

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 31.2 L 29.2	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 34.7 L 28.6	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 28.2 L 25.5	<b>SYLHET</b> H 33.2 L 28.0	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 35.7 L 27.8	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 35.8 L 28.5	<b>KHULNA</b> H 30.5 L 28.8	<b>BARISAL</b> H 30.2 L 24.3	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 27.4 L 25.0
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Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.

## Resort owners call for separate law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Resort owners yesterday demanded that the government formulate a separate law on resorts beyond the Hotel and Restaurant Act 2014, in order to boost the country's tourism sector. The law will help solve the challenges of the resort industry, and encourage investment in the sector, they said. If the industry flourishes, the government will be able to earn a large amount of revenue through tourism, they added.

The Tourism Resort Industries Association of Bangladesh (TRIAB) organised the discussion at a hotel in the capital.

Khabir Uddin Ahmed, president of TRIAB, said although the existing act partly dealt with resorts, a separate law was a must as resorts were "completely different" from hotels.

"We demand that the government formulate at least a policy if it cannot enact a law. The move will help us a lot," he said.

Mohiuddin Helal, editor of the tourism magazine Parjatan Bichitra, said apart from the financial benefit, the industry could contribute to preserving environment and culture as resorts were usually built in natural environment.

However, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said a new law might not be needed if resorts could be incorporated in the current law. Because, formulating a new law will be time-consuming and complicated, he said.

But the government will think about it, the minister said, adding that the ministry would soon work on solving the problems of the resort sector.

SM Ghulam Farooque, secretary of the ministry, and Akhtaruz Zaman Khan Kabir, chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, also spoke.



**KUDOS TO CHITTAGONG CITY CORPORATION.** Though hard to believe, both are photos of the same foot-over bridge taken two days apart. This foot-over bridge in the port city's New Market area used to be occupied with steel frames and wooden benches belonging to hawkers, leaving no space for people to use it, left, published in the newspaper on September 15 (captured on Sept 14). Thanks to the initiatives of the city corporation, it's now free from all the obstructions and being used by people, right, as seen in the photo taken yesterday.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Textbook should promote communal harmony

Education Day rally told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

School textbooks should not contain any topic that may fan the flames of bigotry and intolerance in the minds of children, said speakers at an Education Day rally in the capital yesterday.

Staging a sit-in protest, they also condemned the exclusion of essays and poetics authored by noted humanitarian writers from this year's textbooks and demanded reinstatement of the texts in textbooks next year.

Jatiya Sikkha O Sangskriti Rokkha Andolan, a platform of students, teachers, children, women, professionals and cultural organisations, organised the rally near an entrance of the secretariat commemorating the Education Day.

On this day in 1962, police firing on a student protest on the campus of Dhaka University left several students including Mostafa, Wajjullah and Babul dead and many others injured. The students were protesting the education commission report prepared by Justice Hamoodur Rahman.

The report was withdrawn in 1964 after the movement spread all over the country

and universities and colleges had to be closed down.

The movement led the way to the six-point movement in 1966 and the mass upsurge in 1969.

Addressing yesterday's rally, Imran Habib Ruman, president of Socialist Student Front, said the omission of the contents of noted writers such as Rabindranath Tagore and Humayun Azad will tarnish the minds of the future generation with prejudice.

"The writings help us create a bond of brotherhood among ourselves and [that's why] these should not be excluded," he said, adding that efforts are also necessary to publish superior quality books for children. Safiuddin Ahmed, president of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, said the education system should be scientific and its objective should be to nurture and promote humane values in citizens. "The present education system, however, is not fulfilling the objective."

GM Gilani Shuvo, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, said a group of people with vested interest are trying to

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## Engage army for smooth relief work

BNP urges govt; SCBA demands the same

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday urged the government to engage army for smooth distribution of relief materials for the Rohingya refugees who have taken shelter in Cox's Bazar following persecution in Myanmar.

"We saw mismanagement in distributing the relief materials. Army engagement for smooth relief work is needed," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital.

Earlier, a BNP team led by its standing committee member Mirza Abbas went to Cox's Bazar with relief materials to distribute those among the Rohingyas but was allegedly barred on disciplinary grounds.

Fakhru said it is now urgent for the government to engage all including political parties and organisations to face the crisis. He said BNP also wants to extend its hand in this regard.

"Let's go for a solution by forging a national unity..." said Fakhru.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) also demanded that the government deploy army at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar for smooth distribution of relief.

The refugees are not getting food due to a lack of coordination in relief activities, said SCBA President Zainul Abedin yesterday in a written statement at a press conference organised by the SCBA in its auditorium.

A team of the SCBA will visit the camps this week, he said. SCBA general secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon also spoke.

## Writ petition seeks refugee law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to formulate a specific law regarding the refugees taking shelter in Bangladesh.

Advocate Tanzim Al Islam submitted the petition saying that lakhs of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar have been living in Bangladesh since its independence and more than four lakh of them have recently taken shelter in the country. The government has given them shelter considering humanitarian aspects.

But there is no specific legal framework or policy for handling and controlling the refugees, he said in the petition filed as a public interest litigation.

The country is yet to sign the International Refugee Convention of 1951 and the International Refugee Protocol of 1967, and there is no rule regarding how the refugees will live in Bangladesh. Therefore, it is very difficult for the government to tackle the refugee crisis, he said in the petition.

Under Article 31 of the constitution, people living in Bangladesh for a temporary period along with its citizens are guaranteed to be protected by the law.

Therefore, a law needs to be formulated to deal with the refugees living in Bangladesh, he added.

Advocate Tanzim told The Daily Star that the HC is yet to fix any date for hearing the petition.

## ROHINGYA CRISIS Govt wants to resolve it peacefully

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government wants to resolve the Rohingya crisis in a peaceful manner and the foreign ministry is working to this effect.

"It is an internal matter of Myanmar, but they [Rohingyas] cannot be brutally killed or forced to leave their country. Our foreign ministry is working so that international pressure is put on Myanmar to stop such atrocities. The ministry has achieved some success and will continue to do so," he said.

The minister said this while talking to reporters at the inaugural ceremony of a training course for newly appointed assistant judges at the Judicial Administration

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**FREE BIRDS!** A group of egrets sit on shrubs in front of the Divisional Forest Office in Sylhet. Forest officials rescued 24 egrets and other birds from a bazaar in Haripur area of Jaintapur upazila in the district around 6:00pm yesterday. Later, they were brought to the forest office and eventually freed, said RFM Monirul Islam, divisional forest officer.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## Rohingyas must return to homeland: Nasim

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday said Rohingya people, who fled from Rakhine State of Myanmar to Bangladesh due to violence, will have to return to their homeland.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given shelters to Rohingyas with her motherly affection. We (the government) are providing them with accommodation, food and medical supports. But, they will not be allowed to stay in the country for a long period," he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the ninth One Health Bangladesh Conference at a Dhaka hotel with Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Abul Kalam Azad in the chair.

Nasim, also a presidium member of Awami League (AL), called upon the world community to put pressure on Myanmar government to take prompt actions to bring their people back and stop killings in Rakhine.

He said, "Representatives from different countries, including the USA, European Union and countries of Middle East, are extending their assistance on the issue."

"We have political commitment and have a courageous leader like Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, so we must solve the problem," said the minister.

He also sought supports from the ministries concerned to spearhead the "One Health Movement", a global campaign to expand interdisciplinary collaborations to protect human and animal health and environment.

"Without teamwork particularly among the livestock, environment, food and agriculture ministries, health sector alone cannot make it a success," he said.

The theme of the two-day conference is "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through One Health approach", where more than 600 delegates are attending from home and abroad.

The aim of the conference is to analyse the current situation, identify the challenges

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## No crackers during Puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has banned the use of fire-crackers during the festivities of Durga Puja.

Besides, the immersion of Durga's idol has been limited within the timeframe of 3:00pm to 8:00pm.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan made the announcement after a meeting over the arrangement of law and order during the Puja festivities yesterday at the home ministry.

One of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindus, Durga Puja starts next week.

This time also, fairs and stalls outside the mandaps (worship pavilions) will be disallowed, the minister said in a briefing after the meeting held with the Puja arrangement committee leaders.

According to the statistics he provided, this year 30,077 mandaps will be built across the country which is 777 more than last year. In Dhaka city, the Puja will be hosted in 231 mandaps.

Law enforcers will be deployed for five days, starting from the first day on October 26, throughout the Puja mandaps until the immersion of Durga in Bijoya Dashami on October 30.

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## UK firms keen on developing railway

Rushanara-led delegation of 9 rail company representatives on week-long visit to country

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A trade delegation of nine British rail companies, led by Rushanara Ali MP, UK prime minister's trade envoy for Bangladesh, yesterday began a week-long tour of Bangladesh to showcase UK expertise in the rail sector.

The companies accompanying the envoy on her second visit to Bangladesh in less than a year are specialists in the full spectrum of the rail supply chain from consultancy, systems design, rolling stock, and operations, according to British High Commission in Dhaka.

The group is eager to look into areas where British expertise can help assist with existing transport initiatives.

Rushanara Ali also announced that UK export finance support available for UK trade with Bangladesh has increased from

£150 million to £625 million, an increase of over 400 percent.

This means an additional nearly £500 million capacity to help UK exporters, and their buyers in Bangladesh get access to the best quality British goods and services.

She will visit the Dhaka Metro rail site and attend a special British-Bangladesh rail collaboration seminar. She will also meet the Bangladesh ministers of commerce, communication, railways and finance.

Yesterday, during a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, Rushanara assured that the aids and investments from the UK will certainly increase in this backdrop.

Rushanara and her delegation also expressed keen interest to invest in the development of railway sector including strong railway infrastructure.

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UK prime minister's trade envoy Rushanara Ali MP and British High Commissioner Alison Blake at a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the capital yesterday. A trade delegation of nine British rail companies, led by the Bangladesh-origin British MP, yesterday began a week-long tour of Bangladesh to showcase UK expertise in the rail sector. She arrived on Saturday. This is her second visit to the country.

PHOTO: PIR