

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.0 L 17.5	H 31.1 L 17.0	H 33.0 L 19.9	H 32.9 L 17.8	H 32.2 L 14.4	H 31.0 L 17.0	H 32.2 L 16.8	H 32.5 L 15.7	H 34.3 L 22.3

Weather may remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:05pm and rises tomorrow at 6:13am, Met Office said. Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 13.7 degree in Sreemangal.



PRESS FOR PROGRESS

Clockwise from top left, With a placard asking to stop gender-based violence, Awaj Foundation organises a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, marking International Women's Day. Bangladesh Garment Workers Protection Alliance also holds a rally there for women's rights. IndustriALL Bangladesh Council at a human chain demands the same. Female members of police along with Inspector General Mohammad Javed Patwary bring out a procession from the Police Headquarters marking the day. Teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University celebrate the day on the campus.



PHOTO: STAR

Women's representation in policymaking essential

International Women's Day discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous women's representation in policymaking is essential in order to ensure their rights, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They also said the government has to be more active in ensuring rights of all women and implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.

The rights activists placed 11 points of recommendations including exemplary punishment to perpetrators of rape on women and children, incorporating indigenous women in policymaking and ensuring women's representation in the parliament and local governments based on region.

The discussion was jointly organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network and Hill Women's Federation (HWF), marking the International Women's Day at Liberation War Museum in the capital's Agargaon.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud during the discussion said, "The number of women in different sectors is rising, but such increase will not usher in progress for them unless they can represent in the policymaking levels."

"If the country wants to progress, its focus needs to be on women," he added.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum

Sanjeeb Drong said as opposed to a patriarchal society that tries to dominate women, a maternal society such as the ones in indigenous communities promotes empowerment of women.

The reason for the absence of dowry in maternal societies in indigenous communities is that they practise respecting women in every sphere of their lives.

Dr Zobaiyda Nasreen, an associate professor at Dhaka University, said the CHT Regional Council lacks sufficient representation of women. "It is very important to have women in the policymaking section."

Remembering the history of International Women's Day and the contribution of torchbearers in women's rights movement, Coordinator of Bangladesh Adivasi Nari Network Falguni Tripura said, "Although women have contributed in different arenas of the society, they are still neglected."

Referring to a report prepared by an indigenous rights organisation, Kapaeng Foundation, she said, "In 2016, at least 14 Jummo women and children became victims of rape, 6 suffered attempts of rape, 3 suffered sexual harassment and 1 had been abducted."

Presenting the keynote speech, Falguni

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You inspire me

Rights activists Sultana Kamal tells students at Women's Mathematics Olympiad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Aaiyeesha Mostak, a student of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), became first in the second Women's Mathematics Olympiad 2018 yesterday.

The event was held at Dhaka University (DU). Women's Mathematics Olympiad Committee and AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation jointly organised it marking International Women's Day, hosted by the DU mathematics department.

Human rights activist Sultana Kamal handed over crests and certificates to the 10 winners. "You inspire me. When I see you, I feel that girls in our country have come a long way and they are not being deprived anymore."

About 200 female students from different public and private universities took part in the competition.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Atiur Rahman inaugurated the opening session in the morning. DU Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin, Dean of Science faculty Prof Abdul Aziz and AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation trustee M Nurul Alam were present at the prize giving session.

Students of mathematics department later staged a cultural programme and conducted a presentation session in a bid to encourage girls towards science.

Jailed for life, she gets bail on Women's Day

Staff Correspondent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of International Women's Day yesterday, the High Court granted bail to a 45-year-old woman from Cox's Bazar, who has been in jail for the last 20 years in an abduction case.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why the trial court verdict that convicted and sentenced Monwara Begum alias Khurshida Begum alias Motahera Begum to life imprisonment should not be scrapped.

The bail of Monwara, who is now in Cox's Bazar jail, will continue till disposal of the rule, according to the HC order.

Besides, the HC asked the deputy commissioner and social services officer in Cox's Bazar district to socially rehabilitate Monwara and provide her with necessary facilities, if her relatives are not found after her release from jail.

The court also ordered the officials concerned to send the copy of its order to the secretaries to the prime minister's office and the ministries of law and social welfare.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim gave the order after hearing a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Fazlur Rahman, seeking bail for her.

The court granted the bail to her as yesterday

was International Women's Day and she (Monwara) has been suffering in jail for a long time.

Monwara Begum, wife of one Ismail of Purba Dhechua and daughter of Kadir Hochon in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar, was found guilty by a Cox's Bazar court and sentenced to life-term imprisonment in 2001 in a kidnapping case.

The case was filed after an eight-year-old daughter of one Abul Kalam of Jhilongia area under Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila was abducted by Monwara, on June 13, 1998.

Law enforcers arrested Monwara and rescued the child from near Kamafuli bridge area on June 17 the same year.

Fazlur Rahman's lawyer Advocate Md Shafiullah told The Daily Star that the Cox's Bazar court has convicted and sentenced Monwara to life imprisonment on charge of kidnapping the girl in a bid to traffic her.

Monwara could not move an appeal and engage a lawyer against the verdict and for her release due to a financial crisis, he said.

Advocate Shafiullah also said there is no legal bar to Monwara's release from jail following the HC order.

The lawyer could not specifically say whether she has any near and dear one. The bail petition was filed on her behalf around three months back, he added.

6.6pc women in police force

Says IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of women in police is 11,667 at present, which is 6.66 percent of the total force, said Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday.

"Our female police personnel are showing the highest level of professionalism even in demanding fields such as traffic management," he said.

The IGP was speaking at a police rally held at Police Headquarters in the capital, marking International Women's Day.

"Not just in our country, they are also displaying valour, courage and professionalism in the international sphere such as the UN peacekeeping missions," he added.

A procession was also brought out, which paraded through Doyel Chattar and back to the Police Headquarters.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia was also present.



President Abdul Hamid receives a souvenir at Guwahati's Kamakhya Temple in the Indian state of Assam yesterday. Earlier in the day, the president reached Guwahati on a five-day official visit to attend the founding conference of International Solar Alliance and Solar Summit, jointly hosted by India and France in New Delhi.

ACC to inquire about AL lawmaker's wealth

Staff Correspondent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has initiated separate inquiries against ruling Awami League lawmaker Mizanur Rahman and two former BNP lawmakers Asadul Habib Dulu and Ruhul Kuddus Dulu for allegedly amassing wealth beyond their known source of income.

ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said the commission has taken the decision to inquire into the allegations.

ACC sources said there is an allegation that Mizanur has amassed a huge wealth by trading narcotics.

Allegations run rife that the lawmaker from Khulna also interfered in tender process of Khulna City Corporation and other government offices, and managed contracts for his family members.

BNP leader and former Lalmonirhat lawmaker Asadul had also amassed wealth by rigging tender process and extortion.

On the other hand, ACC received allegations against former lawmaker of Natore, Ruhul Kuddus Dulu, that he had amassed around Tk 500 crore through extortion, trading narcotics and rigging tenders.

In a letter signed by ACC's Director Shafiqul Alam, the ACC asked its officials to initiate inquiries over the allegations.

BACCHU INTERROGATION

The ACC yesterday for the fourth time interrogated former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu in connection with 56 cases filed over embezzling Tk 2,036 crore.

The ACC yesterday interrogated Bacchu from 10:00am to 5:00pm. At one stage, Bacchu fell sick and was given treatment.

After interrogation, when journalists approached him for comments, Bacchu said he did not want to make any comment.

Sources said Bacchu again tried to shift

PHOTO: PID