

WEATHER FORECAST

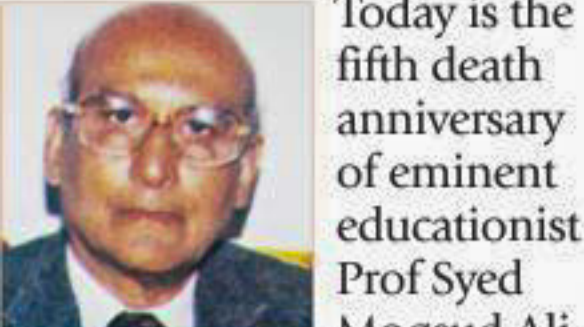
YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.0 L 22.6	MYMENSINGH H 32.0 L 20.3	CHATTOGRAM H 31.1 L 21.5	SYLHET H 33.0 L 20.8	RAJSHAHI H 31.7 L 17.0	RANGPUR H 30.8 L 20.0	KHULNA H 33.0 L 21.8	BARISHAL H 32.3 L 21.7	COX'S BAZAR H 31.7 L 21.5
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:02am.

5th death anniversary of Prof Moqsud Ali

CITY DESK



Today is the fifth death anniversary of eminent educationist Prof Moqsud Ali. He was the chairman of Political Science and Public Administration department and dean of Social Sciences Faculty at Dhaka University. Born in 1925, Prof Ali was involved in socio-political and cultural activities since student days at DU. For his contribution to political science, he was awarded Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal in 1996. Some of his important works include "Rashtrabiggyan"; "Plato'r Republic"; "Forashi Biplobutor Rashtrachinta" and "Rajnitio Rashtrachintaye Upomohadesh". On the occasion, prayers will be offered at his village in Barishal's Sujabad, and at Dr Noorun Nahar Fyznessa Pre-primary School in Dhamrai.



Renowned singer Runa Laila performs at the 40th anniversary celebrations of Aarong, a lifestyle retail chain under Brac, at Army Stadium in Dhaka last evening.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SNAPS & snippets

UGC chairman receives honorary degree

Prof Abdul Mannan, chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), was given the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa (Hon D Litt) by University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, India, for his outstanding contributions to higher education in Bangladesh. The degree was conferred in a special convocation held at Hotel Vivanta Taj in Guwahati of Assam on Wednesday. Education Minister of Assam Siddhartha Bhattacharya conferred the degree, said a press release. Mabubul Hoque, chancellor of the University; Dr P K Goswami, vice-chancellor of USTM; and Dr Shah Md Tanvir, assistant high commissioner of Bangladesh to India, were present at the ceremony, among others.

BUFT joins new education alliance

BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) has joined a new alliance of textile education, said a press release. The alliance, named "Belt One Road Textile High Education" was formed during the 60th anniversary celebration of China's Wuhan Textile University on October 18. Eight Chinese universities and 12 universities from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Cambodia and Ghana became its founder members. Muzaffar U Siddique, founder chairman of the Board of Trustees, BUFT signed the alliance agreement in presence of Prof Engr Ayub Nabi Khan, pro vice-chancellor of BUFT. They were also accorded a gala reception by former students of BUFT who are now studying at WTU, China.



Speakers at a recently concluded international seminar, "An Inclusive Maritime Vision for Sustainable Development of Bangladesh", organised by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Bangladesh in the capital. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Anwara Begum's death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Anwara Begum, wife of late Firoz Rahman (Firoz Master), a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, member of National Executive Committee of Awami League and vice president of Faridpur district Awami League, said a press release. On this occasion, a milad mahfil and qurankhwan will be arranged after jummah prayers at Zhiltuly Jame Mosque in Faridpur and Muslim Mission and Autism School in Faridpur, the release added. Relatives, friends, well-wishers and admirers are requested to attend the ceremony and pray for the eternal peace of her soul.

Include child protection steps in manifestos

Child parliament urges political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child parliament members from 64 districts yesterday urged political parties to include child protection measures in their electoral manifestos. Aged between 12 and 17, the young parliamentarians made the recommendation at the child parliament's 17th session, conducted by its Speaker Mefatun Nahar. The session, titled 'Shishu Surokkhay Rajnoitik Ongikar' (political commitment in protecting children), was jointly organised by Save the Children, Plan International and Bangladesh Shishu Academy at a hotel in the capital's Gulshan. The members during the session also discussed various child rights issues including child marriage, implantation of Children Act 2018, abuse and sexual harassment on children, and allocation of sufficient funds for children in the national budget. Speaking at the programme, Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon said the government has recently passed an act under which fair treatment of accused would be ensured at juvenile courts.

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ABUSE OF MIGRANTS Pursue legal action against foreign employers

Experts, recruiting agents urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should go for legal action against foreign employers who abuse Bangladeshi migrants abroad, experts and recruitment agents said yesterday. They said hundreds of Bangladeshi migrants are returning home following exploitation, and they can complain only against recruiting agencies or informal brokers, but the abusive employers go unpunished. "If legal action is taken against the employers, a lot of problems can be solved," said Mizanur Rahman, joint secretary general-1 of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), at a book launching ceremony yesterday. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) launched three books: "Justice at the Doorsteps: Mediation on Migration Fraudulence", "Migration Dispute Mediation Manual", and "Dynamics of Decentralization: Migration Services under Spotlight" at the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET). Mizanur Rahman said in cases of abuse, BMET issues notices to the recruiting agencies, asking them to repatriate the migrants in seven days. He said the recruiting agencies have no representatives abroad; in such cases, Bangladesh missions can take legal action. BMET Director General Salim Reza asked the agencies to reduce dependence on informal brokers. Sometimes, brokers persuade underage girls to go abroad though women only aged between 25 and 45 are eligible for migration. Hundreds of female migrants have been returning from the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia, and have complained of physical, sexual, mental abuses, and non-payment or underpayment of wages. Some even returned with pregnancy and babies after being raped. Salim Reza said Bangladesh missions can take legal action against the employers, but victim women do not want to stay there as it takes a long time to settle the cases. Shirin Sultana Lira, an adviser of Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems project of British Council, said taking legal action against abusive employers, at least to set example, will help make foreign employers accountable. RMMRU Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui said they have been coordinating mediation for migration-related disputes in Tangail. "We found that mediation is more effective than court."

'Lighthouse of the nation'

Buet honours 3 national professors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They are the lighthouse of the nation, as they spread the light of education contributing to build an enlightened country, said speakers at a reception programme of three newly-appointed national professors yesterday. Buet Alumni Association and Buet Teachers' Association jointly accorded the reception to Prof Rafiqul Islam, Prof Anisuzzaman and Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury at Buet auditorium. Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said since 1975, so far 22 persons have been appointed national professors, of whom he is the first engineer. "Someone before me should have got the honour, and hope many other engineers will get this honour in future for their contribution to the country," he said. Prof Anisuzzaman said getting the honour from Buet alumni association and teachers association is special. "I am accepting your praises, but I know in my heart that I have to do more to be worthy for such honour," said Anisuzzaman. Professor Rafiqul Islam said people of Bangladesh speak a lot but work less, which is being reflected in talk shows; but Buet has been doing a number of good works silently. Dr Shamsuzzaman, Prof Syed Azizul Haque, poet Muhammad Nurul Huda, Prof MH Khan and Prof AKM Masud also spoke.

MAKING DHAKA DISASTER RESILIENT Unplanned urbanisation, absence of building code enforcement major setbacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unplanned urbanisation and absence of building code enforcement are the two fundamental drawbacks against achieving a Dhaka resilient to disasters, said officials at a three-day workshop in the capital yesterday. The city is also plagued by perennial traffic congestion and urban flooding, posing potential challenge to making it resilient, said Dr Tariq Bin Yusuf, a superintending engineer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). Citing the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme findings of 2009, Tariq said a 7.5 magnitude earthquake near Modhupur fault would cause 16,000 instant deaths and damage 75,218 buildings in Dhaka. Brig Gen Md Jubayer Salehin, chief engineer of DNCC, said managing a disaster of this proportion would be a mammoth challenge, particularly with inadequate open spaces and absence of building code enforcement. The workshop -- on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction action plan -- was organised by DNCC and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), with support from World Bank and the European Commission. There are various systems that make up a city and there should be a system of systems to make a city resilient to disasters, said Tejas Tamobhid Patnaik, a representative of UNISDR. The campaign launched in 2010 is a three-year initiative by UNISDR and UN-Habitat as part of implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders, according to UNISDR. The UN initiative along with its partners has been working on 20 high-risk cities -- six from Asia and Pacific, in which Dhaka is one -- to help implement plans on disaster risk reduction and resilience. DNCC panel mayor Md Jamal Mustafa was present among others.

Girls must learn to take control of their lives

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Targeted action is needed to provide girls with life skills, including education on sexual and reproductive health and emotional well-being, speakers said at a programme yesterday. The discussion, on "Experience Sharing and Consultation" was organised by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (DSHSE) and Room to Read Bangladesh at Bangla Academy, marking International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated on October 11. At an early age, a girl should develop self-esteem and learn to take control of her life and make decisions, speakers said. Discussants also said girls lack access to vocational training, apprenticeships and other job training programmes, which are crucial for developing skills and useful in emerging job markets and value-added activities. At the programme, six girls shared their concerns over child marriage, sanitation problems in schools, and job prospects. Secretary to Women and Children Affairs Ministry Nasima Begum said, "Girls' participation in sports has left a significant mark in the international arena." The government has taken an initiative to teach karate to girls as a self-defence skill, while different apps were developed for them, she said. Prof Shamsul Huda, director general (in-charge) of DSHSE, said, "We are considering opening counselling centres for girls at schools in Dhaka city." Kazi Rowshon Akter, DG of Department of Women Affairs, said girls should be given livelihood skills. Rakhi Sarkar, country director of Room to Read, said, "Keeping girls in school and ensuring they can learn in a safe environment leads to benefits to the girls themselves, their families and society."

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University of Dhaka
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Liberation War sculpture unveiled at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University authorities yesterday unveiled, "Joy Bangla", a sculpture on Liberation War, the first of its kind on the campus. Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury inaugurated it at 3:30pm. Around Tk 20 lakh was spent for the sculpture, work of which started in mid-July, 2017. The 20-feet sculpture is made with fibreglass, cement, concrete and stone. Syed Md Shohrab Jahan, a former CU student of fine arts, made "Joy Bangla". It depicts memory of the country's independence, he told The Daily Star. University students had demonstrated on campus in June 2017, demanding a sculpture based on the Liberation War be erected on campus.