 2016. His current salary is about Tk 15,000.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in an inquiry found that Kamal had amassed Tk 1.17 crore beyond his known source of income and concealed information of properties worth Tk 95.38 lakh. He also provided false declaration of loan worth Tk 28 lakh in his wealth statement.

To dodge the anti-graft watchdog, the toll collector staged a drama of taking loan from a financial company to cover up his illegal earning. ACC has unearthed.

Not just Kamal, his wife Shahinur Begum also abetted her husband in amassing illegal wealth, according to ACC. Shahinur, who is a housewife, amassed wealth worth Tk 85.33 lakh beyond the known source of income.

After an inquiry, ACC's Assistant Director Faruk Ahmed filed two separate cases with Ramna Police Station yesterday.

According to the case statements, Kamal and his wife submitted their wealth statement before the ACC on April 28, 2016.

In his statement, Kamal said he has immovable properties worth Tk 48.85 lakh and moveable properties worth Tk 19 lakh. On the other hand, Shahinur declared that she has immovable properties worth Tk 16.90 lakh and moveable properties worth Tk 15.30 lakh.

According to the FIR (first information report), Kamal purchased land in three places. He bought 4.33-decimal land for Tk 20 lakh in 1997, two 2.5-decimal land for Tk 10 lakh in 1998 and Tk 5.5 lakh in 2003 in Shekhertek of Adabor.

Of the three properties, he showed his father as the buyer of two (4.33-decimal and 2.5-decimal ones). He declared that he got the properties from his father, Taiabur Rahman, through "deed of gift".

Kamal also built a six-storey building on a 2.5-decimal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Chief justice constitutes new Appellate division bench

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has constituted another bench for the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, alongside the existing bench, to ensure quick disposal of pending cases in the country's apex court.

The new bench will start working from Sunday, Barrister Md Saifur Rahman, special officer of the Supreme Court said yesterday.

The CJ will preside over one of the benches which will include Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Justice Zinat Ara and Justice Md Nuruzzaman, while Justice Muhammad Imman Ali will head the other bench consisting of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Abu Bakar Siddique, Barrister Saifur informed.

The apex court benches have been constituted after more than one year, to dispose of more than 19,000 cases with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Saifur also said.



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Bam Gonotantrik Jote (Left Democratic Alliance) organises countrywide protests against "vote rigging" in the December 30 election. Clockwise from top, human chains in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Barishal.

PHOTO: STAR

One sentenced to death for Krishna Kaberi murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man in absentia to death, for killing college teacher Krishna Kaberi Biswas in the capital's Mohammadpur area in March 2015.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in absence of the lone accused, KM Zahirul Islam Palash, in the murder case.

Palash, a manager of brokerage house Haji Ahmed Brothers and Securities, went into hiding after getting bail from the High Court.

After cross-examination of all 23 prosecution witnesses including complainant of the case, the judge delivered the judgment observing that the convict could not get any mercy from the court for his heinous offence.



Krishna Kaberi Biswas

Soon after the verdict, the victim's husband Sitangshu Shekhar Biswas, and her brother Sudhangshu Shekhar Biswas -- also the complainant of the case -- expressed their satisfaction over the judgment, and urged the government to arrest the convict for his immediate execution.

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said in the verdict, adding that the convict was sentenced to life in jail for injuring victim's husband and her two daughters.

But life-term imprisonment will not be applicable if the convict is hanged for the murder, subject to confirmation of the High Court.

Krishna Kaberi Biswas, 36, wife of BRTA deputy

Teenager found dead in Khilgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a teenage boy in Khilgaon area of Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased was Sheikh Mamun, 17, helper of a human hauler service.

Moshiure Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said the deceased was a drug addict and lived in Khilgaon. Police recovered the body from a ditch near his residence, and sent it to Dhaka Medical College for autopsy, he said.

OC Moshiure said there was no injury mark on Mamun's body, and they suspect that Mamun drowned.

Originally from Narsingdi, he was the youngest among five siblings, said police. An unnatural death case was filed. His elder brother Sheikh Masud said Mamun had been taking yaba for the last three years. Mamun came back home around 3:00am but went out right away, he said. "As he was a drug addict, we suspect that he was killed following enmity over yaba."



These street vendors collect artisanal quilts hand-crafted by women in villages, and bring them to Dhaka to sell door-to-door and at major road intersections. These quilts are priced between Tk 800 to Tk 4,000 apiece, depending on size and design. The photo was taken from Baily Road yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS