

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.6 L 26.9	H 32.0 L 24.0	H 33.2 L 25.7	H 32.5 L 24.5	H 34.4 L 27.0	H 33.0 L 25.3	H 34.2 L 26.0	H 34.0 L 25.5	H 33.7 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:33pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am.



With footpath being encroached by hawkers and vehicles parked on both sides, the road in front of the emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital remains gridlocked with heavy traffic. This prevailing situation not only escalates public sufferings, but also causes serious trouble for the patients. The photo was taken yesterday around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

147 sued in N'ganj double murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Fatullah police yesterday filed a case against 147 people for hacking two men to death in Hosaini Nagar area of Narayanganj Sadar upazila on Thursday night. Sub-Inspector (SI) Mojaharul Islam filed the case, in which 22 people were accused by names. On Thursday night, Milton Hossain, 40, and Parvez Ahmed, 35, were hacked to death by a number of miscreants in a rickshaw garage. According to the case statement, hostility aroused between one Jahangir Bepari, and Milton and Parvez after the latter left Jahangir's drug business, and formed their own gang in Hosaini Nagar area of Kashipur. Thursday's attack was made in connection with an incident of October 8 where a gang led by Milton hacked Jahangir's follower, Bappy, it added.

SUDIPTO MURDER

Arrested man admits killing

Claim police; placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man confessed to being directly involved in BCL leader Sudipto murder after he had been arrested in Chittagong city's Boropol area early yesterday, said investigators. During primary interrogation, Moktar Hossain, 29, son of Moslem Uddin Bhuiyan, of Comilla, also disclosed the names of several others who committed the crime, said SN Mostain Hossain, a deputy commissioner (DC) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police. He was arrested at a bus counter in the area while trying to flee the city, Mostain told a press briefing at CMP Headquarters. This is the first arrest a week after the pre-planned murder, said the police official. "We've got the names of those who asked Moktar to take part in the killing," said the DC. He, however, did not disclose the names of the persons, who had been in conflict with Sudipto, for the sake of investigation. "Hired by the rivals, Moktar was directly involved in the killing mission along with them," he said. Moktar has no political identity or portfolio, he added. However, locals and Awami League insiders seeking anonymity said Moktar is a Jubo League activist. Meanwhile, a Chittagong court placed Moktar on a four-day remand, CMP Additional Deputy Commissioner Nirmalendu Bikash Chawakrabarty told The Daily Star. Former Government City College student Sudipto Biswas, also assistant secretary of Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, was beaten to death near his house in the city's Nalapara area on October 6.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

It may emerge as security issue

Foreign secretary tells dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque yesterday said the Rohingya crisis might become a security issue in the region and Bangladesh is now in offensive mood diplomatically engaging internationally to find a peaceful solution to the problem as early as possible. "We'll continue to build pressure (on Myanmar). We're going everywhere. We're going to all countries (you mentioned)," he stated at a dialogue on Rohingya issue at a city hotel mentioning that Bangladesh is no way in defensive mood diplomatically. Cosmos Foundation arranged the dialogue titled "Domestic, Regional and International Dimensions of the Rohingya Issue: Dealing with a Man-made Crisis" to highlight the issue and offer some solutions to the crisis. The foreign secretary said Bangladesh is doing whatever is possible to find a solution to the crisis which lies within Myanmar. "We've a very articulated policy," Shahidul said adding that they are intensifying diplomatic efforts through multilateral and international forums and international bodies. The foreign secretary said the Rohingya issue is a multidimensional and multilayered one having over five dimensions. Explaining how Rohingya issue might become a security issue, Shahidul said, "It was basically a humanitarian movement. Subsequently, it became a border issue and it might become a security issue." "We aren't denying there's no potential to become a security issue," he emphasised. The foreign secretary said Bangladesh is looking into all the options to find the solution but not through any military means. "We aren't looking at that opinion. We think through diplomatic efforts we can find a long-term solution," he said, "This is a critical issue we're handling. Our efforts will lead to a peaceful solution when Rohingyas can go back to their home." Earlier, other speakers laid emphasis on intensifying diplomatic efforts through multilateral and international forums to end the crisis. They sought steps to set up a separate

desk at the foreign ministry to deal with Russia, China and India on Rohingya issue. A foreign ministry official said Bangladesh is soon sending a special envoy to China and Russia to further discuss the Rohingya issue. A panel of experts, including CR Abrar of Dhaka University, Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BISS), Shahedul Anam Khan of The Daily Star and former IOM official Asif Munier took part in the dialogue. The workshop was chaired by Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, a former foreign affairs adviser to the caretaker government and principal research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) in Singapore. Cosmos Foundation Chairman Enayetullah Khan delivered welcome speech. **SMARTER DEALING NEEDED** CR Abrar said, "We've to be really smart in dealing with it (Rohingya issue)." Talking about international community's role, he said the world has come a long way and "If we fail to act, it's a shame on us. It's a collective shame. Not for Bangladesh alone but a shame for entire world." The international affairs expert laid emphasis on thinking well about relocation plan of Rohingyas to an Island. He laid emphasis on evaluating whether the island is habitable at all. Muniruzzaman said Bangladesh has to be extremely smart to deal with matter and play better game as other players are smarter than us and better players. He also highlighted security concerns that might emerge over the Rohingya issue, including regional and domestic concerns. Iftekhar Chowdhury said Bangladesh must act for genuine change in Myanmar unitedly and resolutely. "We must act," he said, citing Tagore's poem -- "If you wish to cross the sea it will not do if simply scared at waters." Iftekhar Chowdhury said Bangladesh should be prepared for any such eventualities knowing Myanmar's mindset even Bangladesh does not seek out conflict with Myanmar.

SOUTH ASIAN STUDENTS

India announces fully funded fellowships

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India on Friday announced fully sponsored academic fellowships for scientists and researchers of South Asian countries, including Bangladesh. The 2018-India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) scheme will provide a full paid fellowship to researchers, scientists and academicians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka, India's Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan said. "The scheme for the first time will also include doctoral students in science, engineering and medical fields to undertake project-related research work in any premier research and academic institution in India up to a period of six months," Vardhan said. He made the announcement at the India International Science Festival (IISF) in southern Indian city of Chennai which was attended by Afghanistan's Minister of Higher Education Abdul Latif Roshan and Bangladesh's Minister of Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman. Two hundred travel slots are announced every year for researchers from these countries to be supported by the Department of Science and Technology to enable them to make the best use of these advanced training programmes.

Fire burns Rajshahi community centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A fire broke out at a community centre in Rajshahi city yesterday, damaging its consumer electronics and furniture. The fire originated on the ground floor of the three-storied Moonlight Garden Convention Centre and engulfed the entire floor of 4,125 square-feet around 9:00am, said Ahsanul Kabir, assistant director of Rajshahi Fire Service and Civil Defence. Eleven air conditioners, 40 fans, dining tables and some 1,000 chairs, and wooden wall decorations were gutted by the blaze, claimed the owners. One of the air conditioners was severely burnt which suggest that the fire might have originated from a short circuit in the home appliance, said the fire official. The centre owner claimed that the fire damaged valuables worth around Tk 1 crore. But, according to fire service officials, the amount of loss will not be more than Tk 40 lakh.



Fire fighters trying to douse the flame.

Volunteers in a cleaning drive on Patenga sea beach in Chittagong in observance of Beach Cleanup Carnival-2017 yesterday. Thirteen South Asian countries simultaneously carried out the programme jointly initiated by Bangladesh Marine Academy and Blue Green Foundation.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Workers of a garment factory demonstrate by blocking Narayanganj-Adamjee-Shimrail road in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj yesterday morning, demanding due wages of three months. Later, police took action reportedly injuring 15 demonstrators. The workers withdrew the blockade after the authorities of Old Fashion Ltd had assured them of paying the wages in three phases.

Woman found dead in Ashulia creditor's room

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police on Friday recovered the hanging body of a woman from a room where she was allegedly confined by her creditors for the last two days in Ashulia of Savar, outside the capital. The creditors confined not only Morjina Begum, 45, a swing operator at a local garment factory, but also her 12-year-old daughter to the room in Goshbag. Police said on information they recovered the body from the room, which belongs to fish trader Baten. They sent the body with some injury marks to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy. Morjina amassed a debt of Tk 30,000 in last two years as she alone had to earn for her family. Her husband Shahed Mia, who is suffering from lung diseases, lives in Kotuali of Rangpur, said locals. On Wednesday, Morjina along with her daughter went to get on a Rangpur-bound bus at a bus stand when Baten and shopkeepers Rofiqul, Shahin Mia, and Jashim Uddin held them and confined them to that room, they added. The creditors warned them that they could not leave without paying off their debts. Around 4:00am on Friday, the girl found her mother hanging from a rafter. Ashulia police could not immediately ascertain whether it was a murder or suicide. The creditors went into hiding, said police. Primarily an unnatural death case was filed, police added.

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