



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 32.8 L 12.7	MYMENSINGH H 34.0 L 12.7	CHITTAGONG H 33.3 L 12.4	SLHET H 32.5 L 12.6	RAJSHAHI H 34.6 L 12.7	RANGPUR H 35.7 L 12.2	KHULNA H 33.5 L 12.2	BARISAL H 32.4 L 12.6	COX'S BAZAR H 33.5 L 12.6
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Light on Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet accompanied by temporary gray clouds is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 10:00pm today, reports UNL. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49pm, said Met office.

# Bagmara MP 'fueling militancy, party feud'

## Allege local AL leaders at Rajshahi press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The ruling Awami League leaders of Bagmara upazila at a press conference in Rajshahi city yesterday alleged that local lawmaker Enamul Haque was involved in fuelling intra-party feud and patronising members of banned militant outfits and communist outlawed groups.

Reading out a written statement at the conference in the city's Master Chef restaurant, Abdus Sobhan, former president of Bagmara upazila AL unit, alleged many identified members of militant outfits and communist outlawed groups had recently unleashed terror in the upazila under the patronisation of the lawmaker.



**Enamul Haque**  
chairman

AL leaders and common people are not feeling safe under the circumstances.

The lawmaker of Rajshahi-4 constituency (Bagmara) supported his chosen candidates against the party's nominated candidates in the last UP elections, resulting in internal feud in the party. In clashes among different groups, at least two people were killed in the recent past, Sobhan alleged.

The AL leaders are being forced to follow

the lawmaker, or else being harassed with false cases, he alleged, demanding removal of the officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station for saving the party leaders from the wrath of the lawmaker.

Abdus Sobhan alleged that he had attempted to file cases against the lawmaker, but the police refused to record those.

Allegations were also made that lawmaker Enamul misappropriated different funds and were involved in employment trade at different educational institutions in the upazila.

Sobhan said they also had sent the complaints to AL central office.

Other complainants include: Zakirul Islam, Upazila Parishad chairman and upazila AL general secretary; Abul Kalam, head of Taherpur municipality; and three UP chairmen - Mokbul Hossain Miridha, Mostafa Kamal and Alamgir Sarkar.

Contacted, Enamul Haque refuted the allegations. He said, "All the allegations are baseless. They raised these with an ulterior motive to tarnish my image before the next general election, but they will not succeed."

"No terrorist activity could take place in



**COMMENDABLE...** Workers of Dhaka North City Corporation mend a dilapidated portion of the DIT Road near Hajpara in the capital's Rampura area around noon yesterday. This busy road has been in a deplorable condition for the last couple of months. The situation deteriorated further due to a drainage development work. The Daily Star published photos of the road on Monday depicting commuters' sufferings. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### DEMOCRACY, SHARIA LAW

## Survey finds public support for both

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of Bangladesh support democracy but at the same time many also believe in sharia law as they believe it might be helpful in ensuring justice and fairness in governance, said a new survey.

"Although Bangladeshis support democracy, many also believe that introducing sharia, or Islamic law based on the Quran and the Hadith, might be helpful in ensuring justice and fairness in governance," said the survey conducted by the RESOLVE Network.

The Washington-based RESOLVE Network, an initiative of the Global Religion and Democracy Project, published the report titled "Democracy and Sharia in Bangladesh: Surveying Support" yesterday.

The report was authored by Dr Ali Riaz, professor of the Department of Politics and Government at the University of the South Florida, USA, and Syeda Salina Aziz, senior research associate of Brac Institute of Government and Development Studies.

Conducted in April 2017, this research is based on a face-to-face representative survey of 4,067 households in Bangladesh. Respondents indicated an overwhelming support for key democratic principles, such as elected representatives, an independent judiciary, freedom of speech and assembly, and property rights.

The report said two points clearly emerged from analysing the survey data - Bangladeshis unequivocally support democratic values and sharia as a

# PDB seeks 14.5pc retail tariff hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid sharp criticism from consumer rights groups, business leaders and politicians, the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) yesterday sought a 14.5 percent increase in retail tariff of electricity.

During the first phase of a 7-day hearing organised by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) in the capital, the BPDB justified its proposal by saying that its distribution cost is higher than its selling price.

Aside from retail tariff, the BPDB has also proposed to increase the amount of security deposit, demand charge and service charge.

According to the BPDB, it is being facing a deficit of Tk 0.21 per unit (kilowatt-hour) as its distribution cost since 2015-16 has been Tk 6.95 for each unit as opposed to the selling price of Tk 6.73 for each unit.

Considering this deficit, the BPDB has proposed to raise the retail tariff of each unit to Tk 7.71.

Following an evaluation of the proposal, the BERC technical committee said the retail tariff for BPDB customers could rise by 10.65 percent.

The DPDC, in its effort to meet the rising

demand of power, has been increasingly reliant on expensive liquid fuel power generation, resulting in the rise in its production cost.

They have proposed to increase the bulk rate of power to cope with the mounting production cost, it said during the hearing.

Under the proposal, bulk power tariff would increase by 14.78 percent and the unit price would be raised to Tk 5.59 from the present rate of Tk 4.87.

The DPDB also proposed introduction of separate rates for multi-storied residential buildings and buildings run by associations, discount for prepaid metering, and a tariff structure for battery-run vehicles.

The proposal sought to raise security deposits for household types to Tk 600 from Tk 375 at present; agriculture, cottage industries, non-residential and commercial types to Tk 1,000 from Tk 600; and medium and heavy industries types to Tk 1,400 from Tk 600.

The BERC technical committee advised restructuring and revising of the minimum charge, security deposit, demand charge and service charge to ensure a uniform price structure for all power distributors in the country.

It also said there should not be any security

deposit for prepaid meter users.

Tariff rate for battery-run vehicles that ply mostly in rural and semi-urban areas could be grouped under the category of street lights and water pumps, it observed.

Prof Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, hoped that the BERC would first settle the dispute over bulk rates before making a decision on retail rates.

He said more power should be supplied to rural areas, especially in the evenings, as less power is consumed there during the daytime as opposed to that in urban areas.

Ruhmin Hossain Prince, a member of Communist Party of Bangladesh, strongly opposed the price increase proposal for demand charge. "Increasing the demand charge would not be wise as adequate electricity is not being supplied."

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Gono Shanghati Union, said, "Since the economy is under strain now due to floods, there's no logic in raising the power tariff at the moment. Any increase in power tariff will have a negative impact on the economy."

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Protesting the persecution of the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State, around 1,000 teachers, students and employees of Dhaka University (DU) under the banner of "Dhaka University Family" form a human chain on the campus yesterday. Speaking at the human chain, DU Vice Chancellor (acting) Prof Md Akhteruzzaman said Myanmar must take back the Rohingyas refugees and rehabilitate them. He also urged the UN to deploy peacekeepers in Myanmar.

## BIP backs Delhi's handling of Rohingya issue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has backed Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's handling of the Rohingya issue and commended New Delhi for fulfilling its responsibilities by providing humanitarian relief to Bangladesh for Rohingyas refugees.

A political resolution adopted at BJP's National Executive meet in New Delhi on Monday said, "The government duly fulfilled its responsibilities when it provided humanitarian relief to Bangladesh for the Rohingyas refugees while ensuring that internal security was not compromised for its 125 crore citizens."

The party resolution mentions the word "Rohingya" as against its absence in statements of India's Ministry of External Affairs and in the joint statement issued after Modi's first official visit to Myanmar in the first week of September.

BJP's National Executive mentioned also congratulated the Modi government for the peaceful resolution of the month-long military stand-off between India and China at Doklam in the trijunction with Bhutan in June this year through diplomatic channels and said "this is a sign of mature politics and diplomatic victory of the government."

The resolution also welcomed the fruitful dialogue between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, China, earlier this month and said good relations between India and China are important for maintaining world peace.

### HOARDING RICE

## ACC to look into govt officials' 'link'

Says its chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will initiate inquiry into alleged involvement of food department officials in hoarding rice illegally in connivance with traders.

In recent months, price of rice went up as some traders hoarded rice illegally.

"We've received the allegation. Today [Tuesday], we've decided to include in the allegation," said ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood.

He said this while addressing a discussion titled "Corruption Free Government Service: Nature of Corruption Allegation" at Rangamati Deputy Commissioner's office, according to a press release.

ACC will conduct the inquiry in light with the Essential Articles (Price Control and Anti-Hoarding) Act.

Those who will be found involved in hoarding food will be brought under the law.

"Bribing some government officials, some businessmen are hoarding essential foods and increasing its price," said Iqbal. He said, "Through increasing price, they are looting public money. Anti-Corruption Commission will take exemplary legal action against them."

As rice prices have gone up further in the last four days, the government said there are conspiracies afoot to destabilise the rice market.

Food Minister Qamrul Islam said a section of unscrupulous businessmen and rice millers started using tricks to hike rice prices. The government would take steps to stabilise the rice market, he said.

### ভাষা আন্দোলন ও আবুল মনসুর আহমদের চিন্তা

শীর্ষক আলোচনা অনুষ্ঠান  
২৯ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৭ জুলাই। বিকাল ৪টা



সভাপতি  
এমিরিটাল অধ্যাপক রফিকুল ইসলাম  
মুখপত্র  
অধ্যাপক হাবিব আর রহমান  
আয়োচক  
এমিরিটাল অধ্যাপক আশিফজ্জামান,  
অধ্যাপক মনসুর সুদা, অধ্যাপক মাহবুবুল হক,  
ড. মো. শেখ শাহ, ড. আহমেদ মালুগা ও  
ড. মোহাম্মদ আজম

আবদুল করিম সাহিত্যবিদ্যাশাসন মিলনায়তন  
বাংলা একাডেমি, ঢাকা।  
আয়োজনে আবুল মনসুর আহমদ স্মৃতি পরিষদ

আপনিগণের আমন্ত্রিত  
স্বাক্ষরিত জ্ঞানভর  
ইমরান মাহফুজ ০৩৬৬০৩০৭০৭০

## CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT Amendment sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 has to be amended as its special provision allows marriage of females before 18, demanded speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The speaker said the provision has to be repealed as it will legalise "child rape through marriage".

The discussion, organised by Amrai Pari, was held at Cirdap in the capital.

The speakers criticised the draft of the rules that will be tabled on the website of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Justice Md Shamsul Huda, a former judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, said the law is incomplete and not clear. "So this law has to be reformed."

He however, did not explain his observation. Amrai Pari Chairperson Sultana Kamal said, "We will continue movements to cancel the special provision of the act."

She further said marriage is not the best interest of a female.

Demanding reformation of the law, Amrai Pari Co-chairperson and Manusher Jono

Foundation Executive Director Shahan Anam said the law has lost national and international acceptance due to the special provision.

She said general people should come forward to put an end to child marriage.

According to the draft rules of the act, there will be a vetting committee to see the best interest of a juvenile girl to apply for a marriage registration.

The committee includes representatives from upazila and union parishads and municipalities.

In this regard, Taposh Kanti Bhowmik, a professor at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), said the committee has to include representatives from bar councils, judges, journalists and child psychologists too.

Ayesha Siddique, a district women affairs employee in Dhaka, said seventh and tenth graders were given "red cards" to make them aware about child marriage.

She further said the recommendations on the draft rules will be taken into consideration to remove loopholes.

Parveen Siddiqua Jhuma, general secretary of Bangladesh Nam Sangbadik Kendra also spoke.

## Buddhist monks condemn violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Parkya Bhhikhu Sangha, an organisation of Buddhist monks from Chittagong Hill Tracts, yesterday at a press conference condemned escalating human rights violations targeting the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

The organisation's central committee arranged the programme in Rangamati around noon.

Buddha Datta Mohabano, vice president of the organisation, Shri Pal Thero, secretary and Shrodda Langkar Mohabero, president of its Rangamati municipality committee, were present.

The organisation urged the international community to mount more pressure on Myanmar to stop the Rohingya crisis, and take initiatives to facilitate repatriation of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

The monks also urged the government to ensure security and safety during their religious festival, "Kothin Chhor Dan" that starts on October 6. Later, the organisation handed over a cheque for Tk 50,000 for the Rohingya refugees to the assistant deputy commissioner (revenue) of Rangamati.