

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 20.6 L 11.0	H 19.2 L 09.7	H 20.8 L 11.6	H 23.2 L 12.9	H 19.2 L 07.2	H 14.5 L 07.4	H 22.5 L 09.0	H 23.2 L 08.3	H 23.5 L 12.3

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during mid-night to morning and it may continue till noon over north-western region. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:31pm and rises tomorrow at 06:44am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RISKY BUSINESS

This view is all too familiar for morning train commuters in Dhaka. Day in and day out the trains to and from Kamalapur Railway Station have to slow down to a snail's pace when passing through almost a one-kilometre stretch of the rail tracks here. At the break of dawn the city's largest wholesale fish market opens for business at Karwan Bazar, next to the tracks. While fish trading goes on inside the market till around 11 in the morning, a sea of fishmongers set up their makeshift stores next to both sides of the tracks upto Tejgaon rail station. At the same time, many others find the tracks more convenient than the roads for going to their destinations. The photos were taken near FDC yesterday.

Ali Riaz made Distinguished Professor

UNB, Dhaka
 Professor of Politics and Government Ali Riaz and Professor of Geology David Malone have been named Distinguished Professors by the Office of the Provost at Illinois State University, USA.
 They will be honoured at Illinois State University's annual Founders Day Convocation on February 15, according to the university.
 Prof Riaz began his career at Illinois State in 2002, becoming a full professor in 2008.
 He served as the department chair from 2007 to 2017, and was named University Professor in 2012.
 Prof Riaz received numerous awards including the Excellence in Teaching award from Pi Sigma Alpha. He published 17 books in English, 12 in Bangla, and numerous articles and book chapters.

Double blow for little ones

Lack of pediatrician at Bagerhat Sadar Hospital adds misery to children suffering from cold-related diseases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Like elsewhere, due to the ongoing cold wave, many children in Bagerhat are also suffering from cold-related diseases.
 One of them is six-month-old Tania. On Thursday, worried Sonia Begum, a housewife from Afra village under Kachua upazila, took Tania to the Bagerhat Sadar Hospital as she was suffering from pneumonia.
 But the worried mother could not treat her child there as there is no child specialist at the hospital. "I was scared and did not know what to do?" said Sonia.
 The doctors then advised her to admit the little one to a private clinic.
 Sonia's family lives on meagre income of her husband. Still, she took Tania to a clinic in Bagerhat and got her admitted there.
 Tania is doing much better now. But the six-month-old is not the only one who had to go through this. In the last five days, at least 150 children were given primary treatment at the hospital. At present, at least 20 children are admitted to the hospital, said Medical Officer Sheikh Imran

Mohammad.
 However, many of the worried parents said they had to return without getting the desired medical services for their children. In addition, due to a shortage of doctors, the hospital is not being able to handle the influx of patients.
 On Wednesday, Masum Sheikh, a rickshaw-puller from Kachua upazila, took his six-month-old son, suffering from pneumonia, to the hospital. Unable to treat his son there, he had to admit him to a private clinic.
 Children are being admitted to the Bagerhat Sadar Hospital with cough, pneumonia, diarrhoea and other cold-related diseases. Many of them are getting initial treatment there and afterwards parents are admitting them to private clinics due to a lack of a specialist, said Afzal Hossain, father of a child suffering from respiratory problems.
 "The treatment is expensive at private clinics," he said, adding, "But what choices do we have?"
 Sirajul Molla, a farmer from Chitalmari upazila, said his daughter was suffering from respiratory prob-

lems. "I had to admit my child elsewhere. Many are also coming here from far and then admitting their children to private clinics like me to save our children's lives."
 When asked, the medical officer of the hospital said the number of patients is increasing due to the cold. "We are serving as much as possible. As we don't have any pediatrician, we have to refer the children whose conditions are serious elsewhere."
 Dr Abul Kalam Azad, a child specialist at a private clinic in Bagerhat, said the clinics are witnessing a lot of child patients due to the cold.
 Bagerhat Civil Surgeon Dr Arun Chandra Mondal said the child care unit of the hospital has all necessary equipment. It was introduced in 2015 with the help of Unicef. "Unfortunately, we do not have a child specialist."
 "Two child specialists joined us last year. One of them stayed for 15 days and the other for about a month and then left," he added.
 "We have informed the matter to the health ministry. Hopefully, a child specialist will join the hospital soon."

Malaysia arrests 'trafficking ringleader'

50 Bangladeshi victims also detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian Immigration Department yesterday detained a Bangladeshi expatriate for, what they said, running a syndicate trafficking blacklisted foreigners into the country.
 Director General Mustafar Ali of the Department said the 43-year-old man known as "Abang Bangla" was detained in Shah Alam area, reports Malaysian daily the New Straits Times.
 A 49-year-old Malaysian man was also arrested for abetting the syndicate.
 Mustafar said 50 other Bangladeshis, aged between 20 and 45, were arrested in another raid in Shah Alam.
 "Our preliminary investigation showed that Abang Bangla, whose real name is Abdur Rauf, has been trafficking people into Malaysia for the past eight months," he said.
 "Some of them have been blacklisted as they had previously committed immigration offences.
 "Some have also served their sentences. Since they have been blacklisted, they could no longer enter Malaysia legally," Mustafar said.
 He added the modus operandi of the syndicate was to buy flight tickets for these foreigners from Dhaka to Jakarta. From Jakarta, they would take a boat to enter Malaysia illegally.
 Mustafar said, "They also had to pay between RM 15,000 and RM 20,000 to the syndicate to enter Malaysia. They would be placed at a temporary house in Sekinchan until they settle their payment. After they have paid the full amount, they would be handed over to agents or employers."
 The department also seized RM 13,400 in cash, 48 passports and a taxi. The case is being investigated.

Home-grown technology key to battling disasters

Bapa-BEN joint conference told on 1st day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should prioritise its home-grown technologies and develop those further on its own to combat disasters such as flood, landslide and waterlogging, experts said at a conference yesterday.
 Rather than depending on foreign consultants and donations, the government should formulate a long-term plan incorporating existing technologies to get a permanent solution to such calamities, they said.
 Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) jointly organised the conference at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh (KIB) in the capital.
 Although these disasters are caused by the nature, numerous anti-environmental activities by the people increase the intensity and frequency of these disasters, they said.
 The two-day conference was organised with an aim to identify the main reasons for flood, waterlogging and landslide that have been occurring frequently in different parts of the country in recent times.
 Speaking as the chief guest at the conference, eminent economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud said, "We have a misconception about development. That's why we are building anti-environment infrastructures

in the name of development."
 The infrastructures may produce temporary benefits, but these cause long-term damages to the nature, he said, adding that such development activities should be stopped.
 Noted economist Dr Nazrul Islam, also the global coordinator of BEN, said most of the previous measures, taken by the government based on suggestions made by foreign experts, failed to reduce damages caused by the disasters.
 Therefore, local knowhow and technologies should get the priority in development works and for curbing the disasters, he added.
 Bapa Co-Chairperson Prof M Firoz Ahmed said flood, landslide and waterlogging have become more dangerous due to various activities of man. "We should be more active to protect the nature for the next generation."
 MA Matin, general secretary of Bapa, and Iqbal Habib, member secretary of the conference organising committee, also spoke.
 A total of 70 scientific articles will be presented at 20 different sessions during the two-day conference, which will end today. The conference will also be attended by a number of environmental scientists, university professors and green activists.



Even the mighty sun has to wait before it could shine with all its splendour as the morning fog hangs over the Karnaphuli river. The photo was taken from Fishery Ghat area around 7:00am yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Govt can't

FROM PAGE 4

also said, urging the AL to walk the path of understanding for a fair election under a "non-party neutral administration".
 Separately, BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed said the government is mainly working to annihilate BNP. "They are also training Rab and police on how to repress the opposition," he said, speaking at a programme of Zia Sangskritik Sangstha at the club.

Hunger strike rolls on amid cold

FROM PAGE 4

us. It is so unfortunate," he said.
 "But we will not stop until we get an announcement from the prime minister about realising our demand," Ruhul added.
 This correspondent found the teachers lying on the street yesterday afternoon with some of them being given intravenous saline drip. Some female madrasa teachers brought their children along with them.
 There are around 48,000 teachers of around 10,000 madrasas who are not getting any pay from the government, many of them for 34 years since the institutions got registered under the Madrasa Education Board in 1984.
 In 1994, some 6,776 teachers of 1,519 madrasas started getting Tk 500 as allowances for each teacher through a government circular.
 Later in 2013, the government elevated the amount of those teachers to Tk 1,000. In

2016-17 fiscal year, the government increased the allowances of headteachers to Tk 2,500 and assistant headteachers to Tk 2,300 from Tk 1,000.
 But the rest of the teachers have not been paid any allowance whatsoever from the government since 1984, said the teachers.
 Meanwhile, teachers of MPO-enlisted secondary institutions continued their sit-in for the third consecutive day in front of Jatiya Press Club.
 Under the banner of "Beshkari Shikshka Jatiyakaran Liaison Forum", a platform of five teachers' organisations, they started the demonstration on January 10 demanding nationalisation of private education.
 The leaders said they will go for a hunger strike from tomorrow if they did not get any assurance from the government about meeting their demand by today.

Foreign

FROM PAGE 4

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman said, "We've some limitations that don't encourage foreign students to enroll here. We can't provide scholarships to them like other countries or universities."
 Mentioning that there had been no separate desk for admission of foreign students for a long time, he said they are trying to change the situation. "We've created a dedicated desk for the foreign students so that they can easily apply to the university."

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি
 মোকাম বিজ্ঞ অতিরিক্ত জেলা জজ ৫ম আদালত, ঢাকা।
 মিস্ মোকদমা নং-১২/২০০৯ (জারী)
 বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড সাবেক বাংলাদেশ শিল্পাঞ্চল সংস্থা, হেড অফিস, বিআইডব্লিউটিএ ভবন, ১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা, বর্তমানে: বি.ডি.বি.এল ভবন, ৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।
 -----ডিক্রীদার
 -বনাম-
 ১) কাওয়াসা শিপিং লাইন্স লিঃ, সাং: ২২/২৪ তাজমহল রোড, ব্লক-সি, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
 ২) জনাব শামসুল আলম, পিতা-জনাব আব্দুর রশিদ, পরিচালক-কাওয়াসা শিপিং লাইন্স লিঃ, সাং: ২২/২৪ তাজমহল রোড, ব্লক-সি, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
 ৩) জনাব আনোয়ারুল আজিজ, পিতা-মৃত: তালেব আলী, সাং: কাওয়াসা শিপিং লাইন্স লিঃ, ২২/২৪ তাজমহল রোড, ব্লক-সি, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
 ৪) মিসেস মাহাবুবা হোসাইন, স্বামী-জনাব মোকাররম হোসাইন, সাং: কাওয়াসা শিপিং লাইন্স লিঃ, সাং: ২২/২৪ তাজমহল রোড, ব্লক-সি, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
 ৫) বাংলাদেশ শিপ বিল্ডিং ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ, ৪৩৭/বি, খিলগাঁও (তালতলা), ঢাকা।
 ৬) জনাব কেএম সারোয়ার, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ শিপ বিল্ডিং ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ, ৪৩৭/বি, খিলগাঁও (তালতলা) ঢাকা।
 ----- দায়ীকরণ
 ডিক্রীকৃত টাকার পরিমাণঃ ৩,৭৪,০৬,৪৩৮/- টাকা।
 নিলামের স্থানঃ ঢাকা জেলা জজ আদালতের নেজারত প্রাঙ্গন।
 নিলামের সময়ঃ বেলা ১২ঃ০০টা।
 নিলামের তারিখঃ
 এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি উপরে উল্লেখিত স্থান, ২৩/১/১৮ তারিখ ও সময়ে প্রকাশ্যে নিলামে বিক্রি করা হবে। ডিক্রীদারের পাওনা ৩০/০৬/১৯৯৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ৩,৭৪,০৬,৪৩৮/- (তিন কোটি চূয়ত্তর লক্ষ ছয় হাজার চারশত আটত্রিশ) টাকা মাত্র এবং তৎসহ টাকা আদায় না হওয়া পর্যন্ত উক্ত টাকার উপর সুদ ও মামলার খরচ। ইচ্ছুক ক্রেতা সাধারণকে উক্ত তারিখে বেলা ১২ঃ০০ ঘটিকার সময় জেলা জজ আদালতের নাজির অফিসে উপস্থিত থেকে নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
 "তফসিল"
 (১) জেলা-বরিশাল, থানা-বরিশাল, মৌজা-আলেকান্দা, জে.এল. নং-৫০, খতিয়ান নং- ৩৬৯৭, দাগ নং-২৬০০, জমির পরিমাণ ৮০ শতাংশ।
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 আদেশক্রমে
 অতিরিক্ত জেলা জজ ৫ম আদালত
 ঢাকা
 জিডি-১১১