

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 32.3 | L 27.3 MYMENSINGH 31.6 | L 26.2 CHITTAGONG 31.2 | L 25.2 SYLHET 32.0 | L 25.3 RAJSHAHI 30.7 | L 26.0 RANGPUR 32.6 | L 26.7 KHULNA 31.5 | L 27.0 BARISAL 31.8 | L 26.6 COX'S BAZAR 31.8 | L 24.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions with moderate to heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:15pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Situation will be worse than 2001 if BNP returns to power
Says Obaidul Quader
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next parliamentary election will be held in time in a festive atmosphere, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Those who failed to depoliticise the country during 1/11 are the ones who are saying that elections would not be held, the minister added.

Quader, also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, said this in response to a query by journalists while he was speaking at the inaugural programme of Janmashtami procession in Dhaka's Palashi area.

The next parliamentary session will be the last and

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Abul Mansur Ahmad's 120th anniversary of birth today

CITY DESK

Today marks the 120th birth anniversary of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad. He was born in Dhanikola village of Mymensingh district on September 3, 1898.

To commemorate the day, a memorial programme is going to be held on September 8 (Saturday) at 4:00pm at Abdul Karim Sahityabardar Auditorium of Bangla Academy. On the occasion, Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad will organise a prize-giving ceremony for the winners of an essay competition on "Relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad's writings in politics, literature and journalism in contemporary Bangladesh".

Abul Mansur Ahmad is one of the best satirical writers of Bengali literature. He also had an illustrious career as a journalist and a politician. In 1946, he was the founding editor of the daily Ittehad [in Kolkata]. He had earlier worked at daily newspapers Krishak and Navajug and many other periodicals.

An immensely successful politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad was the provincial education minister of Sher-E-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq's United Front government, and in 1957, he served as the commerce and industry minister of the central

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Janmashtami celebrated nationwide

BSS, Dhaka

Janmashtami, the celebration of Sri Krishna's birth and one of the major festivals of the Hindu community, was celebrated yesterday in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. The day was a public holiday.

In separate messages, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion of Janmashtami.

National dailies published special articles while Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private TV channels and radio stations aired special programmes highlighting different aspects of the eventful life of Sri Krishna.

The Mohanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee (MSPC) started a two-day programme at the Dhakeshwari National Temple to mark the festival.

A colourful Janmashtami procession was brought out at 3:00pm from the temple; it ended at Bahadur Shah Park after parading different city

streets. Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokan formally inaugurated the Janmashtami procession with MSPC President Shoilendra Majumdar in the chair.

As part of the programme, a discussion and cultural event will be held at Dhakeshwari Temple today.

The birth festival of Sri Krishna was also celebrated through similar programmes in different districts across the country, including Chittagong, Jessore, Narayanganj, Pabna, Sherpur, Barguna, Barisal, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Dinajpur, Khulna, Habiganj, Thakurgaon and Netrakona.

MAINTAIN COMMUNAL HARMONY AT ANY COST

At a reception programme marking Janmashtami, President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged followers of all religions to remain alert against attempts by vested quarters and militants.

"Religion leads people to the path of truth and righteousness, inspires people to work for human welfare... No religion

supports militancy, fundamentalism or terrorism," he said at the programme.

The president asked all to form a strong social resistance "if anyone tries to create anarchy" and maintain communal harmony at any cost.

"Communal harmony is our great tradition ... Strengthen the existing harmony to ensure a happy and prosperous Bangladesh for the present and future generations," the president said.

He said participation of all irrespective of religion and background accelerated victory in all national struggles and movements including the Liberation War.

He urged all to continue the collective endeavour to keep up the trend of national development, being imbued with the spirit of non-communalism, as envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hindu religious personalities, community leaders, and people from various professions of the community joined the reception.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

The bail petition stated that he may be granted bail as he is physically ill, adding that he will, however, face the trial proceedings and, if granted bail, will not leave the country.

Shahidul's bail petition is enlisted as item no 208 on the hearing list of the bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, the lawyer said.

"If the bench holds hearing of all listed petitions serially, Shahidul's bail plea will not be heard today. Therefore, we will place a petition before the bench to hold the bail hearing earlier in the day," Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua said.

Barrister Sara Hossain and Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua jointly submitted the bail petition on August 28 after the renowned photographer was sued under the

HC may hear Shahidul Alam's bail petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, a lawyer for internationally-acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam, yesterday said he will request the HC to hear Shahidul's bail petition today.

Shahidul's bail petition is enlisted as item no 208 on the hearing list of the bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, the lawyer said.

"If the bench holds hearing of all listed petitions serially, Shahidul's bail plea will not be heard today. Therefore, we will place a petition before the bench to hold the bail hearing earlier in the day," Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua said.

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Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

The bail petition stated that he may be granted bail as he is physically ill, adding that he will, however, face the trial proceedings and, if granted bail, will not leave the country.

Earlier, the bail petition was included in the hearing list on August 29.

The photographer landed in jail on charges of "spreading propaganda and false information against the government".

He was picked up by law enforcers from his home in Dhamondi on August 5. The next day, a Dhaka court placed him on a seven-day remand.

Shahidul said he was being tortured in custody, but police denied the allegation.

He was sent to jail on August 13 after completing his remand period.

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