

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 26.4   L 15.5	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 26.0   L 15.5	<b>SYLHET</b> H 26.7   L 14.8	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 26.2   L 11.8	<b>KHULNA</b> H 26.0   L 14.5	<b>BARISAL</b> H 26.5   L 14.8	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 25.7   L 11.6	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 25.4   L 15.4
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Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.** Country's highest temperature 27.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Bogra and Khepupara and lowest 08.5 in Rajshat.



**Death anniversary**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof SA Wadud, an eye specialist. A doa mahfil will be held at his residence -- House-9, Road-66, Gulshan-2, Dhaka -- at 4:00pm, says a press release.

Wadud was the founding chief consultant of Islamia Eye Hospital and director of the Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology. He died on January 1 at the age of 91 at his eldest son's residence in Atlanta, USA.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend.



**Villagers dig an irrigation canal across a vast farmland in Manda upazila of Naogaon. The canal, measuring 10 feet wide and 3km long, was dug by more than 50 local residents after their appeal to the government authorities for excavation went in vain. This irrigation channel is expected to boost the agricultural output from the land. The photo was taken Tuesday.**

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

**ACC sets record in giving clean chits**

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) cleared some 590 suspects from graft charges in 2015, setting a record in giving clean chits since its establishment in 2004.

Official statistics show that the commission approved a total of 542 final reports (FR) till November last year.

The ACC also approved about 50 final reports in December, which are yet to be included in the official statistics, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, ACC spokesman and public relations officer, told the news agency.

The commission approved 499 final reports in 2014, 401 such reports in 2013, and 382 in 2012. Last month, the ACC cleared former chairman of the National Board of Revenue Golam Hossain and managing director of Dhaka WASA Taqsem A Khan of graft allegations. On October 20, 2015, the corruption watchdog gave a clean chit to Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Rear Admiral Mohammad Nizamuddin Ahmed. Former chairman of Basic Bank Abdul Hye, former chairman of Petrobangla Dr Hossain Mansur and commandant of Police's Range Reserve Force Mizanur Rahman are among the top graft suspects who got clean chits last year. ACC Commissioner M Shahabuddin said the commission generally launches probes taking graft allegations into account and gives its reports based on merits of the enquiries.

He said if the ACC, after conducting probes into the allegations, does not find any corruption or irregularity

**PM seeks pvt sector support for development of education**  
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon private sector entrepreneurs to come forward and supplement the government efforts to advance education programmes for building an educated nation and developing the country as a prosperous one.

She said this while receiving results of this year's Primary School Certificate (PSC), Junior School Certificate (JSC) and their equivalent examinations as well as inaugurating textbook distribution activities for the Academic Year 2016 at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

**Mixed reactions over municipal elections**

**PCJSS rejects results, declares blockade for Sunday**

STAR REPORT

The Election Working Group (EWG), an alliance of 28 civil society organisations, yesterday said the municipality polls could not be called "questionable" event though some incidents of irregularities and violence took place during the vote Wednesday.

It gave the reaction at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

However, the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) rejected the election results and declared a blockade of roads and waterways across Rangamati district Sunday.

In a statement, PCJSS said yesterday that the ruling party activists drove away all the polling agents of Dr Gangacharan Chakma, PCJSS's mayor aspirant, from polling centres and started stuffing the ballot boxes, but the law enforcers did

not take any action.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) said in another statement that the election results did not reflect the people's verdict. It also added that the commission did not take any visible, strong measure to stop vote rigging.

In its election monitoring report, rights body Brotee said all parties could not take part in the election equally; ruling party activists drove away polling agents of opposition candidates. Brotee conducted election monitoring in 24 municipalities in seven divisions. It said out of 240 centres, there was no information regarding violence in 225 polling centres. As per the report, the Election Commission took instant measures at only four centres out of the 15 centres where violence took place during the election.

**CHECKING ILLEGAL MIGRATION, TRAFFICKING All bodies must work together**

**Experts tell WARBE-Baira consultation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Illegal migration and human trafficking cannot be checked until the government, private sector and stakeholders work together, observed discussants at a consultation in the capital yesterday.

The bodies concerned must avoid blaming each other for unsafe migration and be sincere in protecting migrants' rights at home and abroad, they said, emphasising cooperation to raise skills to ensure better work environments and wages.

The government and private sector must look after migrants' benefits and solve their problems since both benefit from migration, they said.

The "Consultation on Safe Migration with Private Sector and Stakeholders" was jointly organised by WARBE Development Foundation and the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies

(Baira) at the latter's office.

"For finding jobs abroad, the workers have to spend a huge amount of money. Again, they spend a huge amount to send their remittance home. But neither the government nor the private sector takes any initiative to reduce the costs," said WARBE Chairman Syed Saiful Haque.

The government decision to send female migrants to Saudi Arabia without first ensuring necessary protection measures is nothing but Bangladesh's "helplessness", he remarked.

He also questioned signing of a recruitment agreement with Malaysia while no move was made to legalise around four lakh migrants there.

Baira Executive Committee Member Nurul Amin alleged that the government's flawed policies and the Malaysian authorities' silent patronisation were responsible for illegal migration and

human trafficking.

Wajed-ul Islam Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, said migrants were not only exploited at workplaces but also harassed at airports.

"There is no plan for re-employing returnee migrants although they have immense experience and can contribute to the country's economic development," he observed.

Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment Ministry Additional Secretary Javed Ahmed said brokers could be allowed to get involved in the recruitment process but must be kept under strict control.

The government's technical training centres are not well equipped to help build required skills for which Indians, Nepalese and Sri Lankans were taking over the labour markets, he said adding that the government was giving



**A parrot flies away with a mouthful at the approach of a crow. It was feeding on the fruits of a tree in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.**

PHOTO: FERAZ AHMED

**Hafizur new PWD chief engineer**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hafizur Rahman Munshi, a freedom fighter, took over the charge of chief engineer of Public Works Department yesterday, said a press release.

He served as the chief engineer at Rajuk earlier. He graduated from the Civil Engineering department at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) in 1980.



**Dipan's son**

FROM PAGE 4  
Prokashoni, to death at his office at Aziz Cooperative Super Market in the capital's Shahbagh on October 31.

The same day, criminals attacked Shuddhoswar's Ahmedur Rashid Tutul and bloggers Ranadipam Basu and Tareque Rahim with machetes at the Lalmatia office of the publishing house.

Tutul was critically injured. Tareque was also shot in the chest.

Ansar Al Islam (AQIS Bangladesh) had reportedly claimed responsibility for the twin incidents through email to different media outlets.

**Caab, customs**

FROM PAGE 4  
"How will we work if we are pressurised instead of being provided assistance?" he said, adding that such obstacles might demoralise the officers.

The airport has become a major smuggling route in recent years. Over 1,000 kilogrammes of gold have been seized, mostly at Dhaka airport, in the last one and a half years.

Officials of Caab, intelligence agencies and Biman Bangladesh Airlines have been arrested for allegedly abetting the smuggling.

**19 CU students suspended**

MD. ABBAS, CU

The Chittagong University authorities have suspended 19 students and expelled another on different charges on the campus this year.

The Board of Health and Disciplinary Committee took the decision at a meeting on December 17 with

Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury in the chair, Proctor Ali Asgar Chowdhury told a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Of the 20, Tayobur Rahman of electronics and communication engineering was expelled for assaulting teachers at different times.

DETAILS OF THOSE SUSPENDED				
Students	Dept/Instt	Charges	Period	Incident day
Mizanur Rahman Khan	Management	Clash during admission test	1 year	Nov 2
Mofazzal Haydar	Fine Arts	Clash during admission test	1 year	Nov 2
Hasan Mohammad Jalil Rubel	English	Assault on teachers	1 year	Nov 9
Nirupol Sarkar	Forestry	Ransacking Surya Sen Hall	6 months	Aug 31
Mehedi Hasan Shawon	Forestry	Ransacking Surya Sen Hall	6 months	Aug 31
Masud Rana	Forestry	Beating general students	1 year	Sept 1
Md Shihab Uddin	Sociology	Assaulting a female student	6 months	Sept 14
Subrato Kumar Mazumder	Fine Arts	Clash and vandalising	1 year	Nov 10
Abid Ibne Rafiq	Fine Arts	Clash and vandalising	1 year	Nov 10
Md Abdul Wahab Rajib	Fine Arts	Clash and vandalising	1 year	Nov 10
Mohammad Rafi Ullah	Fine Arts	Clash and vandalising	6 months	Nov 10
Ifatul Alam Pitu	History	Sexual harassment on female students	6 months	Nov 2
Didarul Alam	History	Sexual harassment on female students	6 months	Nov 2
Azizul Hakim Liton	Marketing	Admission test proxy	1 year	Nov 3
Imran Hossain	Anthropology	Admission test proxy	1 year	Nov 3
Jotisko Chakma	Fine Arts	Assault on teachers	1 year	Nov 2
Rinku Chakma	Linguistic	Assault on teachers	6 months	Nov 2
SM Jahidul Awal	English	Cheating in admission test	Indefinite	Dec 10
Nasir Uddin Ahmed	IERT	Assault on a journalist	Indefinite	Dec 14

**Rape incidents**

FROM PAGE 3  
either accused or suspected to be involved with the incidents.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, which released a report based on survey of 14 national English and Bangla dailies, said about 4,436 incidents of violence against women took place in 2015.

In a press release it said 1,092 rape incidents took place. In which 199 women were gang raped and 85 women murdered after rape.

ASK statistics said 373 women were subjected to domestic violence. Among these women 273 were killed, 54 committed suicide and 46 were physically tortured.

In dowry related cases, 101 women were physically tortured and 187 were tortured and killed, it added.

BMP statistics showed that 203 women were tortured in dowry in 2015, and the number of violence against women incidents was higher in August,

**Parents' struggle pays off**

FROM PAGE 3  
treatment," said Rokeya, the girl's mother.

"To raise my daughter, I also took training on various subjects like speech therapy, sign language, and autism."

This correspondent caught up with Mumu's parents at their residence in Enayetbazar of Chittagong city yesterday.

Rokeya went on, "Mumu was born on January 7, 1999. When she was two years old, we slowly started to know about her problems."

"My daughter was admitted to different schools, but she could not adjust with others," she said.

Later Mumu was supervised by Chittagong Autistic Society.

In 2013, she enrolled at class III at the railway hospital colony's school,

Rokeya said.

"I feel that today is a special day for me. I think I my struggle paid off."

She also thanked others for their cooperation.

"I want her to continue with her study," Rokeya said.

She urged the government to prepare a separate curriculum for the students like her daughter.

She said, "None should neglect these children."

Uttam Kumar Acharjee, principal of the school, said Mumu did not participate in the classes but she did well in the exams.

"We always try to put emphasis on such students so that they do not think they are different from others," he said.

**CU teachers threaten to go**

FROM PAGE 3  
Kazi SM Khasrul Alam Quddusi said the newayscale cut the existing benefits of university teachers by excluding the selection grade and time scale provisions.

"The teachers' positions have been brought two notches down in the newayscale, which is disgraceful."

Cuta leaders said Finance Minister AMA Muhiht had promised to uphold the selection grade and time scale but failed.

Earlier, on December 27, the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Associations had threatened to shut down all public universities at a press conference if to press home the demands.