



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.0 L 25.4

MYMENSINGH H 33.0 L 26.0

CHITTAGONG H 32.8 L 26.4

SYLHET H 35.0 L 25.4

RAJSHAHI H 34.2 L 26.6

RANGPUR H 34.0 L 27.4

KHULNA H 33.0 L 27.0

BARISAL H 32.8 L 26.5

COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi & Dhaka divisions in the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:28pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

## Comilla univ teacher files GD over Facebook threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla



Mahbul Huq Bhuiyan, the Comilla University teacher,

who was sent on a month's forced leave from August 17 for "holding classes on National Mourning Day", has filed a general diary against a student of the university over a Facebook post.

The GD was filed against Saad Ibne Saeed, a student of the anthropology department, with Comilla Sadar (South) Police Station around midnight on Friday.

Mahbul, a lecturer and acting chairman of department of mass communication and journalism, said, "On Friday, I noticed that he [Saad] posted a status on his Facebook account. It was posted on Wednesday."

The post read: "I'm waiting for an order from Illias Hosen Sabuj [president of the Chhatra League's university unit]. Because of the brother's [Sabuj] kindness, the Al-Badr [an anti-liberation force] teacher Tarek [Mahbul's nickname] was able to survive the day. The traitor gets to sleep another night peacefully. But what about tomorrow??? What will happen to you???"

Thirteen people were tagged in the post. The Daily Star has obtained a screenshot of the post.

Fearing for his life, Mahbul said he decided to file the GD. "I hope the law enforcement will take quick initiatives in this regard."

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said, "He [Mahbul] filed the GD around 11:45pm. We have forwarded a copy to the Kotbari police outpost to investigate the issue further."

Saad could not be reached over the phone despite several attempts.



Boats gently glide over the placid water of the Buriganga. It's monsoon and the rain-fed river has not just swelled, its water has also become much cleaner. But as soon as the season ends, the Buriganga will shrink and stink again. The river water stays badly polluted due to industrial waste. The photo was taken in the capital's Babubazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 31 Myanmar nationals sent back

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh Coast Guard has sent back 31 Myanmar nationals who entered Bangladesh by crossing the Naf river in Teknaf early Friday morning.

They were sent back from Golarchar area along the Naf around 12:30am, confirmed Lt Zafar Imam Sajib station commander of Coast Guard in Teknaf.

While patrolling in Golarchar area, a team of Coast Guard from its Shahporir Dwip outpost intercepted 31 people including women, children and the boatmen in a wooden boat.

The passengers during interrogation admitted to have illegally crossed the border from Myanmar, Lt Zafar said, adding that the intruders were later sent back to Myanmar after providing with humanitarian assistance.

Since violence erupted in Myanmar's Rakhine state in October last year, around 75,000 fresh Rohingya refugees have taken shelter

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# No formalin in produce

Says Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) yesterday said they did not find any case of adulteration in fruits and vegetables with formalin in the country.

Besides, applying formalin on produce cannot extend its shelf life as the chemical evaporates easily and it does not bond with fruits or vegetables that contain negligible protein content.

"A lot of misleading information has been spread regarding food safety. Although the intentions were good, severe damage has been done at the end of the day," said Mohammad Mahfuzul Hoque, chairman of BFSA at a press conference at Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

"Many in the society believe that fruits and vegetables are not edible because of formalin adulteration. But during our investigation and research with the assistance of FAO,

we've found that adulteration of fruits and vegetables with formalin is not possible."

At the press conference, the BFSA chairman announced that a food safety conference will jointly be organised by MCCI in association with Foreign Investors Chambers and Commerce and Industry (FICCI), BFSA and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) on August 23-24 in Dhaka with the theme "Protecting Consumers: A Shared Responsibility".

This is the first time a conference on food safety is going to be held in the country. Academicians, experts, regulators, and representatives from food processing firms will participate in the talks.

Even though fruits and vegetables are significant sources of micronutrients, a number of people almost stopped eating these out of fear of getting sick from formalin adulteration. "We cannot substitute these sources," Mahfuzul said.

Shelf life of mango and apple cannot be prolonged using formalin, he said, citing that apple does not spoil because it has a natural wax coat on its skin that prevents it from drying up.

Apple also contains 23 parts per million naturally-occurring formaldehyde and sometimes artificial wax is used on apple that are imported from faraway countries. "This is edible," he said.

"Naturally-occurring formalin is also present in mango. But the detection kits that were used to detect formalin were faulty."

Referring to an advertisement by a chain food store using picture of an apple stating 'I am formalin free', he said their claim was "misleading" since apple contains natural formaldehyde, a form of formalin.

Mahfuzul also said there is a wrong perception among many about presence of artificial eggs and use of artificial colouring in water melons.

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# How a law could protect killers

Radwan Mujib wondered in his childhood when told story about Bangabandhu assassination

BSS, Dhaka

Radwan Mujib Siddiq, the grandson of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was astounded when he first came to know that the killers of his grandfather were protected by a law.

He was a kindergarten student at that time, in 1986.

"I was surprised to know about the indemnity law... how this can be a law?" Siddiq said as he spoke before a group of students and professionals who attended a seminar on "Bangabandhu Murder Case: Journey, Accomplishments and Remaining Challenges" at the hall of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital.

Awami League's research-wing Centre for Research and Information (CRI) organised the seminar marking National Mourning Day. On August 15, 1975, Bangabandhu



was assassinated along with most of his family members at his home by some misguided army officers.

After the brutal murder, the then Khondker Mushtaque Ahmed-led government promulgated the infamous indemnity ordinance on September 26, 1975 to protect the killers from justice. The then BNP government, led by President Ziaur Rahman, ratified the ordinance in the Parliament in 1979.

Twelve army officers involved in the assassination were given jobs in diplomatic missions abroad in 1977 when Ziaur Rahman came to power through a military coup.

"It was in 1986, when we came to Dhaka and I was admitted to a kindergarten school in Banani. But I had to change that school," he said.

"I was annoyed and asked my mother why do I have to change? Then she replied the

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Artists work on a portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organised the event marking National Mourning Day. A number of cultural personalities including television and film actors attended the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

# Five districts see 16 deaths

CITY DESK

Sixteen people including four of a family were killed and 10 others injured in five districts yesterday.

In Naogaon's Manda upazila, six people were killed and four others injured when a truck, they were traveling on, fell into a roadside ditch near Haji Gobindapur area.

The deceased are Abdul Mannan, 45, Ashraf Ali, 34, of Mariya village, Saheb Ali, 45, of Rajshahi, Dipendranath Saha, 46, of Balibhora village, Delwar Hossain, 48, of Pikepara area in Naogaon, and

Aminur Rahman, 52, of Joypurhat.

The six, all day labourers, died on the spot.

The accident occurred as the driver of the bamboo-laden truck tried to overtake a bus, said Motiur Rahman, assistant superintendent of police of Naogaon circle.

The injured were taken to Manda Upazila Health Complex.

In Chittagong, five persons, four of them members of the same family, were killed as a passenger bus hit a rickshaw auto-rickshaw from behind at the toll plaza of 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge.

The four family members were Md Sohel, 34, his wife Bristy, 30, their daughter Sabrin, 5, and son Sabran, 3. The fifth victim was the auto-rickshaw driver, Suru Dey, 55.

The accident occurred around 11.50pm, Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, told The Daily Star. "We seized the bus but the driver and helper fled," he said.

Meanwhile, two tourists were killed in Cox's Bazar, a college student in Dinajpur's Chirirbandar upazila, and a rickshaw-van rider in Barisal's Bakerganj upazila.

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