

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.5 L 29.3	H 34.5 L 27.0	H 36.5 L 25.0	H 33.3 L 24.8	H 36.0 L 26.4	H 34.5 L 27.0	H 36.2 L 27.5	H 35.7 L 27.0	H 34.2 L 25.8

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chattogram, Sylhet and Barishal and at one or two places over Mymensingh, Dhaka and Khulna in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Chattogram, Rangamati, Cumilla, Chandpur, Feni, Khulna, Satkhira, Jashore, Chuadanga, Bhola and Patuakhali and it may abate. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:57pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47am.

**MINIMUM WAGE
RMG workers' countrywide demo Sept 21**

UNB, Dhaka
Garment workers will demonstrate in their factory areas across the country on September 21, protesting the recent announcement of Tk 8,000 as their minimum wage and demanding doubling of the amount to Tk 16,000.
They also decided to continue their protest until the government fulfils their demand.
Garments Workers Trade Union Centre announced the decision after police stopped their procession towards the labour and employment ministry yesterday. They were going to submit a memorandum seeking re-fixing of the minimum salary.
Jolly Talukder, general



Carrying her sleeping son on the left shoulder and holding a red flag in the right hand, a garment worker takes part in a protest against the government's recent announcement of Tk 8,000 as minimum wage. She was among a few hundred workers who joined the programme under the banner of Garments Sramik Trade Union Centre in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

No scope for long-term stay of Rohingyas in Bangladesh

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that Bangladesh will place its proposals on the future action plans over the Rohingya crisis in different multilateral meetings during the upcoming 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
"We will hold talks with important world leaders over the issue at the sideline meetings of the UN General Assembly," she added.
In reply to lawmakers' queries, Hasina said she had placed a five-point proposal at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in resolving the Rohingya problem, immediately after ethnic atrocities against Rohingya started on August 25, 2017, which the international community accepted cordially.
Mentioning that Bangladesh provided shelter to 1.1 million Rohingyas, the PM said, "Their stay in Bangladesh has created risk of human trafficking, drug smuggling and other organised crimes."
"The displaced Rohingyas have created a huge negative impact on local communities and ecology in Cox's Bazar," she said, adding that the risk of environmental disaster has emerged due to deforestation in the reserved land and cutting hills.
Besides, the possibility of outbreaks of diphtheria, polio and HIV and other communicable diseases has appeared, she also said.
The premier said Bangladesh allowed influx of forcibly-displaced Rohingyas keeping the border open, responding actively to the unprecedented humanitarian crisis.
She, however, said, "There is no scope for long-term stay of Rohingyas in Bangladesh. We want to repatriate them within the quickest time."
Hasina, also leader of the House, said safe, respectful and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland will be possible as a result of the Awami League government's diplomatic efforts.
She said the Rohingya crisis first started in Myanmar 1978-'79 when the influx of Rohingyas began to Bangladesh. But the crisis continued due to failure of the then

military ruler in handling the problem.
In reply to a supplementary question from treasury bench lawmaker Dharendra Deb Nath Shambhu from Barguna-1, Hasina said Bangladesh experienced influx of Rohingya again in 1980s.
Later, several lakh Rohingyas entered Bangladesh in 1991 and 1992 during the BNP government. Though Bangladesh could repatriate some Rohingyas through talks with Myanmar, some of them remained in Bangladesh, she said.
"But our [Awami League government's] diplomatic success is that we could create international opinion that Rohingyas were victims of injustice and it is duty of Myanmar to let them go back to their own country," said the prime minister.
She said the International Criminal Court also has taken measures to try those who are involved in persecution against Rohingya. Bangladesh has provided all information to the ICC regarding the issue.
During her talks at the recent Bimstec summit, the president of Myanmar said they would take Rohingyas back. "They [Myanmar] have also acknowledged it," Hasina said.
"I hope Myanmar will be forced to take them back in the face of international pressure," she added.
Responding to another supplementary question, the prime minister said, "We had talks with all countries and all acknowledged that the stay of 1.1 million Rohingyas is a huge burden for Bangladesh."
She said, "We've got good response from all countries including China, Russia and India over putting pressure on Myanmar. Though they did not put pressure overtly, they told us that they would take all necessary measures so that Myanmar takes Rohingyas back."
Responding to star-marked questions, Sheikh Hasina told parliament about her government's various measures regarding bringing development to the country's communication sector, armed forces, reducing traffic congestion, combating militancy terrorism and corruption, and welfare for freedom fighters.

Effective partnerships needed to eradicate child labour

Lawmakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of economic solvency of families and ensuring education of children fighting with poverty are key challenges to reducing child labour in the country, parliamentarians said at a roundtable yesterday.
They said effective partnership between government and non-government institutions is required to mitigate the challenges.
The Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights and Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) jointly arranged the roundtable on "Child Labour Situation in Bangladesh: Role of Parliament Members" at IPD Conference Hall inside the National Parliament compound in the capital.

Chairing the roundtable, Mir Showkat Ali Badsha, president of the parliamentary caucus, said they have made significant progress since the caucus was formed during the tenure of present parliament.
Now, the Speaker gives parliamentarians additional minutes if they want to address child issues before the House, he said, calling upon development workers to create partnership with lawmakers to eradicate child labour.
He, however, expressed dissatisfaction over the role of lawmakers, as only nine lawmakers and women MPs of reserved seats attended the roundtable.
"The caucus was formed with many reputed persons [parliamentarians]. I

cannot see many of them. They are so busy about the nation, so sincere about economic development that they have no time for children's issues," he added.
Referring to government statistics, Prof Nazmuzzaman Bhuian of department of law at Dhaka University said the number of working children aged 5 to 17 is about 3.45 million in the country. Of them, 1.28 million are engaged in hazardous labour.
An estimated 94.85 percent children are working for informal economy, he said, adding that the number is higher in the lower age group.
If economic problems of families of working children are solved, child labour will be reduced significantly,

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Schoolgirl found dead in Agargaon slum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She was supposed to go to school like others days, but family members found the hanging body of Sumaiya Akhtar, a fifth grader, in a room of their slum at city's Agargaon yesterday morning.
Sumaiya, 12, a resident of city's Agargaon BNP Bazar Bosti, asked for Tk 50 from her father for tiffin before going to school. But her father reacted angrily to her demand and left home.
After returning home at 10:30 am, Mohammad Sultan, father of Sumaiya, heard that her daughter did not go to school. He found her body hanging from roof of a room next door, where her aunt lives.
"I could not even give her Tk 50 as I do not have any income. If I gave her the money, my daughter would still be alive," said a distraught Sultan, a patient of tuberculosis who cannot work. The family survives on the income of her wife Shahinoo Begum.
He said he has been living in the slum since his birth around 37 years back.
"All of my dreams are gone with her, as she was the only one among my three children who was continuing her studies."
Some neighbours, however raised questions about the suicide, terming the reason of the suicide "unusual".
Officer-in-Charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police station, GG Biswas, said they heard the news of the suicide, and sent the body to Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Street movement only way to free Khaleda: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said their party is taking necessary preparations to come up with street programmes to ensure Khaleda Zia's release from jail, and holding a credible election.
"We need to forget about having Khaleda Zia released from jail through legal process... street movement is now the only way for having her freed," he said while addressing a human chain programme organised by Diploma Engineers Association of Bangladesh, in front of Jatiya Press Club.
Moudud said his party is taking preparations and necessary steps to announce fresh programmes, and called upon all democracy-loving people to unite to make their movement a success.
The former law minister said Khaleda should have been released within seven days of her jailing through a legal battle.
"But, we could not free her over the last seven months, as the lower court is controlled by the government," he said.

Dawrae Hadith gets master's degree status

Bill passed at parliament

UNB, Dhaka

A bill to recognise Dawrae Hadith (Takmil) certificate in Qawmi Madrasa with the status of postgraduate degree of Islamic Studies and Arabic, was passed in parliament yesterday.
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid placed the bill titled "Making Dawrae Hadith (Takmil) Certificate in Qawmi Madrasah Equivalent to Master's Degree (Islamic Studies and Arabic)", which was passed by voice vote.
The proposed law was designed on the basis of the gazette notification published by the education ministry on April 13, 2017, recognising the Dawrae Hadith degree equivalent to master's degree.
The bill will have retrospective effect, and those who have so far acquired Dawrae Hadith degrees after the recognition in April, 2017,

will be considered as master's degree holders.
There will be a board named "Al-Haiyatul Uliya Lil-Jamiatil Qawmia Bangladesh" integrating the existing six Qawmi Madrasa education boards in the country.
The chairman of Befakul Madrisil Arabiya Bangladesh (one of the six existing boards) will be the ex-officio chairman of the 17-member integrated board. The board chairman can co-opt one or more persons as the members of the board, but the number of such members will not exceed 15.
The board will prepare syllabus, question papers, conduct examinations and award certificates among the students of Qawmi Madrasa. Besides, the status of postgraduate degree will be effective for the madrasas which would be registered under the board.

In Memoriam

NAJMA SIDDIQI



It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of our beloved mother, Professor Najma Siddiqi (b. 1939), who passed away in the early hours of September 16, 2018 at United Hospital. She died of complications arising from a protracted illness, against which she fought valiantly for three years. Her death came less than three months after that of her devoted husband and life partner, Dr. Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi (Professor Emeritus, BRAC University, and former Vice Chancellor, North South University).
A Professor and former Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy, Jahangirnagar University, Najma Siddiqi also taught part-time at the Women's Studies Department of Dhaka University. A life-long academic and feminist, she was a former President of the Bangladesh chapter of Graduate Women International and Vice-President of Women for Women, among many other accomplishments.
Her qulkhani will be held on Friday September 21, after Asr prayers, at her residence. We would be grateful for the presence of family and friends, as we pray for her departed soul and celebrate her life.
May Allah grant her eternal peace.
Dr. Dina M. Siddiqi (daughter)
Dr. Asif A. Siddiqi (son)

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