



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

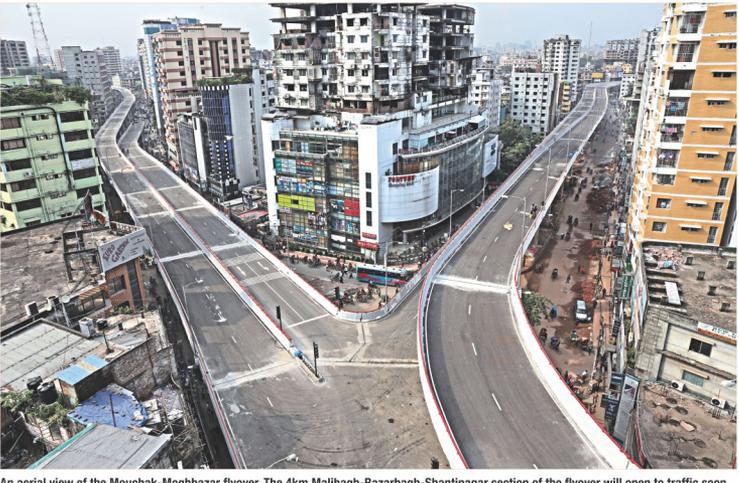
DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 36.5 L 27.3	H 36.0 L 27.3	H 30.6 L 25.8	H 36.0 L 26.6	H 35.4 L 27.2	H 35.3 L 26.3	H 32.3 L 27.5	H 31.6 L 27.0	H 33.0 L 26.5

Light to moderate rain/showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Mymensingh, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:23am. Met office said.

### TM Akbar dies while cross-examining witness



**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
Former Dhaka Bar Association president TM Akbar, defence counsel for one of the accused in Zia Charitable Trust graft case, died of a heart attack yesterday while cross-examining a witness at a makeshift court in the capital's Bakshibazar. The veteran lawyer was 86 years old. He suffered the heart attack around 12:30pm while cross-examining an official of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Advocate Nazrul Islam, a junior to the deceased, told The Daily Star. He was rushed to the Birlem Hospital where doctors declared him dead, Nazrul said.



An aerial view of the Mouchak-Moghbaraz flyover. The 4km Malibagh-Razarbagh-Shantiganj section of the flyover will open to traffic soon. It will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The photo was taken from the Mouchak portion of the flyover yesterday around 2:00pm.

### Act tough on hajj tour operators

**JS body recommends as pilgrims complain of irregularities, sufferings**  
RASHIDUL HASAN

Private tour operators involved in various irregularities in hajj operations this year will have to face the music as a parliamentary body yesterday recommended taking tough actions against them for causing sufferings to pilgrims in Dhaka and Saudi Arabia. The actions suggested by the parliamentary standing committee on the religious affairs ministry included cancellation of the agencies' licences and not allowing them to send hajjis to Saudi Arabia for a year, said chief of the committee Bazul Haque Haroon, also an Awami League lawmaker. The parliamentary watchdog yesterday also formed a three-member sub-committee to identify the hajj operators involved in deceiving hajjis. Haroon told The Daily Star after a committee meeting at parliament. Heeded by Haroon, the sub-committee was asked to submit its report before the parliamentary watchdog within two weeks. Asked, the committee chief said they already received various complaints from hajjis for their sufferings, especially during their stay in Saudi Arabia. The pilgrims faced different kinds of sufferings mostly because of negligence of hajj tour operators as most of them did not keep their promises, he added. For example, Haroon said some hajjis even had to stay at

### Repatriation must be UN-brokered

**Say analysts, warning Myanmar's offer for bilateral solution is just to defuse int'l pressure**

**PORIMOL PALMA**  
The efforts for Rohingya repatriation and creating secure conditions in Rakhine without engaging the United Nations would prove futile, say international relations and political analysts. They have suggested creating an independent international body to monitor and report on the status of the repatriation process and measures that will be taken by Myanmar that creates confidence among Rohingya that their return to Rakhine is safe. The observations come as Myanmar proposed taking back the newly arrived Rohingyas through a bilateral arrangement with Bangladesh without engaging the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), which is mandated to facilitate refugee affairs. The Rohingya issue is a decades-old problem and Myanmar has never been sincere in addressing this. This time, Myanmar is accused of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Therefore, the issue must be dealt with the best possible tactic, said CR Abrar, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University. He said the international community would

RECOMMENDATIONS
Create int'l body on repatriation
Ask Myanmar to stop atrocities
Ensure safe return of Rohingyas

response to Rohingya insurgents' attacks on some police posts and an army base on August 25. Myanmar said 12 police officials were killed. The clearance operations, however, led to the killings of hundreds of Rohingyas men, raping of women and burning down of over 200 Rohingyas villages, according to rights bodies. The UN termed the atrocities "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing". Globally, Myanmar's State Counsellor Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi faced mounting criticism for not stopping the military response, which rights bodies define as disproportionate. The crackdown and subsequent Rohingya influx drew global media attention, and most countries, except for China and Russia, demanded strong actions to stop the atrocities that caused the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world. Some countries and rights bodies also demanded economic and arms embargo on Myanmar. Against this backdrop, Kyaw Tint Swe, Myanmar's union minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, led a delegation to Dhaka and held a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister

### Muskan hopes for cure



**Eight-year-old Muskan at DMCH.**  
SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MINTKAM SAAD  
PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Sitting on a tiny bed on the sixth-floor of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), tiny Muskan hopes of one thing only - to go back to school and continue studying. Often the eight-year-old stares at the open sky from the window and wishes to be free, free from the constant pain that he has been suffering for a long time. Hailing from Rugganj of Narayanganj, Muskan Akhter Shuma has been afflicted by a disease mainly in her right hand, the condition leading to her arm swelling up almost like 12-year-old Muktamoni of Sakhira. Muskan underwent an angiogram at the hospital yesterday. She was admitted to the burn unit of DMCH on August 13. After she was born, her parents noticed a small reddish swelling on her right arm and chest. Soon marble-like protrusions appeared underneath her right arm pit. Thus began a round of treatment that has been continuing till this very day. The family tried hard, spent a lot of money for her cure but to no avail. Halima Begum, Muskan's grandmother, who is staying with her at DMCH, said earlier, she was admitted to two hospitals in the capital. She even went through a surgery at one of those. But there was no improvement. Halima said they had given up hope and went back to their house. Still, defying all odds owing to her resilience and perhaps a dash of luck, Muskan continued to survive, in anguish but with anticipation of a better future. The family finally saw a ray of hope after hearing about Tofa-Tahura, Abul Bajandar and Muktamoni, especially how they were treated, and brought her to the hospital. When the newspaper met Muskan at DMCH yesterday, all she could talk about was her school.



A woman places sweets and fruits in front of a statue of Buddha as an offering. Prabarana Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhist community, was celebrated across the country with due solemnity yesterday. The photo was taken at Nandan Kanon Buddha Bihar in Chittagong city.  
PHOTO: PRABER DAS

### 5 held with fake seals of ministers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Detectives yesterday claimed to have arrested five members of a fraud gang, allegedly for deceiving people using fake seals of ministries and police clearance documents. They are Abdul Bank, Ali Akash, Sabir, Shahidul Haque Nizam, and Moshed Bhuiyan. DB Joint Commissioner Abdul Baten said his team arrested Bank at a house in Fakirpura yesterday while he was making fake seals. Later, police arrested others. Some 577 fake seals of ministries and police and 1,450 fake forms and police clearance certificates were seized, Baten said. The gang used to make those fake seals and documents as per demand of trade agencies, he added.

### Pharma boss held over issuing death threat to banker

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Police yesterday arrested the managing director of a pharmaceutical company, Libra Infusion Ltd, for allegedly issuing a death threat to Al-Arafah Islami Bank deputy managing director (DMD) when the latter asked him to pay back a loan. Roushon Alam was arrested at the company's factory in the capital's Shilbari, said Syed Shaheed Alam, officer-in-charge of Rungpur Police Station. Police said Roushon took nearly Tk 87 crore in loans from Al-Arafah bank in 2009. Instead of paying back the loan, he gave threats to the bank officials in 2015 when they asked for repayment. The bank DMD, Fazul Karim, later filed a general diary with Motijheel Police Station that year. As a police probe found the incident true, the CD office was turned into a case, said an official of the bank. The bank authorities also filed 14 cases against him - one for loan default and 13 for bounced cheques, the official added.

### FAKE LOTTERY TICKET 12 gang members including Chinese man arrested

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG**  
Detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday arrested 12 persons including a Chinese citizen, who used to allegedly swindle crores of taka selling fake lottery tickets, in Chittagong city's South Khulshi area. According to police, the gang used to "earn Tk 20 to 25 crore everyday" by selling the tickets in Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet and Comilla. An international ring including 11 Chinese citizens is behind this illegal business while a section of Bangladesh has been aiding them in selling the tickets in the name of one Petronujal Bangla Development Foundation (PBDF), said the police officials. On secret information, police conducted a raid on the fourth floor of one 'Goure Bhaban' owned by Dr Nilkanto Bhattacharya of South Khulshi and held the 12 including Chinese citizen Sean," said CMP's Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (Port) Abu Bakar Siddique. "Sean, 36, is a computer engineer; he used to come to Bangladesh from China in every two months," he said. "During questioning, Sean told police that all the tickets had been printed and imported from China while they also conducted the illegal business in some parts of Nigeria and Yemen," the ADC added. There are four types of scratch cards (lottery tickets) - "Cricket Run", "Somudrer Cupodhon" (Hidden treasures of the Sea), "Bhai Morchi" (Hot Chili), and "Ten Times Lucky". By promising a huge amount of prize money, the gang used to attract people to buy the tickets. But they used to give only 15 percent of their earnings as prize money, said the officials.



Arrestees with the detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) at CMP office in the port city's South Khulshi area yesterday. Detectives arrested 12 persons including a Chinese citizen from the area for allegedly swindling crores of taka through selling fake lottery tickets.  
PHOTO: STAR