

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 26.1 L 15.8	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 26.5 L 16.0	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 26.7 L 17.4	<b>SYLHET</b> H 28.6 L 16.3	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 24.7 L 14.4	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 27.0 L 15.0	<b>KHULNA</b> H 24.0 L 15.0	<b>BARISAL</b> H 26.8 L 14.0	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 29.0 L 18.3
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight till this morning and it may continue till noon at places, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:17pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am.

**Obituary**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Asaduzzaman Siddique, a Supreme Court lawyer and secretary of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), died yesterday at a hospital in the capital. He was 55. He left behind his wife, son and daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death, said HRPB President Advocate Manzill Murshid.



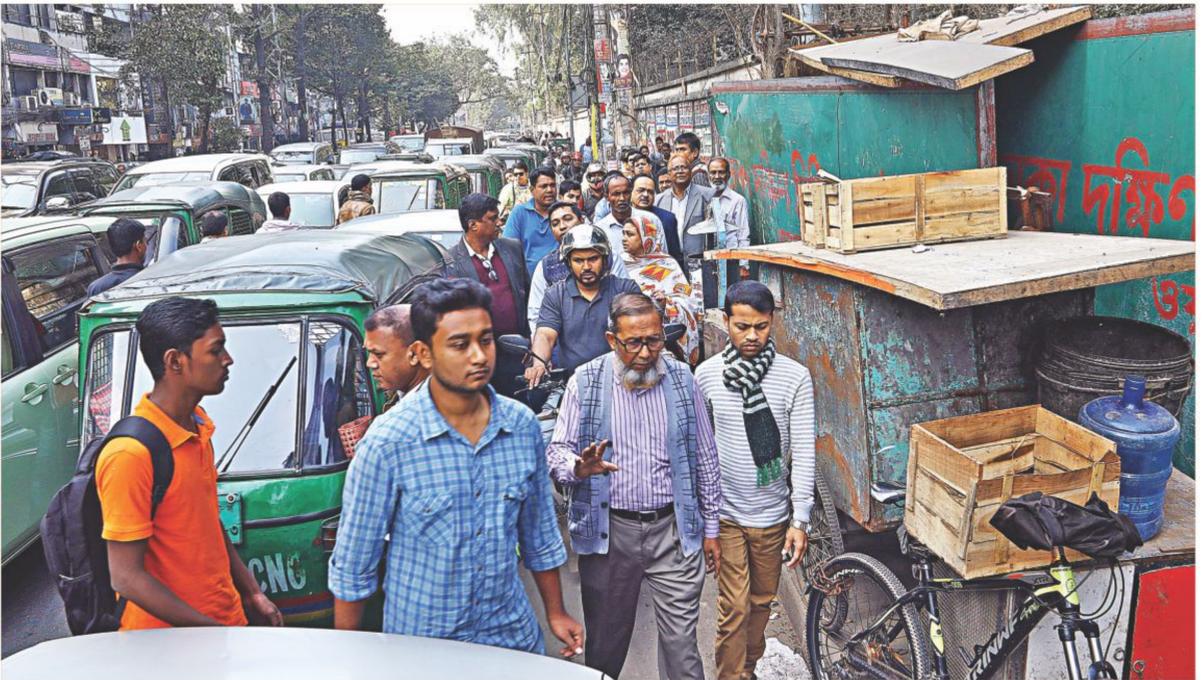
**Qulkhwani**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Qulkhwani of Ashraf Jahan Begum, wife of late FKMA Baqui, first comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh, will be held today after Maghrib prayers at her Dhanmondi residence in the capital. Ashraf Jahan, a former senior teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School, died on Saturday. She was 91, says a press release. She left behind three daughters and five grandchildren. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are invited to attend the qulkhwani and pray for her departed soul.



**Death anniversary**  
CITY DESK

Today is the eighth death anniversary of eminent businessman and sports coordinator Rafique Ahmed. He passed away on this day in 2009. He left behind his wife and two sons. On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held after the Juma prayers at his residence, said a press release. His relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



**WHO CARES...** This photo of pedestrians walking along the road was taken yesterday near the entrance of Govt Science Laboratory on New Elephant road in the capital. Unlike in many cases, these people are not jaywalking wilfully. Rather, they are forced to do so as Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) -- the provider of civic amenities to the city's residents -- under Ward 18 has put up steel fences around a portion of the sidewalk. This area is being used for multiple purposes -- dumping garbage, parking garbage collection vans, storing and parking belongings and bicycles of DSCC employees. This careless act is not only emitting foul odour, but also putting peoples' lives in danger and contributing to worsen traffic congestion.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Noncompliant pvt universities to face music: Nahid**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Despite putting a continuous pressure, the government finds it hard to keep some private universities on the right track, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid. "They [these universities] did not leave any choice but to take legal action against them," he said while addressing the 5th convocation of Dhaka International University (DIU) at the Krishibid Institute Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. He said the universities that did not move to permanent campuses and are still continuing academic activities in many campuses cannot run like this for long. The minister's remarks came against the backdrop of the repeated failure of some of the private universities to shift to their permanent campuses. The Private University Act-2010 makes it compulsory for a private

**5TH CONVOCATION OF DHAKA INT'L UNIVERSITY**

university to have a permanent campus within seven years of launching. Soon after the passage of the act in 2010, the education ministry insisted the authorities of the private universities to move to their permanent campuses. It has so far given four deadlines to the universities and the last one ended on January 31. Regarding the universities' non-compliance with campus relocation, the ministry warned them of cancelling the temporary approval they received from the government and directed them to stop admitting new students. But, still a number of universities have not moved to their campuses completely. Presiding over yesterday's convocation, Nahid urged all the entrepreneurs of private universities to give up profit-

making mentality. He also called for the private university authorities to set all expenses including admission and tuition fees considering people's socio-economic condition. A total of 1,611 students received degrees at the convocation. Two students received Chancellor's Award while seven received Vice-Chancellor's Award and three received Dean's Award for their outstanding results. Congratulating the graduates, the minister said, "You are the lighthouse of the society. The less fortunate and underprivileged sections of the society look up to you. Do enlighten them." Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, delivered the convocation speech while Dr S Quadir Patwari, chairman of the university's trustee board, and Prof Dr KM Mohsin, vice-chancellor of the university, also spoke.

**2 patrol vessels join Coast Guard fleet**

STAR REPORT  
Two Italy-made offshore patrol vessels, which were renamed by Bangladesh Coast Guard as CGS Mansoor Ali and CGS Kamruzzaman, reached the Mongla Port yesterday. Both the ships were handed over to Coast Guard in October this year, says a press release of Bangladesh Coast Guard, which purchased the ships in March 2016. Coast Guard bought two more similar vessels last year. Coast Guard believes the vessels will empower it and expedite its operational capacity. Commander AHM Shamim told The Daily Star last night that the four vessels were purchased at a cost of around Tk 1,000 crore.

**NEWS IN brief**

**Job confirmed for 69 asstt judges**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification confirming appointment of 69 judicial officials for the post of assistant judge. President Abdul Hamid has approved the confirmation of their jobs in consultation with the Supreme Court. The judicial officials had joined as judicial and metropolitan magistrates and assistant judges on different dates in between 2013 and 2015. According to the gazette notification, the jobs of the 69 assistant judges have been confirmed from the dates they have joined their posts as judicial and metropolitan magistrates and assistant judges.

**Menon criticises Trump decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel capital**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party President and Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon at a discussion yesterday criticised the US President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Workers Party organised the discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Menon also expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine. Head of Mission of Palestinian embassy in Dhaka Yousef SY Ramadan was also present.

**Workplace stress impedes productivity: Experts**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harassment, bullying and negative milieu at workplace contribute to anxiety, stress and depression among employees, resulting in interruption in productivity, said experts yesterday. Due to anxiety and depression at workplace, the world loses around US \$1 trillion every year, they told a workshop titled, "Stress Management and Staff Wellbeing", at IEDCR conference hall in the capital, said a press release. Organised by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Action Against Hunger (ACF), it was chaired by Rezaul Karim Shamim, DGHS programme manager of non-communicable disease control, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research. Steve Williams, ACF deputy country director, and Dr MM Jalal Uddin, associate professor of National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital, were present.

**WVA Meena Bazar tomorrow**  
CITY DESK

WVA Annual Meena Bazar will be held tomorrow at Banani Chairman Bari field (road-1) in the capital from 10:00am to 7:00pm. To raise funds for charitable projects, WVA (Women's Voluntary Association) has been holding the annual fair since 1954, said a press release. Entry cards will be available at WVA office [house 405/A, road-27 (old), Dhanmondi] and at the entrance gate on the day of the event.

Billions of Christians around the world will celebrate Christmas on December 25. Hotels in Chittagong city are also busy decorating for the occasion. The photo of a staffer organising presents beneath a Christmas tree was taken yesterday at Radisson Blu Chittagong Bay View hotel in the city.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

**Religion for individuals, festivals for all**  
Says PM ahead of Christmas  
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation from all, irrespective of religions, casts and creeds, in making Bangladesh a more prosperous country. "This is our country, this country is for the people of all religions, casts and creeds...We want to make the country more developed and prosperous. I want cooperation from all of you," she said. The prime minister made the remarks while exchanging greetings with Christian community members at Gano Bhaban, marking the Christmas Day to be celebrated on December 25. She said Bangladesh is a country of non-communal spirit and it belongs to all as people from all casts and creeds and religions fought to liberate it in 1971. "That's why all can independently perform the rituals of their respective religions."

"Religion is for individuals while festivals for all," said the prime minister adding that the government ensured equal rights of all religious communities to celebrate various religious and national day programmes. "We all participate in any festival. We want to maintain this spirit to be upheld in the future," she said. Hasina greeted members of the Christian community on the eve of Christmas Day and wished them a happy and prosperous life. Speaking as special guest, Country's top religious leader of the Christian community

**LAND PROPERTY 'One in 7 people faces hassles'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Lack of implementation of laws, information deficit, and faulty land surveys are some of the major challenges preventing delivery of proper land related services to people. Also, lengthy processes in service delivery and lack of transparency in financial transaction hinder service. As a result, the government's initiatives to modernise the land management system are failing to bring expected benefits to the general public. Speakers made these observations at a seminar on land services at Brac Centre in the capital yesterday, says a press release. They said one in every seven people in the country faced hassles dealing with their land property. State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, the chief guest, said, "Once we complete a digital land survey, it will alone reduce a lot of complications and land cases." The seminar was moderated by Brac's Advocacy for Social Change programme director KAM Morshed, while Chairman of Land Reform Board Mahfuzur Rahman, Director (admin) of Department of Land Record and Survey Matin-ul-Hoque, Director (survey) Shamsul Alam, and Associate Director of Human Rights and Legal Aid Services of Brac Syeda Farisa Kabir spoke, among others.

The Daily Star | Celebrating Life Gala 2017 | Standard Chartered

**CELEBRATING LIFE GALA 2017**

Keep your eyes on **Channel i Today**

22 December, Friday, 2017  
Time: 5:30PM

Partners: Snowbiz, Channel i, আনন্দধারা

Our Assurance on Quality | on Price | on Service

**ASSURANCE DEVELOPMENTS**  
WE CARE ...

**SEE YOU AT REHAB WINTER FAIR 2017**

Stall : CS -16  
Venue : Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC)

21st - 25th December

ASSURANCE Tower, 65/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213. ☎ +88 09-606-222-444  
info@assurance.com.bd

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