

WEATHER FORECAST

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:10pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43am.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.1 L 26.0	H 33.0 L 25.4	H 31.9 L 26.0	H 36.5 L 27.2	H 35.5 L 25.7	H 34.0 L 26.5	H 34.5 L 26.2	H 31.5 L 25.6

5 C'nawabganj BNP men picked up by law enforcers

Alleges party spokesman Asaduzzaman; a local AL activist also missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that law enforcers picked up five party men of Chapainawabganj in August and they were not taken to court as of yesterday.

The party demanded a judicial inquiry into the arrests and also a recent shootout in which another BNP activist, Ferdous Hasan of South Keraniganj, was allegedly killed on Sunday.

Gulam Rabbani, Abul Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Apple, and Babu were picked up by police between August 22 and August 30, said BNP spokesman Asaduzzaman Khan Ripon.

The first three were picked up in Rajshahi, Apple in Naogaon, and Babu at the capital's Khilkhet, he told a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

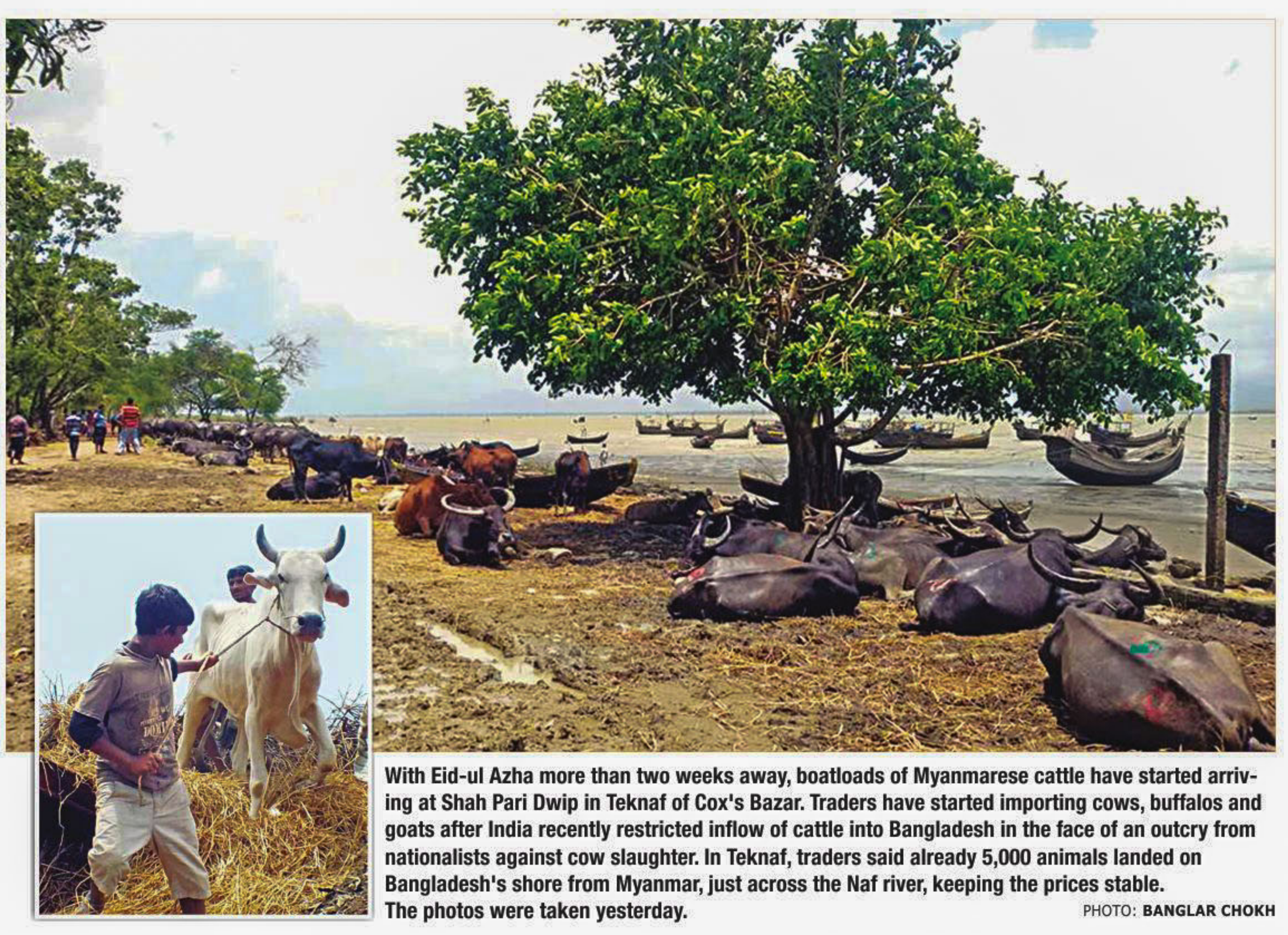
Ripon had initially claimed that six party men were picked up, the sixth being Tutul, but upon an inquiry he later said Tutul was an Awami League supporter of Chapainawabganj and BNP wanted him back too.

Local BNP leaders confirmed to our Chapainawabganj correspondent that some of their leaders were picked up by law enforcers in Dhaka and Rajshahi, but they could not provide the names immediately.

Harunur Rashid, organising secretary of BNP, hailing from Chapainawabganj, said Tutul was an AL man.

However, Officer-in-Charge of Chapainawabganj Sadar Model Police Station Golam Mortuza said they did not pick up any BNP men or have any information that they were detained by law enforcers.

He said a general diary



With Eid-ul Azha more than two weeks away, boatloads of Myanmarese cattle have started arriving at Shah Pari Dwip in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar. Traders have started importing cows, buffaloes and goats after India recently restricted inflow of cattle into Bangladesh in the face of an outcry from nationalists against cow slaughter. In Teknaf, traders said already 5,000 animals landed on Bangladesh's shore from Myanmar, just across the Naf river, keeping the prices stable. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

UNREST AT SUST Teachers' rift widening

Proponents of VC Aminul Haque accuse his opponents of staging protests in pursuit of personal gains; teachers, students, and employees demand probe into death of student Shahriar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The sharp division between teachers of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), created around the protest demanding the vice chancellor's removal, is becoming more prominent day by day with one group accusing the other yesterday of pursuing personal interests.

The proponents of Vice Chancellor Prof Aminul Haque Bhuiyan said the protesters were trying to destabilise the campus after failing to make personal gains.

A group of pro-Awami League teachers, under the banner of Mohan Muktiuddher Chetonay Udbuddho Shikhhak Brindo, have been demanding the VC's resignation since mid-April accusing him of corruption, nepotism, and misbehaviour with colleagues.

Taking a swipe at the protesters, President of Sust Teachers Association Prof Kabir Hossain said the teachers did not stop the movement even after the VC had apologised to them.

"The aim is to destabilise the university after their failure

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BRTA, private bus owners at loggerheads over fare hike

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has proposed increasing bus fare by 10 percent; however, private bus owners in Dhaka and Chittagong cities demanded the fare increase to be double that.

The two parties failed to come to an agreement regarding the fare hike at a meeting at BRTA office yesterday.

A committee headed by the BRTA chairman is likely to sit again within two to three days for further discussion, said BRTA officials and transport operators.

Currently, passengers pay Tk 1.5 (minibus) and Tk 1.6 (bus) for every kilometre they travel in the two cities. If a passenger travels to Pallabi from Sadarghat in a bus, he or she has to pay Tk 28. With a 20 percent increase, the fare would be Tk 34, while a 10 percent increase would increase the fare to Tk 31.

The move to increase bus fares in Dhaka and Chittagong cities came after the government on September 1 increased CNG price from Tk 30 to Tk 35 per cubic metre.

Talking to The Daily Star, over a dozen passengers expressed their frustration over the decision to increase bus fares. "My rent has increased and so has the price of commodities. And now transport fares will increase, but my income has been the same over the years," said Shafiqur Rahman, an employee of a private company, who travels from Sanir Akhra to Banani daily.

Shakila Sarmin, who travels from Asad Gate to Uttara daily, alleged that bus operators never follow the government-set fare rate; rather they always charge higher.

Khandaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity, said, "Under the present socio-economic circumstances, a fare hike is very crucial for transport operators. Without an increase, bus owners will incur huge loss."

As per government rules, a costing committee headed by BRTA's chairman formulates a draft proposal for transport fare hikes after analysing around a dozen issues and criteria related to vehicle procurement, maintenance and others. The committee includes representatives of officials of the road transport and bridges ministry, transport owners and workers. But no representative of passengers is kept in the committee. After drafting a proposal, the committee sends it to the ministry for final approval.

Bus fares in the two cities were last increased in 2011.

Primary school dropout rate stands at 20.09pc

Primary and mass education minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The primary school dropout rate stands at 20.09 percent while the enrollment rate is 97.07 percent, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman informed the House yesterday.

The number of enrolled children is now 1,95,52,979, he added.

Replying to a question of treasury bench lawmaker Mamunur Rashid Kiron, Mostafizur said the pre-schooling system and the midday meal distribution programme have been introduced while new schools are being constructed in villages, which do not have any school, to prevent dropouts.

Answering to a question of Kazi Nabil Ahmed, he said stipends are being provided as well to attract poor students.

Responding to a question about the poor passing rate of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate exam, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid blamed BNP-Jamaat's destructive political activities during the exams.

He also claimed that teachers failed to understand the creative education method which caused the poor results.

Regarding question paper leaks, the minister said they are taking all-out assistance from the law enforcement agencies to prevent it.

Meanwhile Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain informed the House, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, that a total of 4,500 houses were illegally constructed in the capital and the ministry has already demolished the illegal portions of 70.

He said the National Housing Authority did not permit any organisation to construct any housing project filling any canal or water-body but some housing companies by filling low-lying water-bodies are posing threats to water controlling in and around the capital. The government is trying to restrain those companies.

SC clears way for trying Khoka for 'graft'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that cleared the way for a lower court to run the trial proceedings of a corruption case against former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on June 29, 2010, against Khoka and 12 high officials of the then DCC on charges of irregularities in recruiting 49 officials to different posts in the corporation and in promoting its two officials between October 18, 2006 and November 20, 2006.

On May 30, 2012, the HC rejected a petition filed by Khoka challenging the legality of the case proceedings.



Public Administration Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam donating Tk 10,000 for the construction of the Liberation War Museum, received by the museum trustee Dr Sarwal Ali, left, and trustee member-secretary Ziauddin Tariq. The Awami League general secretary, himself a freedom fighter and son of the country's first acting president, Syed Nazrul Islam, is the first minister to make a personal donation, and he urged all AL leaders and activists to donate for the cause, said a press release. The museum recently launched a three-month fundraiser through a symbolic sale of bricks, each for Tk 10,000, that will build the museum at a new site.

HC rejects Falu's petition for permission to go abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a petition filed by BNP leader Mosaddak Ali Falu seeking its directive on the government not to prevent him from going to Thailand for treatment.

The court gave the order considering that the petition was not properly placed before it.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told the court that Falu was not on bail now in two vandalism and arson cases.

"Falu is now a fugitive from justice and therefore, he has no right to move such a petition seeking permission to go abroad", he added.

BAR COUNCIL POLLS RESULTS HC scraps plea for blocking gazette notification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that sought its directive on the chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council not to issue a gazette notification on the results of the council's elections held on August 26.

The HC rejected the petition after hearing arguments from Deputy Attorney General Motafer Hossain Sazu and petitioner Eunos Ali Akond. Sazu opposed the petition saying that the Bar Council has its own tribunal that can

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আবুল মনসুর আহমদের শ্রেষ্ঠ গল্প

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আমাদের পরিবেশক

আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ; প্রথমা (৯৬৬৪৮২৫), পাঠক সমাবেশ (০১৭১৩০৩৪৪০), কাঁটাবন; প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড; সাগর পাবলিশিং (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪), গুলশান; গ্লোরিয়া জিনস কফি (০১৯৭০০০৮৮৮৯), বিমান বন্দর; বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭)। নরসিংদী: বই পুস্তক (০১৮১৮৫০৪৮৯৩), কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৭১১ ৫৭৫৬০৬)। চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩৩০৪৩৪৪), অর্থমা (০১৭১৬৪৯৪২২)

SC orders HC to rehear Huda, Mufti Shahidul's graft charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped the High Court verdicts that had acquitted former BNP minister Nazmul Huda and former Islamic Oikya Jote lawmaker Mufti Shahidul Islam in two corruption cases.

The apex court also asked the HC to rehear their appeals on which it (HC) had acquitted them from the charges.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, passed the orders after hearing two appeals filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the government challenging the HC verdicts.

A Dhaka court on April 3, 2008 sentenced Huda to 12

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