

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.5 L 25.0	H 30.7 L 23.0	H 32.0 L 24.2	H 32.3 L 20.1	H 35.8 L 24.0	H 30.4 L 22.5	H 34.5 L 24.0	H 33.5 L 22.8	H 32.0 L 23.9

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the region of Comilla with hails at isolated places till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.

Join hands to root out extremism

Urges Hamid at 8th convocation of UAP

BSS, Dhaka
President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged all to put united efforts into rooting out extremism and intolerance from the country.

"Uproot extremism, militancy and intolerance..." said the president while addressing the eighth convocation of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) on the premises of Dhaka International Trade Fair.

The president, also the chancellor of the university, termed the militant forces "the enemy of the country" as they (evil forces) tarnish the reputation of the country.

"All should bear in mind that religion is for the people's welfare, not for confrontation, discrimination..."

Abdul Hamid categorically asked the students to uphold the longstanding communal harmony of the country at any cost and contribute significantly to the development and progress of Bangladesh.

"You must have patriotism, firmness of character, social responsibility and professionalism to rebuild a happy and prosperous Bangladesh," the president said, adding that no nation could prosper without patriotism and the mentality of sacrifice.

Expressing his grave concern over the academic activities in private universities, Hamid said the country was yet to achieve the desired performance from the universities.

He said the desired target is not fulfilled due to the lack of efficient and meritorious teachers, world-standard curricula, proper classrooms, enriched libraries, laboratories, infrastructures, and so forth.

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President Abdul Hamid hands over a crest to Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal during the eighth convocation of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) held on the Dhaka International Trade Fair ground yesterday. Zafar Iqbal, a teacher of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, was the convocation speaker at the programme. UAP Vice Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury looks on.

PHOTO: PID

Mention Bangla year, date in judgements

SC admin orders lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court administration has directed the lower court judges to write the Bangla year and date along with the English one in their judgments from now to show respect to the mother tongue -- Bangla.

The SC registrar general issued a circular on Wednesday to this effect as per the instruction of Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain.

SC Registrar General Dr Md Zakir Hossain said in the circular that the sacrifice of Bangalees on February 21 in 1952 is a unique incident in the world history.

This historic day is observed as International Mother Language Day, he said in the circular.

"We have undiluted respect and love to Bangla. Mentioning Bangla years

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Cruelty she can't describe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

he added.

The six-year-old parentless girl cannot speak. But the wounds all over her malnourished body speak volumes about the brutal mutilation she had endured for over six months.

Patenga police rescued the child, named Mahi, on Wednesday night from a house at Muslimpara in Kaathgorh area of Chittagong city.

They also arrested Jesmin Aktar, 40, and her husband Golam Sharif, 50, with whom Mahi's mother had left her before leaving for Oman with a job as a domestic help.

"The victim's mother, Parvin, went to Oman in June of 2017 for work, leaving the child with the couple with the promise to pay Tk 4,000 a month for her [Mahi's] food and accommodation expenses," Sub-Inspector Prakash Pranay Dey of Patenga Police Station told The Daily Star.

"The promised money came in during the first two months, but it stopped later for unknown reasons,"



Six-year-old Mahi

Not receiving any money, Jesmin started venting her anger on the speech impaired child by torturing and mutilating her.

Police rescued Mahi around 8:00pm after receiving a tip off, SI Prakash said.

"Her body -- the face, forehead, head, back and right leg -- is full of scars, bruises and burn wounds,"

hesaid. Police are yet to trace Mahi's mother as she stopped communicating with Jesmin or Sharif. They also do not have any information about the whereabouts of her father, Mohammad Babul.

For now, Mahi will stay at Chhotomoni Nibash, run by Social Welfare Department, in city's Bayezid area, SI Prakash said, adding that "The Chhotomoni Nibash authorities will take necessary measures for the girl's treatment."

SI Anwar Hossain of Patenga Police Station has filed a case against the arrestees for torturing a minor child.

Khaleda should get highest respect in jail

Says Kader Siddique

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia should be shown the highest level of respect in jail as she is a former prime minister and wife of a freedom fighter, said Abdul Kader Siddique yesterday.

The president of Krishak Sramik Janata League was speaking at a views-exchange meeting with lawyers of Joypurhat yesterday afternoon as a special guest. The Joypurhat District Bar Association organised the event on its premises.

Khaleda Zia went to jail because she was convicted by the court, he said. "...it was a decision taken by the court. But she is an elderly person, a [former] prime minister and wife of a freedom fighter; she should be shown the highest level of respect in jail."

"She's in jail now. Let her stay in jail for 30 more years... I have no issue with that... but what about the thousands of crores of taka being looted and justice not being served?" he said.

The people of the country did not accept the Tk 2 crore corruption case against her, he said. Kader claimed that there was no corruption and the money

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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

US to work closely

Says Acting Under Secretary Heather Nauert

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has said it will continue to work closely with Bangladesh for the voluntary, dignified and safe return of the Rohingyas to their homes in Myanmar.

US Acting Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Heather Nauert said this during the Independence Day reception on Wednesday at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC.

"Our cooperation in responding to the Rohingya crisis is the fruit of a strong bilateral relationship that we seek to enhance even further," Heather said.

The close bond between Bangladesh and the US has never been more essential and

Bangladesh's leadership more vital during this tragic humanitarian crisis, she said.

Recollecting her maiden overseas visit to Bangladesh last November as the spokesperson for the US state department, Heather said she was deeply moved during her visit to Cox's Bazar to see how the people of Bangladesh have opened their doors and their hearts to the Rohingyas fleeing violence in Myanmar.

"Bangladesh has the profound gratitude of the American people for all that you have done and continue to do [so] to provide comfort to those in such great need," she said.

Earlier, Heather placed a wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu installed on the chancery premises.

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Myanmar agrees to engage UNHCR

Says Shahriar Alam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar has agreed to engage the UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, in the repatriation process of forcibly displaced Rohingya population, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday.

"I will say it's a positive initiative or step that Myanmar got engaged with the UNHCR. The UN has confirmed it to us. We are hopeful to resolve the crisis

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