

WEATHER  
FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA  
H 32.6 L 26.2

MYMENSINGH  
H 33.1 L 26.2

CHITTAGONG  
H 32.0 L 25.5

SYLHET  
H 35.3 L 25.3

RAJSHAHI  
H 31.4 L 25.8

RANGPUR  
H 34.8 L 26.5

KHULNA  
H 29.2 L 25.0

BARISAL  
H 29.5 L 26.0

COX'S BAZAR  
H 29.5 L 24.7

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal & Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Mymensingh divisions at places over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 05:24am. The country's highest temperature 35.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 24.2 degrees Celsius in Rangamati. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:



## Prof Jamilur Reza gets lifetime award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury has been given the Bangladesh Development Initiative's (BDI) Lifetime Achievement Award-2017, said a BDI press release.

The award will formally be presented at BDI's international conference tentatively scheduled for August-September 2018.

Established in 2012, the BDI award is designed to honour outstanding individuals or organisations who have contributed to understanding the challenges and the ideals that have led to Bangladesh's development.

Prof Jamilur Reza, the incumbent vice chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific, is a foremost civil engineer, professor and researcher.

Born in Sylhet, Jamilur obtained BSc-in-civil engineering degree in 1963 from the University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka.

Later, he completed MSc engineering and PhD from the University of Southampton.

Dr Jamilur joined the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) as a lecturer in 1963 and was promoted to a professor of the civil engineering department in 1976. He served as the department head in 1978-'79, and 1981-'83.

In March 2001, he joined Brac University as its first vice chancellor.

Prof Jamilur has written about 70 papers in international journals and conference proceedings related to, among others, tall buildings, low-cost housing and earthquake resistant design.

He was awarded Ekushey Padak in science and technology category this year.



Clockwise from left, Students of the seven colleges that have recently been affiliated with Dhaka University stage a demonstration yesterday blocking the capital's Nilkhet intersection for around two hours. They were protesting Thursday's police action on them. Students also issued a five-point demand, including withdrawal of the case filed against them and compensation for their fellow Siddiqur Rahman, who suffered serious injuries in the eyes during the police action. Due to the blockade, traffic chaos ensued on many major roads like this one on Mirpur Road. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



# Alternative energy plan can save \$19b

Says Nat'l Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

According to an alternative environment-friendly power generation proposal, unit price of electricity in 2021 could be Tk 7.65, as opposed to the government's projected price of Tk 11.56 for the same year.

The implementation cost of this "draft" proposal -- revealed yesterday by National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports -- is also \$19 billion less than that of the government's Power System Master Plan (PSMP) for 2016 to 2041.

The government estimated that the PSMP would cost \$129 billion to produce 245 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity by 2041, whereas the power generation project proposed by the committee would cost \$110 billion, said Prof Anu Muhammad, economist and also member secretary of the committee.

He said this at an event organised at the capital's Jatiya Press Club where the committee disclosed the draft of their alternative proposal.

The proposal has been prepared following a year-long research conducted by a panel of local and foreign experts including from the USA, Australia, and India, the committee leaders said. The experts' names were revealed at the programme.

The draft proposal is environment-friendly as 55 percent of electricity under it would be generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind and waste energy (municipal waste, manufacturing waste, landfill gas, etc.).

Natural gas would be used to produce 37 percent of the electricity while the remainder, eight percent, would be generated using oil and from rental plants from regional countries.

Their proposal would save the country's environment and it aims to free the

country from foreign debts by relying on local resources, Prof Anu said.

In contrast, the government plan would cause harm to the environment and it relies on imports and foreign loans, he argued.

In the committee's draft proposal, renewable energy resources and natural gas have been given priority over coal, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and nuclear energy as fuel to run the power plants.

Besides, "the government's present master plan does not incorporate drilling in deep and shallow areas in the sea for natural gas," to increase the country's fossil fuel reserve, Prof Anu Muhammad said.

The government must increase the capacity of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (Bapex) to meet the country's demand, he added.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim

said they were not given any opportunity to discuss on the issue before the government adopted its power generation master plan.

The government should accept the committee's alternative power generation plan for the sake of the country's wellbeing as it is "positive and people-oriented", he also said. "The government aims to make money with its master plan..."

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of the central executive committee of GonoSamhatiAndolon, said rather than relying on natural gas, the government chose to import liquefied natural gas that is costlier.

Prof Abdul Hasib Chowdhury of electrical and electronic engineering department at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said the government's energy policy should be studied before the committee prepares its final power generation master plan.

## Bangladeshis detained, harassed at Malaysian airport: Adilur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A good number of Bangladeshis are being detained and harassed at Kuala Lumpur airport despite having legal documents to visit Malaysia, said Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of Odhikar, a human rights organisation.

At a press briefing at the organisation's office in the capital yesterday, he said many Bangladeshis are being held at the airport for days, and even months before they were sent back.

"Even the Malaysian authorities did not bother to explain the reasons behind the detention or not allowing them to enter the country," said Adilur, who was detained at the airport on July 19 and sent back the following day.

The immigration authorities detained him at the airport after he reached there to attend an international seminar. The Supreme Court lawyer still did not know the reason behind it.

However, he said he came to know that he was barred from entering Malaysia on instruction of the "higher authorities". Without elaborating, he said the matter was under investigation by the Malaysian National Human Rights Commission.

"Many Bangladeshi detainees did not have money to buy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



The winning team of Young Lions Competition Bangladesh-2017 with judges at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. The team will represent Bangladesh in Spikes Asia, Singapore this year. The Daily Star and Bangladesh Brand Forum, in association with Cannes Lions, organised the contest. From left, Farah Yasmin, Grey Group (the winner of the contest); Aftab Mahmud Khurshid, CMO, Bengal Group of Industry; Quamrul Hassan, business director, ACI Ltd; Mahzabin Ferdous Sharna, head of brand and corporate communications, IPDC Finance Ltd, and Tajdin Hassan, head of marketing, The Daily Star. PHOTO: STAR

# Education comes to a halt

623 primary and high schools in 5 districts of Rangpur region remain submerged for a month; 100 more under threat of river erosion

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Dinajpur

Academic activities at 623 primary and high schools in Rangpur region have been suspended for more than a month due to flooding caused by heavy rainfall and an onrush of water from the upstream, said education officials.

Of them, 562 are government primary schools and 61 high schools in five districts -- Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Nilphamari, they said, adding that the number of students of these schools were more than 200,000.

Of the 562 primary schools affected by flooding, at least eight are in Pirgachha, Gangachara and Kaunia upazila of Rangpur district; 380 in Kurigram Sadar, Ulipur, Chilmari,

Nageshwari, Rajarhat, Roumari, Phulbari, Bhurungamari and Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram; 126 in Gaibandha district; and 14 schools in Lalmonirhat district.

Two primary schools in Nilphamari district are flooded and under the threat of being devoured by river any time.

Thirty-two primary schools in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha districts have been suspended as these are being used as shelter place for the flood affected people.

Mahbub Elahi, deputy director of the Directorate of Primary Education office in Rangpur region, said his office is working to assess primary schools that suffered structural damage in flood, and those on the verge of being

devoured by rivers.

His office would write to ministry soon on completion of the assessment, he said.

However, the activities of a few schools had started last week, according to the education officials.

Teachers of the primary schools in those areas where flood water has receded have been instructed to restart the academic activities as soon as possible and help their students make up the lost classes, Mahbub Elahi added.

In addition, more than 100 government primary schools and high schools in the five districts of the region are under threat of river erosion.

According to the education officials, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



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