

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.9 L 26.8	MYMENSINGH H 33.0 L 24.5	CHATTGRAM H 33.2 L 26.0	SYLHET H 34.6 L 24.4	RAJSHAHI H 35.8 L 25.0	RANGPUR H 32.0 L 24.7	KHULNA H 36.0 L 26.5	BARISHAL H 35.5 L 25.8	COX'S BAZAR H 33.2 L 25.0
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Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Chattogram divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am.

A happy place at Kutupalong Rohingya camp

Eco-friendly learning centre for refugee children starts operation

MUNTAKIM SAAD, from Cox's Bazar

Since the Rohingya influx, around 70 percent of school-age children and youth are yet to have access to any educational facility. There is also a scarcity of space in the camps.

To meet this challenge, Brac and UNHCR (the UN refugee agency), with support from Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission of the government, inaugurated the first two-storey environment-friendly learning centre at Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The school was built to create more learning space and educational opportunities for refugee children. The school building -- made of bamboo -- is painted bright red and yellow, and can accommodate 240 children. This is the first two-storey learning centre at the refugee camps.

The pilot project brings the number of temporary learning centres that UNHCR has established with Brac in 20 different locations in Camp 4 and 17 since May this year to 39.

At this learning centre, children will initially be taught the basics, and later they will be promoted to first, second, or third grade -- depending on their learning aptitude. The school will operate in three shifts (from 9am to 2pm), six days a week. The children are being taught in Burmese and English.

Two associate professors of Brac University's architecture department designed the school building, which was built with locally-available material and technology.

A slanted thatched roof and perforation in the front and back walls allow smooth flow of wind through the structure and weaken its pressure.

According to Brac, there are presently 317 learning centres providing classes in different Rohingya camps, partnered with Unicef, where 31,834 children are enrolled. The organisation has plans to reach 1 lakh children by 2019.

Dr Shafiqul Islam of the Brac Education Program said, "The two-storey design of this learning centre will address the space crisis in this camp. This culturally-sensitive design allows for a better learning environment."

"It is also built with eco-friendly material and can be modified or relocated if necessary," he said.

UNHCR Education Officer James Yango said, "This is a creative and innovative way to tackle one major problem we face in the camp -- inadequate space for educational opportunities targeted towards refugee children."

Md Abul Kalam, NDC of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC), said, "We have plans to build more schools, with a focus on sustainability and quality."

Addressing the Rohingya refugees present at the opening programme, Md Kalam said, "We are making a serious effort to send you peacefully to your homeland."

Nesar Ahmed, joint secretary (admin) of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education said, "Teachers from government schools in Cox's Bazar will lend their support to learning centres providing education to the Rohingya children. We will ensure that no children are left without proper education -- regardless of their nationality or birthplace."

Across all the refugee settlements in Cox's Bazar, there are 540,000 children of school-going age, but only 160,552 can be accommodated at the learning centres, according to Brac.



The two-storey eco-friendly learning centre for refugee children at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar. Inset, Children taking lessons. PHOTO: STAR

DURGA PUJA CMP takes strict security measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Md Mahbubur Rahman yesterday said nobody will be allowed to use Durga Puja as an opportunity to create anarchy, ahead of national elections.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters after a meeting with leaders of the Hindu community and city unit of Puja Uddjan Parishad at the CMP headquarters.

Addressing the meeting, Mahbubur said evil forces may try to disrupt communal harmony during Durga Puja. "Police is prepared to thwart any kind of untoward situation during the festival," he said, adding that a five-tier security arrangement has been chalked out.

"This year Durga Puja will be celebrated at 255 mandaps across the city, and police will be deployed at the spots from October 15," he added.

Mahbubur requested Puja Uddjan Parishad leaders to install CCTV cameras and proper lighting at the mandaps.

"CMP is also alert about rumours on social media ahead of the festival," the commissioner said, adding that its Cyber Security Monitoring Cell is working to scrutinise suspicious IDs.

Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operation) Amena Begum, Additional Commissioner (Traffic) Kusum Dewan, Additional Commissioner (Finance and Administration) Masood-ul-Hasan were present.

Spread our culture to the world: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged people of the country to spread various elements of Bangladeshi culture throughout the world.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of 'International Folk Culture Festival 2018' in Netrokona, he said, "There are various components of our culture across the country. You should collect them and spread them abroad. I hope that many people including poets, writers, dramatists, producers, collectors, researchers, and institutions will come forward in this regard."

The festival, organised by Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum, is being held at the town's Muktarpara field.

The president also stressed on the need for establishing an international institution for preserving folk culture. "The precious components of folk culture which is now scattered should be preserved in an organised way. An inter-

national-standard folk culture institution should be established for the preservation of folk culture," he said.

"I am happy to hear that the Cultural Forum has already taken a timely step to establish this type of institution with the collaboration of cultural ministry," President Hamid added.

In his inaugural speech, the president also called upon the people of the country to accept the good aspects of "satellite culture" and exclude the evil sides.

President Abdul Hamid said, "Do not be influenced by the cheap trend of satellite culture. You will rather have to accept the good aspects of it and ... reject the evil sides."

"Information technology has affected everyone's life in villages and cities. The whole world has become a village because of the free flow of information. As a result, 'sky culture' is now a reality. The influence of the culture of different countries and nations is spreading very fast. The cultural pattern is also changing at the same pace," the

president said.

About the festival, Abdul Hamid said, "This international festival will strengthen the relationship among local and foreign researchers and artists, and play a vital role in developing this region's history, heritage and lifestyle."

Renowned folk researcher Jatin Sarker presented a keynote speech at the programme, chaired by Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar.

Visva-Bharati University Professor Sabuj Koli Sen, and Dinesh Chandra Sen's great-granddaughter Debkanya Sen were also present at the programme, as well as Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports Arif Khan Joy and Chief Coordinator for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office Abul Kalam Azad.

Earlier, the president laid the foundation of Sheikh Kamal IT Training and Incubation Centre in the district.

Rescued Zakiganj councillor still mute

Police in the dark about 'abduction'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two days after missing Zakiganj municipality councillor Shakil was rescued, police are still clueless about the people and the reason behind his alleged abduction.

Shahab Uddin Tapadar Shakil, 30, is undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, and still not being able to speak, due to unknown reasons.

Councillor Shakil, also convener of Zakiganj town Jubo League, went traceless after he left home around 10pm on Friday. Four days later, he was found from under a bridge on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Bariura area of Sarail in Brahmanbaria. His hands and legs were tied with rope when he was found by locals and rescued by police. He could not speak at the time, and wrote his name on a paper to identify himself, before losing consciousness.

He was brought back to Sylhet that evening and was admitted at the Neurosurgery ward of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Dr. Mahfuz Ahmed, duty doctor of the ward, said that no severe physical injury has been found on his body, and doctors are now diagnosing him for internal brain injuries.

"He is almost speechless, maybe out of injury or trauma. In the morning (yesterday), senior doctors tried to make him talk, but he just mumbled a little," he said.

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13pc pass DU 'Ka' unit admission test

DU CORRESPONDENT

Only 13.04 percent students secured pass mark of 48, in the 'Ka' unit (science group) admission test of Dhaka University for 2018-19 Academic session.

A total of 77,572 candidates took part in the test on Friday, competing for 1,750 seats. Of them, 10,117 students secured the pass mark in the hour-long multiple-choice question (MCQ) test of 120 marks.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman announced the result yesterday at the central admission office on the campus. The results can be viewed from the university website or via SMS on any mobile operator service.

ACC catches

FROM PAGE 3
took Tk 7,000 as bribe from one Ratan Kumar Babu for renewal of trade license.

The team coordinated by ACC's Director General Muhammad Munir Chowdhury asked DSCC's Executive Officer of zone-3, SM Ansaruzjaman, to go to the spot. ACC team members produced documents of corruption against Chandra Shekhor there.

Ansaruzjaman confirmed that a team of ACC came to the revenue office. "They have produced documents of corruption against Chandra Shekhor," he said. "I'll inform it to higher authority. They will decide whether the supervisor will be suspended," he added.

ACC will continue its drive, and if necessary, will make a list of corruptors with help of city corporations and begin enquiry, he added.



An overcrowded ward at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Many patients have to stay on the corridor floor, below, as the hospital fails to accommodate rising number of treatment seekers. PHOTO: STAR

MYMENSINGH MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL Overburdened with patients triple its capacity

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) is witnessing an overwhelming number of patients, almost three times its capacity, making life difficult for doctors, staff as well as treatment-seekers.

The 1,000-bed hospital is looking after as many as 3,000 inpatients in different wards and even in their corridors every day. The hospital also sees around 6,000 outdoor patients per day.

Three departments in particular-- pediatric, medicine and gynae -- remain overcrowded round the year with rush from various districts.

On a recent visit, this correspondent found the 70-bed pediatric ward had 450 inpatients, the 180-bed medicine ward had 646 patients and the 120-bed gynae ward had 405 patients.

The verandas, corridors and other spare spaces of the wards were filled with patients and this has been an everyday scenario.



On an average, the pediatric and gynae departments admit 120 patients a day while the medicine department admits some 200 patients per day. "For the patients and their family

members who do not get a bed, the sky is their roof, the hard floors of the sickbays their beds, and mosquitos their company. I got admitted on September 27 and have not got any bed yet," Rokhsana Begum, a patient at the gynae ward, told The Daily Star.

Six-year-old Ramzan was admitted to the pediatric ward on Sunday. "It is heartbreaking especially when we have to stay in this condition with our sick children. But the overall treatment we are getting here is good," said his father.

The MMCH has been drawing large number of treatment seekers from the district and adjoining areas ever since medical services and overall environment of the facility started improving since 2015.

The hospital now has a clean environment free from medical representatives of pharmaceutical companies or brokers of clinics, 24-hour free

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15 BNP men arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested 15 BNP activists and leaders, including the party's Rangunia upazila president, over an alleged incident of hurling stones at police in Kazir Dewri area of Chattogram city.

Three members of police were also injured in the incident, Mohammed Mohsin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station, claimed while speaking to The Daily Star.

"Three members of police were injured when a group of BNP men hurled bricks from a procession, after being intercepted by police in Kazir Dewri area," he said.

"Police later arrested 15 BNP men from the spot, on charges of attacking police and obstructing police from discharging their duties."

However, onlookers and BNP activists told this correspondent that there was no throwing of any object at the police in the area as claimed by the police.

They said around 3pm, there was only a brief scuffle in the area between the police and several BNP leaders and activists who were on their way to BNP office at Nasiman Bhaban to attend a programme called by the central BNP.

The party sources said the programme, organised by Chattogram North BNP, ended around 3:30pm.

Advocate Abu Taher, joint secretary of Chattogram North BNP, said, "There was no such incident of hurling stones at police. Rather, police created obstructions while the BNP men were going to the party office in processions."

He also said police picked up 15 of their leaders and activists, including Rangunia upazila BNP President Prof Kutub Uddin, while they were going to the party office.

OC Mohsin said they would take legal action against the arrested men after validating their identities.

Three held with 3,000 yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) arrested three persons with 3,000 yaba pills in the port city yesterday.

Md Haidar, 18, Ismail, 20 and Hossen Ahmed, 47, were arrested in separate drives in Bakalia and Firingi Bazar area of Chattogram, said Deputy Director (DD) Shamim Ahmed of DNC Chittagong unit.

Tipped off, two teams arrested the trio from Shah Amanat Bridge and Firingi Bazar and recovered 3000 yaba pills from their possession, the DD said, adding, the trio admitted that they had been peddling the pills from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf.

Two cases were filed in this regard.

'ISSUING DEATH THREAT' Ex-BCL leader's mother sues AL lawmaker in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Awami League lawmaker of Sylhet-3 constituency was sued yesterday by mother of a former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Fenchuganj upazila for allegedly issuing death threats against her son.

Monwara Begum, mother of former Fenchuganj upazila BCL president Ashrafal Islam Sabbir, filed the case with Sylhet Judicial Magistrate's Court-5, accusing Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury, MP, for making defamatory remarks and issuing death threats against her son, said Syed Mahmud Ali, lawyer for Monwara.

"Judicial Magistrate Farzana Yeasmin accepted the case and ordered police to investigate into the matter," Mohsin added.

According to the case statement, Mahmud made the threats against Ashrafal during a programme at a primary school in Fenchuganj upazila on September 15.

When contacted, Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury denied the accusations, saying that in the programme, he only requested the local police to act against the people whose names were mentioned in a confession by a man who had been arrested over a murder in the upazila.

"All I wanted was [to ensure] justice. And as a parliamentarian it is my moral duty to seek justice. But now I am being accused in a case for my speech," said Mahmud.