

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.5 L 28.8	H 34.5 L 27.5	H 33.0 L 25.8	H 34.8 L 26.8	H 34.5 L 27.8	H 33.4 L 25.2	H 35.0 L 26.5	H 34.5 L 27.4	H 32.5 L 23.4

Light to moderate rain /thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi, divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:52pm and rises tomorrow at 05:48am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

## BCL men 'beat' Dhaka shop owner, staffer

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League men have allegedly beaten a trader and his employee and demanded extortion money in Chankarpool area after taking the staffer hostage at a Dhaka University dormitory. Al Amin is the owner of Bonophul Sweets and Bakery while Gias Uddin manager. Witnesses said Ariful Islam Jisun, deputy secretary of science and technology affairs of BCL central unit, and SM Rakib, organising secretary of DU's Fazlul Haque Hall unit, entered the bakery with cigarettes in their hands on Saturday. "We requested them to smoke outside as the shop is air-conditioned," said Al Amin. Rakib called some fellow activists from the dormitory, said Al Amin. They beat the duo with sticks and took Gias to the hall, he alleged. Later, the BCL men demanded Tk 1 lakh for freeing Gias, he further alleged. Al Amin said he offered Tk 15,000 to them but the BCL men refused to take it. The BCL leaders freed them in the evening after the incident came to light. DU Proctor Prof M Amzad Ali said they have asked the dormitory authorities to identify those involved in the incident. BCL Central President Saiful Rahman Shohag, however, said a misunderstanding took place between the shop owner and BCL leaders. "The students had an altercation with shop's staffers when the former suggested them increasing food quality."



An almost voter-less centre in Shikalbaha area after pro-BNP candidates boycotted Karnaphuli Upazila Parishad polls in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## KARNAPHULI UPAZILA IN CTG Pro-BNP candidates boycott polls

ARUN BIKASH DEY, CIG

Alleging that the ruling Awami League men occupied polling centres, pro-BNP candidates boycotted Chittagong's Karnaphuli Upazila Parishad election that was held yesterday. The aspirants declared the boycott at a press conference at chairman candidate SM Forkan's Shikalbaha house two-and-a-half hours after the voting had started. Many voters alleged that they could not cast their ballots due to such untoward incidents. Moreover, voting was suspended for around an hour at Purba Shalmirpur Government Primary School as AL men tried to occupy the polling centre, said locals. Presiding Officer Abu Syed Tareq said some polling agents and outsiders tried to create an untoward situation. "So, I halted voting for around an hour." Ruhul Amin, general secretary of pro-BNP Shikalbaha Shaheed Zia Smriti Parishad, said some 20 AL activists attacked him and vandalised their camp near AJ Chowdhury College polling centre around 9:00am. He was talking to The Daily Star while lying on a bed in a clinic. At the press conference, BNP-backed chairman, vice chairman and female vice chairman candidates alleged that most of their polling agents were driven out by the ruling party men.

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# Long wait for justice

Hearing on Felani murder case Oct 25 at Indian Supreme Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some wounds never heal. It has been more than six years since Nurul Islam had to witness the most brutal incident in front of his own eyes -- his daughter being shot dead. Felani Khatun was only 15. Nurul has been reliving the horror ever since. On January 7, 2011, on her way home from India with her father, Felani was shot by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) while crossing the border as her clothes got stuck in the barbed-wire fence at Aanatapur border point in Phulbari upazila, Kurigram. The photo of her body hanging from the top of the fence triggered a global outcry and renewed the call for an end to border killings. "I want justice..." said Nurul. The



resident of Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila was speaking at a press conference yesterday. The hearing on Felani murder case will be held on October 25 at Indian Supreme Court. Nurul demanded that both the India

and Bangladesh governments ensure justice for his daughter by handing down capital punishment to the alleged shooter --- Amiya Ghosh, a BSF constable, --- and punishing the other culprits. Amiya faced two phases of trial in a BSF internal court. In both cases, he was acquitted. "Amiya Ghosh killed my daughter in front of me. I could not save her..." said an emotion-choked Nurul. "It has been six long years; we are still awaiting justice." The conference was organised by Nagarik Parishad, a civic platform, in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Speaking at the conference, Mohammad Shamsuddin, its convener, said, "They [Felani and her father] were innocent and unarmed, but the BSF killed her in the name of security threat."

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## Woman killed, 2 children hurt in Badda fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died and her two children were critically injured as a fire broke out at a house in the capital's Badda early yesterday. The deceased is Jesmin, 38, wife of an expat, while the injured are Amanullah, 11, and Sanjida, 8, said Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station. The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit at a furniture shop on the ground floor of the two-storey tin-shed building at Boithakhali around 4:00am, suspected Farhad Hossain, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters.

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## Land surveyor entrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a surveyor at Rugganj upazila land office in his office while he was taking bribe from a land owner. The arrestee is Abdul Halim. According to the case statement, a case was filed with Rugganj Land Office against the land owner, Saiful Islam, on August 8, 2016 in connection with a dispute over a piece of land that he bought from one Rafiqul. Assistant Commissioner (land) of Rugganj assigned Halim to investigate the matter. But during inspection, Halim first realised Tk 10,000 from Saiful and later, blackmailed the land owner into agreeing to pay him Tk 1 lakh more in bribe by threatening to make a report that would be against him. On September 14, Saiful gave him Tk 30,000 more but this time he informed ACC about the incident and set the surveyor up. Yesterday, he went to pay him Tk 60,000 more and took ACC officials along. During yesterday's search, ACC also recovered Tk 2.1 lakh from Halim's cabinet in the office room. Halim could not describe the source of the money.

## Reckless driving warrants stricter punishment

Public works minister tells Ctg workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Punishment for reckless driving has to be increased for putting an end to frequent road accidents, said Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain yesterday. "The existing law provides for one or two years' imprisonment for the accused in case of any death triggered by accident. It should be increased so that drivers become cautious," he said. The minister was addressing a workshop titled, "Visioning Workshop" organised by the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) under Chittagong Strategic Urban Transport Master Plan at a hotel in the port city.

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# Eight months needed to deliver pledges

Ctg mayor says in open letter to residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In an open letter to residents living within Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), its Mayor, AJM Nasir Uddin, said the pledges he had made during the mayoral election would be implemented by the next eight months. He has been working relentlessly to hold to his commitment, Nasir said in the letter issued on Saturday night, adding that even "though it's quite late for fund crisis, implementation of my electoral pledges will be visible by the next eight months." Despite all limitations, he would keep his promise and deliver a green and clean city before the city dwellers. Mentioning his successes, the mayor said he already brought down unauthorised billboards from the city and freed several key sidewalks from the grip of street ven-



dors. "From now on, the hawkers will do business in designated areas from 5:00pm till 10:00pm everyday..." Regarding the city roads damaged by incessant rain, Nasir assured the city dwellers of repair work within the next 15 days if it does not rain during this time. The mayor also said the CCC has decided to widen the airport road into a four-lane one and a private firm is currently preparing its design. He expects the design work to be completed by the first week of December this year. Alleging that a vested quarter has been spreading confusion over the issue of holding tax, Nasir said the tax had been fixed as per the official gazette of the government and it is not set by the mayor. Any aggrieved holding tax payer can file an appeal, the mayor said in the open letter.



Guests at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day long workshop titled "International Conference of Disaster Risk Mitigation 2017" organised by Buet-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention & Urban Safety (Buet-JIDPUS) and Department of Civil Engineering, Buet, on Saturday at the university's Council Bhaban, says a press release. The programme was chaired by Prof Dr Saiful Islam, vice-chancellor of Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology). Prof Dr Gower Rizvi, prime minister's international affairs advisor, and chief of Governance Innovation Unit (GIU), delivered his speech as chief guest. Prof Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice-chancellor, University of Asia Pacific and former professor of Buet, delivered the keynote speech. Hitoshi Ara, senior representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), Bangladesh, spoke as special guest. Conference Chair Dr Ahsan Kabir and Conference Co-Chair Dr Tamed M Al-Hussaini, also professor of civil engineering, Buet, also spoke on the occasion.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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