

Volcanoes are

FROM PAGE 16
 temperature.
 This could have helped decrease the global temperatures by between 0.05°C to 0.12°C over the past 15 years.
 Since 1998, the warmest year on record, the steep increase in global temperatures seen during the 1990s has levelled off, failing to match computer model predictions for climate change.
 This pause, or hiatus, has been blamed on weak solar activity and increased uptake of heat by the world's oceans.
 However, in a paper published in November last year, atmospheric scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that small volcanic eruptions in the early 21st century, which had been largely overlooked, were responsible for up to a third of the hiatus in warming.
 Now researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in California, have found signs of the effects from eruptions from the late 20th century and early 21st century in the atmospheric temperature, moisture and amount of sunlight reflected from the atmosphere.
 They also found that the eruption of Pinatubo, a volcano on the island of Luzon in the Philippines, which last erupted in 1991, also caused a drop in tropical rainfall.
 "The fact that these volcanic signatures are apparent in multiple independently measured climate variables really supports the idea that they are influencing climate in spite of their moderate size," said Mark Zelinka, a climate scientist at Lawrence Livermore and one of the authors of the new study.
 "If we wish to accurately simulate recent climate change in models, we cannot neglect the ability of these smaller eruptions to reflect sunlight away from Earth."

IT-based

FROM PAGE 16
 separate projects have already been undertaken for these two programmes, resulting in the decrease of the project cost.
 Under the project, 81,532 people will be appointed, of whom 80,605 are teachers. In the original project, approval for manpower was 48,084, he added.
 The teachers, who will be appointed in the project, will be automatically absorbed in the revenue budget later.
 The ECNEC yesterday also approved four another projects. Those are: establishment of two sports schools with modern training facilities in Rajshahi and Chittagong with Tk 79 crore, establishment of Bhola Textile Institute at a cost of Tk 65 crore, BSCIC Industrial Estate in Chuadanga at a cost of Tk 33 crore and special development of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur involving Tk 74 crore.
 Under Begum Rokeya University development project, a 1000-seat female hostel will be constructed alongside establishment of Dr Wazed Miah Science Research Institute.

Thousands of London bus drivers stage

AFP, London
 Thousands of London bus drivers held a one-day strike yesterday over pay and conditions, causing overcrowding on remaining services, trains and the underground system.
 Members of the Unite union, which represents more than 27,000 bus workers, are calling for a single wage between different operators, similar to the one used for underground drivers.
 At the moment, more than 80 different pay rates exist across the city, leading to differences in hourly rates, the union said.
 Transport for London (TfL) warned that services would not get back to normal until today.
 "London's bus operators have raked in millions in profits while driving down pay and refusing to tackle pay inequality on the capital's buses," said Wayne King, London regional officer for Unite.
 "As bus company directors enjoy lottery-style salaries, bus drivers doing the same job on the same route are being pitted against one another on different rates of pay," he added.
 Crowds of commuters were seen outside transport hubs like Victoria, as they strained to absorb some of the 6.5 million bus journeys made in London each day.
 London Mayor Boris Johnson criticised the action and defended the differential pay rates.
 "It is very, very sensible to have different pay rates across London. There are different working environments, different labour markets across the city," he told BBC radio.

Milk producers

FROM PAGE 16
 not bring sufficient milk to the capital due to the nonstop blockade, resulting in a significant drop in production.
 "We often freight four to five truckloads of milk at night, but it is very inadequate against the huge demand," Shakhawat observed.
 Apart from Milk Vita, private companies and general people also buy milk from the two districts. But the private companies also feel it unsafe to collect milk during the blockade, say the farmers.
 During visits to different milk producing areas in Sirajganj and Shahzadpur on Sunday, it was found that the producers were selling milk at Tk 30 a litre instead of Tk 50 as Milk Vita could not collect the milk.
 Abdul Mannan, president of Reshamgari Purbapara Milk Producing Association in Shahzadpur, said milk producers were facing a loss of Tk 15 to Tk 20 per litre due to the blockade.
 "Our production cost for each litre

of milk ranges between Tk 40 and Tk 45. When the chilling plants do not buy milk from the producers, the farmers had to sell each litre at Tk 30," he said.
 Mannan added he had 90 cattle at his dairy farm that produced around 300 litres of milk every day. He claimed his unit [samity] had already experienced a loss of Tk 1 lakh in just one week. "If we cannot sell the milk in time, we have no other alternative to destroying it," he added.
 The authorities of Baghabari Milk Vita, the biggest buyer of milk in the region, cannot consume the entire production of the districts during the blockade as they do not have additional preservation rooms.
 "Baghabari Milk Vita preserves highest 2 lakh litres of milk. Its processing unit is now overloaded as the authorities could not supply the milk in last seven days," said FM Idris, manager (factory) of Baghabari Milk Vita.

Hamid upset with lack

FROM PAGE 16
 Recalling the glorious past of DU, President Abdul Hamid said the university nourished many renowned politicians who contributed a lot to the country's independence and national development.
 He said any negative activity of the new graduates may blur the great achievements of the university in future.
 "So, be careful. Have deep respect for the country, its people and the university," he told the students.
 AAMS Arefin Siddique asked the fresh graduates to use their talents for the welfare of mankind and not to be motivated by greed.
 Prof Francis Gurry said the graduates had three gifts -- youth, optimism and education -- which can "make the difference."
 Gurry, director general of Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), also said the countries need to make more investments on research to create new knowledge.
 He was conferred Doctor of Laws degree at the programme.
 Earlier in the morning, wearing gowns, the graduates, in small groups,

hurried about to take their designated places to participate in the convocation.
 They took photographs with their friends and teachers at the convocation venue and their respective departments as many of them prepared for bidding farewell to the campus.
 After the convocation, all the gathering spots of the university -- Hakim Chattar, Curzon Hall, Mall Chattar, Shaheed Minar, Fine Arts Faculty and TSC -- were buzzing with the students.
 Many threw their convocation caps into the air to celebrate their joys.
 It was a day they will never forget.
 "Dhaka University was my home. I will surely miss my days here. I have so many fond memories of this place," said Sujon Kumar Mondol, a graduate of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism.
 "I will try to serve my country as per the ideologies I developed attending the classes here," he added.
 Meanwhile, four crude bombs were found at a toilet of the Arts Faculty building and another one at Mokarram Bhaban, which is just opposite to the convocation ground, during the programme yesterday.

Peace rally to defuse

FROM PAGE 16
 spread rumours and instigated ethnic clashes.
 Ethnic clashes keep occurring in Rangamati as those people have never been punished, said the speakers at the meeting. An inquiry committee formed after an incident of violence in September 2012 held a number of people responsible in its report but no action was taken against them.
 Senior citizens, local government representatives, political leaders, law enforcers and officials from the local administration were present in the meeting.
 The meeting decided to impose restrictions on the purchase and carrying of objects like marble, Jaaler kathi (iron sticks used in fishing nets) and catapults that had been used in Sunday's violence.

Traders were asked to inform the district administration of their stocks of those things and to keep the name and address of the buyers.
 However, fishermen would not be barred from buying jaaler kathi, meeting participants said.
 Ordinary people did not join the peace procession, as the situation was yet to be normal in the town. Vehicular movement was thin and most of the shops were closed. No inter-district buses or water vessels left Rangamati.
 Meanwhile, king of Chakma circle Raja Debashis Roy appreciated the administration's stringent action to stop the violence. He recommended forming a joint citizens' committee in all neighborhoods to maintain peace and a police force comprising Bangalees and indigenous people.

AL's allies split

FROM PAGE 1
 These contradicting views came at a meeting of the 14-party alliance at AL president Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office.
 Calling upon the government to take initiatives for a political dialogue, Communist Kendro leader Asit Baron Roy told the meeting that solution to a political crisis could only be resolved in a political way.
 Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal Convener Rezaur Rashid Khan and National Awami Party (NAP) leader Ismail Hossain also spoke in favour of a political dialogue. They said discussion among all political parties might bring solution, according to meeting sources.
 On the other hand, Workers Party, Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal, Gonotontri Party, Samyabadi Dal and Gonotantiric Majdoor Party favoured employing the administration to foil the BNP-led combine's anti-government agitation.
 Ruling AL leaders endorsed the idea of using the administration to contain the BNP-led movement.
 The meeting decided that besides administration, leaders and activists of the 14-party alliance would assist law enforcers, said meeting sources.
 Briefing reporters about the outcome of the meeting, 14-party spokesperson and AL presidium member Mohammad Nasim said they decided to form committees in every locality in accordance with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's

announcement.
 HT Imam on dialogue with BNP
 The prime minister's Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam set three preconditions for holding talks with the BNP-led combine.
 "For a dialogue, the BNP will have to pledge in writing that it will stop terrorist activities, cut ties with militants and approach the government courteously."
 Only then the government would consider it, he said at a seminar in the capital.
 He, however, ruled out the possibility of an interim election.
 Imam, also an AL advisory council member, said, "The Supreme Court has declared 'Zia's regime illegal. Now it is to be seen whether the party he constituted during his regime can be legal."
 Asked about "the preconditions" HT Imam set for a dialogue with the BNP, two senior AL leaders, wishing anonymity, said it reflected Imam's personal views, not the party's.
 The AL sub-committee for publicity and publication cell organised the seminar with the theme "Progress and a year of democracy" at the Engineers Institute in Dhaka.
 Former Chittagong University vice chancellor Abdul Mannan presented the keynote paper while senior journalist Abed Khan and AL leaders Dipu Moni, Hasan Mahamud, Asim Kumar Ukil, among others, addressed the programme.

BNP leader Habib held after taking part in talk show

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Detectives in plain clothes picked up BNP leader Habibur Rahman Habib in the wee hours of yesterday when he was leaving a private TV station in the capital's Tejgaon after appearing on a live talk show.
 Around 15 people, all young, stopped Habib in front of the gate of Channel 24 office after midnight, said rights activist Nur Khan, who also participated in the show, Mukhtobak, along with Abul Kalam Azad, former press secretary to the prime minister.
 During the 50-minute programme, they discussed the recent political state of the country, including the ongoing blockade by the BNP-led alliance, said Nur.
 The rights activist added that on some occasions, Habib, BNP assistant information and research secretary, was critical on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent comments on his party chief Khaleda Zia.
 "The show ended five minutes before midnight. I went to the wash room while Habib and Azad walked towards the gate. When I reached outside, I saw around 15 unknown people there. All of a sudden Habib shouted, saying that the people are picking him up," Nur added.
 He then walked towards the people and wanted to know their identities. One of them initially introduced himself as "a government man" but subsequently said they were from the Detective Branch (DB) of police.
 Nur asked them whether they were arresting Habib. One of them replied in the negative and said they were only picking him up for quizzing. A microbus and two to three police vans were parked nearby.
 Requesting anonymity, a DB officer, who was among the 15 people, told The Daily Star that Habib was arrested.
 Later, a Dhaka court placed the BNP leader on a four-day remand and five other BNP and Jatiya Party (Zafar) leaders on two-day remand each in a case filed under the explosive substances act with Gulshan Police Station on Monday.
 The five others are: Mohammad Shahjahan, BNP joint secretary general and former lawmaker; Belal Ahmed, BNP executive committee member; Shamimur Rahman Shamim, BNP assistant office secretary; Monirul Haque, BNP central committee member; and Ahsan Habib Lincoln, presidium member of JP (Zafar).
 They were picked up by law enforcers at different times from different places, according to the remand prayer produced before the court.
 They have been charged with instigating a crude bomb blast in Gulshan on Saturday night.

UN chief accuses India of intolerance with gay sex ban

AFP, New Delhi
 United Nations Chief Ban Ki-moon has accused India of fomenting intolerance with its ban on gay sex amid uproar over a ruling party minister's plans to make homosexuals "normal".
 Speaking on a visit to the capital New Delhi, Ban said he "staunchly opposed the criminalisation of homosexuality" referring to India's colonial-era law that prohibits gay sex.
 "I am proud to stand for the equality of all people -- including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender," the UN secretary general said in a statement late Monday.
 "I speak out because laws criminalising consensual, adult same-sex relationships violate basic rights to privacy and to freedom from discrimination. Even if they are not enforced, these laws breed intolerance."
 India's Supreme Court reimposed a ban on gay sex in late 2013, ruling that the responsibility for changing the 1861 law rested with lawmakers and not judges.
 Gay sex had been effectively legalised in 2009 when the Delhi High Court ruled that banning "carnal intercourse against the order of nature" was a violation of fundamental rights.
 Ban's comments came on the same day that a state minister from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party announced his plans to make gays "normal" in the coastal resort state of Goa.
 Ramesh Tawadkar, sports and youth affairs minister in Goa's state government, told reporters that he planned to open up centres on the lines of Alcoholics Anonymous to treat them.

Jihadists wage high-tech war to win Western recruits

AFP, Beirut
 Jihadist groups tied to the men who attacked France's Charlie Hebdo magazine and a Paris kosher supermarket are waging an increasingly sophisticated propaganda campaign targeting Western recruits, experts say.
 Organisations ranging from the Islamic State (ISIS) group in Iraq and Syria to al-Qaeda and even the Somali Al-Shebab group have sought to exploit the anonymity and reach of the Internet to attract Western members.
 They urge recruits to come to the battlefield, but also encourage them to carry out violence at home.
 Jihadist groups have targeted Western recruits for decades, but the Internet has revolutionised their approach, according to Clint Watts, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.
 "Thirty years ago it took a long time to get everyone to Afghanistan" where jihadists were fighting Soviet troops, he said.
 "Now they propagate through social media, that's why it can happen so quickly, they can rapidly ramp up recruitment."
 The three men involved in the France attack appear to be linked to different jihadist groups.
 The two brothers who targeted Charlie Hebdo were linked to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which is based in Yemen.
 The third attacker appears to have pledged allegiance to ISIS. Jihadists use a variety of media for their message.
 Since 2010, AQAP has produced the English-language "Inspire" magazine, released periodically in PDF format with articles expounding on its ideol-

ogy and instructing readers on how to carry out attacks.
 In recent issues it singled out France as a target and put Charlie Hebdo's editor-in-chief Stephane Charbonnier, who was killed in last week's attack, on a "Most Wanted" list.
 Al-Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, publishes slickly produced video, as well as photos and statements, through official accounts on Twitter and the video-sharing website YouTube.
 And Somalia's Al-Shebab has frequently used Twitter to reach out to potential followers.
 But perhaps no group has harnessed the power of the Internet as effectively as ISIS, which eschewed the password-protected forums preferred by al-Qaeda in favour of popular social media sites.
 It quickly established a presence on Facebook and Twitter and even allows its fighters to converse publicly with potential recruits on question-and-answer sites like Ask.fm.
 "Islamic State has really honed its media strategy," said Charlie Winter, a researcher at the Quilliam Foundation, a counter-extremist think tank.
 "It has a standardised format, which makes it easy to identify as official Islamic State propaganda. It is very productive, it has an output rate of four or five videos a week," he said.
 The group also relies on "a wide, decentralised network of people who are almost obsessive in their need to share things" to distribute its material, Winter added.
 ISIS and its backers also use high-profile methods, like this week's hacking of the Pentagon's Central Command Twitter feed, to gain notice.

ETV chairman accused

FROM PAGE 16
 information about his involvement in the incident.
 Salam's lawyers strongly opposed the remand petition, saying their client's name was not mentioned in the case, and that he was falsely implicated in it for harassment.
 While filing the case, the plaintiff didn't mention that any other unnamed person was involved in it, they told the court.
 They submitted a petition seeking Salam's bail and cancellation of the remand prayer.
 The magistrate, however, rejected both the bail and remand prayers, and asked police to interrogate Salam at the jail gate in five working days.
 Though Salam's name was not in the first information report, he was shown arrested in the pornography case filed by the same woman with Cantonment Police Station on November 26 last year.
 A Dhaka court sent him to prison, rejecting his bail petition.
 On Sunday, Tejgaon police filed a sedition case, accusing Salam of airing a "false, fabricated and instigating" speech of BNP leader Tarique Rahman on the TV channel.
 The same day, he was placed on a five-day remand in the case in which Tarique was made the prime accused.
 Salam was picked up several hours after cable operators, mostly loyal to the ruling Awami League, allegedly stopped transmission of ETV that had broadcast live Tarique's speech from London on January 5.
 However, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu repeatedly said the government didn't stop ETV's transmission.
 ETV Senior Reporter Sajed Romel said, "Our channel is not available in around 40 percent area of the country."
 Journalists and staffs of the TV channel would form a human chain at the Saarc Fountain this evening, demanding ETV chairman's release and the TV channel's uninterrupted transmission.

Dr Syed A Wadud

FROM PAGE 16
 on Friday, January 16 at 3:30pm. Friends, family and well-wishers are kindly requested to attend, says a press release.
 Dr Wadud was born on March 1, 1926 in Sherpur, Bangladesh. He was admitted to Calcutta Medical College in 1945. After partition he transferred to Dhaka Medical College where he completed his MBBS in 1950. In 1959 he was awarded MOMS from University of Vienna and DOMS from Vienna Academy of Medicine. In 1961 he was awarded DO from the University of London.
 Dr Wadud joined Dhaka Medical College in 1961, and in 1962 transferred to Mitford Medical College (now known as Sir Salimullah Medical College) as Professor of Ophthalmology. He continued to serve as Professor of Ophthalmology there while concurrently providing technical and logistical support and expertise to help Mr. MM Ispahani establish Islamia Eye Hospital from 1966.
 In 1967 he was awarded the National Award Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam by the Government of Pakistan in recognition of his contribution to furthering the treatment of diseases of the eye and prevention of blindness in Pakistan. In March 1971, he formally renounced the award in protest of the Pakistani Government's policies.
 At the end of 1971 he opted to join Islamia Eye Hospital on government deputation and became its first Chief Consultant and CEO. This allowed him to offer services to a vast array of population in Dhaka and around the country. Throughout the 1960s-1970s, Dr Wadud was instrumental in leading eye camps in various parts of the country. Under his leadership, Islamia Eye Hospital was expanded from a 30-bed hospital to more than 300-bed specialized hospital.
 In collaboration with the International Eye Foundation, Dr Wadud spearheaded the establishment of the first Eye Bank in 1974 at Islamia Eye Hospital. In this regard, he sought and found enthusiastic support from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to pave the way for laws making it easier to donate & harvest human organs in Bangladesh. With the advent of the necessary legislation, in its first year of establishment, more than 300 corneal transplantations were performed at Islamia Eye Hospital. Bangabandhu was his senior contemporary and friend from their college days together in Islamia College in Calcutta. Dr Wadud served as eye doctor to the Father of the Nation and most of his family members all throughout.
 In 1976 Dr Wadud was invited as visiting Professor and Fellow at several prestigious US institutions, including Harvard University, John Hopkins University, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, and University of Florida. He was instrumental, with the help of the International Eye Foundation, in getting ORBIS, the flying eye hospital, to first visit Bangladesh in 1982. From 1985 onwards, ORBIS continued to make regular visits to Bangladesh helping treat patients and train doctors on latest technologies and techniques. In 1999, ORBIS established a permanent office in Bangladesh.
 Dr Wadud retired from his position as Chief Consultant at Islamia Eye Hospital and Director, Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology in 1992. He continued to teach at Bangladesh Medical College as Professor of Ophthalmology until 1997. From 2010 he served as Chief Advisor to Distressed Children and Infants International, a charitable organization based in New Haven, Connecticut, USA.
 Throughout his career Dr Wadud was devoted to the cause of treating and preventing blindness in Bangladesh and he was passionate about teaching the art and science of doing so in a humane fashion to new generations of ophthalmologists.