

Winter late

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Some city residents are commenting on social media about this unusual weather condition.

However, parts of the country, especially the northern region, are colder than Dhaka.

Officials at the Met Office said a cyclone recently formed in the Bay of Bengal which later moved towards the Arabian Sea. The cyclone drove the Siberian wind, which causes winter in the region, to the higher surface in the atmosphere. The region includes Dhaka, New Delhi and Kashmir.

Yesterday, the minimum temperature in Dhaka was 18.5 degree Celsius. The country's lowest temperature was recorded in Tentulia at 11.5 degree Celsius.

According to the Met Office, this season's winter temperature is unusually high not only in Dhaka, but in the entire region. The temperature would fall gradually and the winter would set in soon.

Dense fog in rivers has been disrupting ferry and cargo services across the country at night, but the temperature is still higher than usual.

This year, the country's average December temperature is around three degree Celsius higher than the previous years.

The average maximum temperature of this month is 21.45 degree Celsius against 18.25 in 2015, 18.25 in 2014 and 16.75 degree Celsius in 2012.

The average minimum temperature of this month is 15.02 degree Celsius against 10.02 in 2015 and 10.09 degree Celsius in 2014.

She called

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Maynul, who is codenamed as Musa, forced her to follow him, he alleged.

The last time Trisha visited her parents' house was in April. Maynul was also with her. They stayed for a few days there.

Trisha then told her parents that she would go abroad with her husband. She said Maynul would sell his land and with the money, she would apply for a passport. Her parents asked her to let them know before they start so that they could go to airport to see them off.

A week after they left the Saipara village home, Trisha told her mother over phone that their passports and visas were ready and that they were leaving the country in two hours.

"We'll not be available on phone for many days. Don't worry, we'll call you later," Nazma quoted her daughter as saying.

She asked Trisha what they did with their household goods and she replied they sold those to a man at Tk 17,000.

"Since then, their phones were switched off and we had no contacts," Nazma said. The distraught mother fell sick as she could not contact her daughter.

"I cannot sleep since she surrendered," she said. She also claimed that Trisha was innocent. "Maynul compelled her to follow him."

Trisha has a twin sister named Nisha Moni. She also has a brother named Nishan. She married Maynul in 2014 when she was an SSC examinee.

"We did not realise that they were getting involved in militancy. We started suspecting them after the Gulshan café attack," said Nisha, an HSC student.

She claimed that Maynul had good relations with Maj Zahid, his wife and two children and they lived at the same building in the capital's Uttara.

After the Gulshan café attack, Nisha and her mother went to Dhaka looking for Trisha and her family.

Delhi okays Ken-Betwa river-linking project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The "last" hurdle for India's ambitious Ken-Betwa river-linking project has been cleared with the wildlife board giving its green signal, the government announced yesterday.

Bangladesh has voiced concern over the impact of the river-linking project in eastern India and on the flow of water in the common rivers concerned to the lower riparian country. India has in the past repeatedly assured Bangladesh that it would not do anything that would harm the lower riparian country.

Indian Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti said in Delhi that her ministry has received wildlife clearance for the multi-crore rupee project, first such initiative aimed at linking inter-state rivers in the country. However, it awaits forest and environment approvals.

"The NITI Aayog [earlier Planning Commission] had earlier recommended funding pattern for the project as per Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. I've requested the Aayog that the funding pattern has to be 90:10 [centre: state sharing pattern] or 100 percent [centrally-funded].

"The moment the funding pattern is decided, the project will be launched," she said.

The minister did not specify by when the funding pattern would be finalised for the river-linking project.

The Ken-Betwa inter-linking project is the first of the several other projects of linking major rivers across India.

The project is expected to irrigate 6.35 lakh hectares of land at an estimated cost of Rs 9,393 crore in drought-prone Bundelkhand region covering parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh states.

Publisher banned

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for condemning Manik's arrest in a TV talk show and demanding his release at a rally organised by his friends at Shahbagh.

"Now, the authorities of the Bangla Academy are trying to instigate fundamentalists against me," he alleged.

He said Bangla Academy did not issue any notice before making the decision, and he came to know about it yesterday when his manager went to the academy to collect an application form for the book stall in the fair, scheduled to begin on February 1.

Robin said he would have to incur huge losses. Besides, the progressive readers would be deprived of their desired books.

"I think that it is an attack on freedom of expression," he said. The incumbent director general [of Bangla Academy] attempted to shut down his book stall in 2009 too, he alleged.

Asked about Robin's allegations, Bangla Academy DG Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan said Robin protested at the academy's decision to shut down Ba-Dwip Prakashan's stall.

Instead of talking to the authorities concerned, Robin demonstrated against the decision, said the DG, adding that he could not do that taking part in the book fair as a publisher.

The decision was made against

Shrabon Prokashani for breaching the code of conduct of the book fair, not for any personal vengeance," he told The Daily Star last night.

Shamsuzzaman also refuted the allegation of instigating fundamentalists against Robin.

Bangla Academy Director Jalal said there was no provision for serving notices upon the publisher whilst making such decisions.

Bangla Academy's decision was being highly criticised in social media.

Meanwhile, a group of writers, artists and cultural activists yesterday announced that they would stage a demonstration in front of Bangla Academy at 3:30pm today, protesting at the academy's decision.

Established in 1998, Shrabon Publications is mainly known for publishing books on political issues. Upon invitation of the German government, it took part in the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's largest trade fair for books, three times, from 2007 to 2009, Robin said.

The executive council also decided not to allocate stalls for Rongin Ful, Oikya and Nil Pori publications for the next book fair for "selling pirated books" during the last book fair and Ba-Dwip Prakashan for "publishing a controversial book", Jalal said.

"This mix is only really possible in China because it's the only country that is both communist and has the money and power to attract so many architects from abroad."

Though Olivier admits the story has been covered in the news media, he feels that the ghost town tag overlooks the reality of the city's continued expansion.

"Foreigners consider the city to be abandoned, Chinese consider the city to be still developing," he explains.

"A lot of the early news reports focus on it being a failed, weird place -- but it's also a huge accomplishment and people there are not necessarily unhappy, there is a huge sense of hope. You have to respect that on a certain level."

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The names of the 15 selected would be sent to the president who will pick candidates for appointment. At least one election commissioner will be female. Before the appointments, the president will make public those names, the JSD said in its proposal.

In a press release issued by the president's office, Hamid expressed the hope that a strong EC would be made possible through sharing of opinions by political parties during talks with him.

President Hamid earlier held dialogues with the BNP, Jatiya Party, Liberal Democratic Party and Krishok Sramik Janata League on EC formation. He is scheduled to sit with the Workers Party this afternoon.

The JSD also recommended constituting EC with dignitaries who believe

in the spirit of the country's Liberation War.

A search committee should be formed with judges, one each from the Appellate Division and the High Court, and individuals in different constitutional posts. It will seek names for the posts of chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners from political, social and civil organisations and registered voters, according to the proposal.

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