

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.6 L 14.9	H 27.5 L 13.9	H 24.2 L 13.7	H 25.2 L 11.4	H 27.6 L 15.6	H 27.6 L 13.5	H 24.2 L 10.7	H 26.5 L 15.2

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:33pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 28.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Patuakhali and Khepupara and lowest 0.9 in Badalgachi.

A bank's MD provoked WB to scrap Padma Bridge funding

PM tells Kazi Mahub Ullah Award distribution ceremony; calls for contribution of the affluent in spreading education

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said high officials from the USA had threatened her that the World Bank funding to the Padma Bridge project would be cancelled if a particular person was removed from the position of managing director of a particular bank.

Without mentioning the name of the bank and the individual, she said the fund was withdrawn by the World Bank at the provocation of that particular person.

"And you know that very well," she told a programme at Shilpakala Academy in the capital where she distributed the Kazi Mahub Ullah Award 2015, organised by Begum Jebunnesa and Kazi Mahub Ullah People Welfare Trust.

In 2011, Bangladesh Bank removed Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, then 70,

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হুবুউল্লাহ পুরস্কার বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠান ২০১৫



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with winners of the Kazi Mahub Ullah Award 2015 and guests at the capital's Shilpakala Academy yesterday. The four recipients are Prof AK Azad Chowdhury (lifetime achievement), Prof Hasina Khan (science), Anisul Haque (literature and journalism) and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (sports). On behalf of Mashrafe, his father Mostafa Mortaza received the award as Mashrafe is now in Khulna to play cricket matches against Zimbabwe.

PHOTO: PMO

Eminent citizens seek tolerance for sustainable peace

UNB, Dhaka

Though peaceful political programmes both by the ruling Awami League and out-of-parliament opposition BNP on January 5 have brought some sort of relief in the public mind, political analysts think sustainable peace depends on tolerance.

They said peace would remain elusive if the two political camps fail to move ahead with positive politics with BNP correcting its course by learning from its mistakes and the ruling party "providing space" to its opponents.

Prominent intellectual Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University (DU) said, "It seems that the country's political situation has improved following a peaceful rally of the two parties in the city on January 5."

"I think practicing tolerance by all sides is now the

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PAY SCALE PROTESTS

Public university teachers to send proposals to govt

BSMMU strikers threaten withholding of healthcare services too if demands not met

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of public university teachers yesterday on the fifth day of a strike for removing "disparities" from the new pay scale and retaining selection grade and time scale said they would submit a package to the education ministry today for a quick solution.

"We sat today to take decisions... We will finalise the proposals and send it... by tomorrow noon," said Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, president of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA), a platform of the country's 37 public universities.

One of the proposals would be keeping 25 percent of the professors in grade-1 and providing an acceptable proportion of teachers the status equivalent to that of senior secretar-

ies, he told The Daily Star.

The protest against the eighth pay scale began last May with a four-point demand, including formation of a commission to initiate an independent pay scale for university teachers.

Other demands include parity between salaries and allowances of senior professors and senior secretaries, and those of professors and secretaries; and upgrading of teachers' status in order of precedence.

Meanwhile, teachers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Teachers' Association (BSMMUTA) threatened to go for tougher programmes like stopping healthcare services for a certain period over similar demands.

"We are providing treatment facilities considering the situation of patients. But some of our doctors

have become agitated enough to stop treatment," BSMMUTA President Prof Kanak Kanti Barua told The Daily Star.

Earlier, BSMMU teachers held a meeting at Milton Hall on the campus with Kanak Kanti Barua in the chair. Later they organised a rally and brought out a procession in silence.

"We expect the government to reach an acceptable solution in the shortest possible time to end the prevailing chaos," Prof Kanak said.

Holding "bureaucratic complexities" responsible for the deadlock, he said, "We have already boycotted classes. Even schedule for examinations is not being given now. We expect the government to provide an honourable solution immediately."



A locked door in the arts building of Dhaka University yesterday as public university teachers observe a strike for the fifth day demanding removal of "disparities" from the new 8th government pay scale and retention of selection grade and time scale.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Database of prisoners in offing

Says Addl IGP (Prisons); inmates to get mobile communication facilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A computerised database of all inmates in the country's 68 prisons would be developed soon by the Directorate of Prisons and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to store detailed information about each of the inmates, Additional Inspector General of Police (prison) Colonel Fazlul Kabir told a press conference at the prison directorate yesterday.

Computer operators of the prison directorate will receive training at the Rab Headquarters following the Prison Week to be held between January 20 and 26.

Inmates would soon be allowed to communicate with their families over cell phones from the prisons, he added.

Each inmate would be asked to provide two phone numbers of their families to the prison authorities when she or he enters the prison. The inmate would then be allowed to talk, send and receive text messages to and from those numbers, Kabir said, adding that the phone conversations and texts would be recorded and evaluated. However, the inmates' families will not be allowed to call them.

WATERLOGGING IN SOUTHWESTERN REGION Govt will, coordination, public support solutions

Discussants tell FAO meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the government bodies concerned and NGOs should work together in a coordinated approach to address the problem of waterlogging in the country's southwestern region, discussants told a meeting yesterday.

Besides, the government's political will and engagement of the local community with the state's policy implementation process are very crucial to reach a solution, they viewed.

The "National Consultation Meeting on Waterlogging in South West Bangladesh" was organised by the Bangladesh chapter of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The Ministry of Agriculture, World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme, UKAid and Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection helped arrange the meeting.

Addressing as the chief guest, the prime minister's economic affairs adviser Mashur Rahman said technical skills, administrative efficiency and political goodwill needs to come together to address the problem.

The Ganges barrage on the Padma river in Bangladesh will be constructed after com-

REASONS
Siltation in river system
Poorly designed, maintained remedial infrastructure
Human activities obstructing drainage
EFFECTS
Loss of livelihoods, assets
Food, shelter, communication shortfalls
Disruption of social services
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS
Improving drainage system
Applying Tidal River Management
Coordination among local govt bodies
Developing innovative livelihood mechanisms

pletion of some technical studies that are being jointly conducted by experts of Bangladesh and India, he said.

State Minister for Public Administration Ismat Ara Sadique emphasised enhancing capacity and technical skills of government agencies.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation Chairman Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad said more comprehensive research was necessary to reveal accurate data to address the problem.

The FAO, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, carried out a study at Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira districts between April and December, 2014.

It aimed at documenting the extent of areas affected by waterlogging, coping mechanisms, institutional responses and develop a possible roadmap for long-term solutions.

FAO Representative in Bangladesh Mike Robson yesterday shared the study's findings.

Agriculture Secretary Shyamal Kanti Ghosh chaired the meeting, participated by dozens of discussants including lawmakers, senior government officials, academicians and NGO representatives.

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