

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.2 L 21.3	H 25.7 L 20.3	H 25.5 L 23.9	H 23.4 L 23.4	H 29.2 L 21.3	H 29.0 L 18.7	H 24.8 L 21.5	H 24.5 L 22.0	H 26.4 L 24.0

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during late night till this morning, Met Offices said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am.

## 26 eminent personalities condemn case approval against Asif Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty six eminent personalities of the country yesterday in a press statement condemned the filing of a case against Asif Nazrul under the ICT Act.

Expressing their concern, they urged the Police Headquarters to withdraw the approval of the case as it is based on "false" allegations against the Dhaka University professor of law department.

They also demanded that the law ministry take immediate steps for bringing necessary amendment to the existing information and communication technology (ICT) Act.

On November 23, a defamation case was filed against Asif Nazrul with a Madaripur court for his alleged Facebook post. Faruk Khan, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan's cousin and also a member of Madaripur Zila Parishad, filed the case claiming that Asif deliberately made the post on Facebook to tarnish the minister's social and political image.

In their statement, the eminent citizens expressed their grave concern as the police authorities gave approval for filing the case that "falsely" implicated Asif over a post that was uploaded from a "fake Facebook" page named after him. Moreover, Asif on various occasions had denied the allegations vehemently and provided clarifications that were published in various mainstream newspapers.

In another move on the same date, Minister Shajahan's nephew Syed Asaduzzaman Minar filed a complaint with Madaripur Sadar Police Station against Prof Asif Nazrul under section 57 of the ICT Act over the same Facebook

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal, also the chairperson of South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), speaks at a press conference regarding a fact-finding mission conducted by the SAHR to assess the situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. SAHR organised the programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium. From left, mission members Bharat Bhushan (India), Barrister Sara Hossain (Bangladesh), Rajendra Ghimire (Nepal) and Jeehan Mahmood (the Maldives).

PHOTO: STAR

## Anti-Rohingya sentiment growing among locals

Finds fact-finding team of rights group SAHR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although local people came forward to help the persecuted Rohingyas taking shelter in Cox's Bazar at the initial stages, resentment is brewing among the former now as the refugees are entering the local labour market, according to a fact-finding report.

Sri Lanka-based rights group South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) disclosed the findings of the report at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. A SAHR team recently visited the Rohingya refugee camps.

At the event, SAHR Chairperson Sultana Kamal said the government should look into this growing resentment and take effective measures.

Locals have to be assured that they have a participatory role in the process of sheltering the persecuted people, and that the situation is temporary, she said.

The six-member SAHR team led by Sultana went on a five-day fact-finding mission to Kutupalong, Balukhali-1 camps and Hindupara area in Ukhaia on December 7. They talked to the refugees, locals, government officials, police, and members of UN agencies. As part of the mission, they also spoke to civil society members and journal-

ists in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka.

The SAHR team collected testimonies of atrocities like killing, rape, forced displacement, and enforced disappearance from the refugees, who wanted to return to Myanmar with "guaranteed citizenship rights, assured safety and justice".

The team found that Rohingyas remained vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling, while security of those belonging to Hindu community was a matter of concern.

While medical workers reported severe to moderate malnutrition, especially among children and women, access to clean and potable water in the visited camps was inadequate.

SAHR called upon the government to take long-term policies, in compliance with relevant international norms and standards, to deal with the crisis effectively.

It also urged the Myanmar government to create a conducive environment for safe return of the refugees and demanded justice for the atrocities.

Rights activist Sara Hossain and Indian journalist Bharat Bhushan, who were among the team members, also spoke on the occasion.

**BANGLADESH GOVT URGED TO**

Ensure continued access to food, shelter, healthcare and safe drinking water in all Rohingya camps

Set up long term policies and procedures

Enunciate policy for refugees ensuring access to basic services such as hospitals and schools

Improve coordination among aid agencies and local administration

Sign the Refugee Convention of 1951

Ensure psycho-social support for refugees

Prevent influence of extremist forces and human traffickers in camps

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**MYANMAR GOVT URGED TO**

Create conducive environment for safe return of the Rohingyas

Ensure justice and inter-community reconciliation in the Northern Rakhine State

Provide just reparation for returning refugees

Take appropriate measures to resolve citizenship issues

Bring perpetrators of atrocities to book

## Khaleda family has no illegal assets abroad

Says Fakhru, trashes AL leaders' allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday claimed that the ruling Awami League leaders' allegation that his party chairperson Khaleda Zia and her family members had illegal assets abroad was baseless.

"We have received information from across the world and found the allegation baseless. The properties they are talking about have no existence,"

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## A field of gold

Flood-hit farmers at Gumai Beel reaping the benefit of fast-growing rice variety

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Gold as far as the eyes can see.

Bumper yield of paddy brings a smile to Abdul Aziz's face, a lifelong farmer at Gumai Beel, one of the country's largest paddy fields at Rangunia upazila in Chittagong. The smile isn't one borne of pride or satisfaction only; it also comes from a sense of relief.

The field of gold below him is the result of a long battle against the recent persistent flood. A couple of months ago all Aziz could contemplate was counting his losses. He never thought his crops would yield this year around.

Recalling the flood-heavy August of this year, Aziz said three spell of floods wreaked havoc damaging the paddy shoots twice that month. However, with the perseverance of local farmers, a disaster was staved off.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## Candidates promise to fight corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Sharing the same stage, five of the seven mayoral candidates in the upcoming Rangpur City Corporation election yesterday pledged to build a drug-free and clean city and provide better services to people.

They also promised to make the city corporation free from corruption.

Meanwhile, at the same programme, the city residents expressed their expectations of the next mayor. Their demands include improved roads, a proper drainage system, and foot-bridges.

The mayoral candidates and the city people came together and interacted at a programme of Shujon (Shushashoner Janno Nagorik) on the Rangpur Public Library premises.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, founder general secretary of Shujon, moderated the event.

Kawsar Zaman Babla of BNP, Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa of Jatiya Party, Abdul Kuddus of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, ATM Golam Mostafa of Islamic Andolon of Bangladesh, and Selim Akter of National Peoples Party attended the programme.

The two candidates who were not present were Awami League's Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, the outgoing mayor, and Jatiya

Party rebel Hossain Mokbul Shahriar.

Speaking on different issues, the city residents urged the candidates to be honest and remain friendly with people, if they get elected. They also called for planned development and better services.

In reply, BNP candidate Babla said the voters could elect an honest and people-friendly mayor. To ensure a violence-free environment during the election, he urged the government to deploy army.

On the other hand, Abdul Kuddus of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal said he would cut taxes, if elected, and improve services. Expressing his concern, he said the authorities should stop the influence of "black money" in the election.

Demanding a peaceful voting atmosphere, JP candidate Mostafa said there was a lot to do for the city. He promised that if elected, he would ensure proper use of state fund for the city's development.

National Peoples Party's Selim Akter also pledged better services.

Meanwhile, echoing the BNP candidate, Islamic Andolon's Golam Mostafa said the city people should exercise their voting rights properly to elect the mayor of their choice.



## I have no desire to be MP or minister: Joy

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy said he has no desire to be a lawmaker or a minister, but would love to help the Awami League (AL) stay in power.

"I will not be a candidate in the upcoming election as I am not intending to be a MP (member of parliament) or a minister. My goal is to keep the Awami League in power," he told a press conference after attending a views-exchange meeting at the AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Joy, also a grandson of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the only son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said "The trust and support of the people on the Awami League have been increased manifolds due to huge development works carried out by the present government and it is a must that the Awami League will be voted to power again."

He said, "There is no doubt that the Awami League will be voted to power again. But, the BNP-Jamaat clique has been hatching conspiracies centering the election. It will be a big challenge to resist BNP from the act of killings by resorting to arson attacks anymore." Replying to another question, he also said, "It does not matter at all which party takes part in the election. The central focus of the next election should be to hold it in a free, fair and neutral manner."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## Pro-AL panel sweeps Duta election

Pro-Awami League "Blue" panel swept the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) election yesterday.

The panel achieved 14 posts in the 15-member executive committee while the "White" panel backed by BNP-Jamaat got one.

Prof ASM Maksud Kamal of disaster science and management was elected president for the second time.

Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, dean of business

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## SSC candidate killed in 'senior-junior' feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A candidate of this year's SSC examination was killed in Rupatali area of Barisal city on Sunday night as a sequel to a row over "senior-junior" feud.

Abu Saleh, 18, son of Liton Mridha of Rupatali Sher-e-Bangla Road area, was a student of Nuria Secondary School in the city.

As a sequel to a previous altercation, Hridoy, an HSC student of Government Hatem Ali College and a resident in the area, hit Saleh in the head with a blunt object near Zahitunnesa Mahila Madrasa around 10:30pm, said locals.

Saleh was declared dead at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital around 11:30pm.

Earlier, on November 18, a physical altercation took place between the duo as Hridoy refused to partner Saleh in a badminton match considering the latter as junior, said locals.

The next day, the locals arranged arbitration to reach a solution. But the duo got involved in altercations a few times afterwards. Sunday night's attack was the culmination of the series of altercations, the locals added. The body was sent to SBMCH morgue for an autopsy yesterday.

Senior assistant commissioner of Barisal Kotwali Police Station Md Farhad Sardar said the incident took place centering a row over senior-junior feud. Police are conducting drives to arrest the perpetrator, he added.



Five of the seven candidates from different political parties contesting for the mayoral post in the upcoming Rangpur city corporation election hold hands at a public rally yesterday. The event was organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujon) at Rangpur Public Library ground.

PHOTO: STAR



Bangladeshi mountaineers release emblems of summits conquered by Bangladeshi mountaineers on the occasion of International Mountain Day yesterday. Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMTK) and the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka jointly organised the event at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

## Illegal cosmetics factory busted in Ctg, 4 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion unearthed an illegal cosmetics factory and arrested four persons with 5,000 adulterated cosmetic items in Chittagong city's Kalurghat area yesterday.

The arrestees are Jahed Ali, 35, Aminul Islam, 37, Helal Uddin, 30, and Abdul Malek, 55, said Lt Commander Ashqur Rahman, deputy director of Rab-7.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab raided the factory "Afrin Traders" at Balurdhal, said the Rab official.

The arrestees use to supply the products to local markets, he said.

"Aminul is the owner of 'Afrin Traders' and he was running the business dodging the authorities concerned," he added.

**মেঘনা লাইফের বন্ধক পলিসি চালু করলে বিলম্ব মাশুল মওকুফ**

নির্ধারিত সময় : ৩১ জানুয়ারী ২০১৮ পর্যন্ত

২ বছরের কম : বিলম্ব মাশুল সম্পূর্ণ মওকুফ

২-৫ বছর পর্যন্ত : বিলম্ব মাশুল অর্ধেক মওকুফ

**মেঘনা লাইফের পলিসি চালুর সুবিধাসমূহঃ**  
আকর্ষণীয় পলিসি বোনাস, আর্থিকভাবে লাভ, ঝুঁকিমুক্ত জীবন ও পরিবারের ভবিষ্যৎ আর্থিক সুরক্ষা।

অবলিখন চাহিদা পূরণ করে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে সকল প্রিমিয়াম পরিশোধ করে আপনি ও আপনার পরিবারকে আর্থিকভাবে সুরক্ষিত রাখুন।

আপনার মূল্যবান পলিসি সম্পর্কে তাৎক্ষণিক তথ্য জানার জন্য আপনার মোবাইল ফোন থেকে Message অপশন দিয়ে MLI (Space) Policy No. লিখে ২৭৭৭ নম্বরে এসএমএস করুন, পলিসি তথ্য জানুন।

মেঘনা লাইফ নভেম্বর ২০১৭ পর্যন্ত ৪,৯৪,১৭৮ জনকে মেয়াদোত্তীর্ণ ও ২০,২৩৮ জনকে মৃত্যুদাবীসহ দাবী খাতে ১,৬৬১ কোটি ৮৬ লক্ষ টাকা পরিশোধ করেছে।

মেঘনা লাইফ ২০১৬ থেকে ২০১৭ সালের নভেম্বর পর্যন্ত বীমা দাবী বাবদ পলিসিহেতারপণ্ডে ৪৮৬.৫৬ কোটি টাকা পরিশোধ করেছে।

মেঘনা লাইফে পলিসি করুন, নিয়মিত রিনুওয়াল প্রিমিয়াম জমা দিন, নিজে লাভবান হোন, পরিবারকে নিরাপদে রাখুন।

**মেঘনা লাইফ আকর্ষণীয় বোনাস প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান**

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ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৮৯৯৩, ৯৫৫৬২০৪, ৯৫৫৮২৯৭।  
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