

## WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S

DHAKA

MYMENSINGH

CHITTAGONG

SYLHET

RAJSHAHI

RANGPUR

KHULNA

BARISAL

COX'S BAZAR

32.5

12.83

H 32.2

L 27.7

33.0

L 25.7

H 33.7

L 25.1

H 33.0

L 27.7

H 35.5

L 27.5

H 31.1

L 25.6

H 31.4

L 23.7

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur in many places over Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Rangpur and at a few places over Rangpur division with moderate heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm. See reports ENS. The sun sets in the capital today at 4:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:59am, said Met Office.



Sheikh Hasina's birthday today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's birthday.

The eldest of five children of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Begum Fazlunnesma was born on this day in 1947 at Tungipara of Gopalganj.

Like previous years, Awami League and its affiliated organisations will be celebrating the day by organising various programmes.

A special mifl and doa mafil will be held at Baitul Mukarram national mosque.

Also, special prayers will be offered at different places of worship seeking good health and long life of the premier, who is now in the United States for the 72nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session before returning home on October 5.

Hasina spent much of her childhood in the village where she was born and started her schooling there.

In 1954, when Bangabandhu was elected legislator, the family relocated to Dhaka.

In her student life, Hasina actively took part in the 6-Point Movement of 1969 and student movement of 1969 which addressed the function of Ramkrishna Missionaries of Oopukura.

The present 20 million people of Cox's Bazar shelter in Bangladesh after they had faced persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Many of them were from the Hindu community.

"We've to be sympathetic to them ... all national and international organisations should come forward to ensure their safe repatriation and their rights to citizenship," he said.

During Durga Puja a "universal festival" of Bangladesh, Hamid said many Hindus could not celebrate their largest religious festival this year in the haor and flood-hit areas of

Mymensingh.

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All the tingle of excitement of going home to celebrate the Durga Puja with dear ones burst in a moment for this family of four yesterday. Their auto rickshaw hit a large puddle hidden in a puddle of muddy water near Rupnagar bus stand in Barisal city. Although they got drenched in the dirty water after getting thrown out of the vehicle, they were thankful that the bus behind did not run them over. A three kilometre stretch of this highway connecting the city with Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Borguna has been in this dilapidated state for almost two years.

PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

## Stand by Rohingyas President urges all

UNB, Dhaka

Urging all to stand by the Rohingyas, President Abdul Hamid yesterday stressed the need for putting constant pressure on the Myanmar government to take back the people from Bangladesh.

"We must stand by them [Rohingyas] and extend the hand of cooperation to them in their bad time," he said addressing a function at Ramkrishna Missionaries of Oopukura.

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## Regent to assist in relief transport for Rohingyas

CITY DESK

Regent Airways will provide assistance in transporting relief for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar who have fled violence in Myanmar and sought refuge in Bangladesh.

Lt Gen (retd) M Fazle Akber NDC, PSC, PhD, its chief executive officer, made the announcement at a relief distribution function of Cox's Bazar.

"We are with the helpless Rohingyas people ... The NGOs, volunteer organisations, enterprises or individuals can take our facility for carrying the relief from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar."

"Besides, Regent is ready to carry the government or donor organisations' relief," he added.

Regent is also distributing relief in association with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Ukhia and Teknaf for the last four days, said a press release.

It has distributed eight metric tonnes of food and Tk 5 lakh among the Rohingyas there.

More than 4,80,000 Rohingyas are sheltered in Cox's Bazar, Rakhine State to Bangladesh since last month in the face of an army campaign that includes shooting innocent civilians burning villages and committing rape.

The speakers said the RTI act is journalism-friendly and those who rely on traditional source-based reporting have to change their mindset to take its benefit.

They also stressed the need for creating awareness regarding the benefit of law at root level, saying it will be helpful for journalists to understand the RTI act.

Presenting a keynote paper, Manikul Ahsan Bulbul, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, said the reports at present are mostly based on leased stories that lack proper research and corroboration.

The RTI act will help provide authentic and latest information, which will aid the journalists in cross-checking information, said Bulbul, also editor-in-chief and chief

of the newspaper.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, said they offer different courses and fellowships for media

## Media's uninterrupted access to info a must to fight graft

Speakers tell seminar marking International Right to Know Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uninterrupted access to information for the media is a prerequisite to combat corruption and establish good governance in the country, said journalists, teachers and researchers at a seminar yesterday.

The country's information commission has to play a proactive role in ensuring this, they added.

They said availability of government information under the Right to Information Act (RTI) is inadequate because of a lackluster response from the government officials.

Dissemination of information under the act will benefit producing quality investigative reports, they added.

Management and Resource Development Initiative (MRDI) with the help of Fojo Media Institute of Linnaeus University, Sweden organised the seminar on "The Right to Know Day in the capital marking International Right to Know Day" to observe today.

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PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the seminar at The Daily Star Centre.

houses and journalists to sharpen their skills and gather adequate knowledge on investigative journalism.

Prof Golam Rahman, chief information commissioner, said nearly 25,000 officers are posted at different government offices to provide information under the act.

He said people have to be precise and specific while applying for information. After being denied information under the act, the complainants filed as 336 complaints in 2015 and 539 in 2016.

He proposed formulation of a new and specific law that will benefit journalists in understanding the RTI act.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Md Abul Azam Pintu said the RTI act is one of the most significant instruments of journalism. "But we are at fault...we are not using the law properly."

Golam Sawar, president of Editors' Council and editor of Bangla daily Samakal, said reporters interested in investigative journalism have to be provided with sufficient time and support so that they can do their job.

Prof Mofazzal Bhattacharjee, chairman of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Dhaka University, said investigative reports based on information gathered under the act can be used to treat each party equally.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, said they offer different courses and fellowships for media

## Protect migrant construction workers

HRW asks Qatar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has asked Qatar to protect migrant construction workers who are at risk from working in harsh conditions and being exploited.

It has also asked the Qatar authorities to investigate the causes of migrant worker deaths, regularly make public data on such deaths, and use the information to devise appropriate public health policies in the Gulf country, home to some 4 lakh Bangladeshi workers.

In 2013, Qatar health authorities reported 520 such deaths of workers from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal in 2012. Of them, 385, or 74 percent, died from unexplained causes, the New York-based global rights watchdog said in a statement yesterday.

HRW said the officials concerned have not responded to requests for information about the overall number and causes of deaths of migrant workers since 2012.

Current heat protection regulations for the great majority of workers in Qatar only prohibit outdoor work from 11:30am to 3:00pm during June 15 to August 31, it said.

However, climate data show weather conditions in Qatar outside those hours and dates frequently reach levels that can result in potentially fatal heat-related illnesses in the absence of appropriate rest.

"To effectively prevent heat-related health risks for migrant construction workers in Qatar, the government must immediately ban outdoor work on days when temperatures are expected to exceed 35 degrees Celsius," said Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director at HRW.

"Limiting outdoor work to safe temperatures -- not set by a clock or calendar -- is well within the capacity of the Qatari government and will help protect hundreds of thousands of workers," she said.

Qatar has a migrant labour force of nearly 2 million, who comprise approximately 95 percent of its total labour force. Approximately 40 percent, or 800,000, of these workers are employed in the construction sector.

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Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU)

স্বাক্ষর নং-৩৩৮০১০/১০১০১/১১২২

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১ম সমাবর্তন ২০১৮

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