

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.5   L 27.5	H 33.7   L 26.4	H 34.5   L 27.2	H 33.9   L 24.3	H 35.2   L 27.2	H 30.6   L 24.0	H 36.5   L 27.3	H 35.5   L 26.8	H 34.0   L 27.2

Rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind and lightning flashes is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh & Sylhet and at one or two places over Rajshahi & Dhaka till 6:00pm today, met office said quoting UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.

## France to give €400,000 for Rohingyas

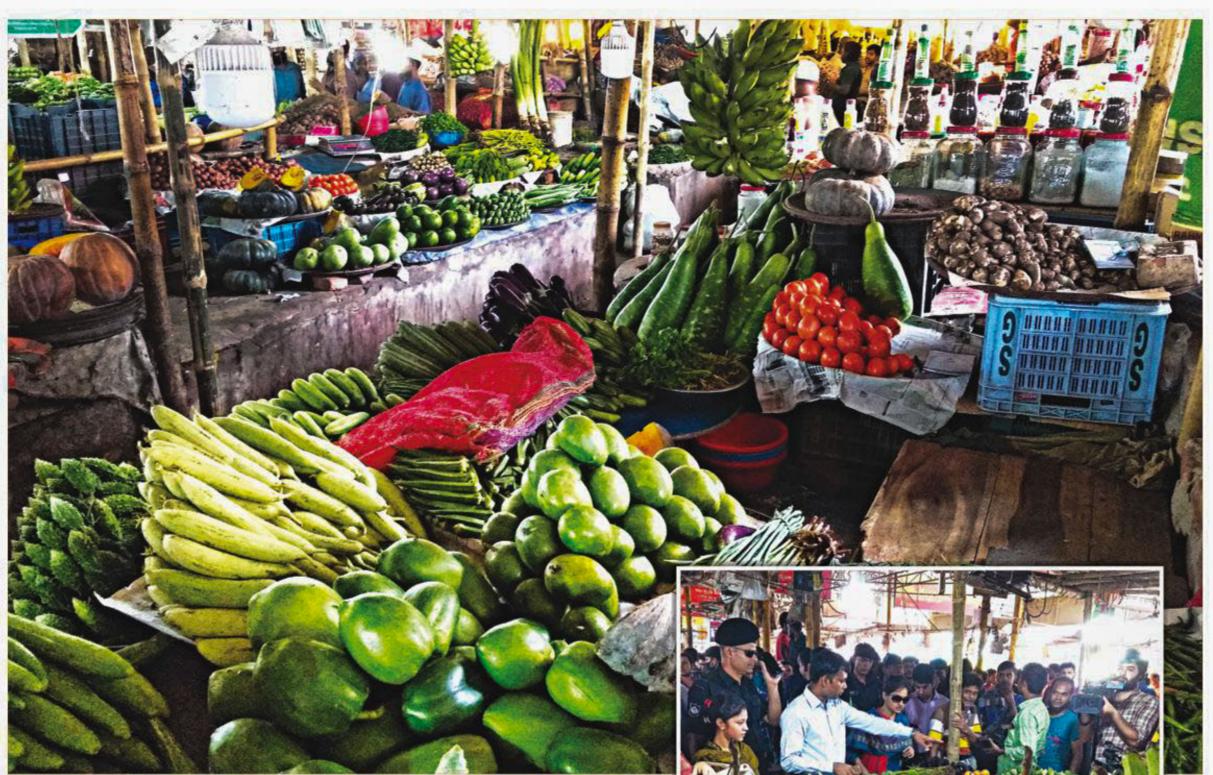
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

France, through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), will provide €400,000 to support life-saving nutrition activities for Rohingya refugees.

More than 5,000 children under five and 1,100 pregnant and nursing women in refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar will benefit from France's support, said a press release yesterday.

"We highly appreciate the positive impact for children and women refugees from the nutrition programme and training conducted by the WFP, with our €300,000 contribution in 2017," said Marie-Annick Bourdin, French ambassador to Bangladesh.

"France hopes that its 2018 support will further benefit both Rohingya refugees and local communities... and warmly thanks WFP for its continuous efforts," she said.



Vegetable sellers abandon their shops in the capital's Rayer Bazar City Corporation market yesterday, as a Rab mobile court arrives at the kitchen market to inspect overpricing of vegetables. Inset, a magistrate of the mobile court conducting the drive.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## Hospitals conducting needless c-sections to be shut down

Says state minister for health

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Malek yesterday warned that action will be taken against private hospitals if they are found conducting c-section operations on pregnant women unnecessarily.

"The rate of caesarean operation at private hospitals is over 70-80 percent, which should not be more than 15 percent. If any hospital is found involved in conducting caesarean operations unnecessarily, it will be shut down," he said while talking to reporters at the secretariat.

Replying to a question regarding the rise of such operations, the minister said they are working towards controlling it.

The minister said they have prepared a form in this regard where any private hospital that conducts c-section has to be accountable. They have to mention the cause of the operation on the form.

He noted that when a woman undergoes a caesarean operation, she faces many problems.

Malek said the government has taken various programmes including a rally and discussion at Bangladesh International Conference Centre, marking Safe Motherhood Day today.

There are almost 4,000 family welfare centres and 30,000 satellite clinics across the country where mothers get treatment, said Malek. Already 15,000 nurses have been appointed, which will play a role in safe motherhood, he said.

Breastfeeding corners have been established at every government institution while private institutions have also been asked to do so.

## Prof Samad made pro-VC of DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Samad has been made pro-vice chancellor (administration) of Dhaka University.

This post remained vacant since his predecessor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman was made vice-chancellor on September 6, 2017.

President Abdul Hamid, the chancellor of the university, appointed him to the post yesterday.

Prof Samad joined DU in 1996 as an assistant professor of social welfare and research institute and became a professor in 2003. He was the institute's

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## Bangladesh must respond to ICC letter on Rohingyas

41 rights activists and academics urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must respond to the International Criminal Court (ICC) along with all the information it has on circumstances surrounding the presence of the Rohingyas on its territory, said 41 rights activists and academics yesterday.

"It is our considered view that Bangladesh, as a state party to the Rome Statute, and a country which has its own history of having suffered war crimes and bringing those responsible to justice, must respond to this request," they said in a statement yesterday.

The government needs to do so as a matter of principle because as a state

party to the ICC, Bangladesh has committed itself to promoting accountability for mass atrocities, it said.

ICC pre-trial chamber on May 7 invited Bangladesh to submit by June 11 written observations on whether the court can exercise jurisdiction over forced deportation of Rohingyas from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

The letter comes after ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda asked the court to rule on whether it has jurisdiction over the matter, a possible crime against humanity.

Some 700,000 members of the Rohingya community fled a brutal military crackdown in Rakhine state of Myanmar since late August last year.

Rights groups said thousands were killed, women raped, houses burnt and then bulldozed. UN called it ethnic cleansing, having hallmarks of genocide.

Bangladesh has yet to respond to the ICC letter.

"Bangladesh has been compelled to address the humanitarian consequences of the deportation, and as such has an interest in providing information to ICC," the activists and academics said.

Bangladesh's response will be an important first step in ensuring justice for the victims of the crimes against humanity that have occurred in Myanmar, they said.

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## Ban mercury amalgam in dentistry: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at an open forum yesterday called for a ban on mercury amalgam in dental treatment, as the element leaves hazardous effects on human health.

Dental surgeons and environment activists agreed on the systematic elimination of mercury amalgam from the dentistry, said a press release.

Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) and Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS) organised the forum, titled "Phase out dental amalgam use in Bangladesh and regulation for ban", in the capital's Krishibid Institute Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has signed "Minamata Convention", an international treaty to phase out all sorts of mercury use to protect human health and environment.

On March 10, 2018, BDS declared that the amalgam should not be used in treating pregnant women, nursing mothers and children.

Speaking there, Environment and Forests Minister Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud said steps would be taken in this regard soon.

BDS Secretary General Dr Humayun Kabir and ESDO Chairperson Syed Marghub Murshed were also present.

## Thai Princess Sirindhorn due today

UNB, Dhaka

Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn arrives today on a four-day royal visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali.

The princess will lead an 11-member delegation to visit philanthropic projects she set up in Bangladesh in 2011 under her father, late King Bhumibol's Royal Chaipattana Foundation.



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## Anti-tobacco messages to be included in textbooks in 2020: Nahid

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said there will be clear messages against tobacco in school textbooks from 2020, aiming to create awareness among children.

Speaking at a programme organised by the Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance of non-government organisation Progga, the minister said young people need to be aware of the adverse impacts of tobacco consumption, so that they do not get the habit, and also encourage others to quit.

Citing a study that 90 percent shops located within 100 metres of schools and colleges in Dhaka city sell tobacco products, he said necessary action will be taken in this regard.

The programme at Cirdap in the capital conferred five journalists with "Tobacco Control Journalism Award-2018", ahead of World No Tobacco Day on May 31.

The winners contributed to creating awareness through their works in media, according to organisers. They are Sirajul Islam, chief reporter of Daily Sylheteer Daak; Dolon Akter, special correspondent of the Financial Express; Abdul Kashem, senior reporter of the Kaler Kantho; SM Atiq, senior correspondent of NTV, and Golam Murtaza Jewel, reporter of Daily Ajker Patrika.

Awareness among the young generation and proper enforcement of law are necessary to reduce tobacco consumption in Bangladesh, speakers said at the programme.

National Professor Brig (ret) Abdul Malik, who is also founder and president of National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, said, "Many of the 30-50 age group people suffer from ischemic heart disease, and one of the main reasons is tobacco consumption."

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## Pro-AL lawyers win Bar Council polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League lawyers have won in 12 executive member posts out of the total 14 of Bangladesh Bar Council, while the rest went to the pro-BNP panel.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, chairman of the Council, announced the results on Saturday, 12 days after the election was held on May 14.

The winning pro-AL lawyers are Abdul Baset Majumder, SM Rezaul Karim, ZI Khan Panna, Syed Rezaul Rahman, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Mohammad Mokhesur Rahman Badal, Kazi Md Nazibullah Hiru, Md Kabir Uddin Bhuiyan, Md Rezaul Karim Mantu, Md Yahiya, AF Md Ruhul Anam Chowdhury and Parvez Alam Khan. The winning BNP-backed lawyers are AJ Mohammad Ali and Md Delwar Hossain Chowdhury.



As the sun beats down on the city at high noon, a family traveling on a rickshaw improvises with resources available at hand to seek shelter from the scorching heat. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the BGMEA Bhaban in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## A 'development success story in the making'

UK parliament says about Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK parliament in a report recognised Bangladesh's recent graduation into lower-income status as a "development success story in-the-making", after many years of sustained economic growth.

The summary of the report, available on the website of the UK parliament states: "There was a lot of energy and confidence in the people we met, the projects we visited and the places we travelled through."

The report, made public on May 21, also commended Bangladesh and its local communities for their efforts in embracing the Rohingyas, who fled violent ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the Myanmar army.

Lauding the strategic partnership between the UK government's Department

for International Development (DFID) and Brac, it identified the latter as "Bangladesh's homegrown development facility, now the biggest NGO in the world".

Regarding Bangladesh's humanitarian efforts for the Rohingyas, the UK parliament urged "the UK government to continue and strengthen its efforts to persuade the international community fully to shoulder and share these responsibilities in line with the World Humanitarian Summit commitments to recognise the 'public good' that countries who host refugees provide for the world".

Earlier this year, Asif Saleh, senior director of communications, strategy and empowerment at Brac, travelled to the UK to present evidence to the committee dealing with the report.

The summary of the report can be accessed in the publications section of the UK parliament website.

## Analyse if climate finance benefits affected people

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called upon the government to conduct thorough analysis of the ministries receiving climate finance, to find out whether the allocation benefits the affected people.

They also urged the government to allocate more into climate related research and development to find socially acceptable and technologically viable options on unexplored issues.

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly arranged the conference on "Climate Budget 2018-19: Where Do We Stand?" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

They demanded that the government increase climate related expenditure by five percent a year.

Their other demands include prioritising climate change-vulnerable districts, and establishing a district-level funding mechanism focusing on capacity building of the women, young people and children.

Referring to a report on climate budget published last year, organisers said the government outlined the trend

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## National unity needed to restore democracy

Reiterates Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday once again called for national unity to restore democracy in the country, through forcing the arrangement of the upcoming general election under a neutral administration.

"The country's democracy has been broken and people's rights have been snatched. We will have to forge a unity, forgetting our differences, to overcome the situation," Fakhrul said while addressing an iftar occasion by Nagorik Oikya at a hotel in Dhaka last evening.

Fakhrul reiterated the need for formation of a polls-time neutral administration and reformation of the present Election Commission.

"People will not forgive us if we fail to protect the nation from this crisis," the BNP leader said, hinting at the ongoing country-

wide killing spree in the name of the anti-drug drive.

Bikalpa Dhara President Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury also spoke at the programme. Earlier in the day, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed in a press conference at the party's Nayapalton central office came down hard on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she returned from India without solving bilateral feuds between the two countries.

"Sheikh Hasina has visited India spending state money. She did not go there to resolve the Teesta water issue or stop border killings, rather she has drawn up a design in a bid to hang on to power for another term," Rizvi said.

He said the people of Bangladesh are ready to pay a fitting reply to the ruling Awami League for its indulgence in repression and oppression on the opposition party men.