

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.1 L 21.6	MYMENSINGH H 31.0 L 19.2	CHATTOGRAM H 29.5 L 19.2	SYLHET H 31.2 L 17.9	RAJSHAHI H 32.9 L 18.4	RANGPUR H 31.0 L 17.0	KHULNA H 33.0 L 22.2	BARISHAL H 31.7 L 22.0	COX'S BAZAR H 31.3 L 19.5
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Rain/thunder showers with temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Cumilla & Noakhali in the next 24 hours till 6pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06pm and rises tomorrow at 6:10am.

DUCSU POLLS IN FRAMES



Clockwise from top left, vice president candidate Auroi Semonti Khan confronts Chief Returning Officer Prof Mahfujur Rahman near Fuller Road over irregularities in Ducusu election. The day starts with the campus abuzz with voters, as BCL activists welcome everyone with flowers and a candidate list. Students stand in long, slow-moving queues to cast their votes under the scorching sun. Some voters find two trunks full of ballot papers locked inside the hall union office of Ruqayyah Hall. All student organisations, except BCL, protest alleged irregularities in front of the vice-chancellor's residence.

PHOTOS: PALASH KHAN, PRABIR DAS, AMRAN HOSSAIN

Ruqayyah Hall fiasco: A voter's account

Yesterday's voting for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) and hall union at Ruqayyah Hall was suspended before noon, after students found ballot papers inside metal trunks behind a locked door. A candidate was also apparently attacked and injured at the time. A voter of the hall narrates the chaotic situation:

I went to Ruqayyah Hall with a group of about fifteen girls at around 11am.

We were all quite excited to cast our votes, but the closer we got to the polling booths, the situation started to heat up. At one point, girls around me started saying there were hidden ballot boxes inside the hall. A few candidates from Swatantra Jote and Progotisheel Chhatra Oikya kept saying that the hall union office has been locked since morning, and the authorities must be hiding something.

By the time we reached the metal detector, where volunteers from Bangladesh National Cadet Corps were supposed to punch our hall ID cards, no student was allowed to pass through. This was around 11:30am, possibly when the voting was stopped.

When a group of students approached Bangladesh Chhatra League-backed candidate (for the Ducusu assistant general secretary post) Saddam Hussein, he said the allegations were false, and the incident in Kuwait-Maitree Hall would not be repeated.

A big group of students gathered around the designated office for Ruqayyah Hall Union, demanding that authorities unlock the door and show what is inside. The ruckus kept getting louder, with frequent slogganning.

About 20 minutes later, I saw an apparently-unconscious Nurul Haque Nur, VP candidate from Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakshan Parishad, being carried away by fellow students. He seemed to have been beaten up, and I heard some students mention that BCL activists had attacked him.

A small yard separated the metal detector and the building where the polling room and hall union office are. Girls who had been near the building said Shotontro Jote candidates Auroi and Dipti had also been attacked. By that time, we had waited in queue for almost an hour, with fading hopes of getting to the booth.

Amidst the chaos, we and went near the hall union office

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Bangladesh 8th worst-hit country by natural disasters

Says IFRC's World Disasters Report-2018

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been the eighth worst affected country in the world in terms of natural disasters hitting number of people in the past decade, says the World Disasters Report-2018 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Between 2008 and 2017, some 37 million people in Bangladesh were affected by natural disasters, the report says.

IFRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) launched the global report, titled "World Disasters Report-2018: Leaving No One Behind", at a programme in Dhaka yesterday. BDRCS Chairman Hafiz Ahmed Mazumdar along with other dignitaries formally unveiled it.

However, it did not specify the type and number of natural disasters the country encountered in the last decade.

The report analysed calamities like storms, extreme temperatures, floods, landslides, droughts, wildfires and earthquakes in the chapter "Disaster

Trends and IFRC Insights".

Globally, 3,751 natural disasters occurred in the last 10 years, affecting an estimated 2 billion people and damaging property worth \$1,658 billion, according to the report which used "Emergency Events Database" of Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels.

The largest proportion (40.6 percent) of the total disasters took place in Asia, which also has by far the largest share of affected people (79.8 percent) and the largest share of estimated damages (45.4 percent), it adds.

While the data shows fewer disasters and people affected over the last decade than the previous one (9 percent less incidents and 29 percent less people affected), estimated damages more than doubled in the region -- from \$326.6 billion to 752.2 billion.

The report says China, USA, Philippines, India and Indonesia were the five countries most frequently hit by natural disasters in last ten years.

China and India alone accounted for 62.4 percent (1.2 billion) of the 2 billion affected people since 2008. Seven of the

worst-affected countries, in terms of number of people affected, are in Asia.

The report identified five reasons for which affected people may not receive required assistance. "The humanitarian sector cannot help people if it fails to see them," says the report.

"Some communities are hard to reach for geographical or political reasons, because of conflict and insecurity, or bureaucratic and legal bottlenecks created by affected states and donors alike. These can all pose serious challenges to humanitarian access," it mentions.

The IFRC's 2019 operational plan for Bangladesh sets a budget of \$5.5 million to reach 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, through Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, said the organisers.

Azmat Ulla, head of IFRC Bangladesh Country Office, said if the vulnerable and under-supported groups discussed in the report are to be identified, reached, understood and supported, the international humanitarian sector must invest in local and national actors like BDRCS.

HC declares BIWTA Sramik Karmachari Union illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority's (BIWTA) collective bargaining agent illegal.

The court also directed the department of labour to scrap registration of the body -- BIWTA Sramik Karmachari Union -- in 30 days.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition, the court observed that more than three trade unions cannot get registration for a state agency, as per the labour law.

The department of labour had registered four trade unions for BIWTA before it gave registration to BIWTA Sramik Karmachari Union, which a violation of the labour law, the court said.

The HC bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah delivered the

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GENDER BUDGET Lack of monitoring deters utilisation of funds: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Planning minister Muhammad Abdul Mannan speaks at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To achieve gender equality, the government introduced gender budget in 2010 with women's empowerment in focus. Since then, 44 ministries have been listed as recipients of funds specifically for facilitating women's education, health and employment.

While sketching out a gender-sensitive budget for 2017-18, the government set aside about 64 percent of the fund allocated for the youth and sports ministry for women's development. But at the end of the fiscal year, revised budget shows share of expenditure for women came down to half of what was meant for them initially.

In the absence of monitoring and evaluation, the authorities could not be held accountable for proper use of the allocated funds. So the realities remain far from the objectives, according to a ministry-wise budget analysis commissioned by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). The findings were made public yesterday at a national dialogue on 'gender responsive budgeting' in a Dhaka hotel. Planning Minister Muhammad Abdul Mannan was present as chief guest and Asa Torkelson, representative from UNFPA, as special guest.

Analysts -- Sayema Haque Bidisha of Dhaka University's economics department and Shermind Nilormi, of Jahangirnagar University's economics department -- recommended evaluating the impacts of budgeting process through "gender lens", to find out if that helped narrow the gender gaps.

Dr Fahmida Khatun, executive director, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), in her presentation on "Estimating Unpaid Work in Bangladesh's GDP: A Conceptual Framework for Household Satellite Accounts Approach", referred to a CPD research that estimated the value of women's unpaid household work at 76.8 percent of GDP in 2013-14 fiscal, when another woman would be hired and paid to replace the woman in the family doing unpaid work.

Like the sports ministry, the land ministry also spent only half of the budgetary allocation on women in the last fiscal.

This is the backdrop against which MJF as a civil society organisation decided to work with ministries of women and children affairs, labour and employment, land, youth and sports, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, and social welfare to help attain the goals of gender budget.

The government made the highest allocation for women's advancement -- 29.65 percent -- in the budget for 2018-19. Zooming in on the projects, the analysts found there were still some key areas left out of the spotlight. For example, no measure has been considered to help female farmers who are participating more in agriculture now compared to their male counterparts.

Apart from ensuring that gender budgets are better implemented, the rights organisation also suggested raising awareness on women's contribution to their families and society through unpaid care work.

The disproportionate share of unpaid

Ruling party wants strong opposition in House: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to the Jatiya Oikyafront MPs-elect to join parliament, saying the ruling party wants a strong opposition in real sense.

"We want a strong opposition party in parliament, I hope those who got people's votes will speak in parliament and make whatever comments they want to," she said.

The prime minister said this in the House, while participating in the general discussion on the president's speech and delivering her closing speech.

She said one elected MP of the Oikyafront -- Sultan Mohammad Mansur Rahman -- has already joined parliament showing respect to voters. "Protecting the dignity of voters, I took his seat in the House."

The PM firmly said the government will not allow any sort of conflict, terrorism, militancy, drug abuse and corruption in the country. "We're taking stern

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Visitors browse an exhibition titled 'Portrayal of the Cultural Lives of 50 Ethnic Minorities' yesterday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's National Art Gallery. The exhibition will be open to all every day till March 15.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Govt officials forced to pay bribe for salaries: ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has identified how government officials are being harassed and forced to pay bribe at accounts offices.

Identifying 33 probable source of corruption and providing 21 recommendations, ACC Commissioner Dr Md Mozammel Haque Khan yesterday handed over a report to Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal at the latter's office.

Accounts offices at divisional, district and upazila levels are responsible for payment of salaries, pension and other financial benefits

to government employees. They are operated by the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, under the finance ministry.

Government officials face difficulties to get salaries after being transferred, as accounts offices delay in transferring Last Pay Certificate (LPC). On the other hand, accounts offices also make inadvertent delays in issuing Expected Last Pay Certificate to the retired officials, the ACC report said.

Government officers and staff have to make underhand payments to accounts officers to get their arrear bills. Not only that, they also have to pay bribe to open

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পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা ও কলোরেকটাল ক্যান্সার

পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, আমাশয়, কোলোনস্কপি, পলিপ, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি

উপরোক্ত রোগসমূহ সম্পর্কে জানতে বইটি পড়ুন

বইটি লিখেছেন বাংলাদেশ এবং উপমহাদেশের প্রথম কলোরেকটাল সার্জন কলোরেকটাল সার্জারিতে বিশ্বব্যাপী সর্বাধিক সংখ্যক অফল অপারেশন সম্পাদনকারী সার্জন।



অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এ. কে. এম. ফজলুল হক
এমবিবিএস, এফসিপিএস, এফআইসিএস
ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কলার (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র) ফেলো, কলোরেকটাল সার্জারী (সিগাপুর)
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবসরপ্রাপ্ত), কলোরেকটাল সার্জারী বিভাগ, বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল ইন্সটিটিউট।

সম্পাদনায়ঃ ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক
এমবিবিএস (এসএসএমসি), এমআরসিএস (ইংল্যান্ড), এমআরসিএস (এডিনবরা), এফসিপিএস (সার্জারী) এফআরসিএস (ইংল্যান্ড), রেজিস্ট্রার, বারডেম জেনারেল হাসপাতাল

ইডেন মাল্টি-কেয়ার হসপিটাল ৭৫০ সাত-মসজিদ রোড, আবাহনী মাঠের দক্ষিণ পিচমে, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।
ফোন: ০২-৫৮১৫০৫০৭-১০ মোবাইল: ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৩, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৪, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৫-৬
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