

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.6 L 21.4

MYMENSINGH H 31.0 L 21.8

CHITTAGONG H 32.7 L 21.8

SYLHET H 31.3 L 19.5

RAJSHAHI H 34.6 L 21.3

RANGPUR H 31.0 L 22.5

KHULNA H 34.5 L 21.0

BARISAL H 32.5 L 20.2

COX'S BAZAR H 31.8 L 23.1

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind and lightning flashes is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Mymensingh till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise slightly, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:33pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17am.

# 1,000 private secondary schools to be brought under MPO

## Says finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has said 1,000 private secondary schools will be brought under the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) coverage in the next budget.

Muhith said this on Friday night at a pre-budget live show organised by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and Maasranga Television.

The finance minister said in the last six years no new school has been brought under the MPO. Even then, the number of schools under MPO is currently 27,000.

"During this period, the secondary schools grew like mushrooms, performance of which are worthless," Muhith said.

He also said a fund will be formed, which will be used to improve the quality of the teachers.

Earlier on Wednesday at a pre-budget meeting with Economic Reporters Forum (ERF), Muhith said some more private educational institutions would be brought under the MPO coverage in the next budget with strict conditions, as he criticised the education ministry for not reforming the MPO system.

"I have been trying to recast the MPO system for the last 10 years but my efforts did not see light. The education ministry thinks it is a safe arrangement [the way MPO enlistment is being done] for them," Muhith said.

"I formed a committee which was totally dysfunctional because the education ministry did not cooperate," the minister added.

He said despite resumption of the government's MPO facility, inclusion in the MPO would not be only about salary. A part of the grant would have to be spent on building infrastructure and procuring equipment, he added.

The minister observed that the education ministry's advice would not be taken in this regard and the money to be given under the MPO system would have to be spent as per the finance ministry's guidelines.

Several thousand teachers of non-government institutions, under the banner of different organisations, took to the streets last December and January. They observed programmes like hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club, demanding inclusion in the MPO.

They, however, called off their

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# Abandoned newborn finds a lifeline

## Rescued from dumpster, girl recovers at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newborn girl was rescued from a dumpster in Mohammadpur area of Dhaka yesterday.

Street cleaners spotted the neonate at a dumpster near Janata Housing around 5:30am and informed police, Jamal Uddin Mir, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, told The Daily Star.

On information, a team from the police station rescued her and took her to a nearby clinic, he said.

Later, she was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 2:15pm for better treatment, according to DMCH sources.

The baby, weighing three kilogrammes, is now undergoing treatment at neonatal ward and her condition is stable, DMCH Director Brigadier General AKM Nasiruddin said, adding that the baby was being orally fed.

A cleaner named Fatema was cleaning in Mohammadpur area at dawn when she heard the crying of a baby. She rushed to the spot and saw a newborn girl with umbilical cord still attached. When police came to rescue the newborn, Fatema went to the DMCH with the baby.

OC Jamal Uddin Mir further said they will collect CCTV footage to identify who dumped her into the dustbin. However, no diary or case was filed in connection with the incident.

In association with the Social Service Department and police, the baby will be shifted to "Chhotomoni Nibash", a government-run childcare centre in the capital's Azimpur tomorrow, he added.



The rescued newborn at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Restrain yourselves from excessive private practice

## PM to physicians

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the physicians in public service to restrain from excessive private practice.

"...You need to think how much pressure you can take... it's quite natural to lose temper when you're doing government job all day long and then going for private practice at night," she said.

The prime minister said this while inaugurating the National Institute of Advanced Nursing Education and Research (NIANER), the only institute in

the country set to provide higher education on nursing, in the capital's Mugda area.

"We've raised the salaries and allowances in government jobs... we've increased it by 123 percent," she said.

Hasina, however, said the number of patients in the country, compared to the number of doctors and nurses, is very high.

"I won't blame you (doctors and nurses)... we've got a huge population... you have to take so much pressure... so, it's very tough to control temper," she said.

Hasina said the attitude of

providing services to patients is the key aspect of medical service. "Half the patients feel better when doctors and nurses talk to them politely and with sympathy."

She mentioned that sincerity and responsibility are essential in providing medical services to patients.

The prime minister also pointed out the problems of diagnosis in medical services in Bangladesh and said the incidents of wrong diagnosis are there.

Stressing the importance of

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# ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TUREEN AFROZ

## Nirmul Committee calls for judicial commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekkattor Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday urged the government to form a judicial commission to investigate into the allegations brought against International Crimes Tribunal prosecutor Tureen Afroz.

It also formed a three-member commission with three retired judges of the Supreme Court to look into the incident.

Nirmul Committee, which champions demand for war crimes trial, made the call and formed the commission from a joint meeting of its executive members and advisors yesterday, with its president Shahria Kabir in the chair.

The chief prosecutor's office of International Crimes Tribunal withdrew Tureen from all cases last week and asked her to submit all documents over an alleged meeting

she held secretly with a war crimes accused.

Tureen, who earned much acclaim for her performance in dealing with war crimes cases, denied any wrongdoing and said so far everything she has done at the tribunal, higher authorities were informed.

In a press statement, Nirmul Committee said it has formed a commission as Tureen is an executive member of the organisation, and has conducted important war crimes cases successfully in the last five years.

The members of the commission are: Justice Shamsul Huda AHM, Justice Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Nizamul Haque.

As the allegations against Tureen Afroz are serious and sensitive, the government should form a commission led by an SC judge immediately to uphold the dignity of

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# GAS PRICE HIKE MOVE

## Nat'l Committee to stage demo tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow, protesting the government move to raise gas price and alleged corruption in the energy sector.

Prof Anu Muhammad, the committee's member secretary, announced the programme at a press conference in the capital yesterday.

The committee also placed a four-point demand, including removal of anti-environment industrial units such as Rampal power plant.

# From pavement to a better life

## SAJIDA Foundation lends a hand to disadvantaged mothers

IRIS FARINA

Marketing campaigns have seeped so deep into our lives that we cannot think of anything without the material side. Take Mother's Day, for example. Posh hotels and restaurants are offering special deals on their extravagant menus. Beauty parlours are always ready with their mother-daughter offers exclusively for this day. In fact, the scopes to spend are monumentally increasing each year. Our mothers are proud of whatever we do for them. But there are mothers around us who are not even in a position to raise their children the way they want.

These mothers -- literally down on the pavements with no roof over their heads, exploited or simply on the wrong side of fate -- have faced the unimaginable and lived to tell the tale.

SAJIDA Foundation, a value-driven NGO, has taken a unique initiative to uphold their stories. This Mother's Day,



Momtaj with her son.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SAJIDA is showcasing these stories as "Mothers in the Margins". The initiative narrates the struggles of six mothers who just want their children to live better lives

than them. Momtaj, a 24-year old blind beggar with her three-year-old son, has found new vision in life through SAJIDA Foundation's Pavement Dweller Centres

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# Recognising mothers' contributions to nation-building

## Ratnagarva Ma Awards today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sokhina Khatun never had a chance to avail education, but dreamt that one day her children will pursue higher education. Today, two of her children are PhD holders while another is pursuing a doctorate degree.

Sokhina Khatun is one of the 50 mothers who will be accorded the "Ratnagarva Ma Awards-2017" this year. The annual award celebrating mothers' contributions to their children's success will honour mothers across the country for educating their children and making the country a better place.

Marking Mother's Day, Azad Products (Pvt) Ltd has been organising the event since 2003, said managing director of the company, Abul Kalam Azad at a programme in Azad Centre in the capital's Purana Paltan yesterday.

The programme will be held at the Dhaka Club today where Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, chairman of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro and

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# Ask poor litigants if they need legal aid

## CJ urges district judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday called upon district judges to take prompt measures to help the country's poor and destitute people get justice.

"When the accused persons are taken to court from the police station, ask them whether they are capable of hiring a lawyer. If not, take immediate steps to help them get a lawyer through the (government) legal aid office," he said.

The CJ was addressing a views-exchange meeting in the Supreme Court auditorium.

SC Legal Aid Committee of National Legal Aid Services Organisation (NLASO) and rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) arranged the programme on "Government Legal Service in Higher Court, Expectation of Justice-seekers, and the Role and Doable of Related Persons including Lawyers in Conducting Jail Appeal Cases".

The chief justice said lower courts have to be sincere about settling cases referred through the legal aid office.

He also said he will strongly consider forming a separate, or multiple benches to dispose of jail appeals.

Jail appeals refer to appeals filed by convicted prisoners through the jail authorities.

Jail superintendents, district and sessions judges, legal aid officials

and SC lawyers took part in an open discussion which laid emphasis on government legal aid including difficulties in getting the certified copy of judgement in jail appeals.

The chief justice directed the lower courts to provide the certified copy to the jail authorities sincerely,

while asking the jail authorities to be sincere about the issue.

He also expressed concern over the low conviction rate (only three percent) in the cases filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

He underscored the need for finding out the root causes of this. "Organise a workshop to find out the cause. If necessary, I will attend the programme," he said.

About the conviction rate in rape cases, the CJ said necessary medical test reports in this connection are not sent timely, which creates scopes for acquittal of the accused.

"There will be little scope for acquittal if the medical test report with strong evidence is placed before the court in time," he said.

Referring to statistics, he said 3,00,598 persons were provided legal aid at government expense in the last nine years.

During this time, 80,865 cases related to civil, criminal, and family affairs were disposed of through the district legal aid committees,



Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain speaks at a views exchange meeting in the Supreme Court auditorium yesterday. The discussion was organised by SC Legal Aid Committee of National Legal Aid Services Organisation (NLASO) and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

PHOTO: STAR

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International Healthcare Services at Local Price in Bangladesh  
With 24/7 Emergency & Ambulance Services

Renowned Urologist Dr. Mir Ehteshamul Haque is Now Available for Consultation at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

- Dr. Mir Ehteshamul Haque has got his MBBS from Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital and MS in Urology from IPGMR under Dhaka University.
- He has got fellowship as visiting researcher in Endourology from Japan and overseas training in Endourology from Kunming, China. He was in Sydney, Australia and got advanced training on Pediatric Urology & Uro Oncology.
- He has many publications and presentations and got the best paper award in Asian Congress of Urology, Taiwan 2010, for his paper on "Oral mucous graft Urethroplasty for bulbular urethral stricture"
- Dr. Mir Ehteshamul Haque is profoundly experienced in conducting all types of operations regarding Uro Oncology & Urology.

For Appointment  
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