

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.1 L 16.8	H 29.0 L 14.7	H 30.6 L 18.6	H 31.2 L 15.9	H 27.2 L 14.6	H 28.0 L 14.2	H 30.2 L 17.7	H 30.5 L 16.3	H 32.2 L 18.5

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Khulna division till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:52pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am.

**SC lawyer files writ petition to cancel new EC**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A writ petition was filed yesterday with the High Court seeking its orders upon the government to cancel the gazette notification on the formation of new Election Commission (EC). Advocate Eunus Ali Akond, a Supreme Court lawyer, submitted the petition, also praying for a stay order on the oath taking programme of the chief election commissioner and other EC members.

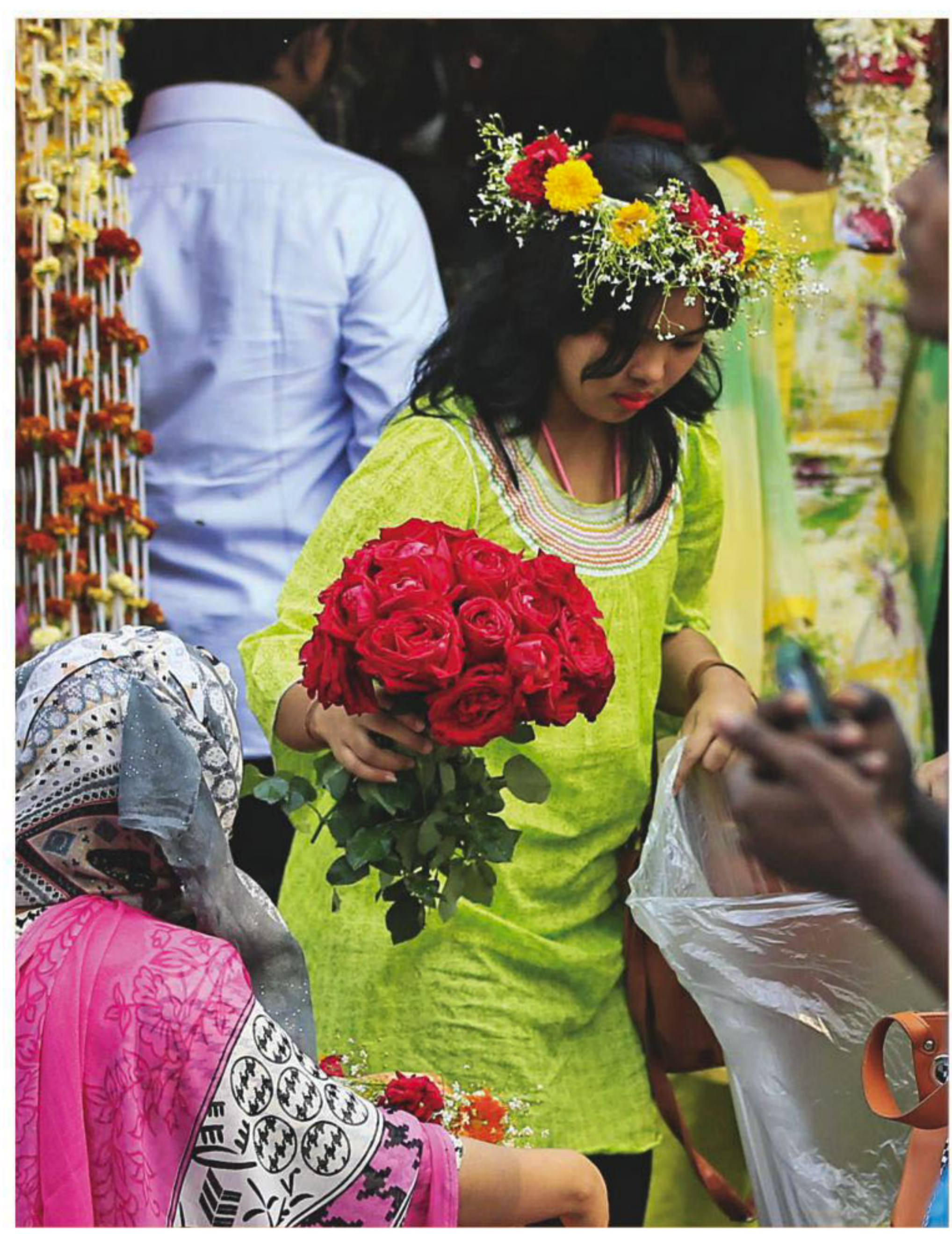
In the petition, Akond said no retired person can be reappointed as per the Public Servants (Retirement) Act 1974. But the government has appointed retired persons as EC chief and members, violating the law.

The retired persons, aged between 70 and 75, are employed again while many people in the country remain unemployed, he said in the petition.

The HC would hear on the petition today, Advocate Eunus said.

President Abdul Hamid appointed former secretary KM Nurul Huda as chief election commissioner in line with a constitutional provision, according to a gazette notification issued on February 6.

The president also appointed four election commissioners.



Though yesterday was not the first day of the Bengali month Falgun, these girls were already in a festive mood wearing floral head wraps and buying bouquets for their loved ones to welcome the arrival of spring today. With nature reclaiming its splendor and youth as winter bids adieu, Pahela Falgun is filled with music, colour and happiness and friends getting together for selfies to capture the memories. Many were also seen flocking to the flower shops. The photos were taken in Shahbagh.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

**Woman held for using PM's forged DO**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University authorities yesterday foiled a fraudulent attempt of a woman who showed prime minister's fabricated demand order (DO) to get a student admitted to the university.

The fraudster, Hasina Begum, 65, can hardly write or even sign her name. Police suspected that a syndicate is involved in the forgery.

Introducing herself as a cook at the prime minister's residence, the woman yesterday appeared before the vice-chancellor's office and insisted on getting one Fahim Jahan Dristy admitted to the university under "special quota" with the PM's forged DO. On suspicion, the authorities grilled her and handed her over to police, said GG Biswash, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Even two days before and three days after the admission test on November 9, the woman made two attempts for the admission by submitting a letter of a PM's protocol officer, said the university officials. The university authorities filed a case.

Meanwhile, the press wing of the prime minister's office urged all to remain alert about such forgery.

**WHO selects Bangladeshi scientist for polio research body**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The World Health Organization has selected Bangladeshi scientist Dr K Zaman to work as a member of the UN body's polio research committee.

Michel Zaffran, director of the committee, handed over the official letter to Dr Zaman, senior scientist of icddr, at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva on Saturday, says an icddr press release.

Dr Zaman and his colleagues are carrying out studies on a range of oral polio vaccines in Bangladesh.

Earlier in October 2016, Dr Zaman became a member of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts in the polio immunisation working group.

**Create opportunity for the underprivileged**

**Sir Abed urges youths at IUB convocation**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

For building an inclusive and developed nation, educated youths must facilitate opportunities for those who remain deprived of enjoying the same scope in their lives, said Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Brac founder and chairperson, yesterday.

He was addressing the 18th convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on its campus in the capital as the convocation speaker.

A total of 1,419 students, who have completed their bachelors and masters from the private university, received certificates at the event.

The ceremony began with a student procession. Afterwards, guests and teachers of the university congratulated the graduates, and motivated them with words of inspiration.

In his speech, Sir Abed said the new generation will have to overcome the challenges of terrorism, climate change, epidemics and the rising tide of nationalism.

"As this future unfolds, many of you will be busy establishing your careers, chasing promotions, and building families. I urge you, in the midst of these concerns, to remain engaged citizens of a changing world. What you contribute to the society will be your true mark on the world, not what you have achieved for yourselves," he added.

He said education is not just about achieving academic excellence but rather about broadening our perspective.

"Higher education should increase our freedom to lead a life of value. Only when we have the courage to look beyond our self-interest, we can begin to realise the true potential of that freedom," Sir Abed mentioned.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid,



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed addressing as the convocation speaker.

**Use eco-friendly materials in construction work**

**Roundtable told**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the Bangladeshi construction companies to use eco-friendly ingredients to minimise environmental hazard.

The roundtable was organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with Crown Cement, and Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI) at the newspaper's office in the capital.

The companies may use environment-friendly raw materials, for instance, cement-made blocks instead of burnt bricks, as brick production causes environmental pollution, said noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, also vice-chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific.

HBRI Director Mohammad Abu Sadeque said the cement-made bricks are more eco-friendly and sustainable than burnt bricks;

so the latter should be replaced by the former to save the environment.

AKM Abul Kalam, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, observed that the neighbourhood of buildings also should be made environment-friendly, not focusing on construction materials only.

Along with urban areas, he said, emphasis has to be given on the construction work in rural areas as many buildings are being built there nowadays.

Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Toufiq M Seraj, managing director of Sheltech (Pvt) Ltd; Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufique, director of Urban Development Directorate; Mobasher Hossain, former president of Bangladesh Engineers Institute; Ainul Farhad, additional chief engineer of Public Works Department; and Engr Shah Alam, a technical adviser to Crown Cement, spoke.

**NEWS IN brief**

**Kamrun Nahar first-ever female PIO**

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Begum Kamrun Nahar as the country's first-ever female principal information officer (PIO).

An officer of BCS 1984 regular batch, Nahar joined office at Press Information Department (PID) yesterday as her predecessor Dr Mohammad Jahangir Hossain went on retirement the same day, said a handout.

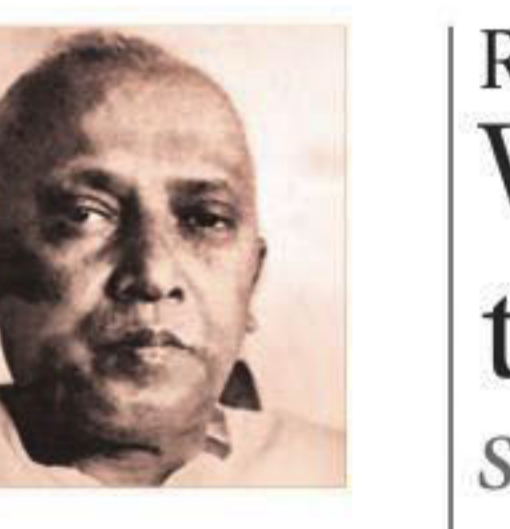
**Noor-E-Alam Chy made ALPP secy**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Awami League law-maker Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury has been nominated as the secretary of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night directed the officials concerned at the parliament to issue an official order on his new responsibility, AL sources told The Daily Star.

Alam, also known as Liton Chowdhury, is a cousin of the PM.



**Abdus Salam's 40th anniversary of death today**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Today is the 40th death anniversary of eminent journalist Abdus Salam, former editor of the now defunct English daily The Bangladesh Observer.

On this occasion, his family members will arrange a milad mahfil at Mohammadpur residence after Maghrib prayer, and Sangbadik Abdus Salam Smriti Sangsad -- an organisation commemorating Salam -- will pay a visit to his grave at Banani graveyard in the capital at 10:00am and arrange a milad mahfil there.

The family members and the Smriti Sangsad officials requested all to join the functions and pray for salvation of his departed soul, said a press release.

Besides, it will also organise a commemorating meeting at Jatiya Press Club at 3:00pm on February 25.

Salam, also founding director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), was awarded Ekushey Padak for his contribution to journalism.

**RULES FOR LOWER COURT JUDGES Why govt seeks time to issue gazette?**

**SC asks AG; wants explanation today**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court yesterday wanted to know specifically why the government has sought more time from this court to issue a gazette notification on the rules determining discipline and conduct of lower court judges.

The Appellate Division of the SC asked the attorney general to inform it today about the reasons behind seeking time, as the government had earlier sought time for this purpose on a few occasions.

An eight-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order following a petition moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam seeking two weeks' time for the issuance of the gazette.

The apex court was dealing with the Masdar Hossain case, known as judiciary separation case.

During the proceedings, the SC said there is no conflict between the judiciary and administration and the judiciary does not want to create any confrontational situation.

On February 5, the SC directed the government to publish by yesterday a gazette notification on the rules.

The lower judiciary was officially separated in November 2007 but the disciplinary rules for lower court judges are yet to be finalised.

The government had drafted the rules and sent those to the SC for its opinion. The court revised the draft rules in the light of the 1999 verdict in the separation of the judiciary case.

**AAA goes on cruise**

**CITY DESK**

The American Alumni Association (AAA) went on a daylong river cruise in the Shitalakkhya on Friday, says a press release.

AAA President Syed Almas Kabir, Secretary Intiaj Rasul, Treasurer Shafiu Alam Talukder, Executive member Ashik Imran Khan and AAA members and guests enjoyed the cruise.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presents a medal to a graduate of Independent University, Bangladesh on the occasion of IUB's 18th convocation on its campus in Dhaka yesterday.

**সকল নাগরিক সুযোগ-সুবিধাসহ আবাসিক বাড়ি, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, স্কুল ও কলেজ করার উৎকৃষ্ট অবস্থানে একত্রে প্রায় ১৫ বিঘা একটি প্লট এবং ১২, ১৩ ও ৫০ কাঠার ৩টি প্লট বিক্রয় হবে।**

**আগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণ কেবল মাত্র নিম্নের ই-মেইল এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করুন।** [rpcpltd@gmail.com](mailto:rpcpltd@gmail.com)