

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.5 L 26.0	H 34.0 L 25.2	H 34.0 L 25.5	H 34.5 L 26.4	H 33.4 L 26.6	H 32.5 L 25.4	H 34.2 L 26.3	H 32.0 L 24.0	H 31.5 L 25.0

Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal & Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 05:47am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Man 'pours' boiling rice water on wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A man has allegedly poured boiling rice water on his wife as she asked for money to repay a loan at Sohadia village in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur. With 40 percent burns, 27-year-old Taslima Akhter was shifted to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital from Sreepur upazila health complex yesterday afternoon. Police arrested her husband Abdul Jalil, 30, a painter, in Gazipur city yesterday evening. Taslima, mother of a three-year-old daughter, borrowed Tk 20,000 from an NGO for her husband around one and a half months ago. Abdul paid the first three weekly instalments, but refused to pay the fourth one, which triggered a quarrel on Saturday night. At one point, Abdul poured hot rice water on Taslima, said her uncle Tamijuddin. A case was filed yesterday.



An artisan giving finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Durga at "Rajesh-Shyam Paal Protimalay" in Chittagong city yesterday. With the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community just a week away, artisans are passing busy time to prepare idols for the puja. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Idols getting finishing touches

Artisans in Chittagong, Sylhet passing busy time ahead of Durga Puja

STAR REPORT
With Durga Puja just a week away, artisans are passing busy time to prepare idols for the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community. At the same time, Hindus in different parts of the country are buzzing with excitement in preparation for the five-day Sharadiya (autumnal) Durga Utsav, starting from September 26 this year. In autumn, Durga, the Goddess of Power, visits her father's residence on earth with her family members from heaven. The festival will end on September 30, with the celebration of Bijoya Dashami when the Goddess Durga leaves earth for heaven. In Chittagong city, artisans of 17 Protimalays (where clay idols are made) are busy giving final touch to the Protimas (idols of the deities). Ahead of the festival, the anticipation is also limitless among the followers. The idol makers also have some kind of innate competence to feed up this anticipation, as the young devotees visit all the mandaps (worship pavilions) to see which idol is the most beautiful. The puja will be celebrated in 266 mandaps in the port city and 1,767 mandaps in the upazilas across the district, said Sujit Das, the general secretary of "Chattagram Mahanagar Puja Udjapon Porishad". The idols will be brought to the mandaps on September 26, Sujit added. Shushanta Pal -- an idol maker who is the son of famous

Spreading militancy not possible

Says IGP as police are building awareness among locals, refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are building awareness among locals and Rohingya refugees so that no militant outfit can propagate militancy in the guise of providing relief, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said yesterday. "Alongside surveillance by law enforcers and intelligence agencies, we are making locals and Rohingyas aware... I don't think any such ill-motivated effort to propagate militancy is possible," he said while addressing a press conference on law and order situation at police headquarters. The police chief said Bangladesh won't allow its soil to be used as a breeding ground for militants and subsequently carry out attacks on neighbouring countries. In an attempt to flee persecution in

Myanmar, more than 4,00,000 members of ethnic Rohingya minority sought refuge in Bangladesh over the past three weeks. The latest influx of Rohingya refugees was triggered by Myanmar army's response to insurgent attacks on 30 police posts and an army base in the country's Rakhine state on August 25.

ROHINGYA CAMPS

According to the refugees now sheltered in Cox's Bazar, the Myanmar security forces have been killing unarmed men, raping women and torching their houses. The IGP during the conference said any distribution of relief materials has to go through the office of local administration and an officer of the administration

would oversee the relief distribution. To ensure no harmful items are sent to the refugee camps, police will conduct inspection of the relief materials that are being received from home and abroad, the IGP said in response to a query. Stressing the need for restricting the movements of the refugees, Shahidul said it was for their own good since they would have to be registered to get identity cards for receiving proper assistance and aid. If the refugees fan out, they will become illegal immigrants and law enforcers will be forced to arrest them, the police boss warned. So far, police held over 200 Rohingya refugees from across the country, he said. "We did not detain them. Instead, [we] returned them to Rohingya camps out of humanitarian consideration." SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Anjuman buries two 'militants'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Charity foundation Anjuman Mofidul Islam yesterday buried the bodies of two "militants" at Jurain graveyard after receiving those from Dhaka Medical College morgue. According to morgue sources, one of the militant suspects was Saiful Islam. He was killed during a hotel raid in the capital's Panthapath on August 15. The other suspect who remained unidentified died in a bomb explosion near a police box at the airport intersection in the city on March 24. The family of Saiful refused to receive his body, while none claimed the unidentified body, the sources said quoting police.

Police to go tough on social media rumour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong District Superintendent of Police (SP) Noor E Alam Mina yesterday said immediate action would be taken if anyone spreads rumours on the social media including Facebook, twitter and blogs during the holy Durga Puja. Apart from that, around 2,500 police personnel would be deployed in 14 upazilas under the district to thwart any kind of sabotage during the holy festival of the Hindu community, added the SP. The SP came with the decision while addressing a meeting with the leaders of puja udjapon parishads of different upazilas at a community centre in the city. Police high-ups and officers-in-charge of 16 police stations were present. This year, a total of 1,521 mandaps (worship pavilions) will be set up across the district. "305 mandaps are marked as sensitive while 453 as important and the remaining 763 are marked as normal," said the SP, adding that the highest number of 224 mandaps are located in Roazan upazila. SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Mahalaya today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindus will observe today the auspicious occasion of Mahalaya, which marks the beginning of "Debi Pakshya". The festival of Durga Puja or Navratri begins with Mahalaya, marking goddess Durga's advent in her battle against evil. Devotees pray for the deity's invocation on earth and for her blessings to curb the evil rakshasa Mahishasur. It is celebrated on the dark night of Amavasya (new moon), when devotees pray to the Goddess Durga for her arrival on earth. Devotees will celebrate Mahalaya in the early morning.

IMPASSE AT ICT Judge sent back to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday sent Justice Md Shohrwardi to his original workplace at High Court from the International Crimes Tribunal-1. The decision came at a time when the government had been coming under strong criticism from all quarters as trials of war crimes by the ICT remained stalled for over two months due to the government's failure in appointing a new ICT chief. Justice Shohrwardi was sent back to the HC in consultation with the Supreme Court, said Law Minister Anisul Huq. Another judge from the HC will replace Justice Shohrwardi by today (Tuesday), the minister told The Daily Star yesterday. SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Abul Mansur Ahmad's ideals a weapon against fanaticism

JU discussion on life and work of the writer-journalist-politician told

JU CORRESPONDENT

The philosophy and ideals of Abul Mansur Ahmad can greatly help fight the challenges of religious fanaticism and extremism facing the country today, a professor of Jahangirnagar University said yesterday. Prof Khaled Hossain said Abul Mansur Ahmad's great literary works with a subtle vein of satire skilfully exposed the contemporary political and social absurdity. "Through his works as a journalist, politician, and writer, Abul Mansur Ahmad inquired into the depths of society with honesty and boldness and revealed the truth," he added. The Bangla literature professor was addressing a discussion titled, "Abul Mansur Ahmad: Jiboner Swatto o Satya". The Bangla department of JU organised the programme at the department's seminar room. Presiding over the discussion, the depart-

ment chairman, Prof ASM Abu Dayen, said Abul Mansur Ahmad was a powerful thinker and an extraordinary Bangalee nationalist. He was a versatile literary genius with remarkable persuasive and reasoning skills, he said. Abul Mansur Ahmad's works and ideals inspire today's Bangladesh, the professor said. "We have a great responsibility to remember this eminent writer for our own sake." Speaking as guest discussant, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam called upon all to read Abul Mansur Ahmad's works alongside other eminent writers'. Associate Prof Khorshed Alam of JU presented a short biography of Abul Mansur Ahmad. Prof Aniruddha Kahaly, Prof Shamima Sultana, and Assistant Professor Uzwal Kumar Mondol and poet Emran Mahfuz were, among others, present at the discussion. More than 200 students took part in it.



Dr Khaled Hossain, a professor of Bangla literature, speaking at a discussion titled "Abul Mansur Ahmad: Jiboner Swatto o Satya" at the Bangla department of Jahangirnagar University yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



A tailback on Tophkhana Road in the capital yesterday. A BNP human chain turned rally in front of Jatiya Press Club halted the smooth vehicular movement, causing traffic jam in the area. The photo was taken around noon. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh to pursue diplomatic solutions

Says Information Minister Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday said Bangladesh will seek diplomatic solutions with Myanmar regarding the influx of Rohingya refugees from that country. "The influx of the refugees has created a volatile situation in South and South-East Asia... We've taken initiatives to reach a peaceful solution so the Rohingyas can go back and live peacefully in their own land," Inu said. Addressing a press conference at Press Information Department (PID) auditorium on the government's stance over the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis, the minister also said, "The Rohingya crisis is an ethnic problem. It isn't a religious issue." And the only solution to the crisis lies in the peaceful deportation and rehabilitation of the refugees in their own land. In his written speech, Inu highlighted various humanitarian, diplomatic and political steps the government has taken for the quick and safe return of the Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar. He also stressed the need for the full implementation of the recommendations made by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan-led commission and the former UN commission to investigate the genocide; engagement in dialogues with the Myanmar government, and seek assistance from all international agencies concerned. The information minister said the government, in order to address the influx of refugees, is undertaking 22 initiatives. Distribution of food and relief supplies among the Rohingya refugees at 14 locations, construction of 16,000 toilets, ensuring security at the camps, and allotment of 2,000 acres of land for building temporary shelters are a few among the initiatives, Inu said.

Myanmar army accountable for ethnic cleansing: Rushanara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Myanmar army should also be held accountable for "the ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya minority in Rakhine state, said Rushanara Ali, MP and UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh yesterday. During her talks with Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed at his secretariat office in Dhaka, Rushanara also said the UK wanted the international community to take tougher actions against the Myanmar military. Besides, the civilian government of Myanmar should be pressurised to end the terrible treatment of its Rohingya minority, which is a violation of human rights, she added. Meanwhile, she praised Bangladesh's initiatives in providing shelter for such a large refugee population. Bangladesh is facing major challenges as more than 400,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh within a week, she added.