

WEATHER
FORECASTYESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURESDHAKA
H 30.0 L 18.0MYMENSINGH
H 27.2 L 16.5CHATTOGRAM
H 31.0 L 21.7SYLHET
H 29.6 L 17.2RAJSHAHI
H 28.5 L 13.6RANGPUR
H 27.5 L 13.5KHULNA
H 29.4 L 18.2BARISHAL
H 29.6 L 17.6COX'S BAZAR
H 30.3 L 21.5

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may fall slightly. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:05pm and rises tomorrow at 6:14am.



Still deprived of constitutional rights

Speakers say at Women's Day event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women still cannot enjoy their constitutional rights due to the prevailing lack of security in our society, speakers said at a programme in Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday afternoon.

To overcome this obstacle, they urged people from all walks of life and the government to play a positive role.

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 69 organisations -- that work for women, human rights and development -- arranged the event to mark International Women's Day (IWD) 2019.

At the programme, Mahmuda Khanam, technical advisor of Deepto Foundation, read out a 20-point announcement and called for further social and state-level initiatives to protect women from violence.

The points included: removing legal and bureaucratic complexities to ensure justice for victims of gender violence immediately, amendment of the act regarding rape and family law, formation of government fund for rape victims, implementation of all acts to protect women including child marriage restraint act, creating a gender sensitive education system, and stern action to stop drug peddling.

"Torture of women is a violation of human rights. Despite many successes, we have not yet made significant progress in preventing violence against women," said Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP).

Speaking on the occasion, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "We have not seen a single day when women haven't been victims of violence, so we have to think anew to bring changes."

Selina Ahmed, executive director of Acid Survivors

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Clockwise from bottom left, Samajik Protirodh Committee rallies at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar, marking International Women's Day yesterday. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam speaks at the programme. A young girl accompanies her guardian at a human chain formed by Green Bangla Garment Workers Federation in front of Jatiya Press Club. Jatiya Garhasthya Nari Sramik Union organises similar programme at the venue.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, PALASH KHAN



Absence of Ducsu for decades degraded student politics

Academics and former student union leaders weigh in

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and RASHIDUL HASAN

Ahead of the much-anticipated Ducsu polls on March 11, one burning question has been making the rounds.

Will it be meaningful and reinstate Ducsu's vibrant soul that had been the epicentre of many watershed events in the country's history?

Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) acted as a vanguard of students' and people's rights at every crossroad -- from the Language Movement to the Liberation War to the anti-autocracy movement in 1990.

Unfortunately, Ducsu election has not taken place since 1990.

Taking advantage of no accountability, student leaders -- particularly those linked to ruling parties -- kept flexing muscles on campus, ruining the academic experience for general students, former Ducsu leaders said.

Student activists associated with successive ruling parties were also hardly concerned about academic problems such as rising cost of education, non-availability of seats, substandard food at the halls and session jam.

"Absence of election to Ducsu and other student unions for decade

after decade has intensified the degradation of student politics that has a glorious past," Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury told The Daily Star.

He said that elected student unions were concerned with extra-curricular, cultural, sports and creative activities. They were always holding the authorities accountable over students' rights.

"Absence of student unions means absence of these," he added.

"In the past, student politics was aimed at ensuring welfare of students and protecting their rights, and taking to the streets over

national issues. Now student politics is about flexing muscles for personal and party interests," former Ducsu vice president Mahmudur Rahman Manna said.

Academics and former Ducsu leaders observed that student politics has turned violent since 1990 and more importantly, has become subservient to political parties.

As a result, student politics these days is synonymous with violence, extortion, tender manipulation, taking over dormitories and doing the bidding of political parties the student organisations are associated with, they added.

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Abul Mansur Ahmad used writing as weapon for social reform

Speakers tell discussion marking 90 years of the litterateur's satirical book 'Aina'



National Professor Anisuzzaman speaks at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad was a strong critic of religious and social bigotry of both Muslims and Hindus and worked for recognition of identity of the Bangalee Muslims alongside their Hindu counterparts in the context of undivided Bengal, said academics and researchers yesterday.

They were speaking in a seminar organised to commemorate the publication of his most-famous satirical work -- "Aina", written in 1929. Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad organised the event at

Dhaka University's Prof Muzaffar Ahmed auditorium.

"Abul Mansur Ahmad was a keen observer of the Muslim society of the 1920s and '30s and shed light on their prejudice and religious, social backwardness through political writing, especially his satires," said National Professor Anisuzzaman.

"Aina" is an extraordinary book that makes insightful critic of social norms. It shows how religious leaders would exploit the religiosity of ordinary people for

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Resist those who oppose women's education

Dr Anisuzzaman says at programme honouring women changemakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Professor Dr Anisuzzaman yesterday called on to wage a resistance against those who oppose women's education.

"In Bangladesh, the most remarkable phenomenon probably is the progress of women. When this is the case, we've a war pending against those who still think the place of women is home," he said.

The noted educationist and national professor was speaking at the "Nari Sommanona 2019" programme organised by Begum Badrunnesa Ahmed Trust at the capital's International Mother Language

Institute to mark International Women's Day.

Dr Anisuzzaman said from pilot to garment worker, women have earned their rightful place in all spheres. But despite remarkable progress, there is still much to be done.

"There are still people who are against women's education. They suggest not to educate girls beyond class 3-4, saying further education will make women disobedient to their husbands," he said.

Begum Badrunnesa Ahmed Trust felicitated Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Deputy Leader of the

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DU hall provost resigns citing 'disrespect'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The provost of a Dhaka University hall yesterday resigned citing "disrespect" after protests flared over an alleged verbal abuse of a student by his son on campus.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, provost of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall, confirmed that he handed his resignation to the vice chancellor.

Students of the hall demanded resignation of Prof Mizanur as his son "verbally abused" a resident student at the hall's mosque during Juma prayer.

The resident students broke into a protest and confined the provost for two hours. At one stage, they demanded resignation of the provost.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission, resigned, saying he was "disrespected by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists who are candidates of the upcoming hall students' council election".

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman could not be reached despite repeated attempts.

They too want a voice

11 indigenous students vying for Ducsu polls

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Growing up in the hilly areas of Rangamati, Suro Krishna Chakma was always keen on sports. During his school years, he made his way to Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP), and took up boxing.

His dedication and hard work paid off as he eventually won medals both home and abroad. From 2013-14, he won national boxing championship twice. Besides, internationally-acclaimed kickboxer Ali Jacko invited him to London for training.

Suro's passion for sports is not just about the sport itself, but more about the competitive atmosphere and active lifestyle.

The master's student of Dhaka University aspires to improve condition of the university's gymnasium, enhance sporting activities inside halls and put an end to leasing out of playgrounds.

With that in mind, he is running as an independent candidate for the post of sports secretary on Monday's Ducsu



Two indigenous candidates electioneering at Jagannath Hall yesterday.

election.

Like Suro, 11 indigenous students out of 738 candidates are vying for different posts.

In central union polls, five candidates and in hall union polls another six are running for sports and cultural

secretaries, and member posts with an aim to represent their communities and work for betterment of students.

"Enhancing facilities for students with physical disabilities and indigenous students are one of my priorities,"

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Law Reporters Forum gets new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Daily Samak's Wakil Ahmed Hiron was elected president yesterday and Manab Zamin's Nazmul Ahsan Raju general secretary of Law Reporters Forum for 2019-2020.

The election was held during LRF's annual general meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association building in Dhaka.

Other office bearers include Hira Talukder of Somoyer Alo (vice president), Motlu Mallik of Alokito Bangladesh (joint secretary), Fazlul Haque Mridha of Jagone24.com (treasurer), Manzur Hossain of Radio Today (organising secretary), Tanvir Ahmed of Bhorer Kagoj (office secretary), Mahidi Hasan Dalim of risingbd.com (publicity and publication secretary) and Masud-ul Rahman of channel 24 (training and welfare secretary).

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