

2,800 lives lost in lightning strikes in 10 yrs

UNB, Dhaka

Some 2,800 people were killed in lightning strikes in open fields and haors across the country from 2011 to 2021, said State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Enamur Rahman yesterday.

Of them, 179 people were killed in 2011; 201 in 2012; 185 in 2013; 170 in 2014; 226 in 2015; 391 in 2016; 307 in 2017; 359 in 2018; 198 in 2019; 255 in 2020; and 329 in 2021, he said.

The government has planned to establish shelter centres in lightning-prone areas of the country, said Enamur while speaking at a press briefing at the secretariat, ahead of International Day of Disaster Risks Reduction.

"The government has decided to build a concrete house on one decimal of land [in lightning-prone areas], with one lightning arrester in each house, so that people can take shelter there within 20-25 minutes after hearing the warning of lightning," he said.

People will stay there until the lightning strikes, Enamur added.

Farmers and fishers can take their meals in the shelter centres and take shelter during storms and hailstorms, said Enamur.

"Dhaka University authorities will conduct the feasibility study on the project involving Tk 476 crore. Once we receive their report, we'll send the proposal to the prime minister for approval," said the state minister.

Lightning strikes have turned out to be the deadliest natural disaster in Bangladesh. They were listed as a disaster in 2015, he said.

Besides, an awareness campaign will be launched, asking people to stay indoors during thunderstorms, said the junior minister.



HELLO MAYOR... HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

This tree at Gulshan 1, Road-138 has been precariously leaning towards the road for a couple of years. As termites have taken root on its stem, locals fear it might tumble anytime and cause a major accident. This alarm is not unsubstantiated; some six months ago, another dried-up tree in the area had fallen right on top of a car. But even after all this, the city corporation is yet to cut it down, despite repeated requests from residents. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



2 more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died and 182 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday. Of them, 39 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 2,321 were diagnosed during the current month, out of a total 20,518 infected this year.

At least 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 in August, 2,286 in July, 272 in June and 43 were infected in May, while the rest are from January to April.

Meanwhile, 80 people have died of dengue infection this year. Twelve people died in July, 34 in August, 23 in September, while 11 died in October so far.

Among the deaths, 75 were from Dhaka division, two each from Chattogram and Khulna, and one from

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Restoring the remnants of a time bygone



PHOTO: ANIKA ANJUM

The Nimtali Palace stands amidst the chaos of the capital, bearing the testaments of a history forgotten by many, dating back to the Mughal reign.

NAZIFA RAIDAH

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Gulistan, stands the Nimtali palace, bearing the testaments of a lost history.

That these were the same roads that the Naib-Nazims and foreign personnel from the British era used to tread on, has been erased from the memories of Dhaka residents, mostly the ones belonging to the current generation.

The history of the rule of the Naib Nazims of Subah Bangla or Mughal Bengal was the last period of the Mughal administration from 1707-1857. The palace was erected in 1765-66 as a home for the Naib-Nazim (deputy-governor) of Dhaka province near the end of Mughal reign. The Nimtali Palace, studded with the memory of the Mughals and Nawabs of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, is an epoch-making establishment of Bangladesh and South Asia.

"There used to be a palace where the old prison was situated. The



first Naib-Nazims would live in that palace when they came to the region. But in 1763-64, when the East India Company occupied Dhaka, the Naib-Nazims built a palace for themselves. That palace came to be known as the Nimtali Palace," said Jahangir Hussain, former director of Bangladesh National Museum, currently serving as a curator for Asiatic Society Heritage Museum.

The deuri (entrance gate), an organ of what is said to be the first colonial building in Dhaka, is tucked away opposite the Sheikh Hasina Burn Unit Hospital, a high rise building that

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Nothing but a daydream

Quader on BNP's plan to organise mass upsurge to oust govt

Bss, Dhaka

Ruling out BNP's dream of ousting the government through organising a mass upheaval, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is planning to organise a mass upsurge to topple the government, which is not only impossible, but also unrealistic.

"The background in 1990 and in 2021 is not

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'Who decides what's popular?'

Prof Manosh Chowdhury talks about mechanisms of popularity in his lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Being popular in Bangladesh is not an arbitrary process. Rather, players such as state organs, international and national non-government organisations, finance and business groups, and the media decide what and who will be popular, Jahangirnagar University Anthropology Professor Manosh Chowdhury said in a lecture yesterday.

These agents also decide what people discuss, on whose terms, and what they keep themselves busy with, he said while delivering a lecture on his unpublished PhD dissertation.

Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation organised the lecture through an online event last evening, titled, "Popularizing Project: Some Aspects of Production of Culture and Discourses in Bangladesh."

"Popularising projects can be seen as active and conscious attempts to generate and/or regenerate discourses that are believed to entail potential, yet are inadequately measured. Accordingly, the 'popular' is a set of forms and ideas that are the outcome of these production system(s)," he argued.

Manosh, also an author, completed his doctorate from Hiroshima University,

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EC going to be formed as per govt whim

Alleges Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday opposed the formation of the next Election Commission (EC) through a search committee, saying that the government will only induct the people of its choice in the commission through this process.

"They (govt) are now talking much about the formation of the Election Commission and the search committee. What is the search committee?"

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Au revoir, thespian

Nation bids farewell to Dr Enamul Haque

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Around 10:30 in the morning yesterday, the premises of the Central Shaheed Minar wore a sombre mood, as people from all walks of life came to pay respect to one of their favourite artists for one last time.

All the artistes, thespians and actors present there could attest to the fact that Dr Enamul Haque was more than just a renowned actor, playwright, and academician, but a patriotic human being and a brave soul.

He passed away on Monday in his residence on Baily Road. According to his family, he did not have any illnesses or ailments. His body was kept at the Shaheed Minar till 12 noon.

Afterwards, the Ekushey Padak awardee's body was taken to Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), where the eminent academician taught

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Admirers, well-wishers, and family members of Dr Enamul Haque observe a minute's silence to pay their last respect to the luminary at the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

LABOUR COURT Prof Yunus gets ad-interim bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, also chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its three other top officials in a case filed over violating labour laws.

Judge (in-charge) Md Moonzurul Imam of the Labour Court-3 passed the order after the four surrendered before the court and sought bail, said Mia Md Jamal Uddin, bench assistant of the court.

The three others are Grameen Telecom Managing Director Ashraful Hasan, and two directors Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan.

The court set December

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Artists from Dhaka Theatre perform their play "Ekti Loukik Othoba Aloukik Steamer" on the last day of the 9th Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Curtain falls on Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival

SHARMIN JOYA

The ninth instalment of the Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival concluded in the evening at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) yesterday.

Abul Monsur, secretary of the cultural ministry, was the chief guest at the closing ceremony, while the programme was presided over by the convener of the festival, author Ghulam Kuddus.

Other guests who attended the programme were Dr Neepa Chaudhary, director, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre; Debprashad Debnath, secretary, Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute; Akhtaruzzaman, member secretary, Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival Committee; Kamal Bayezid, secretary, Group Theatre

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Ayub Bachchu's family receives \$5000 as royalty

Officials hail new milestone for country's e-copyright system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Copyright Office handed over a royalty sum of USD 5,014 to Ayub Bachchu's family at a press conference at Agargaon's National Archive Centre in the capital yesterday.

This was made possible by efforts of the copyright office and cultural affairs ministry, which previously ensured proper archiving and royalty collection of 272 works of the legendary musician.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid was present as chief guest at the programme, while the ministry's additional secretary, Sabiha Parvin, also president of Bangladesh Copyright Board, was special guest.

The programme started with a welcome speech by Copyright Office Deputy Registrar Muhammad Raihanul Harun, followed by speeches of members of the rock band LRB, fondly remembering Bachchu.

Family members of Ayub Bachchu -- his widow Ferdous Ayub Chandana, son Ahnaf Tazwar Ayub and daughter Fairuz Saffra Ayub -- were present at the event.

Chandana received the cheque from KM Khalid. The audience and participants shared their gratitude for the deceased artiste's immense contribution to Bangladesh music.

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