

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.7 | L 23.3

MYMENSINGH H 33.0 | L 23.4

CHITTAGONG H 33.0 | L 23.9

SYLHET H 30.5 | L 22.5

RAJSHAHI H 35.0 | L 21.5

RANGPUR H 30.5 | L 24.2

KHULNA H 34.5 | L 23.5

BARISAL H 33.2 | L 23.4

COX'S BAZAR H 32.8 | L 26.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers and lightning flashes with temporary gusts and heavy falls may occur at many places over Mymensingh & Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal with moderately heavy to heavy falls and hails at isolated places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB reports quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:30pm and rises on Tuesday at 5:20am.



JUBILATION IN THE AIR

Clockwise from top left, A student of Rajuk Uttara Model College fist bumps a classmate while celebrating their academic excellence in this year's SSC exams yesterday. High achievers of Saint Philip's High School and College in Dinajpur flash victory signs. Two students of Sylhet Bluebird School and College rejoice. A section of GPA-5 winners of cadet colleges at Cadet College Complex in Dhaka Cantonment. A student of Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School in Chittagong captures the joyous occasion in a selfie.

PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED

Pass rate 5-year low in Ctg

7 SSC examinees attempt suicide in Rangpur

Dakhil student kills herself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The success rate in this year's SSC examinations has hit a five-year low in Chittagong. It fell around 8.5 percentage points to 75.5 percent from last year's 83.99 percent. The pass rate was 90.45 percent in 2016, 82.77 in 2015 and 91.4 in 2014.

Md Tawarik Alam, acting exam controller of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education in Chittagong, announced the result yesterday.

He said they found four reasons behind the lower pass rate.

"Rumours of question leak; students' poor performance in math and humanities; poor results of students in three hill districts; and a lack of quality teachers in remote hill areas -- all these had a cumulative effect on the results," he said.

The number of GPA-5 achievers also dropped. This year, 8,094 students got GPA-5 while it was 8,344 last year.

Meanwhile, students expelled for adopting unfair means also rose to 75, highest in the last five years.

According to the board's data, number of educational institutions with cent percent pass rate also dropped. This year, the number stands at 27 compared to last year's 56.

At least 13.5 lakh students appeared at this year's exam from 1,023 schools in Chittagong.

COP, WIFE MURDER

Domestic help Khadiza acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted domestic help Khadiza Akhter Sumi, a co-accused with Oishee Rahman, in the case filed for killing a police inspector and his wife in 2013.

She was made an accused for assisting Oishee in removing the bodies of the couple.

Khadiza was cleared of the charges as the prosecution failed to prove the allegations brought against her, Judge Md Al Mamun of Dhaka Juvenile Court said while passing the order in her presence.

Soon after the verdict, she broke down in tears and expressed satisfaction.

Earlier on April 22, prosecution and defence lawyers completed their arguments. During the trial, the court recorded statements of 23 prosecution witnesses.

On August 16, 2013, Oishee was stabbed dead both of her parents, Mahfuzur Rahman, inspector of Special Branch of Police, and Shapna Rahman in their

Chamelibagh residence in the capital.

Khadiza gave confessional statement before a magistrate on August 24, 2013 and said she saw the killing of the couple by their daughter and assisted her to remove the bodies.

In March 2014, Abul Khayer Matubbar, inspector of Detective Branch of Police and also the case's investigation officer, submitted two charge sheets -- one against Oishee and her two friends and the other against Khadiza.

The juvenile court framed charges against Khadiza on May 20, 2014 and recorded statements of prosecution witnesses.

In 2015, the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 of Dhaka gave death sentence to Oishee. Her friend Mizanur Rahman Roni was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment for giving her shelter. The High Court on June 5 last year commuted Oishee's death sentence to life in jail.

A list of six such incidents was attached with the letter.

Maintain cordial relations with other forces

IGP says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday directed police personnel to maintain friendly relations with members of other forces while discharging their duties.

The directive came from a meeting held at police headquarters, said an official release.

"We have to behave professionally, maintaining mutual respect and friendly relations with members of other law enforcement agencies while performing our duties," the IGP said.

Police personnel should tackle unwarranted incidents with patience and in line with the law, he said, adding otherwise, actions will be taken against them after investigation.

He asked all unit chiefs of police to circulate the directive to officers and other unit members.

The reason of the directive was not mentioned in the press release.

Earlier in 2016, Rapid Action Battalion sent a letter to the home ministry complaining of police excesses against its members, saying the prevailing situation is so tense that it might go out of hand anytime soon.

A list of six such incidents was attached with the letter.

'Don't sign blank cheques'

Says ACC chief, urges women not to aid husbands in corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday warned that those women who assist their husbands in amassing wealth beyond the known source of income or concealing information of wealth, will also have to face punishment for corruption.

"Husbands often keep wealth in the names of their wives to cover up their corruption. I call upon women not to assist their husbands in corrupt activities; otherwise, they will also have to face punishment," he said.

Iqbal said this while addressing a views-exchange meeting titled "Families' liabilities behind illegal wealth and income: Women's role, risk and duty" organised by Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) at its Dhanmondi office in the capital.

TIB presented a work paper in the meeting. As per the paper, ACC is enquiring 118 allegations where it has been found that husbands amassed wealth illegally but kept those in the names of their wives. ACC received those allegations between 2015 and 2017.

The commission is investigating 30 such cases and submitted charge sheets in 14 cases, reads the paper.

In 29 cases between 2007 and 2018, 29 women were sentenced to imprisonment and fined for assisting their husbands in amassing wealth beyond the known source of income or concealing information of wealth, according to the paper.

Iqbal said, in many cases, women do not know that they are becoming victims. Addressing the women, he said, "...Don't sign blank cheques."

Without ensuring freedom for women, development is not possible, he said.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the impact of corruption is high among the weak section of society. From that perspective, its impact is high on women as they are not empowered, he said.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said women should be empowered and given due dignity.

"In our society, women's opinions are not given due importance; that is why, they cannot raise voice against corruption in and outside home," she added.

Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari

Progati Sangha said the society is dominated by men. As a result, women have less scope to make decisions, she said.

Eminent Political Scientist Dr Dilara Choudhury said, "We live in a society where amassing wealth illegally is not considered a crime. Here, corrupt persons are honoured."

Asif Nazrul, a professor of law at the University of Dhaka, said if wives become strict, husbands will not be able to do corruption.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said corruption is ingrained in the society where women easily become victims of corruption.

Referring to the example of micro-credit, she said husbands, brothers and fathers trap rural women in applying for loans.

Later, they misappropriate the funds, leaving the women solely responsible for the loans, she said.

"I request ACC to air advertisements in national radio and television to make women aware of how they become victims of corruption," she added.



Transparency International, Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman speaks at a views-exchange meeting titled "Families' liabilities behind illegal wealth and income: Women's role, risk and duty". TIB organised it at its Dhanmondi office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR