

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 24.6	MYMENSINGH H 30.3 L 23.0	CHITTAGONG H 31.7 L 25.7	SYLHET H 22.4 L 21.4	RAJSHAHI H 37.8 L 25.4	RANGPUR H 25.7 L 22.2	KHULNA H 33.5 L 25.5	BARISAL H 32.6 L 26.2	COX'S BAZAR H 30.5 L 26.3
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur and Dhaka divisions and one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 5:51am.

DISCUSSION ON NEW DAP Traffic thru' BGB headquarters demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public access to the Pilkhana BGB headquarters road connecting Sat Masjid Road and New Market would help ease traffic on Mirpur Road, locals said yesterday at a public discussion on proposed new detailed area plan (DAP) of Dhaka.

Residents of Ward 18 (New market, Dhaka University, Elephant Road, BGB headquarters and Jigatola), Ward Councillor Jasim Uddin Ahmed and local business leaders took part in the discussion organised by Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripkha (Rajuk), the custodian of Dhaka's master plan.

Rajuk in its ongoing efforts to draft a more effective DAP has been organising public discussions in different parts of the capital.

Locals during the meeting said both the Strategic Transport Plan and the existing DAP had recommended the BGB headquarters road in Pilkhana for public use.

Representatives from different businesses demanded a multi-storied market facility with sufficient car parking on the site of makeshift Baku Shah Market.

Responding to a similar demand made by business owners at New Market, Ashraful Islam, project director of the DAP, said reconstruction of a properly planned kitchen market at New market and the adjoining areas with car parking in the basement would add much more value to the commercial area.

Among the common demands voiced by most discussants were allocation of open spaces, playgrounds, solid waste collection station and a community centre in the area under the proposed new DAP.

Senior Rajuk officials concerned, technical experts and consultants of the DAP were also present during the discussion.

COMILLA CITY CORPORATION POLLS



Clockwise from top left, A section of female voters at Comilla Government City College polling centre yesterday. Polling agents of different councillor candidates engage in a tussle at the centre. Polling officials and law enforcers inside a room after vote casting was stopped following clashes. BGB personnel on guard at the centre. Cast ballots being tallied at Comilla Victoria Government College.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, KHALID BIN NAZRUL



Prof Fyzennessa's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Prof Noorunnahar Fyzennessa of Institute of Education and Research at Dhaka University and former provost of Rokeya Hall.

A doa mahfil will be held at Dr Noorun Nahar Fyzennessa Primary School in Dhamrai, says a press release.

Fyzennessa was the first woman member of DU syndicate, first woman member of Pay Commission; and president of Dhaka city Mahila Parishad.



SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMMES

The marginalised not getting due benefits

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dalit and marginalised communities are not getting adequate benefits of the government's social safety net programmes as the local authorities are not paying heed to the central administration's directives properly, observed speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The local government representatives and the local administration are allegedly discriminating against the marginalised groups, they added.

Assisted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and DFID, the daily Prothom Alo and the National Forum for Social Protection jointly organised the roundtable titled "National Social Security Strategy: Inclusion of Dalits and Marginalised Communities" at the Bangla daily's office in the capital.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, praised the government for taking various welfare projects for the marginalised communities and the dalits.

But the mindset of the people in the society, and the government's policy towards the deprived groups are still not satisfactory, she said.

"Now, the government must create funds from its own sources ... to operate safety net programmes for the marginalised groups," said Rasheda, also executive director of the

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

She urged the government to expand its budgets for including the children of the marginalised communities under the school stipend programme, but expressed her frustration over the radicalisation in the textbooks this year.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said making the elected repre-

NGOs is working to ensure that the officials are duly following the government's directives in operating safety net programmes, she said.

"With the help of Law Commission, we have drafted Elimination of Discrimination Act. It is now in the law ministry. We hope that the government will enact it as soon as possible," she added.

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad Secretary General Nirmol Chandra Das thanked the government for including them in the safety net programmes and requested it to ensure job quotas and accommodation facilities for them.

State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan said the government has taken many safety net programmes for the marginalised groups, but the outcome is not satisfactory due to systemic flaws.

Getting benefits from the government's safety net programmes is the right of the marginalised people, he said.

The department of social services Director Abu Muhammad Yusuf, PRIP Trust Executive Director Aroma Dutta, BIDS senior research fellow Nazneen Ahmed, DFID poverty and social protection Adviser Naved Chowdhury, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Dron, among others, spoke.

(Now, the government must create funds from its own sources... to operate safety net programmes for the marginalised groups)



Participants at a roundtable titled "National Social Security Strategy: Inclusion of Dalits and Marginalised Communities". Assisted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and DFID, the daily Prothom Alo and the National Forum for Social Protection jointly organised the event at the Bangla daily's office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nobel laureate Sir Richard speaks at NSU

CITY DESK

North South University on Wednesday arranged a public lecture by Nobel laureate Sir Richard J Roberts with an aim to promote research and health science for inspiring students, researchers and faculty members.

The university also held a "Meet the Press" yesterday where NSU Trustee Board Chairman Azim Uddin Ahmed, VC Prof Atiqul Islam, Pro-VC (designate) GU Ahsan and other members of the board and department chairs were present, said a press release.

The events were held to spread awareness regarding the field of medical and health science among the researchers and policy makers of Bangladesh.

During the Wednesday's lecture, Sir Richard gave an exclusive information on how NSU is expecting to launch the first ever Genome Research Institute in the country, which will bring a revolutionary change in the field of medical research and health science.

The lecture was attended by numerous government policy makers, researchers, academicians and media personalities.

Sir Richard also emphasised how GMOs (genetically modified organisms) are crucial for agricultural growth in developing countries like Bangladesh. GMOs are essential for breeding and developing new crops and also for enhancing disease control in humans, animals and agricultural crops, he said.

"Bangladesh has set an example in agricultural growth," he said.

Agriculture through this method will enhance economic growth and eradicate deficiency born diseases.

Sir Richard was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1993. He was knighted in 2008. He is considered one of the pioneers of the application of computers in genomics.

He joined NSU's international advisory board last year.

IPU ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 1-5 Major roads to remain off-limits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vehicular movement will remain off-limit on several busy roads during the 136th Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly to be held in the capital from April 1 to April 5.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has also advised outgoing passengers to reach the airport on time as it will take additional security measures for foreign delegates who will arrive in town today.

Bangladesh parliament is hosting the assembly of IPU, a global organisation of parliaments.

The DMP issued a notice on traffic restriction in its official news portal www.dmpnews.org.

As per the notice, vehicular movement will be suspended on Manik Mia Avenue, from Aarong crossing to Khejur Bagan crossing from 5:30pm to 10:00pm on April 1.

Vehicular movement will remain suspended on the road in front of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) -- from BICC crossing via Gono Bhaban School to Pratirakkha intersection -- each day from 7:00am to 10:00pm during the five-day assembly.

Dwellers are advised to use Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University to Agargaon road through Rab-2 office as an alternative route. However, dwellers going to different government and non-government offices in the area will be allowed to go through the BICC road.

Vehicles plying Agargaon Link road will not be allowed to pass the BICC crossing. Instead, they will have to use the Agargaon Light crossing.

icddr,b a pioneer in improving public health

Muhith tells 'icddr,b Day' discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has lauded icddr,b's pioneering role in improving public health, especially of child and maternal health in Bangladesh and beyond, through its innovative solutions like oral cholera vaccine and oral saline to treat diarrhoea.

"It's a first class international research institution. When we established other international institutions later on, it served as a model," said Muhith at "icddr,b Day: a celebration of science and innovation" organised by icddr,b in its auditorium in the capital yesterday.

The icddr,b was initially set up as a Cholera Research Laboratory in 1960 and was turned into the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) in 1978.

Prof John D Clemens, its executive director, said Bangladesh is one of the few countries that have achieved the health-related MDGs.

Alison Blake, British high commissioner to Bangladesh, said the UK was proud to be a core donor of icddr,b and would continue to provide fund to the organisation.

"icddr,b is truly unique. It has developed many low-cost solutions," said Benoit-Pierre Laramée, high commissioner of Canada.

Dr Richard Smith, chair of trustee board of icddr,b; Syed Monjurul Islam, its deputy executive director; and Anders Öhrström, deputy head of mission and head of development cooperation of Swedish embassy, also spoke.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Yesteryear filmmaker Ibne Mizan died at his California home in the US on Monday, aged 86.

With a career spanning over 27 years, Mizan continued to make one crowd-drawing movie after another. His movie Rupbaan was one of the biggest box-office hits of its time.

Some of his notable movies are Shaheed Titumeer, Bansher Kella and Chandan Dwiper Rajkonnya.

Fahima Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fahima Haque, an educationist and the youngest daughter of the chairman of Sunnysdale (Pvt) Ltd, died of prolonged illness on March 25.

She left behind many relatives and well-wishers, said a press release.



Qulkhwani

DU CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Saleha Sharif, wife of renowned scholar, researcher and writer Prof Dr Ahmed Sharif, will be held after the Maghrib prayers today at her Dhanmondi residence.

Saleha died at her residence Wednesday, aged 86, said a press release.

She was the mother of Mohammad Karim Rizvi of Meghna Petroleum Ltd, Prof Nehal Karim of Dhaka University, and lawyer Zahed Karim Shawpon of the Supreme Court.

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