

WEATHER  
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 26.4 L 16.1	MYMENSINGH H 26.5 L 12.0	CHATTOGRAM H 26.8 L 15.2	SYLHET H 27.4 L 13.9	RAJSHAH H 26.0 L 11.2	RANGPUR H 26.5 L 12.0	KHULNA H 26.2 L 12.5	BARISHAL H 26.5 L 11.6	COX'S BAZAR H 27.3 L 15.5
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country and day temperature may fall slightly. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39am. Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 10.0 degree in Tentulia.

# Army warns against fake web pages in its name

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Army yesterday issued a warning against some web pages using its name, and urged people to be cautious about any propaganda involving the military.

"Efforts are underway to tarnish the image of the military through propagating different campaigns in the name of army and its various agencies through fake web sites, Facebook accounts and YouTube channels," according to an ISPR release.

ISPR also gave a list of its official website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

The original websites and channels of the army are <https://www.army.mil.bd>; <https://joinbangladesharmy.army.mil.bd>; <https://www.facebook.com/bdarmy.army.mil.bd>; and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpks5RjYgiRbxwL9G5tFw>.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with school children after she inaugurated the free distribution of textbooks for the year 2019 at Gono Bhavan yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

# Girls outdo boys in madrasas

Results improve in both Ebtedai, JDC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a downturn last year, students have done better in Ebtedai terminal and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations this year, according to results published yesterday.

Although the pass rate in JDC exams (class-VIII) under the madrasa board increased, the number of GPA 5 achievers came down sharply as the fourth subject was not counted in the grading.

The pass rate of JDC exams rose to 89.04 percent this year from 86.80 percent last year, but the number of GPA 5 scorers dropped more than threefold to 1,987 this year from 7,231 last year.

On the other hand, the pass rate of Ebtedai exams increased to 97.69 percent from 92.94 percent last year. The number of GPA 5 achievers got more than doubled to 12,264 from 5,023 last year.

In both exams, female students fared better. Girls registered a pass rate of 89.79 compared to 88.1 percent for boys. A total of 1,029 girls scored GPA 5, while 958 boys achieved the feat.

This year, 3,82,208 students took part in the JDC exams.

The number of institutions with 100 percent pass rate was 1,727. It was 1,720 last year. The number of institutions with zero pass rate was 23 this year and 25 last year.

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# Will ensure all fundamental rights

B Chy unveils Juktofront manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB)-led alliance, Juktofront, yesterday promised to work for upholding the exercises of democratic values to a large extent in the country, if their candidates win.

"We will ensure all fundamental rights of the people, bring reformation in the Digital Security Act, keep 20 percent seats reserved for women and another 20 percent for experts in the parliament to establish democracy and politics of balance," Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, president of Bikalpa Dhara, said as he unveiled the alliance's 8-point election manifesto at a Dhaka hotel, with less than a week to go for the 11th national election.

He said that the Juktofront has been formed to ensure a better Bangladesh where democracy will be emboldened in all stages and economic development will be the prime goal.

"Rights of people from all communities will be protected without any discrimination," he added.

Badruddoza said that deputy speaker of the parliament will be elected from opposition's representatives and

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# Hopeful of Bangladesh's science Nobel by 2030

Nat'l Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight-year-old Meher Mahmud, the youngest member of the team that participated in the International Robot Olympiad (IRO) in the Philippines, is one of the three Bangladeshi gold medalists.

He, along with his teammates, was attending a reception at Daffodil University auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

The other members of the gold medalist team are Kazi Mostahid Labib and Tafsir Tahrir, class VI students of Chittagong Grammar School (Dhaka). Besides, Nashit Jainah Rahman of Sunbeams School and Mahjabin Purbali of Aga Khan School won "Highly Commended" award.

Meher's team won gold in the 'Challenge' category for building a robotic boat that can measure the quality of sea water by analysing pH and detect underwater objects.

Besides, Md Khairul Islam from Lalbagh Govt Model School and College and Sunny Jubaer from Dhaka College lead 'TEAM BANGLADESH', which won the technical medal under the 'Creative' category.

This year, the IRO was held in the Philippines, from December 15 to 19. Bangladesh was represented at the event for the first time.

Meanwhile, six members of Bangladesh Junior Science Olympiad team -- who won two silver medals and four bronze in the International Junior Science Olympiad held in Botswana from December 2 to 11 -- also attended the same reception.

Imtiaz Tanvir Rahim of Notre Dame College and Abrar Tasneem Abir of St Gregory's High School won silver medals.

Speaking at the programme, National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said,

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# 497 candidates have wealth worth Tk 1cr+

Shujan study finds

PARTICULARS	AL-LED GRAND ALLIANCE	BNP-LED 20-PARTY ALLIANCE, JATIYA OIKYA FRONT	OVERALL
Wealth worth above Tk 1 crore	241	150	497
Candidates with business background	180	184	961
Annual income above Tk 50 lakh	132	56	223
Taxpayers	199	181	710
Graduates	242	230	1,195
Police cases	20	177	313
Women contestants	22	13	66
Religious & ethnic minority contestants	18	13	78

SOURCE: SHUSHASHONER JONNO NAGORIK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 497 candidates in the upcoming national election have wealth over Tk 1 crore, with nearly half of them being nominees of Awami League-led grand alliance.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), an organisation working for good governance, disclosed the statistics at a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

It accumulated information of 1,842 contestants from their affidavits and tax return certificates submitted to the Election Commission. A total of 1,871 contestants are vying for the December 30 polls, it said.

According to Shujan findings, of the 299 grand alliance candidates, 241 possess wealth worth more than Tk one crore.

On the other hand, 150 out of 287 BNP-backed candidates have wealth worth similar amounts. In total, 497 candidates are have assets worth more than Tk one crore.

The findings say 173 candidates are borrowers, of whom 89 took loans over Tk one crore. Among the contestants surveyed, 710 are taxpayers, of whom 199 are from the grand alliance, and 181 from opposition parties.

Of the 1,842 aspirants, annual incomes of 223 are Tk 50 lakh or more, while 951 candidates have annual incomes of Tk five lakh or less.

As many as 961 or 52.17 percent of polls aspirants are businesspersons, Shujan found. Of the candidates with

business background, 184 are contesting with opposition tickets, while the ruling alliance has fielded 180 contestants from the profession.

It said Left Democratic Alliance has fielded 43 candidates with business background, Islami Andolon Bangladesh 123 candidates, and the other political parties 364 candidates. Some 67 independent candidates are also businesspersons.

In terms of educational qualification, 1,195 or 64.87 percent candidates are graduates, including 242 candidates from AL-led alliance and 230 candidates from BNP-led alliance.

When it comes to criminal charges, an overwhelming 177 candidates of the BNP-led alliance are facing police cases at present, of the total of 313.

On the other hand, only 20 AL-led candidates are facing police cases.

Of the opposition candidates, 41 are facing criminal charges under section 302 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said scrutinising wealth statements of candidates is an important task of the Election Commission.

The EC is empowered to cancel candidacy of any aspirant for concealing information in the affidavit and tax return certificate, he said, adding even parliamentary seats of those who will be elected through the polls can be cancelled later.

"Hopefully, the EC will properly scrutinise the information after the election," he added.



BNP leaders assign polling agents for 110 centres in Dhaka-8 where Mirza Abbas faces Awami League-led alliance candidate Rashed Khan Menon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# 'Climate Package' won't benefit Bangladesh

EquityBD reviews 2018 Climate Change Conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recently concluded global climate change conference, COP24, has failed to achieve the major goals in checking climate change causes, like carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, green activists said yesterday.

As a result, the projection of keeping global warming under 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of the century will not be possible, they said at a press conference.

EquityBD, an alliance of non-government organisations, arranged the press conference on "COP24 and its outcome review" at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Expressing frustration over COP24, held in Poland's Katowice from December 2 to 14, they said the conference also failed to protect interests of countries that are extremely vulnerable to climate change, like Bangladesh.

Syed Aminul Hoque, secretariat coordinator of EquityBD, said an agreement called "Katowice Climate Package" was adopted at the conference to implement the Paris Agreement, a framework to combat climate

change, but it will not work effectively in this regard.

"The Climate Package was formulated by avoiding the interests of extremely vulnerable countries. It will only benefit the developed countries that are mostly responsible for climate change," he said in a keynote paper.

Qumrul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh, said the country will now have to be self-reliant to mitigate and adapt to the climate change impacts as the Climate Package will enable developed countries to evade paying compensation.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, chief moderator of EquityBD, said the climate change conference has turned into a platform of "talk shows" which end without any result. Bangladesh and other victims of climate change will have to raise their voices to ensure their own interests, he added.

Md Shamsuddoha, chief executive of Centre for Participatory Research and Development, and Badrul Alam, president of Bangladesh Krishak Federation, also spoke.

# Drug addict kills mother-in-law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A drug addict stabbed his mother-in-law to death and injured his wife following a family quarrel in the capital's Pallabi yesterday, said police.

The accused, Shahin, fled after the killing. He lived with his wife Lucky and three-month-old baby in Barontek Deyalar Mor area. As the couple started quarrelling around 9am yesterday, his mother-in-law Zarina Akter, 40, who lived nearby, came over and intervened. Shahin got angry and stabbed her with a sharp weapon. He also hit Lucky in the head before fleeing the house.

Neighbours took Zarina to Kurmitola General Hospital where doctors pronounced her dead.

Zarina's relative

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# Don't want minorities being used in political blame game

Kajal Debnath says at NHRC roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday alleged that both Awami League and BNP had failed to protect the country's minority communities and to punish the perpetrators involved in attacks on them.

They urged the Election Commission (EC) to form police taskforces and mobile courts at different constituencies to ensure security of minorities ahead of the national election on December 30.

The discussion on "Protection of human rights during election" was organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at its office in the capital's BTMC building.

Speaking at the discussion, Kajal Debnath, presidium member of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad, alleged that many

influential perpetrators from both BNP and AL did not face trial.

"We don't want minorities being used in political blame game any more; it's the state's responsibility to protect them," he said.

Rights activist Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury said that EC should form mobile courts to ensure immediate punishment so that no one incites attacks on minorities, centring the election.

Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, urged the EC to ensure a participatory election where minority communities can cast their votes freely and without fear.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, alleged that properties belonging to minority communities are being grabbed due to the state's negligence.

In his speech, former Justice

Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik criticised the EC's role for allowing Jamaat men -- who opposed the country's independence and were involved in anti-minority violence as well as arson attacks and petrol bomb blasts -- to run in the election.

Speaking as the chair, NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said they had submitted a letter to the chief election commissioner on November 20, demanding a free and fair election by ensuring voting rights of people, security of minority communities and immediate punishment of the perpetrators.

Among others, economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, journalist Shyamal Dutta, Dhaka University's Social Sciences Faculty Dean Sadeka Halim, former justices Momtazuddin and Nizamul Huq, and online activist Kabir Chowdhury Tonmoy were present at the event.