

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.8   L 27.2	H 33.5   L 23.5	H 32.7   L 26.0	H 30.0   L 20.0	H 37.7   L 26.5	H 35.2   L 26.4	H 35.4   L 27.2	H 34.0   L 27.0	H 32.0   L 26.6

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Mymensingh & Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:26pm and rises tomorrow at 5:26am. Country's highest temperature 37.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 20.0 degree in Sylhet.

## Education for all a top priority: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said ensuring education for all is the government's top priority as it is the main tool for building a poverty-free nation. "Education for all is of utmost importance...to build a hunger- and poverty-free nation. Without modern and competitive education, a nation can't survive in the global arena," she said.

She said this at a ceremony marking the handover of SSC and equivalent examination results at her office.

She also thanked the education ministry for introducing a new system under which answer scripts are checked by third examiners for the proper evaluation of the performance of candidates.

"The decision to introduce the new system was a very timely one as the proper evaluation of candidates is very important, and the pass rate has declined slightly for that," she said.

Putting emphasis on science-based education, Hasina said the government has introduced multimedia classrooms in 23,500 schools, while computer labs are being set up in different schools.

Hasina said the government will set up residential schools and colleges in char, haor and hilly areas so that students could attend classes regularly.

At the ceremony, she greeted successful students for their results and advised those who could not succeed not to be frustrated.

Later, the PM exchanged views with students and teachers of Sherpur and Sathkhira districts through a videoconference.

PMO Secretary Suraiya Begum, Education Secretary Sohrab Hossain, Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim and chairmen of the 10 education boards were present.

## A DAY TO REMEMBER



**Clockwise from top left, Jubilant students of Sylhet Bluebird School and College yesterday celebrate the passing of their first major public exam -- the SSC. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives the results of SSC and equivalent examinations held in 2017 from Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at her office. A student of Ideal School and College in Motijheel of Dhaka embraces a fellow. Successful students gather for pictures at their schools -- Holy Cross Girls' High School in Dhaka, Govt PN Girls' High School in Rajshahi and Chittagong Collegiate School.**

PHOTO: STAR, PID

## 12 independent MPs may join AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After being assured of getting nomination for the next parliamentary election from the Awami League, around a dozen independent lawmakers are going to join the party.

The decision was made at a meeting between the independent MPs and AL general secretary Obaidul Quader on Wednesday night at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, according to sources.

The independent MPs are Yussuf Abdullah Harun of Comilla-3, Razeeq Mohammad Kakrul of Comilla-4, Abul Kalam Azad of Gaibandha-4, Kamrul Ashraf Khan of Narasingdi-2, Shirajul Islam Mollah of Narasingdi-3, Salim Uddin Tarafder of Naogaon-3, Mokbul Hossain of Meherpur-2, Rezaul Haque Chowdhury of Kushtia-1, Tahjib Alam Siddique of Jhenidah-2, Shawpan Bhattacharjee of Jessore-5, Haji Mohammad Salim of Dhaka-7, and Abdul Matin of Moulvibazar-2.

## Digital media can be game changer

Speakers tell Commonwealth Journalists Association discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Digital media have the potential to emerge as a democratic public sphere, provided the new media platform ensures credibility and trust in disseminating authentic news, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

As the society's dependence on technology is increasing, the phenomenon is leading the mainstream media to new challenges. Therefore, proper leadership is needed to cope with the transformation, they said.

They made the remarks at the Indo-Bangla discussion on "Digital

Media: Threats and Prospects" organised by the Bangladesh chapter of UK-based Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Jatiya Press Club, marking World Press Freedom Day.

Jayanta Roy Chowdhury, a senior editor of India-based The Telegraph, said the ruling Bharatiya Janata

Party had used the digital platform during Uttar Pradesh elections, enabling them secure a landslide victory.

Social media like Facebook may play a vital role in Indian national polls in 2019, he opined.

Regarding information surfaced online, he said the mainstream media will have to verify and crosscheck the information before publishing.

Speaking as chief guest, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said youths in Bangladesh are relying more on digital platform, which could be a challenge for the mainstream media to keep their readership without being digitised.

CJA Global President Mahendra Ved said the access to information is much easier these days, thanks to internet.

But it remains a challenge to remain authentic and credible on digital platform, he added.

Former journalist of the Times of India Kingshuk Nag, CJA President Emeritus Hassan Shahriar, Jatiya Press Club President Shafiqur Rahman, Daily Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Qayyum and IT expert Mostafa Jabbar, among others, spoke.

The Daily Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutt moderated the discussion.



**Speakers at the Indo-Bangla discussion on "Digital Media: Threats and Prospects" organised by the Bangladesh chapter of Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) at Jatiya Press Club yesterday marking World Press Freedom Day.**

PHOTO: STAR

## No distance

FROM PAGE 3

between the government and the judiciary. Such a misunderstanding sends a wrong message to the people".

He also said the government took three very important decisions regarding the judiciary a few days ago, but the chief justice, as the guardian of the judiciary, was not kept in the loop.

In the programme, the law minister urged the lions club members to stand beside the helpless people of the country.

Lions AKM Rezaul Haque, Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed and Sheikh Kabir Hossain, among others, were present in the programme, with Lion Kalpona Raziuddin in the chair.

## 'Raped', she now fears for her life

FROM PAGE 4

They took her to Rakib's house where Midul raped her again.

Later, on February 20, they came to her house and picked her up. She was confined to an unknown place for three days.

Midul also threatened to expose some of her pictures he had in his possession. She also alleged that Midul and Roni earlier took hefty amount of money from her.

She also claimed OC Aminul Islam of Joydebpur Police Station at first did not want to file a case, but later filed the case on April 27, accusing eight persons after being instructed by the superintendent of police in Gazipur.

"The OC termed me a bad girl," she claimed. "Police are now forcing my family to withdraw Rakib Sarker's name from the case and settle the issue outside."

Asked, the OC denied her claim and said he did not even meet her directly.

Frightened, she is now staying outside her house. She alleged that police went to her house on Wednesday night and threatened her parents to tell her to come to the police station.

Contacted, Abul Kashem, an inspector of the police station, and also the case's investigation officer, said the allegations against them were false. He said he went to the woman's house as he needed information about the case. "We have already arrested Midul in this connection and looking for the others," the IO said.

"There are also allegations of harassment against her," he said.

This correspondent could not get in touch with the woman despite repeated attempts as her phone was found switched off.

Contacted, Rakib Sarker, also an accused in

the case, said, "She called me on my phone for my help to resolve the issue. Since it was a personal matter I tried to solve it by arranging a discussion between the woman and Midul."

"But the allegation against me that I'm pressuring the woman to settle the issue is false."

Rakib also alleged that it might be a "political game" by his opponents to tarnish his image.

Contacted, Touhidul Islam Dip, secretary of Gazipur city BCL unit, confirmed the identities of the BCL activists and leaders.

"We have decided to form a three-member committee to look into the issue." He said if found guilty, organisational action will be taken against the accused, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

The woman's father and brothers refused to make any comment regarding the issue.

## NEWS IN brief

### Meeting of ALPP to be held on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Sunday.

The meeting will be held at 7:30pm with Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina in the chair, said a party press release of the parliament secretariat.

ALPP Secretary Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury requested all AL MPs to attend the meeting on time.

### Orientation programme of 323 IDB-BISEW IT scholarship recipients held

CITY DESK

Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wafk (IDB-BISEW) yesterday organised an orientation programme for 323 trainees who received IDB-BISEW IT scholarship.

IDB-BISEW -- a joint initiative of Bangladesh and IDB, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia -- undertakes different educational projects in Bangladesh. Under this scholarship project participants undergo a yearlong training leading to a professional diploma in an IT discipline.

Syed Mokammel Hossain, principal consultant of the project; Zahid-Al-Mahadi, programme coordinator; and Anayeture Rahaman, programme officer (IT) of IDB-BISEW; were present at the event held at IDB-BISEW auditorium.

### BCL activities

FROM PAGE 3  
The injured received primary treatment at CU medical centre.

Contacted, Inspector Akhtaruzzaman, in-charge of CU police outpost, said additional police were deployed to avoid any untoward incident.

Terming it a misunderstanding among junior BCL men, the CU unit president and secretary claimed that they have settled the matter.

Meanwhile, police conducted a raid at six dormitories of the university, arrested an outsider and seized 35 machetes.

**Finished Apartments at BASHUNDHARA**

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