

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 26.1 L 15.5	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 24.5 L 12.5	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 26.0 L 13.4	<b>SYLHET</b> H 25.5 L 14.8	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 24.7 L 08.1	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 23.5 L 11.0	<b>KHULNA</b> H 25.2 L 11.5	<b>BARISAL</b> H 26.5 L 11.2	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 27.8 L 15.0
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, the Met office said. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am.** Highest and lowest temperature recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:



**Martuza made Chief Information Commissioner**  
BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed Martuza Ahmed, a former information secretary, as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC). President Abdul Hamid made the appointment as per Article 15 (1) of the Right to Information Act-2009. The Ministry of Information has issued a gazette in this regard yesterday. Martuza, a career civil servant, replaced Prof M Golam Rahman. The newly appointed CIC joined his new office yesterday, received by Information Commissioners -- Nepal Chandra Sarker and Prof Dr Khurshida Begum Sayeed.



The second span (superstructure) of the Padma Bridge at the bridge construction site at Kumarbhog in Munshiganj recently. It will be on its way to the Jajira point in Shariatpur today and installed by this month. The first span was put up in September last year. With a total of 41 such spans, the two-level bridge will carry a four-lane highway on the upper level and a single track railway on the lower level.

PHOTO: STAR



**Zia's birth anniversary today**  
UNB, Dhaka

Today is the 82nd birth anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP. On this day in 1936, Zia was born at Bagbari under Gabtoli upazila of Bogra. To observe the day, BNP and its associate organisations have chalked out a weeklong programme across the country. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders and activists will place wreaths at the grave of Ziaur Rahman at 10:00am today. The party flag will be hoisted at the BNP offices across the country. Doctors' Association of Bangladesh will arrange a daylong free medical camp at BNP's Nayapaltan central office. On the occasion, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir issued a message.



**Dr AA Ziauddin Ahmad passes away**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr Abu Abdullah Ziauddin Ahmad, a well-known physicist and former chairman of the Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (Sparso), passed away last night at a local hospital. He was 79. He left behind his wife, a daughter, and a son. His namaz-e-janaza would be held at Eidgah Masjid, Road no. 6A, Dhanmondi in the capital, after Juma prayers today. Ziauddin Ahmad recently retired as chairperson of Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Brac University. He earned his bachelor

**ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS**

**Guarantee security of life before repatriation**

*Demand Rohingya communities from around world*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Rohingya communities from across the globe have demanded that the Rohingya refugees sheltering in Bangladesh be guaranteed security of life and property and peaceful coexistence as equals with all other people in Myanmar before they are repatriated. "There is no change of attitude of the Myanmar government and its military towards Rohingya; still they identify Rohingya as recent 'Bengali interlopers' from Bangladesh," they said in a joint statement issued January 17. Rohingyas continue entering Bangladesh due to continuing violence and brutality against them in Rakhine, says the statement that comes a day after Myanmar and Bangladesh signed terms of reference of physical arrangement in Nay Pyi Taw, on January 16. Earlier on November 23, the two countries signed a repatriation deal amid global outcry against military crackdown on the Rohingya in Rakhine that forced over 655,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh since August 25 last year.

**OIC support expected**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi**  
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali has hoped that the OIC foreign ministers at their meeting to be held in Dhaka in May would mount fresh pressure on Myanmar to take back Rohingya refugees. He also hoped that the refugees' safe resettlement would be ensured with dignity in their homeland. Mahmood Ali was attending a dinner hosted by Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali in honour of New Delhi-based ambassadors of OIC member-countries at the High Commissioner's Maitree Hall in India on Wednesday. The foreign minister appreciated the support the OIC countries extended to Bangladesh in coping with the influx of tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees.

**Dhaka wants peaceful solution: PM**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh seeks a peaceful solution to the Rohingya crisis. "Bangladesh and Myanmar have already signed an agreement for the repatriation of Rohingyas. As a next door neighbor, Bangladesh always wants a peaceful solution to the problem," she said. The premier said this when Director General and CEO of Opec Fund for International Development (OFID) Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish met her at her office. PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting. He said Suleiman praised the prime minister for giving shelter to the refugees saying she has accomplished a humanitarian obligation by doing so. He also enquired about the progress of Rohingya repatriation. Suleiman said Opec wants to explore new areas of cooperation with Bangladesh. "Bangladesh is a major partner of Opec and has a good relationship [with Opec] for the last 32 years. Now we want to explore new areas of cooperation with Bangladesh," he said. Ihsanul Karim said the premier and the OFID DG discussed issues related to mutual interests, particularly the energy issues and the ways to eradicate energy poverty. The OFID DG informed the prime minister that about 1.3 billion people in the world are deprived of electricity. Opec gives priority to water and food as well as energy, he said. Referring to the discussion with the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, the OPEC DG said he

**HC stays DSCC councillor polls**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The High Court yesterday stayed for four months the process of holding elections to the 18 councillors' posts in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). The polls to these posts were slated for February 26, according to the schedule issued by the Election Commission (EC) on January 9. Eighteen general wards and six reserved wards for women were included in DSCC in July last year. Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Faruque also issued two separate rules on EC and the government questioning the legality of the schedule issued by the EC for holding the polls. The bench issued the order and rules following two writ petitions filed by Joyal Abedin, chairman of Demra union, and a voter Mozammel Mia, challenging the legality of the election timetable.

**Provide Tk 99cr to Moon Cinema owner in compensation**

*SC directs Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust disposing of a contempt of court petition*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Supreme Court yesterday directed the Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust (Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust) to give Tk 99.21 crore to the owner of the then Moon Cinema Hall in Waizghat area of Old Dhaka by July 30. The cinema hall issues involve a case regarding the constitution's fifth amendment which had legitimised the then governments of Khandker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadaat Mohammad Sayem and General Ziaur Rahman. Bangladesh Italian Marble Works Ltd (BIMWL), a private company, the owner of the cinema hall, will get the money (Tk 99.21 crore) in three installments following the apex court's order, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star. A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who is performing functions of the chief justice, passed the order after disposing of a contempt of court petition filed by Maqsudul Alam, managing director of BIMWL. He filed the petition in January, 2013 saying that the officials concerned of the government and Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust have not taken any step to hand over the ownership of the then Moon Cinema Hall to the company although the apex court had directed for doing so. Ownership of all properties of Moon Cinema Hall was handed over to Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust as an abandoned property during the martial law regime between August 15, 1975 and April 9, 1979 when a ban was imposed saying that the legality of the government's decision to declare any property abandoned cannot be challenged before any court. The High Court in August 2005 lifted the ban through scrapping the fifth amendment of the constitution. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld the HC order. Delivering a verdict on the case against the fifth amendment, the apex court on May 11, 2011 directed the authorities concerned of government to return the properties of

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