

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 27.5 L 20.2	H 28.6 L 19.5	H 25.5 L 17.3	H 27.8 L 16.2	H 27.7 L 21.3	H 27.9 L 19.4	H 26.0 L 16.5	H 29.0 L 20.5

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27am. Country's highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 14.8 in Syedpur.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Water buffalo in favourite surroundings. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

On Domestication

For those who have not seen a water buffalo (*mohish*) up-close, it can be an unsettling experience. My first time was about ten years ago while bicycling through dried up haors. The massive, hairy animals with long, curved horns were blocking my way while happily grazing away. My initial fear, however, receded quickly as they ignored me and I realized they were gentle and docile creatures.

The water buffalo loves water. Its favourite exercise is to roll in the mud and laze in the sun. It has helped farmers with agriculture for centuries. Its rich, aromatic milk is used for making sweets and cheese.

Indeed, what could have been a ferocious animal is rendered harmless - and very useful - because it is domesticated.

On the other hand, I feel less comfortable around elephants. They are not domesticated, but tamed. Most elephants we see in domestic use are obtained from wild herds and trained. While Indian elephants can be tamed, African elephants cannot.

What is the difference between domestication and taming? Domestication requires many generations of breeding emphasizing certain characteristics of the animal. Domestic animals learn to live with humans, do their work, and, most importantly, breed in captivity. On the other hand, taming a wild animal is, essentially, training it for one generation only.

Domesticated animals have played a pivotal role in the course of civilization. Agriculture as we know it would be impossible without the domestication of the cow and its cousins. But historically the most important domestic animal is undoubtedly the horse. That is because the horse has enabled large groups of humans to move and migrate to

different places (usually after conquering them.)

When we look at the history of civilization, we see that the ability of nations to domesticate large mammals has had a strong influence over their success. Thus, for example, the Aryans conquered using horses (using them for chariots, though - horseback soldiers had to wait for the invention of the saddle and the stirrup much later.)

So, why did some nations domesticate animals more successfully? For example, no large mammals were ever domesticated in Africa and South America. Though Africa has no native horse, it has the zebra which is close. But the zebra was never domesticated. There are many other animals that humans attempted to domesticate without success.

The scientist Jared Diamond pondered this question and came up with a list of six characteristics that an animal needs in order for successful domestication. It must eat without too much fuss. It must reach maturity - that is, productive and reproductive years - quickly. It must breed in captivity. It must be docile, not confrontational, by nature. It must not flee or panic when startled. And it must be a social animal conforming to a hierarchy, so that it recognizes the human as a leader.

Over the millennia of human civilization, very few animals have fit the bill. For example, the elephant's slow growth rate, the zebra's flighty nature, and the American bison's nasty attitude have precluded us from domesticating them.

So the next time you see a cow, a goat, a horse, or a water buffalo, think how lucky we are to have them as our beasts of burden.

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BNP wants fresh polls schedules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday demanded that the Election Commission announce fresh polls schedules in places where its candidates could not file nomination papers due to obstacles created by the ruling Awami League men.

"The ruling party men did not allow anyone to file nominations for 33 councillor posts in three municipalities of Feni district. BNP mayoral candidates have also faced obstacles in submitting nominations in Feni Sadar and Dagonbhuiyan municipality," said BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon.

Addressing a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, Ripon said the AL men tore up nomination papers of BNP mayoral and councillor aspirants in other districts.

Pointing to the violation of the electoral code of conduct by the AL mayoral and councillor candidates in different municipalities, Ripon said the respective returning officers

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Hawkers blemish Nat'l Memorial complex

Powerful men behind building illegal structures

RASHAD AHAMAD, Savar

The National Memorial was built in Savar, outside the capital, as an embodiment of the sacrifice the martyrs made for the country's independence in 1971. But the beauty of the structure standing tall with dignity is partially lost from view as illegal structures did not spare it either.

Around 1,000 makeshift shops have been set up illegally on the footpath along the south-western edge of the 84-acre memorial complex and a funny game of evicting those traders twice a year, once on Victory Day (December 16) and the other on Independence Day (March 26), has been on play for the last 10 years.

On Tuesday, the reporter visited the area and found over 20 makeshift restaurants, 50 fruit shops, and several hundred shops of garment items, shoes, cosmetics and other stuff on Dhaka-Aricha highway. The front of the gate, which should welcome visitors with its beauty, now houses a shop for renting cars.

The situation did not even escape the eye of little visitor Sheikh Helaluzzaman Sonik, who had heard a lot about the memorial. On Thursday when he was returning to Dhaka with his father from Rangpur and their bus stopped for a while before the memorial, Sonik tried to have a glimpse of the memorial but could not see it properly because of the structures.

Moreover, the kid asked his father,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Illegal shops lining the south-western edge of the National Memorial complex in Savar, outside the capital, hide the beauty of its vast premises. Though the structures are removed twice a year, the traders set those up again with support from powerful men. The photo was taken Tuesday. PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

114 new coaches soon

Says railways secretary; inaugurates Service Week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway is set to add 114 new coaches from India and Indonesia to its fleet.

Railways Secretary Firoze Salauddin told this to journalists yesterday after inaugurating "Passenger Service Week-2015" at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital marking the fifth founding anniversary of the railways ministry. He and other officials greeted passengers with flowers and chocolates.

The objective of the week is to improve the quality of services, run trains on time, keep trains and railway stations clean and extend all out cooperation to passengers, said Bangladesh Railway Director General M Amzad Hossain.

Last month, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council decided to purchase 250 new coaches, including the 114.

The purchase was part of an estimated Tk 1,374 crore railways carriage project of which Asian Development Bank is to provide Tk 1,000 crore and the government the rest. Bangladesh Railway is expected to complete the project by June 2019.

The government plans to procure 200 meter gauge coaches and 50 broad gauge coaches, said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

Now Bangladesh Railway has 1,165 meter gauge coaches, but 591 of those are running with various defects and lack passenger amenities.

On the other hand, out of Bangladesh Railway's 324 broad gauge coaches, 78 have already crossed their economic life.

Police informant stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a police informant was found in the capital's Darussalam area yesterday.

The dead was Hafiz Uddin Khan alias Hitlu, 45, a resident of Jahurabad in the area.

Faruqu Islam, inspector (investigation) of Darussalam Police Station, said they found Hafiz's body bearing three stab wounds to the chest on Mazar Road around 1:00am.

He suspected that Hafiz might have been killed nearby and the body dumped there. No case was filed nor any arrest made, Faruqu said yesterday afternoon.

Dhaka Medical College morgue sources confirmed that the body bore at least three injury marks.

Hafiz's younger brother Taher Uddin Khan told The Daily Star that his brother used to work for several police stations in Mirpur area.

Though he had no idea who the killers were, Taher said Hafiz received a call from Mirpur Shah Ali Mazar around 11:00pm on Thursday.

Shah Ali Police Station Officer-in Charge AKM Shaheen Mondal admitted Hafiz was their informant.



Two contestants -- Ruhi Meheraj and Nazma Sultana -- who got Yes cards at the Cox's Bazar round of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2016 yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Two get Yes cards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two contestants got Yes cards at the Cox's Bazar round of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2016 yesterday.

The competition was organised at Princes Cox's Community Centre in the town.

A total of 82 participants sat for the written test, which is the first stage. From there, 10 moved onto the cooking round. The contestants were given Tk 500 each to shop for ingredients needed to prepare their dishes.

Ruhi Meheraj and Nazma Sultana received Yes cards at the competition yesterday. Out of the 10 contestants, these two impressed the judges the most with their innovation and style when preparing their dishes. The two will now compete in the final round, which will be held in the capital.

Ummul Kulsum Chowdhury Mouri and Jebunnisa Khan, winner and runner-up respectively of last year's competition, judged the round.

Khulna school for the blind, deaf limping along

UNB, Khulna

Housed in a dilapidated building and functioning with only half its staff, Goalkhali Government School for the Blind and the Deaf in Khulna city is plagued with multi-pronged problems over the years.

All of its activities are running in the 50-year-old school buildings, which are now in a crumbling state.

Alongside the prolonged teacher shortage, 50 percent posts of the school staff, including that of superintendent, are lying vacant. There are no steps in sight to solve the problems, though especially shortage of skilled teachers is hampering studies beyond description.

The authorities said only government intervention can save the school from further deterioration.

School sources said during inception it offered education up to grade 5, which was later elevated to grade 10.

At present, 120 students are studying in the school against its total capacity of 130. Of them, 44 are blind and 76 are deaf.

Three students of the school are prospective Secondary School Certificate examinees, but there are no teachers to guide them presently.

They now have to take lessons in other nearby schools with regular students.

As regular textbooks are not disabled-friendly, these physically challenged students are finding it hard to keep pace with their regular peers.

The school has enough space for accommodation of the students but the buildings have become so old that they are unfit for living in. Also with as less as Tk 2,600 monthly allocation for each student, it is very difficult to maintain their living at the school. Three posts of teachers at the school are currently lying vacant. At present, only four fulltime teachers and eight part time teachers teach at the school.

Visually impaired students Saddam and Azizul told the news agency that as long as the school coordinator is here, they feel good but when he is not there, there is nobody to look after them.

Additional Coordinator Kazi Mohammad Ibrahim said, "Technically I'm not the school coordinator but since there is nobody here, I am performing extra duties of four other posts."

The Daily Star

CELEBRATING LIFE

District Festivals

CONCERT . PHOTO EXHIBITION

This event is free for all. Registration is a prerequisite. visit: www.imdhaka.com/celebratinglifebd

Today we are at

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

Date : December 5, 2015

Photography Exhibition

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

CONCERT

Band Performance by **CHIRKUTT**

Time: 4 PM to 6 PM

Partners