

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

<b>DHAKA</b> H 25.3 L 15.6	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 23.7 L 15.7	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 28.2 L 16.5	<b>SYLHET</b> H 25.2 L 15.9	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 24.0 L 13.2	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 24.0 L 15.8	<b>KHULNA</b> H 25.4 L 14.2	<b>BARISAL</b> H 26.7 L 14.0	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 28.5 L 17.2
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till this morning, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.

## Physically challenged girl 'raped' in Savar

UNB, Savar  
Police arrested a man yesterday for allegedly violating a physically challenged minor girl at Nagar Konda Jamaddarpara.

The arrestee Majibar Rahman, 35, from Jamaddarpara is a tea-stall owner.

Majibar allegedly raped the 11-year-old girl at her home while she was alone, said Sub-inspector (SI) of Savar Model Police Station Nurul Huda.

Locals notified the woman parishad chairman who called in police.

The law enforcers arrested the man and produced him before a court seeking a five-day remand, the SI added.

The girl was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for medical test.



Guests and speakers at a seminar on "violence against women and girls with disabilities and the challenges they face in getting justice" in Abdur Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium of Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday. From left, Ahsan Habib Palash, Shaheen Anam, Kazi Rozi, MA Mannan, Atiar Rahman, Mahua Pal, Farjana Nazneen Tultul, Nasima Akter, Farida Yeasmin, Ashrafunnahar Mishty, and Khushi Kabir.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Approve projects for Rohingyas within 24hrs

UNB, Dhaka  
NGOs (non-government organisations) running Rohingya relief programmes in Cox's Bazar have urged the government to give approval to all pending and new relief projects within 24 hours.

The NGOs have not got any fresh project, cleared by the government authorities, over the past one month, alleged their leaders at a press briefing at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Local, national and international organisations have been implementing Rohingya relief projects since last August taking approval from the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), but suddenly in the second week of November the government gave instruction to acquire no objection security clearance from the Public Safety Department of the home affairs ministry, they added.

However, international NGOs have to collect such "no objection" certificate both from the foreign affairs, and home ministries, they said.

The NGO leaders also claimed that they had not got "no objection" clearance against their projects since mid-November.

If the projects are not cleared soon, all NGO relief works will be stopped and around three to four thousands local workers involved in relief activities will not get their salaries, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Abused while they need protection

Seminar on women, girls with disabilities and justice told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women and girls with disabilities are most vulnerable to physical and mental abuse, rape, and social injustice but they hardly see any remedy thanks to a lack of information, sensitivity to their needs, and implementation of laws.

Speakers said this during a seminar organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), National Council of Disabled Women, and National Grassroots Disability Organisation at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning, was the chief guest of the event, presided over by MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam.

The keynote speaker, Nazma Ara Begum Popy, said the government and society had done little to improve the lives of the women and girls with hearing, speech, visual or other impairments, while women in general had seen a transformation in their social status over the last four decades since independence.

At the insistence of the disabled, parliament passed the Protection of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 but it is yet to be implemented, she said.

The National Forum of Organisations

Working with the Disabled and the National Council of Disabled Women have long been conducting surveys on human rights violation of the disabled with help from MJF. They observed that in most cases disabled women and girls fell prey to torture, abuse and even murder following rape.

Law enforcers are not sensitised to the sufferings and problems disabled women and girls face in their legal battle.

**AHSAN HABIB PALASH**  
Special Superintendent of the Police Bureau of Investigation

Such victims and their families find many obstacles while seeking justice -- from trying to file a case, submitting testimonies, overcoming public prosecutors' callousness to carrying the financial burden of running a case for a long time, Popy said.

None of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, Legal Aid Services Act 2000, and Children Act 2013 has any provision to ensure protection of the disabled girls and women, which is why they find it difficult to continue their legal battle for justice, she said.

Against this backdrop, Popy, herself a visually-impaired person, said many lost hope and stopped fighting the battle.

The authorities tied to the legal system -- police, administration or the judiciary -- lack knowledge about the special needs of the disabled while government service providers like victim support centres, safe homes do not feel encouraged to extend support to disabled women, said the keynote speaker. The special needs girls do not even have access to free education, she added.

Ahsan Habib Palash, special superintendent of the Police Bureau of Investigation, at the programme, expressed his sadness that law enforcers had not been sensitised to the sufferings and problems disabled women and girls faced in their legal battle.

Referring to interviews with 300 disabled SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



## Dr Mahfuzur Rahman passes away in NY

CITY DESK

Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, a regular contributor to The Daily Star, has passed away recently in New York, says a press release.

He authored several books including "Exports of Manufactures from Developing Countries", "Flowers of Bengal" (first of its kind on flowers in Bangladesh), "World Economic Issues at the SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## Identifying sources of fake currency top priority

Indo-Bangla meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India yesterday pledged to attach top priority to identify the sources of fake currency notes and take effective measures against its producers and distributors.

Law enforcers of both the countries took the decision on the first day of a three-day meeting of joint taskforce at the Police Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

They decided to share real-time intelligence on active fake currency note operatives, work experience and training to combat the crime.

Around 26 officials of both the countries took part in the fourth round of the meeting.

Rowshan Ara Begum, deputy inspector general (crime management) of PHQ, led the Bangladesh delegation while Shri Anil Shukla, IGP of NIA, headed the Indian one.

Mokhlesur Rahman, additional inspector general of Bangladesh police, inaugurated the meeting.

An official at the PHQ, requesting anonymity, said the meeting decisions included monitoring suspicious bank transactions in the bordering areas.

## DU registrar office staff 'assault' journo

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some of the staff of Dhaka University (DU) registrar office allegedly assaulted the campus correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq yesterday.

Kabirul Islam Kanon, also a third-year student of mass communication and journalism department, later made a written complaint to Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman.

According to it, he went to the building in the morning to verify an allegation against the officials of coming late to work.

He said while he was filming the empty office rooms around 11:00am, a group of staff attacked him. The office hour starts at 9:00am.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## HC summons Bhurungamari AC land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the assistant commissioner (land) of Bhurungamari upazila in Kurigram to appear before it on December 27, for punishing a senior lawyer over a trifling matter while the latter was conducting a mobile court as an executive magistrate in Dinajpur.

Biroda Rani Roy, the AC (land) of Bhurungamari, will have to appear before the HC bench of Justice Md Habibur Gani and Justice KM Kamrul Kader to explain her role.

Advocate Nirod Bihari Roy, 60, a member of Dinajpur Bar Association, Tk 500 and ordered that in default to pay the fine Nirod has to suffer in jail for one day.

There was an argument between Nirod and Biroda over sitting at the office of the latter during hearing a local case. At that time, Biroda was the AC-land in Birganj upazila.

Biroda was reportedly later transferred to Bhurungamari on the demand from Dinajpur lawyers.

A report was published in different SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Craftsman Rabiul Islam has been doing good business as contestants of Rangpur City Corporation have been making orders for electoral symbols at his shop in Tin Matha area of Rangpur city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: OFFICE OF HONORARY CONSUL OF PORTUGAL IN BANGLADESH

Dignitaries hold newly reprinted copies of "Bengali to Portuguese Thesaurus" during a programme, "Winter Meet & Greet", held at a hotel in the capital on Friday. It was arranged to introduce the reprinted Bengali thesaurus, which was first published 300 years ago. The official launching of the book will be held during the next year's book fair.

From Left, Joao Tabajara de Oliveira Junior, Brazilian ambassador in Dhaka; oao da Camara, Portuguese ambassador in New Delhi; Shakhawat Hossain, honorary consul of Portugal in Bangladesh; Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, and Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere, Dutch ambassador in Dhaka.

## Japan to recruit trained workers soon

Says expat minister

BSS, Dhaka

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday said trained workers would be sent to Japan soon, opening up scopes for Bangladeshi workers.

"Japan has showed interest in recruiting skilled workers from Bangladesh and a MoU will be signed between Bangladesh and Japan within a few days," the minister told a press conference at the ministry's conference room on the eve of International Migrants Day 2017 to be observed today.

A permanent Japanese language training centre was also inaugurated at the ministry. Nurul Islam said some 9.73 lakh

Bangladeshi workers including some 1.18 lakh female workers got employment opportunities in various countries this year.

The minister said training is being imparted to the aspirant overseas job seekers of 22 out of 42 districts. Such training would also be expanded soon to 20 other districts.

He also said his ministry has taken elaborate programmes to celebrate this year's International Migrants Day.

Rallies and discussions would be held in every district marking the day.

A programme is scheduled to be held at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in the morning today.

## EC not to hold any questionable election

Says EC Kabita

UNB, Panchagarh

Election Commissioner Kabita Khanam yesterday said the present Election Commission does not want to hold any questionable election.

"No anomaly will be allowed in Boda municipal election on December 28. Along with law enforcers, executive magistrates are also conducting mobile courts to check on the anomalies in the polls," she said.

The Election Commissioner made the remark while addressing a SEE PAGE 4 COL 7