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INDONESIA TSUNAMI

Danger level up as volcano rumbles

AFP, Carita

Indonesia yesterday raised the danger alert level for an erupting volcano that sparked a killer tsunami at the weekend, after earlier warning that fresh activity at the crater threatened to trigger another deadly wave.

Authorities also widened a no-go zone around rumbling Anak Krakatoa to five kilometres (three miles) -- up from a previous two kilometres -- and warned shell-shocked residents to stay away from the coast, after more than 400 were killed by Saturday night's wave.

Plumes of ash burst into the sky as pyroclastic flows -- hot gas and other volcanic material -- flowed down the crater, threatening anyone too close to the volcano and raising the risk of rough seas for boats in the vicinity.

"There is a danger of more eruptions," said national disaster spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

"People (near the volcano) could be hit by hot rocks, pyroclastic flows and thick ash."

Authorities raised the crater's status to high alert, the second-highest warning on the country's four-point danger scale, while aviation officials ordered flights to be redirected away from the area.

'JUST PRAY FOR US'

The new flows posed no immediate danger to nearby towns as the volcano sits in the middle of the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra islands.

But the status change sparked new fears with many residents already scared and refusing to return to their communities over fears of another tsunami.

"This worries me," said Ugi Sugiarti, a cook at the

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To get a glimpse of their near ones, family members and relatives gather near prison vans carrying BNP men on the premises of Dhaka CMM's court yesterday. The party alleges police are arresting its activists to hurt its polls campaign. Law enforcers, however, say they are arresting only those accused in different cases.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



কা মেট্রোপলিটন পলিটন

RAJSHAHI-3

Intimidation, fear grip BNP supporters

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Anarul Islam, a rickshaw van puller, parked his vehicle in front of Sumon's grocery shop in Ramchandrapur village of Rajshahi's Paba upazila in Rajshahi-3 constituency yesterday noon while two Awami League activists were describing their party's dominance in the area to this correspondent sitting inside the shop.

Anarul frowned when he overheard one of the AL men saying that many of the BNP supporters have "willingly" joined their party.

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**BUSINESS
OPINION POLL**

The Daily Star has carried out an opinion poll among the business community to get a sense of the bright and weak spots of the economy in the outgoing year. A total of 37 prominent businessmen, including presidents of four leading trade bodies; chief executives of banks, non-bank financial institutions and insurance companies; economists and researchers were interviewed. They also shared their expectations, worries and priorities for 2019.

Mobile internet speed slashed indefinitely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecom regulatory commission has slowed mobile internet by shutting down 3G and 4G services yesterday night.

As per the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) order issued around 10:00pm yesterday, people using the internet on their phones would not be able to stream or upload pictures or videos.

Use of communication apps would also be nearly impossible with the low-speed mobile internet.

Some users have already started complaining about the internet speed since 10:30pm.

As of November, over 6 crore people are currently using the 3G and 4G mobile internet.

Only 2G internet would be available now, according to an e-mail sent to mobile operators by the BTRC's engineering and operations department.


The decision must be in effect until further notice, it said.

Contacted, BTRC Chairman Jahurul Haque refused to comment on this.

Requesting anonymity, a commissioner said the order followed a request from the higher authorities.

Officials said the situation may continue until December 31.

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**FROM CAMPAIGN TRAIL**

KISHOREGANJ

Where sons of three presidents contesting

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Three sons of presidents are running for parliament from Kishoreganj and people are saying it's the district of the VIPs.

Syed Ashraf Islam, son of acting president of Bangladesh during the Liberation War Syed Nazrul Islam; Rejwan Ahammad Taufiq, son of incumbent President Abdul Hamid; and Nazmul Hassan Papon, son of late president Zillur Rahman are the candidates running in Kishoreganj-1, Kishoreganj-4 and Kishoreganj-6.

NOT IN FIELD, BUT IN MIND

Even though their candidate is in Bangkok fighting stage-four cancer and has very little chance of returning to political life, well-wishers and supporters of Syed Ashraf Islam in Kishoreganj-1 have conducted a vigorous campaign.

From posters to rallies, his family and

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LALMONIRHAT


The broken promises

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and S DILIP ROY

Voters in char areas of Lalmonirhat seem to have lost hope as several promises regarding the area's development had been announced in previous elections over the decades but nothing was done in reality.

Every day as the sun sets, majority of the 105 chars

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NATURE QUEST

A male minivet rests on a banyan tree in Bogura's Shibganj. The bird, with a strong dark beak and long wings, is a feast for the eyes.

COURTESY: ALI ASHRAF BHUIYAN

Today is the 21st Death Anniversary of
Engr. Ejabuddin Ahmed



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul



**PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 28**

	Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	5:30	12:30	4:00	5:27	7:00
JAMAAT	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:30	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

US man finishes solo trek across Antarctica

AFP, Washington

An American adventurer has become the first person to complete a solo trek across Antarctica without assistance of any kind.

Colin O'Brady, 33, took 54 days to complete the nearly 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) crossing of the frozen continent from coast to coast.

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সমৃদ্ধির যাত্রায় আজ বাংলাদেশ। এ যাত্রায় ব্যাপক গতি এনেছে সকল **মেগা প্রকল্প**। এ সকল বৃহৎ প্রকল্পসমূহ আজ অর্থনৈতিক নিরাপত্তার চাদরে ঢেকে রেখেছে সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন।

আসুন, চলমান উন্নয়নে আমরা সবাই সরকারকে ধারাবাহিকভাবে সহায়তা করি।

২০১৯ সাল সকলের জন্য সুখের হডক।



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