

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.0 L 16.0	H 29.0 L 14.3	H 30.2 L 18.0	H 29.1 L 15.7	H 30.6 L 13.0	H 28.7 L 13.4	H 31.0 L 15.6	H 30.7 L 15.0	H 30.0 L 18.3

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05am.

Home economics college students' demand protested at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

The demand for recognising the College of Home Economics as an institute of Dhaka University is illogical, termed DU students yesterday.

To protest the demand, they staged a sit-in near the vice chancellor's residence and demonstrated at his office.

Earlier, over 500 DU students brought out a procession on the campus.

They placed a five-point demand, including stopping the use of DU logo and name by the institutions affiliated with the university, separating convocation for DU students and barring the use of DU logo and monogram in the certificates given by the affiliated institutions like the college.

Jahid Al Asad of the management department read out the demand while demonstrating at the VC's office.

Proctor M Amzad Ali assured the students of meeting their demands.

The students, however, threatened to go on a strike if their demands are not met by Monday.

For the fourth consecutive day, the college students blocked the intersection at Nilkhet to place home their demand, creating traffic gridlock.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the college is already affiliated with Dhaka University and the demand for recognising it as an institute of the university is not "a matter of whim".

The DU has to take a decision in this regard considering all other perspectives, said the minister at a press briefing at his secretariat office.



Dwellers removing remains after a fire gutted around 500 shanties at Korail slum in the capital's Mohakhali area early yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Fire strikes Korail slum, again

Around 500 shanties burnt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 500 shanties were gutted in a fire that broke out at Korail slum in the capital's Mohakhali area early yesterday, within three and a half months after a similar blaze that destroyed some 500 shanties inside the slum.

Yesterday's fire broke out around 2:45am at a part of the slum adjacent to Korail Boubazar, said fire service officials, who were unable to ascertain the reason behind the fire.

"We woke up after hearing screams of fire," said a crying Parveen Begum, a resident. "I along with my husband and three children somehow managed to get out of our house."

This time, the fire engulfed the remaining section of the slum that

survived the December 4 fire close to Boubazar, said the frantic dwellers.

The slum residents claimed that the number of the shanties gutted in the fire will be more than 500.

"We do not have any idea where or how the fire originated," said Hashem Hawladar, another resident, adding, "Suddenly large flames started engulfing the shanties."

"Lack of access to the slum was a foremost barrier," said Md Miron Miah, warehouse inspector of Baridhara fire station. He said they were also joined by firefighting units from Tejgaon and other stations.

Eighteen firefighting units brought the blaze under control around 7:15am, said an official of Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters.

A probe body to find out the cause behind the fire and estimate the loss has been formed, said Maj AKM Shakil Newaz, director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

"We are preparing a list of the victims," said Mofizur Rahman, local ward councillor.

On December 4 last year, some 526 shanties were destroyed in a similar fire that engulfed a section of Korail Boubazar slum and rendered about 2,000 people homeless.

Less than a month into the fire, the homeless people got their houses rebuilt with the help of Dhaka North City Corporation, Brac, United Nations Development Programme, EXIM Bank and some other non-government organisations.

SHERPUR 'RAZAKAR' ICT asks for investigation report May 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

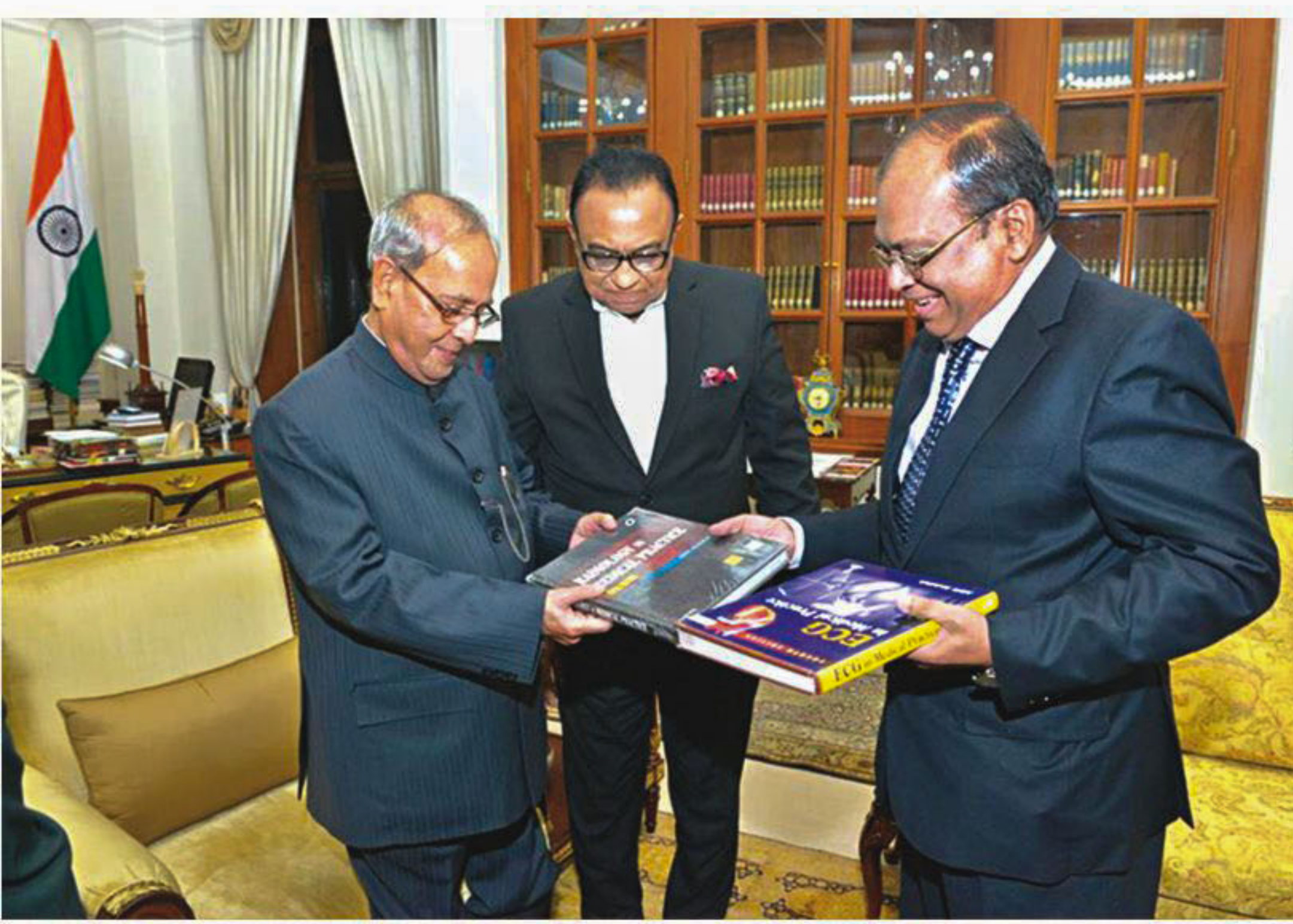
The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit investigation report, if have any, on May 22 against SM Aminuzzaman Faruk, an alleged Razakar from Sherpur, for allegedly committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yesterday, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman submitted a progress report on the investigation and sought three months time to complete it. The tribunal allowed her prayer.

Aminuzzaman of Eshibpur village under Nokla upazila in the district was arrested on August 22 last year hours after the tribunal issued an arrest warrant against him following a prosecution petition.

According to the prosecution, late Shamsuzzaman, father of Aminuzzaman, was the convener of Nokla Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, and Aminuzzaman was a member of local Razakar Bahini, one of the auxiliary forces of Pakistani army in 1971.

Probe in the case began on November 19, 2015 and investigation officer claimed to have found his involvement in wartime offences, the prosecution said.



Prof ABM Abdullah, dean of the faculty of medicine at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, hands over seven books on medical science written by him to Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan recently. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Govt to ask Facebook to open separate desk for Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will ask the Facebook authorities to open a separate desk for Bangladesh to stop the spread of "offensive and objectionable content" in the country, said State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tarana Halim yesterday.

She said they will sit with the social media giant on March 30 in Singapore where she will raise the issue.

As part of the preparation, Tarana had a discussion with senior officials of the home ministry and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, and police officials at her secretariat office.

"A separate desk needs to be opened by Facebook for Bangladesh where our government can lodge complaints and they can take quick measures in this regard," said Tarana after the meeting. Currently, it takes 48 hours for the social media authorities to respond to complaints. On December 8, 2015, the government also sat with Facebook executives in Dhaka and expressed concerns about the negative impacts of the social media platform.

NEWSIN brief

1,646 walkie-talkies on illegal sale seized in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rab yesterday recovered 1,646 walkie-talkies, worth Tk 2.5 crore, from three markets in Dhaka and fined seven shops Tk 19.75 lakh for importing and selling those without government approval.

The court led by Executive Magistrate Md Sarwoer Alam also jailed three persons of a shop for six months for illegally selling electronic items used for downlinking satellite pay channels, says a Rab release.

The three persons are Abu Sayeed, owner of Sayem Enterprise at Stadium Market, and Md Rubel and Abu Zafar, two employees of the shop.

Sarwoer said one must take approval from the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission to use a walkie-talkie, and this gadget could not be sold in the open market. "Criminals use such illegal walkie-talkies to identify themselves as law enforcers and commit crimes."

Dhaka reaffirms commitment to fight human trafficking

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh reaffirmed its commitment to work in combating human trafficking and further strengthening the UN's coordinated response and action against trafficking, slavery, and forced labour.

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN, stated this while addressing the Security Council's Open High Level Debate on "Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situation: Forced Labour, Slavery and other Similar Practices" in New York Wednesday.

Govt wants to use extremism for political interest: Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government wants to use the issue of extremism to serve its political purpose, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir claimed yesterday.

He was talking to reporters after placing a wreath at the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman, in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Fakhru alleged that in most cases, suspected extremists, who were arrested, were killed without producing them before court. "Therefore mystery about extremism remains."

Science festival begins at St Joseph

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day science festival opened at St Joseph Higher Secondary School in the capital yesterday, with a view to engaging students with science related activities.

Scintilla Science Club of the school hosts the 61st fair on its campus, with the theme, "Digital World for Humanity."

The festival features innovative projects, photography, wall magazines, poster and scrap book display, and a robot exhibition.

Nargis Islam Nazma passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nargis Islam Nazma, founding member of Mother Teresa Memorial Society Bangladesh, died at Dhaka's Labaid Hospital Tuesday, aged 66.

She left behind her husband Nurul Islam FCA, two daughters, a son and four grandchildren, said a press release.

She was buried in Azimpur new graveyard.

Finding home after a life

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trained them for three years, and gave land (with areas ranging from three to eight decimals). They received the land documents at AVA Centre of Khulna city yesterday.

Some of the rehabilitated sex workers now run beauty salons or tailoring shops, and some are employed in CSS.

Mark Munshi, executive director of CSS; Nazmul Ashan, deputy commissioner of Khulna; Sheikh Harun Rashid, chairman of Khulna Zilla Parishad; Talukder Abdul Khalek, MP of Bagerhat-3; Mizanur Rahman Mizan, MP, Khulna-2, and Moniruzzaman Moni, mayor of Khulna city, were present at the programme among others.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY DC office staff suspended over erroneous letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The deputy commissioner of Rajshahi yesterday suspended a staff after an official letter typed by her mentioned Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birthday as "National Mourning Day" instead of "National Children's Day".

Office Assistant-cum-Computer Operator Khadizatul Kobra typed the letter which was signed by Assistant Commissioner Roktim Chowdhury on March 8, said Mohammad Salauddin, additional deputy commissioner (general).

The incident will be investigated whether it was done intentionally or mistakenly, he said.

Dewan Md Shahriar Feroz, deputy director of Local Government Division, was asked to probe into it and report within five days, he added. When asked why Roktim Chowdhury was not suspended, he said they will look into it after investigation.

Meanwhile, the letter was sent to BTB sub-station in Rajshahi to telecast special programmes on the occasion. Later, the corrected version of the letter was sent to the sub-station, said Salauddin.

Change patriarchal mindset to ensure human dignity

Suggests DIU, Mattra, MJF seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday underscored the need for bringing change in patriarchal mindset to ensure equal dignity of both men and women.

They made the observation at a seminar titled "Equality through dignity" organised by Daffodil International University (DIU) in association with Mattra, and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) on the university's Sobhanbag campus in the capital, marking International Women's Day.

Professor Golam Mowla Choudhury, proctor of DIU, said, "We should consider every person as a human being and stop making distinction between men and women."

Choudhury suggested that women should be vocal to ensure their rights.

Referring to the younger generation, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said, "You're the driving force of the society. If you

become aware of women rights, equal dignity of women will be established."

Regarding the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, she said, "A destructive act has been formulated with a special provision which cannot be acceptable in any way."

Anam also responded to queries of the students.

She said the quota system for women at the job sector is necessary until a level playing field for both male and female is established.

"Once we reach the level playing field, the quota system won't be needed..." said Anam.

DIU Vice Chancellor Professor Yousuf Mahbubul Islam asked the students to show respect to the household jobs done by women.

Social science faculty Dean Prof AMM Hamidur Rahman and senior researcher of MJF Banasree Mitra Niyogi also addressed the seminar, among others.



Speakers at a seminar titled "Equality through dignity" organised by Daffodil International University in association with Mattra, and Manusher Jonno Foundation on the university's Sobhanbag campus in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR