

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 22.0 L 11.4	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 23.8 L 13.2	<b>SYLHET</b> H 26.0 L 24.8	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 19.0 L 06.8	<b>KHULNA</b> H 22.8 L 09.2	<b>BARISAL</b> H 20.7 L 11.4	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 17.8 L 09.5	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 24.6 L 14.0
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Weather will remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, Met Office said. Mild cold wave, sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Sitakunda, may continue. The sunsets in the capital today at 5:39pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

### Think about cops' work setting before bashing them

Police chief urges all

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday urged people to consider the environment police work in and other barriers they face before criticising them.

"I will request you to consider the work environment of police, working hours, uneven police to population ratio, shortage of equipment and vehicles, and people's tendency to break law and not cooperate with the force," he said.

The police chief said unprofessional attitudes and degeneration of a few policemen affected the force's reputation, and it would not take responsibility for those individual offenders.

His comments came amid a series of allegations against cops for torturing and threatening people with implicating them in false cases and also taking their lives.

The IGP was speaking at a press briefing at the Police Headquarters in the capital to inform the media about the Police Week which starts at the Rajarbagh Police Lines tomorrow.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the event.

This year 102 police personnel will receive awards including Bangladesh Police Medal (BPM) and President Police Medal (PPM) for their courageous roles.

Answering to a query, the IGP said police members faced allegations like power abuse, corruption, misbehaving with citizens, negligence in duty, and leaving duty without informing superiors in the past while departmental action was taken against them.

After facing departmental action, 709 cops appealed to the court in the

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A forum of freedom fighters and the martyrs' families forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding that the retirement age of the freedom fighters, who are in government service, be increased.

PHOTO: STAR



### Madhusudan's 192nd birthday today

**BSS, Jessore**

The 192nd birth anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutta, one of the most famous poets and dramatists in Bangla literature, is being celebrated today with President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paying rich tributes in separate messages.

A weeklong Madhu Mela (fair) began from January 22 at his birthplace, Sagardari under Jessore's Keshabpur upazila.

The Jessore district administration arranged programmes including puppet shows, jatra and circus performances, traditional sports, cultural programmes, seminars and discussions on his life and works.

Born to a Hindu Bangalee family, Madhusudan aspired to be like an Englishman and converted to Christianity, to the ire of his family, as a young man and adopted his first name.

Later in life, the father of Bangla sonnets regretted his attraction to England and ardently mentioned of his homeland in his poems and sonnets.

He is specially known for the famous tragic epic Meghnad Bodh Kabya (The Saga of Meghnad's Killing) (1861), which is exceptional in Bangla literature in style and content.

He passed away at Kolkata General Hospital on June 29, 1873 and was buried at Park Street, Kolkata, India.

### KALYANPUR SLUM SC may decide on removal Jan 31

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court may decide on January 31 whether the government can remove the Kalyanpur Pora Bosti (slum) from the land of the Housing and Building Research Institute in the capital.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday sent a government petition, that sought a stay on the January 21 High Court order, which issued injunction on the removal for next three months, to a full bench of the apex court and fixed January 31 for a hearing.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, who moved the petition before the chamber judge yesterday, said the government cannot continue removing the slum until January 31 as per the HC order.

Citing the petition, he said around 75 percent of the slum has already been removed and a vast portion of the land had been occupied by some goons in the name of slum dwellers. The HC came up with the order following a petition filed by rights organisations Ain o Salish Kendra and Coalition for the Urban Poor and two slum dwellers.

### Salinity rise to hit coastal districts by 2050

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bhola, Barguna and Jhalakathi while surface water salinity of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat would also increase from 25 ppt to 35 ppt by 2050, he said.

The hydrogeological study, investigation and resource assessment in 19 coastal districts were carried out by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) which is funded under the Ministry of Environment and Forests' Climate Change Trust Fund.

It was done under a project which included the mathematical modelling carried out by IWM, a trust affiliated with the Ministry of Water Resources.

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**SUGGESTED REMEDIAL STEPS**

- Chalking out water budget for understanding reality
- A continuous salinity monitoring mechanism
- Recording long-term data for climate change preparedness
- Coordinated efforts in combating impacts
- Data sharing among govt, non-govt bodies working in coastal areas



**Tanjim Ahmad known as Sohail Taj, former member of the Awami League cabinet, along with his two elder sisters Simeen Hussain Rimi and Mahjabin Ahmad Mimi, not in pictures, meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban on Saturday night. The son of Tajuddin Ahmad, the first prime minister of the country, was made state minister for home after the AL assumed power through the December 29, 2008 elections but he resigned both from the cabinet and parliament later. The pictures, shared by Mimi on her Facebook page, went viral, and The Daily Star took her consent to publish the photos.**

### AL suspends municipal poll rebels

Asks them why they should not be expelled; disciplinary action in offing for party lawmakers who supported dissidents

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The ruling Awami League yesterday suspended party rebels who took part in the last municipality elections, and sent them show cause notices, asking why they should not be expelled.

The rebel candidates were asked to respond within 15 days.

Around 60 dissidents contested for the mayoral post ignoring party decision, and 19 of them won.

Insiders said the decision was taken to bring discipline in the party and warn aspirants in the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections, which are scheduled to start in late March. Party leaders think they might face a serious setback in selecting single chairman candidates in 4,500 UPs for rebels.

AL Organising Secretary Ahmad Hossain said, "After getting responses from the rebel candidates, we will submit those at the party's next central working committee meeting and their fate will be decided there."

The AL central working committee took the decision on January 9, and also asked the divisional level organising secretaries to investigate the role of local party lawmakers and grassroots leaders who had backed the dissidents in the elections.

The party will serve show-cause notices to the lawmakers based on the investigation reports.

"We were asked to submit investigation reports within 15 days. We are

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### AUW offers free education to female RMG workers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The Asian University for Women (AUW) launched a special project titled "Pathways for Promise-2016", under which talented female employees working in different garment factories across the country will get the opportunity for higher education with financial support from the university.

Kamal Ahmad, the founder of AUW, and Rubana Haq, managing director of Mohammadi Group, also one of the key supporters of the project, inaugurated it at a ceremony held at the AUW yesterday.

Supported by five garments factories-Mohammadi Group, Pou Chen Group, Sunman Group, Ananta Group, and Knit Concerns, the university initially enrolled 22 out of 653 applicants, selected through a written test and an oral interview.

While the undergraduate programme consists of three years of study preceded by a one-year foundation course, the 22 students under this programme will have to take a two-year preparatory course on English, mathematics, computer and critical thinking methods before enrolling in a regular programme with mainstream students; said a university press release.

"The focus on finding talents from among garment workers is a natural progression of AUW's continuing commitment to educate women from all walks of life," said Kamal Ahmed.

While addressing the ceremony, Rubana Haq urged all staff of the AUW to be as generous as possible to these women.

"Coming to the AUW is like a dream to me," said Sadeka Begun, an incoming student, also a cutting helper at Ananta Group.

"I am very happy and excited after getting the opportunity to achieve higher education in an educational institution like the AUW," she added.

Mentionable, the selected students will receive full financial support from the project for their residence, tuition fees, study materials, health care and other expenses. The participating companies have also agreed to continue paying monthly basic wages to the workers during their study leave.

### Kishoreganj to get public university

Says president

**BSS, Kishoreganj**

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to set up a public university in Kishoreganj and develop communication infrastructure of the district.

The president was addressing the centenary celebration programme of Azimuddin High School. He asked the teachers to give their best efforts to turn students into educated and skilled human resources for development of the country.

"We must remember that we all are indebted to the country as well as the people. Educational institutions are run with the money of the people and our children study there, so it is the responsibility of us all to maintain a congenial academic atmosphere," he added.

Hamid asked the students to devote themselves to the welfare of the country and the people upholding the spirit of their glorious past.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haq Channu, Afzal Hossain, MP, Rezwan Ahmed Taifiq, MP, and Sohrab Uddin, MP, spoke at the event.

### WB will give grant to boost healthcare

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The World Bank and the government yesterday signed a grant agreement to scale up and sustain essential health services for women, children and adolescents.

The WB said given the relatively low public spending in health as a share of the government's budget, scaling up services in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health had become quite the challenge.

The grant will partly address this resource need, it added.

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim, WB's Senior Director for Health Timothy Evans, Health Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam, Deputy Director Mission of USAID Paul Sabatine, High Commissioner of Canada Benoit Pierre Laramee, and Representative of the World Health Organisation in Bangladesh Navaratna Paranietharan were present at the signing ceremony held at a hotel in the capital.

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