

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.2 L 18.3	H 28.7 L 18.4	H 27.3 L 16.5	H 28.6 L 15.8	H 29.0 L 17.5	H 28.8 L 16.7	H 28.2 L 15.5	H 28.0 L 18.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during early morning. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:22am.

# Atrocities on Rohingyas protested

CITY DESK

Different political, religious and ethnic minority organisations in Bangladesh yesterday condemned the ongoing repression against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state that erupted recently with a series of army raids leaving many dead and seeing hundreds arrested.

In Chittagong city, leaders of Islamism organisation Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh at a gathering at Anderkillah intersection following the Jumma prayers, announced to rally in Cox's Bazar on December 2 to denounce the repression, reports our staff correspondent in Chittagong.

The organisation's Secretary General Junaid Babu Nagari urged the government to put diplomatic pressure on the Myanmar government to immediately stop the assaults.

He also urged the government to open up borders to let in the repressed Muslims for shelter and rights organisations to come forward to protect the victims.

The organisation will submit a memorandum to the Myanmar embassy in Dhaka on December 1.

Following the rally, several hundred Hefazat activists marched towards Jamalkhan intersection.

In the same city, Muktijuddher Bijay Mela Parishad brought out a procession at Laldighi Maidan, while Sammilito Bauddha Nagorik Committee formed a human chain in front of the press club, protesting the attacks and urging to ensure peaceful coexistence of all people in Myanmar.

The Parishad demanded an end to the repression and drew the international community's attention to this issue.

Among others, its chairman ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury joined the procession that paraded through main thoroughfares and ended near Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

In Khulna, holding placards that read "stop genocide of Rohingyas", thousands of people joined a procession brought out by Imam Parishad, an organisation of priests, in Dakbongmor area of the city, adds a correspondent in Khulna.

The demonstrators accused the Myanmar government, its allies, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi of being directly involved in the "genocide".

They also demanded that Suu Kyi's Nobel Prize be withdrawn immediately for her "reluctance to stopping the massacre."

President of the organisation's Khulna unit Md Salha and Mufti Shafiqur Rahaman were present, among others.



People taking to streets in Dhaka protest repression against the country's minorities and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar yesterday. Clockwise, a group of people under the banner of "Protest against Minority Torture in South Asia" at Central Shaheed Minar; a human chain in Khilgaon; people demonstrating with children whose faces are blurred before Jatiya Press Club, and a demonstration being staged by Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. PHOTOS: STAR

# Reckless driving kills 5 near Natore road safety event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Concerned people were forming a human chain demanding safer roads at Lalpur upazila in Natore yesterday morning.

Little did they know, as they were seeking safer roads for all, reckless driving claimed five lives just 750 meters away from the human chain.

A speeding mini-truck hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw from behind while it was trying to overtake it in Dakkhin Lalpur area around 11:30am leaving two people dead on the spot, said Abu Obayed, officer-in-charge of Lalpur Police Station.

Six injured were rushed to Lalpur Upazila Health Complex, where two of them died, he said, adding, the fifth victim died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where the injured were later shifted.

The deceased are Amirul Islam, 55, of Natore; and Dilu Sheikh, 67, his brother Jahurul Sheikh, 55, Abu Taher, 60, and

Mokles Ali, 27, of Sirajganj.

Amirul was the driver of the auto-rickshaw and the four were construction workers, said the OC.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee, he added.

"The government must take strict measures to prevent such accidents," said Majharul Islam Liton, one of the human chain organisers.

Meanwhile, a head-on collision between a truck and a three-wheeler killed one and injured at least two in Ghoga Bottola area on Bogra-Dhaka highway under Sherpur upazila in Bogra yesterday, reports our Bogra correspondent.

The deceased was Abu Tayob, 60, of Aminpur village.

The injured were admitted to a local health complex and the truck fled the scene, said police, adding, a case was filed with Sherpur Police Station.

# ENROLMENT TEST Absentee on DU IER merit list!

DU CORRESPONDENT

An applicant's name was listed on a merit list of a November 18 enrolment test for the Master of Education programme (evening) under the Institute of Education and Research (IER) at Dhaka University even though she did not sit for the test.

The results, published on Tuesday, showed her admit card number against the merit position 41st.

Applicant Pallabi, a teacher of political science at Dhaka College, herself admitted that she applied, but did not appear in the exam because of her illness.

The university authorities, however, termed it a printing mistake, while Pallabi's friends, who attended the test, claimed to have seen another applicant in the seat allocated for Pallabi at the test centre. Invigilators did not take heed of the "anomaly" it despite being informed, Pallabi's brother Bivash Barai quoted her friends as saying.

There might have been fraudulence, Bivash suspected, who informed the authorities of the issue.

IER Director Hosne Ara Begum said, "There was no fraudulence. It was a mistake made by a computer operator."

# BMP urges govt to review draft law allowing girls to tie knot before 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday urged the government to review a draft law on child marriage that fixed 18 years as the minimum age for girls to get married but kept a provision for special circumstances under which girls below the age could tie the knot.

BMP raised the demand at a human chain before Jatiya Press Club as part of a 15-day programme on the prevention of violence against women.

BMP president Ayesha Khanam said women rights bodies on several occasions urged the government not to keep the special circumstance provision, but the government has not taken heed of it.

At the human chain, Ayesha said the intensity of violence and brutality against women went up alarmingly in the last one year.

She added that culture of impunity and delay in the process of trial are the main reasons for violence against women and girls.

According to different media reports published this year, a total of 4,144 women, while 875 were raped. Among the raped, 134 faced gang-rape, says a BMP statement, adding that 31 were killed following rape and 140 faced rape attempts.

# NEWS IN brief

## B Chy suggests BNP meet PM, not president over EC reformation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday advised BNP to talk to the prime minister instead of the president to meet its demand over reformation of the Election Commission.

"I was a president and thus I know presidential power on formation of Election Commission is limited. So you should talk to the prime minister to reach a decision in this regard," Badruddoza said at a discussion marking 40th death anniversary of Maulana Bhashani in the capital.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia recently gave a 13-point proposal for reforming the EC and it already sought appointment of the president twice for talks in this regard.

## Youth talking over phone dies after being hit by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth identified as Salauddin Ahmed, 24, died on the spot after being hit by a speedy train at the capital's Mohakhali rail crossing last night when he was talking over phone, said police.

His body is kept at Dhaka Railway Police Station in Kamalapur.

## Three-day apartment fair held

CITY DESK

Rakeen Development Company (BD) Ltd, a real estate company, organised a three-day apartment fair at its flagship project "Bijoy Rakeen City" in the capital's Mirpur.

Huge number of prospective buyers gathered at the venue and got to know about all the exclusive features of the project. Managing Director SAK Ekramuzzaman, Chief Operating Officer Lt Col Zahurul Islam psc (retd), and General Manager (sales) SM Shakeel Sarwar of the company were present among others.

# Savar youth jailed for stalking girl

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A mobile court sentenced a youth to one year imprisonment for stalking a girl in Savar on Thursday.

The convict Khairul Hasan, 23, of Vatpara in the upazila was sent to jail.

Khairul used to stalk the girl, a student of Savar Model College, on her way to and from college, said Officer-in-Charge of Savar Model Police Station SM Kamruzzaman. After receiving complaint filed by the victim's family police detained Khairul and produced him before the court, said the OC.



President Abdul Hamid delivering speech at "South Asia Judicial Conference on Environment and Climate Change Conference" at the capital's Hotel Radisson yesterday. PHOTO: PID

# Day labourer found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A day labourer was found dead in a crop field in Tanore upazila yesterday.

The body of Shahidul Islam, 35, of Bohroil village, was found beside a deep tube-well, said police.

Police sent the body, which bore several marks of beating, to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for autopsies, they said. Later, following a case filed by her police arrested Habibur Rahman and Rabiul Rahman.

# Santal students seek punishment

FROM PAGE 3

"Grabbers occupied as many as 27 lakh acres of land in the country. But administrations did not bother to reclaim the land," he alleged, lamenting that the Santals continued to be evicted from their forefathers' land.

Accusing local public representatives of being involved in the attacks, Sasu Secretary Samon Michael Murmu alleged, "The Santal community is being deprived of their land rights and their houses were set on fire and many of the Santal families fell prey to brutal oppressions, which are a flagrant violation of human rights."

Different organisations including United People's Democratic Front and Pahari Chhatra Parishad showed solidarity with the protesters.

# Seize illegal

FROM PAGE 3

demands while briefing journalists at the party's Nayapatan central office.

He also demanded army deployment during the election and urged the EC to ensure a neutral administration in Narayanganj by withdrawing the partisan officials from there.

He also criticised the immediate past mayor and ruling Awami League candidate Selina Hayat Ivy as she is against deployment of troops during the polls.

# Govt's strict actions to save

FROM PAGE 3

and Environment department said there is no alternative to protecting the rivers as they are full of resources. "Lack of coordination of the government's projects for rivers brings little results. So, it is urgent to ensure transparency..." she mentioned.

Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolon President Anwar Sadat chaired while its general secretary advocate Anwar Hossain, central leaders and representatives also spoke.

# Prothom Alo engages with

FROM PAGE 3

The editor said people from different parts of the world read Prothom Alo through internet.

He said that they have been already publishing a printed version of the newspaper in Qatar, and will soon publish it in other Arab countries and the US.

Jatiya Press Club General Secretary Kamrul Islam Chowdhury, filmmaker Mostafa Sarwar Faruqui and actress Nusrat Imroz Tisha also participated at the programme.

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