

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 27.0 L 14.8	H 28.0 L 14.4	H 29.5 L 16.4	H 27.7 L 15.9	H 25.6 L 11.7	H 27.7 L 13.0	H 25.2 L 14.3	H 27.0 L 15.0	H 30.2 L 17.5

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 06:41am.** Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Give legal aid to indigenous people on land issues

Speakers urge govt
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Formation of a separate land commission for the plain land indigenous people for protecting their land rights is a must, said speakers yesterday.

They also urged the government to provide the indigenous people with legal support in their land disputes.

The speakers were addressing the closing session of a three-day workshop, organised by "Urang Munda O Kharia Jubo Sammelan Udjapan Committee" at Bormacherra tea garden in Christian Bosti area under Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar.

The programme was chaired by Pius Nanuar, convener of the committee.

Ranadhir Kumar Deb, Sreemangal upazila chairman, said the indigenous people are still deprived of their land rights.

Father Boniface Tolentino CSC, parish priest of Sreemangal Catholic Mission, said the indigenous people are being uprooted from their land and being subjected to human rights violation.

Premasagar Hazra, vice-chairman of Sreemangal upazila, Bikash Kumar Singha, manager of Biddabil tea garden, and Bijoy Banerjee, chairman of Rajghat Union Parishad, also spoke.



A member of the health crew examines an elderly man at a free eye camp organised by Faraaz Hossain Foundation at Kalyanpur in the capital yesterday, while others wait for their turn. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Free eye camp for poor

Hosted by Faraaz Hossain Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifth grader Tanzila Akhter has been suffering from poor vision and several other problems in her eyes for almost a year now.

But the 11-year-old girl's father, a fuchka seller near the Kalyanpur slum in Dhaka, can barely make ends meet, let alone pay for her medical expenses.

Tanzila and her three siblings help out her father as much as they can at the fuchka stand near the slum where they live.

"I cannot read anything that is close to me and my eyes start watering when I try to read. So it's getting difficult for me to study," she said.

Yesterday turned out to be a special day for the young girl as she finally received treatment to remedy her discomfort at a free eye screening camp organised for underprivileged people living in the Kalyanpur slum.

Tanzila was delighted to be able to see clearly again with the free prescription eyeglasses she received at the camp.

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Export rises, remittance inflow dips

STAR REPORT

The inflow of remittance, which has substantial contribution to the national economy, has gone down in 2017 despite the growing number of manpower export during the outgoing year.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam said his ministry has sent a record number of 9.93 lakh workers abroad compared to 5.55 lakh in 2015 and 7.57 lakh in 2016, reports UNB.

Regarding the fall in the remittance inflow, the minister said it does not fall under his ministry's jurisdiction, but hinted that illegal "hundi" transactions are not included in the official remittance figures.

Remittance inflow has marked a 0.89 percent fall compared to the previous year, according to a report prepared by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).

The report estimated that the country earned US \$13.5 billion in remittance in the outgoing year against US \$13.61 billion last year. It received US \$13.61 billion in remittance in 2016 while it was US \$15.11

billion in 2015.

Allegations have surfaced against private recruiting agencies that they are taking higher immigration charges from workers as the government has failed to stabilise the rate till now.

The agencies are not abiding by the government-fixed immigration fees, which are Tk 1.6 lakh for Malaysia, Tk 1.89 lakh for Saudi Arabia, Tk 1.77 lakh for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Tk 1.67 lakh for Kuwait, Tk 1.27 lakh for Jordan.

They are taking higher fees than those set, the minister said.

The ministry attributes the 28 percent rise in sending manpower this year to the high labour exports to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Oman.

Export to Malaysia has also marked a fall due to a lack of monitoring in the government-to-government (G2G) agreement.

Although five lakh workers were supposed to go to Malaysia under this agreement, only 83,169 have gone so far, with 10 recruiting agencies facilitating their overseas jobs.

The Malaysian government, on

the other hand, has declared that over three lakh illegal workers will be deported by the end of this year, enforcing their combing operation to find out and arrest them.

Talks are underway with Malaysia and some Middle Eastern countries to ensure legal employment for Bangladeshi workers, said the minister.

Also, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed with International Development Organisation of Japan to further promote the Bangladeshi workers in numerous trades.

In addition, the minister recently met UAE Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization Saqr bin Ghobash Saeed Ghobash to discuss expanding the number of manpower recruitments.

RMMRU REPORT

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit report on "Patterns and Trends of Labour Migration 2017 from Bangladesh: Achievements and Challenges", was disclosed at a press conference at the capital's Jayita Press Club on

Thursday.

The report says 9.31 lakh Bangladeshis migrated between January and November this year, with 83.06 percent to Gulf and Arab countries and 16.93 percent to Southeast Asian countries.

If the trend continues till the end of this year, labour migration rate will increase 34.15 percent than what was in 2016, when 7.57 lakh workers migrated to different countries, it said, referring to the data of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

Between January and November this year, 1.13 lakh women migrant workers went to different countries. The number was 1.18 lakh in 2016. If the trend continues, it will be a 4.6 percent increase.

Until November, 5.13 lakh migrant workers went to Saudi Arabia, which is 55.15 percent of the total migration flow.

As many as 1.03 lakh migrant workers (10.62 percent) originated from Comilla district. The least number has been counted from Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

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Demand rings louder for MPO inclusion

Agitating teachers announce hunger strike from tomorrow; more join the cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After staging a sit-in for four straight days in front of Jatiya Press Club, teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions yesterday announced to begin a hunger strike unto death tomorrow, demanding enlistment under the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facilities.

"We will go for the fast unto death from Sunday morning. It will continue until our demand is met," said Binoy Bhushan Roy, one of the leaders of agitating teachers.

Under the banner of "Non-MPO Shikhy Pratishthan Shikhyak Karmachari Federation", several hundred teachers from across the country started the sit-in on Tuesday, demanding inclusion of the approved educational institutions in the MPO scheme.

Thanks to a holiday, more teachers joined the sit-in yesterday.

Golam Mahmudunnabi, president of the federation, said all teachers and employees

of the government registered non-MPO schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutions will observe the hunger strike.

He said the teachers have long been observing various protest programmes in and outside Dhaka to press home their demand, but they only got assurance so far. This time, he said, they had no other option but to take this decision.

MPO is the government's share in the payroll of the non-government educational institutions. Under the scheme, the government gives 100 percent basic salaries to the teachers of non-government schools. The teachers also get a lump sum amount as other allowances through the MPO.

As per the rules, the educational institutions first come under MPO facilities and then the government enlists the teachers in the payroll.

According to the leaders of the federation, the number of non-MPO educational institutions is 5,242, where around 80,000

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Traffic police prepare to tow a car with a wrecker from the footpath of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital yesterday. The city residents have long been witnessing the illegal practice of parking vehicles on roads and footpaths, which hampers traffic flow and obstructs pedestrian movement. The Daily Star ran a photo feature on the issue on Friday, revealing that in many areas of the city footpaths are no longer a place for pedestrians, but rather for cars, buses, makeshift shops and what not.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SQUARE

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