

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.4 L 21.4	H 32.8 L 20.7	H 32.3 L 18.6	H 34.0 L 20.3	H 32.3 L 21.4	H 31.4 L 20.4	H 31.5 L 16.8	H 33.0 L 21.0

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:02pm and rises tomorrow at 6:18am. Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Srimangal and Dimla.

ARSON CASE
Arrest warrant issued against 41 of BNP-led alliance including leaders

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against 41 leaders and activists of BNP-led alliance, including Rafiqul Islam Mia and Khandker Mahub Hossain, in a case filed over torching a vehicle in the capital's Jatrabari area on January 23 last year. Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur issued the warrant after accepting the charge brought against the alliance's 58 leaders and activists in the case. Of them, 17 accused including MK Anwar, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed and Amanullah Aman are now on bail. The court fixed April 5 for the report submission on the execution of the warrant.
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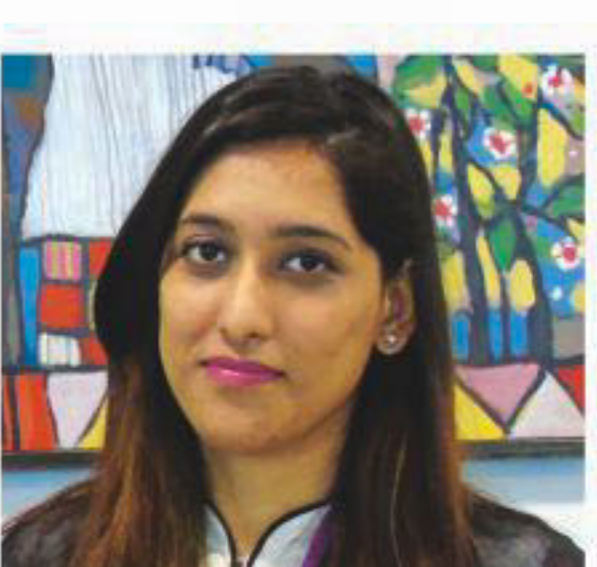
Acute water crisis dogs Eskaton Garden in capital
Main Wasa pump under renovation for over a week

HELEMUL ALAM
 Several thousand residents of Eskaton Garden have been facing severe water crisis for the last 10 days as the main pump of Dhaka Wasa there is under renovation to increase its capacity for over the last one week. They have to buy water from Wasa's vehicles or fetch it from other areas. "I do not cook or do other household works at my home..." said Reshmi Akhtar, a student of medical college. She said she along with her sister and husband had their lunch and dinner at her mother's home. "We bathe, wash our clothes and do other works at our mother's home in..."
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Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique hoists the national flag in front of Aparajeya Bangla on the campus yesterday, marking the first hoisting of Bangladesh's flag there on this day in 1971.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



Talbia to be shadow Danish envoy for a day
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a rare example, a young female student of North South University has been selected to become the shadow ambassador for a day with the Embassy of Denmark in Bangladesh. Talbia Tanvir, a 23-year-old economics student, visited the Danish embassy for the first time yesterday to prepare for her task and next week she will shadow Ambassador Hanne Fugl Eskjær. Talbia was selected from a large number of applicants after a deeper scrutiny for the Shadow Ambassador Competition which is a part of the celebration of International Women's Day 2016, Danish embassy sources said. "The Embassy of Denmark..."
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UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2016
EC's indifference raising doubts about fairness: SHUJAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Despite numerous complaints filed by the candidates and their political parties about irregularities and breach of electoral codes ahead of the forthcoming UP polls, the Election Commission (EC) is turning a blind eye to these pressing issues, causing a recurrence of violence in rural areas, alleged Shushashoner Janney Nagarik (SHUJAN) yesterday at a press conference styled "Call for Holding a Fair,

Neutral and Acceptable Union Parishad Election," at Sagor-Runi auditorium in the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital. SHUJAN, an organisation that promotes good governance, said the EC remained inactive regarding taking actions against the alleged perpetrators, and observed that the people were doubtful if the polls would be free and fair. "The legal, ethical, neutral and bold role of the EC can ensure a fair, neutral

and peaceful election," said a written statement of SHUJAN, read out by the organisation's Central Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarkar at the press conference. "If the EC can take necessary preparations and proper steps, taking lessons from its past experiences, many unexpected incidents may be avoided. But we are frustrated over the EC's reluctance in this regard," it added. The EC has already declared that it...
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N'GANJ 7-MURDER CASE
Govt served legal notice seeking removal of PP for not allowing jurnos in courtroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice seeking speedy trial of Narayanganj seven-murder case and withdrawal of the public prosecutor who allegedly made a Narayanganj courtroom off limits to journalists during recording of testimonies in the case which began on February 29. Advocate Eunus Ali Akond in the notice requested the government to establish a speedy trial tribunal in 72 hours for a quick trial of the case and withdraw Public Prosecutor Wajed Ali Khokon within the period. In the notice, the lawyer said the incident of seven-murder took place in Narayanganj on April 27, 2014, but the trial has not yet been ended. It said keeping journalists out of the courtroom in the case is "unconstitutional". Quoting article 35 (3) of the constitution, it said, "Every person accused of a criminal offence shall have the right to a speedy and public trial by an independent and impartial court or tribunal established by law." Eunus said if a speedy tribunal is not constituted...
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Food ministry plans rice sale to rural poor for less than OMS
Mulls reviving Fair Price Card

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The food ministry is considering distributing rice among ultra-poor rural people at a price lower than the open market sales (OMS) rate of Tk 15 each kilogram, to clear its stocks, said two senior officials yesterday. "We are planning to submit a proposal to distribute rice among the poorest at union level," Foiz Ahamed, director general of the directorate general of food, told The Daily Star. He shared the plan after a meeting at the food ministry in the capital. Ahamed said his office will propose to fix price between Tk 10-11 each kilogram under the initiative to sell rice during March and April and to sell 30 kilograms of rice a month among the poorest at grass roots level. The food office took the initiative as it sits on a stock of 14.50 lakh tonnes of grains including 10.69 lakh tonnes of rice. However it can not reduce the stock fast due to slack demand, resulting from low prices of the cereal in the market. The government last month reduced prices of rice by 25 percent to Tk 15 per kilogram and wheat flour by 10 percent to Tk 17 for OMS to cut part of the large stocks, which was second in four months. Officials said OMS price cut and distribution was necessary to create space in the warehouses to purchase rice in the upcoming boro harvesting season, and to trim down losses as the quality of rice would deteriorate if remained stored. Rice is planned to be sold among the ultra-poor at grassroots by reviving the Fair Price Card (FFC) scheme introduced by the government earlier. The government issued 67 lakh cards to distribute rice lower than market price, said a senior official of food ministry, seeking anonymity, adding that the number of cards may be increased up to 1 crore during lean period of the year. Asked if the prices of rice and paddy will fall because of the government sales, the official said it would...
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Eminent Indian actor-elocutionist Soumitra Chatterjee, fourth from left, receives "Kazi Sabyasachi Memorial Award-2016" from Uma Kazi, wife of legendary elocutionist Kazi Sabyasachi, at a programme at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum yesterday. Kazi family introduced the award this year, marking the 37th death anniversary of Sabyasachi, the elder son of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

PHOTO: STAR

WAR CRIMES IN JESSORE
Shakhawat broke my leg to extract info about FF camp

Sixth witness says about former lawmaker; two Moulvibazar suspects sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A prosecution witness yesterday testified that former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain and his accomplices confined and tortured him at a Razakar camp in Jessore during the Liberation War in 1971. Miran Sheikh, of Mahadebpur village in Keshabpur upazila and the sixth prosecution witness in the case, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that Shakhawat himself broke his leg as he did not provide him information about freedom fighters' camp. The five other accused are Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar (2), Abdul Khaleq, Lutfar Morol and Ibrahim Hossain. Miran did not mention the names of Kazi Ohidul Islam, Mujibur Rahman and Billal Hossain, also accused in the case. The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and have pleaded not guilty. The rest are on the run. The 66-year-old witness Miran said he joined the Mukti Bahini under the leadership Mofazzal Hossain Master in



1971 and used to gather and supply information about Razakars to the freedom fighters. At the beginning of Bangla month of Ashwin, he came to his house and after getting this information, 30 to 40 Razakars of Chingra Razakar camp besieged his village and torched the houses of freedom fighters, pro-liberation people and Awami League men, said Miran. "When I stepped out of my home, I saw neighbouring houses were burning," he added. When 10 to 12 Razakars besieged his home, Miran quickly fled. But accused Aziz, Aziz (2), Khaleq, Lutfar and Ibrahim chased him, said Miran, adding that after running for about 200 yards, he stopped and raised both hands in fear of his life. Accused Khaleq shot him with a rifle which hit the fingers of his left hand. They took him to Chingra Razakar camp where Aziz, Aziz (2), Ibrahim and Lutfar beat him with rifle butts following the instruction of Shakhawat. He fainted, the witness said. Around 10:00pm that day, Shakhawat wanted to know...
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STAR WEEKEND
 in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the *Star Weekend* has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight is on recognising and celebrating the everyday woman of Bangladesh. There is also an article on the first Bangladeshi to win two consecutive medals in the SA Games, swimmer Mahfuza Khatun Shila. Don't forget your copy of *Star Weekend* tomorrow, Friday!

THE WOMAN NEXT DOOR

ELITA KABIR
 PHOTO: KAZI TAHIR AGAZ APRIKO

Every year on Women's Day, we like to compare and draw lines between the roles women played in the past few decades and the present. On this very day, we prefer to put the woman under the microscope, observe her evolution in life, celebrate her successes and at times remind her of her failures as well. To the agony of many, some end up taking these analysis reports seriously. The *Star Weekend* takes a look at the different roles of the woman next-door, and 'surprisingly' enough, finds them to be special, no matter who they are and what they look like. To read our spotlight this week, turn to pages 8 and 9.

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 4 DAYS IN BERTOLA
 10 NEW GOLDEN GIRL
 13 THREE ELEGANT ARE BEING

শিক্ষা আমার অধিকার
উপবৃত্তি বাড়াবে শিক্ষার হার

তথ্য জানতে বা অভিযোগ জানাতে যোগাযোগ করুন স্কুল বা শিক্ষা অফিসে

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