



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 28.0

CHITTAGONG H 34.5 L 26.8

SYLHET H 34.7 L 27.2

RAJSHAHI H 34.5 L 27.2

KHULNA H 34.0 L 27.8

BARISAL H 33.0 L 27.7

RANGPUR H 32.0 L 26.6

COX'S BAZAR H 31.7 L 26.0

Day and night temperatures may fall (1-3) degree Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am. Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Ishurdi and Sylhet and the lowest 25.2 in Tetulia.

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Ahhh, monsoon!

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Words I Like, Words I Dislike

Within the space of one day the word "Brexit" became well-known to an anxious world – a word denoting unexpected new directions, signalling a coming sea change in the way nations relate to one another. Only six letters but what power they wield!

Writers and poets, of course, have known the power of words for a very long time. They know which words will be liked, which will be disliked, which will evoke certain feelings or elicit desired emotions and reactions.

Like most people I like words related to love, life, nature. For example, the word "monsoon" denotes the end of the hot, dry season and the rejuvenation of life and carries the scent of good things to come. "Childhood" is another favourite word signifying innocence and continuance.

Technology contributes many words to everyday language. Take "multitasking" for example. It came from the world of software. The programme, running inside a computer was originally capable of performing only one task at a time. Then in the late 1970s came multitasking operating systems which created the appearance of a computer working many tasks simultaneously. However today it is people - not computers - that multitask, juggling several things at once.

I dislike "multitasking" because I find it dehumanizing – it is a computer's job. I just cannot imagine Beethoven multitasking through his creations. Or Jibananda Das. Creating something of lasting value requires undivided attention and deep thought. Perhaps I am hopelessly old-fashioned, but I just cannot believe such concentration is possible when one is multitasking.

A related word that intrigues me is "compartmentalizing." Bill Clinton was a master of this, being able to mentally shut out the crisis du jour (for

example, one Monica Lewinsky) to concentrate on the really important things.

Other words and phrases have gained popularity from the corporate world. Our businesses have a "vision" and a "mission", our co-workers constitute a "tiger team", our work is nothing but "best practices", and our final product will be a "game-changer." Part of the reason these "sound bites" became popular is because they encapsulate a notion within a few letters which fit nicely within a Powerpoint slide's bullet.

I cringe when I see "revert". When someone says "I will revert to you" I know they never will.

I had to grow older before understanding nuances of certain loaded words. For example, our Class Eight teacher Brother Lorenzo informed us one day that "redundant" was a sad word. We were mystified. Today we know why.

Words can be used to say the opposite of their literal meaning. When Shakespeare's Marc Antony says "For Brutus is an honourable man" we know Brutus is anything but. Today, "yeah, right!" usually means no.

In advertising, the use of carefully selected words helps create attraction for consumers. A "cosy" home for sale really means it is small. A movie that is a "best-kept secret" is probably lousy. A fat novel billed as "favourite of critics" is likely to be boring. I see many English words (pure, feelings) being used in Bangla advertisements. Is it because of an appeal to the younger generation, or do English words somehow make the advertiser's claim kosher?

Languages live busy lives, changing and adapting to the needs of people. As the world undergoes big changes I am sure I will see more new words to like, and a few to dislike.

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## Three sisters drown in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three sisters drowned in a pond in Patiya upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The dead are Shahnaz Akter, 15, an SSC examinee from Shah Mirpur High School, Nargis Akter, 8, and Tazu Akter, 5. They were daughters of Ayub Ali and Chemon Ara of Juddha Union.

Locals said the accident happened around 1:30pm after the sisters went to the pond for having a bath.

Their mother first noticed the body of Tazu floating on its back in the pond. Locals recovered all the three bodies later, said Mohammed Nurul Huq, chairman of Juddha Union.

Sub-inspector Towhidul Islam of Karnaphuli police said they visited the spot.

## 2 lakh Bangladeshi workers register in Malaysia

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

More than two lakh undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers registered their names with the Malaysian Immigration Department for being legalised and employed under a rehiring programme, according to officials.

The registration under the rehiring programme for illegal foreign workers began February 15 and ended June 30, allowing employers to legalise foreign workers from 15 countries, including Bangladesh, after the registration.

"It's really a good initiative... Under this programme, many of our people will be able to get legalised and employed here," a senior official at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur told The Daily Star on June 27.

The initiative was deemed a blessing for the Bangladeshi workers without valid documents. The undocumented

*"It's really a good initiative... Under this programme, many of our people will be able to get legalised and employed here."*

migrants are frequently exploited by employers and harassed by law enforcers.

The official said once legalised the Bangladeshis would be able to avoid exploitations and enjoy some basic rights including accommodation.

However, some Bangladeshis alleged that they were being harassed by law enforcers despite registering under the rehiring programme.

Bangladesh High Commissioner

Shahidul Islam said the Malaysian law enforcers conducted regular drives to detain undocumented foreigners including Bangladeshis.

"It's not possible to say for sure that all people will be legalised under this programme. But we believe many of our people will get the opportunity to work here by obtaining valid work permits when the authorities finalise the assessment of the programme," he said by phone.

Asked about the fate of undocumented Bangladeshis after end of the rehiring programme, he said they were hopeful about legalisation of a good number of the migrants. "It's really difficult to determine their future here."

Around 4 lakh Bangladeshis are working legally in Malaysia, but there is no exact number of the undocumented Bangladeshis there, he added.

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A passenger being rescued after he fell from a launch deck crammed with people heading home during the Eid holiday at the capital's Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday afternoon when the launch collided with another one. Luckily, two fruit sellers on a small boat came to his aid immediately.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Man 'kills' wife for dowry in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Lauri village under Monirampur upazila of Jessore on Thursday night.

The deceased was Shathi Begum, 20, wife of Alomgir Sheikh.

Kamal Mollah, father of the deceased, claimed that Alomgir used to torture his daughter for dowry since their marriage two years ago.

On Thursday night, Alomgir beat Shathi to death as she refused to bring Tk 50,000 from her father. Following the incident Alomgir and his family members are absconding.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Jessore Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

## Stalker sets woman on fire in Mymensingh

As husband protested stalking; culprit on the run, his two brothers detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A stalker allegedly set a woman on fire after dousing her with kerosene at Madhurpur village in Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh early yesterday as her husband protested stalking of his wife.

The victim is the wife of a rickshaw-van puller in the area.

Quoting family and locals, Md Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge of Ishwarganj police, said, the victim's neighbour Sohrab Miah, 38, son of Dudu Miah, used to tease her every now and then.

She informed her husband of the matter for several times. But Sohrab never cared about it, and continued stalking her, added police.

On Wednesday night when the victim's husband and Sohrab locked in an altercation over the issue in their locality, the latter threatened the former to teach him a good

lesson, alleged the family.

After taking sehri when she went out of her house to respond to a call of nature, Sohrab suddenly appeared on the scene and set her on fire after dousing her with kerosene, said police.

Hearing her screams for help, family members and locals rushed to the spot and took her to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex in a critical state. They also heard her shouting to catch Sohrab.

The victim was immediately shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, and later the doctors there referred her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said.

She received 60 percent burn injuries, said the OC, quoting the hospitals' doctors.

Police visited the spot and detained two of Sohrab's brothers -- Md Kamruzzaman and Hira Miah for quizzing. Drive is going on to arrest Sohrab, the OC informed.



## President on 4-day visit to Bhutan

UNB, Thimphu

A red carpet was rolled out at Paro International Airport as President Abdul Hamid reached Bhutan on a four-day state visit at the invitation of Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

The president was received by Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay and Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bhutan Jishnu Roy Choudhury.

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## ILLEGAL VOIP BUSINESS Arrested 3 in Mymensingh sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three persons arrested in connection with illegal VoIP (voice over internet protocol) business at Shankipara in Mymensingh town on Wednesday night were produced before a Mymensingh court yesterday.

They are Humayun Kabir and Johirul Islam of Jamalpur's Madarganj upazila, and Ruhul Amin of Tangail's Ghatail upazila.

Kabir is a student of social welfare department of Government Ananda Mohan College, while Johirul and Ruhul are degree students.

Law enforcers produced them before the court which ordered to sent them to jail as the remand prayer was not heard yesterday, said Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali police and also the investigation officer of the case.

On Wednesday, police arrested the trio with illegal VoIP equipment, including five receivers, 2,531 active SIMs, a fingerprint scanner for biometric SIM re-registration, 12 national identity cards, a television set, two computers and around 30 antennas from a house.

## Govt to modernise 2 medical colleges

UNB, Dhaka

The government has initiated a move to equip Jamalpur and Patuakhali medical colleges with necessary infrastructures spending Tk 1,318.22 crore with assistance from Indian second line of credit (LoC).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sent two draft project proposals to the Planning Commission to this end titled "Establishment of Jamalpur Medical College and Hospital" and "Establishment of Patuakhali Medical College and Hospital" for its consideration.

Talking to the news agency, a Planning Commission official said out of the estimated cost of Tk 716.61 crore for the "Establishment of Jamalpur Medical College and Hospital" project, the government will provide Tk 436.61 crore while the rest of Tk 280 crore would come from Indian \$2 billion fresh LoC.

The official also said that out of the total estimated cost of Tk 601.61 crore for the proposed "Establishment of Patuakhali Medical College and Hospital" project, the government will provide Tk 329.63 crore while the rest of Tk 271.98 crore will come as project assistance under the Indian credit.

Both the proposed projects are included in the five identified projects of the health sector to be implemented under the second Indian LoC.

Earlier in March this year, Bangladesh signed an agreement with India's government-designated Exim Bank of India for \$2 billion in low-cost loans for over a dozen social and development projects.

The funds will be used for 14 projects in railway, road transport, power, education, vocational training, health, ICT, shipping, and economic zones. The credit carries one percent interest rate with repayment period of 20 years and a grace period of five years.

Another official at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said although Jamalpur is an important district in Mymensingh division, the people of this district and the surrounding areas are deprived of desired modern medical services for a long time.

He also said that necessary equipment would be procured under the project to further develop Jamalpur Medical College and Hospital.



Happy Birthday DU! As part of the 95th founding anniversary celebration, Dhaka University's Curzon Hall building decorated with colourful lights is truly a sight to behold. The photo was taken around 7:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Khairul again appointed as Law Commission chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has reappointed former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque as the chairman of Law Commission for the next three years, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday.

The three years' term will begin on the date of expiry of his present tenure, the law minister said.

The government had appointed Khairul as the chairman of the Law Commission on July 23, 2013 for three years.

He joined the office on July 24, 2013. His present tenure will expire on July 23 this year.