

RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Libh, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong, and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today.	Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.	and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country	Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.0 degrees at Cox's Bazar.									
		Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded yesterday were:									
	The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39pm										

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Nymphaea nouchali. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

The name game

The naming of plants and animals can be confusing. Take, for example, the bird *fingey* (drongo.) Within a distance of 100km from Dhaka, you will find people calling it *fingey*, *fesa*, *feskuna* or *feskunda*. Nor is this confusion an exclusively Bengali problem: for example, our *chorui* is known in English as both "house sparrow" and "English sparrow."

To prevent mix-ups like this, the Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus – in the 1750s - proposed a two-word naming system for all living beings. The first part of the name is the genus (which is, essentially, the family) and the second part is the species. This naming convention was meant to precisely identify living things.

Linnaeus chose Latin as the language because that was the language of the office in Europe at the time.

Thus, our *fingey* became *dicrurus macrocerus*, meaning "long-tailed fork-tail." Indeed, more than any other feature, it is the forked tail that stands out on this bird.

Linnaeus apparently loved naming things: he even gave himself four other names! But his naming system has proved useful over the years.

Using this naming, many species which originated or otherwise associated in our land are called "Benghalensis" or some variation – eg, *ficus benghalensis* is the banyan tree and *coracias benghalensis* is the beautiful (and shy) blue bird called *neelkontho*. That pretty red and yellow woodpecker we often see around here is *dinopium benghalense*.

Some of our species have met sad endings: the *houbaropsis bengalensis*, or bengal florican, a large terrestrial bird, can no longer be found in Bangladesh, and our white-rumped vulture, known as *gyps bengalensis*, is almost extinct.

Other binomial names have historical roots. For example, the family of water lilies we see in our waters in various colours is the genus *nymphaea*. It was named by the ancient Greeks who used these flowers for dedications to the semi-divine water maidens called nymphs.

Perhaps the prettiest member of the water lily family, the purple water lily or *beguni shapla*, is named *nymphaea nouchali*. But where did "nouchali" come from? It is unclear, but there is, apparently, a note attached to a specimen in London's Kew Gardens indicating a connection with Noakhali.

Sterculia is a family of trees growing in the wild in Bangladesh. Some species of this tree, such as *sterculia colorata* – called *koifoli hauwal* or *samari* in our parts - have flowers with an unpleasant odour. Turns out *sterculia* is named after *Sterculius*, the Roman god of dung and manure.

The *baubhinia* family of trees, eg, *baubhinia variegata* (*roko kanchon*) has flowers that look like orchids. It is named after twin brothers Casper and Johann Bauhin, from 17th century Switzerland, who were botanists. *Baubhinia* leaves have the unusual shape of two symmetric lobes – perhaps reminding us of the twin brothers?

But Linnaeus himself, genius though he was, was not above calling someone a "name" using his naming system. The German naturalist Johann Siegesbeck was a harsh and vocal critic of the way Linnaeus was naming his plants. So when Linnaeus got a chance to name a foul-smelling, useless weed growing in Europe, he called it *Siegesbeckia*.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Govt to bring back Tarique thru' Interpol

Says Qamrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will bring back BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman to the country with the help of Interpol and prosecute him in different cases now at the trial stage, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said yesterday.

He said Tarique was "a fugitive accused" and was conspiring from abroad to topple the government.

Qamrul came up with the announcement at a discussion, "Election under the interim government: Seditious activities by BNP-Jamaat", organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote at the capital's Public Library.

Tarique, now in London, was detained on March 7, 2007, and was allowed to travel abroad for "treatment" in July the following year. He faces 16 cases for laundering money and grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004, among others.

Meanwhile, AL Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim accused the BNP of showing double-standard by talking about dialogues and at the same time calling hartal.

BNP slams remarks on Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two BNP leaders yesterday lambasted the ruling party leaders for their recent comments that BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman was "conspiring to oust the government".

They dismissed the allegations and requested the Awami League leaders to withdraw their comments.

"Tarique Rahman addressed a party meeting in London [on May 20] to encourage our leaders and workers. Where did you find a conspiracy here?" BNP Standing Committee Member Rafiqul Islam Miah asked at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

He claimed that though Tarique was not convicted by court till now, AL leaders, including Mohammad Nasim, had introduced him as a criminal, which is a total violation of law.

Replying to a query when Tarique would return home, the BNP leader said Tarique was now under doctors' supervision, and the doctors could say when he would be able to return.

AL Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim on Thursday said Tarique had left the country for treatment on a "bond" that he would not get involved in politics again.

Earlier, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Shamsuzzaman Dudu said if an election was held right away, the BNP would win and Tarique would become the prime minister. "So make comments on him sensibly," he said, referring to the AL leaders.

Biman flight faces 8hr technical glitch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Hong Kong-bound flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was delayed for around eight hours yesterday due to a technical problem.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines General Manager (Public Relations) Khan Musharraf Hussein told The Daily Star around 9:00 last night that the problem, discovered before takeoff, was solved and the takeoff was rescheduled for 10:00pm.

Jamaat leader held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a Jamaat-e-Islami leader in Chawk Bazar area in Chittagong city yesterday in several cases filed over vandalism, arson and attacking police.

Faisal Mohammad Yunus is the ameer of Kotwali thana. Acting on a tip off, a drive was conducted before Kheari Market around 2:00pm and Faisal was arrested there, said police.

Mob kills 1, injures 2 in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A mob killed a man and injured two others when they allegedly tried to steal cattle at Auria in Narail sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was Kamal Mollah, son of Abdur Rajjak of Jessore.

The injured are Alom Hossain and Rosul Islam.

Police said the trio attempted to pick up the cattle from the house of one Mazed Sikder.

Villagers beat them up as the family members caught them red-handed.

NEWS IN brief

BSF assures of no more firing on Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indian Border Security Force has assured of taking measures to stop firing on Bangladeshis by Indian tribes or others.

The assurance came at a commanding officer level meeting with Border Guard Bangladesh on Tamabil-Dauki border on Thursday.

Lt Col Md Shafizul Azam led the BGB team.

Both of the sides agreed to strengthen the joint patrol to maintain peace and to curb cross-border crimes, including illegal trespass and smuggling, BGB sources said.

Girl raped in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A seven-year-old girl was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours at Bhawalipara village in Rupganj upazila in Narayanganj on Thursday.

The victim's father filed a case with Rupganj police yesterday morning accusing one Faizur Rahman Sumon.

Sub-inspector Abu Bakar, quoting the case statement, said Sumon, son of late Habibur Rahman, raped the girl after taking her to his residence.

Later, the man fled the scene as the victim started screaming.

Trader stabbed to death in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A trader was killed by some unidentified criminals in Sylhet city's Shahjalal Upashahar area Thursday night.

The deceased is Rinku Barua, 43, owner of "Akash Enterprise" at the Surma Market in the city.

Police and locals said the attackers on two motorcycles intercepted Rinku's rickshaw in the area around 9:30pm, and stabbed him indiscriminately. He died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

5,724 SSC students apply for answer-sheet re-evaluation in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of 5,724 SSC students under the Chittagong Education Board applied for re-examining 12,098 answer sheets, said Dr Pijush Dutta, controller of Chittagong Education Board.

The results of the re-evaluated answer sheets would be published on June 9, he added.

The results will be posted on the board's website and can also be known through SMS to Teletalk, said Dr Pijush.



PHOTO: STAR

This footpath, stretching from Malibagh railgate to Mouchak in the capital, has been lying in a precarious state for long due to works of the electricity supply authorities and causing sufferings to the locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

Lightnings kill four

CITY DESK

Four people were killed by lightnings in Jhenidah, Pabna and Narail on Thursday and yesterday.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, Rokeya Khatun, 50, died on the spot as a thunderbolt struck her at Motilalpur village in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah yesterday.

Our Pabna correspondent adds, farmer Abdul Aziz, 50, died on the spot as a lightning struck him at Raghunathpur village in Ataikula upazila of Pabna Thursday evening.

BSS reports from Narail, two farmers were killed in separate lightning strikes at Poradanga village in Narail sadar upazila and Zadobpur village in Kalia upazila of Narail on Thursday.

The deceased were Taposh Roy, 36, of Poradanga village in sadar upazila; and Asad Mollah, 50, of Zadobpur village of Kalia upazila.

Police and victims' family members said Taposh and Asad were killed on the spot by thunderbolts when they were harvesting Irri-Boro paddy in their respective fields. It was raining heavily that time.

Train derailed in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two wheels of a Dhaka-bound intercity train derailed in Brahmanbaria district yesterday, snapping rail communications between Dhaka and Chittagong, Noakhali and Chandpur and on Syhet-Chittagong route for around two and a half hours.

The wheels of Mohanagar Probhati, derailed between Kasba and Imambari railway stations around 11:35am, were set back on track around 2:10pm by a rescue train from Akhaura Railway Junction, said the junction Superintendent Md Abdul Motaleb.

Brahmanbaria Railway Station Stationmaster Amrito Lal said three derailments occurred on the Dhaka-Chittagong route in the last two months.

EBL Consumer Banking

time to upgrade
time to move ahead

We are upgrading our Card Management System to offer you exciting new services and features.

For this migration into latest technology, our system will remain closed from 12.01 am 26th May 2013 to 11.59 pm 29th May 2013. During this period EBL ATMs, Credit Cards, Card Cheques, Debit Cards and Prepaid Cards can not be used anywhere.

We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience. Your whole-hearted support and cooperation as always is appreciated.

EBL 24x7 CONTACT CENTER 8332232 or 16230

ebd.com.bd myebd myebd

THE ASIAN BANKER EXCELLENCE IN RETAIL FINANCIAL SERVICES INTERNATIONAL AWARDS 2013 BEST RETAIL BANK, BANGLADESH

WINNER Global Awards for Brand Excellence Godrej Phillips Ltd. Mumbai, India

WINNER Best Financial Institution 2010 IBS Daily Star Bangladesh Business Award

WINNER Asia's Best Employer Brand World HRD Congress Singapore

PATA MEMBER

Eastern Bank Ltd. Simple Math

The Daily Star

Subscribe to SMS EVENING NEWS

Register at: 2222

Day's roundup in your pocket

REGISTRATION FREE

For Registration: Go to message option on your mobile and type start<space>pm & send to 2222

Tariff: Tk. 1/SMS

To Unsubscribe: Go to message option on your mobile and type stop<space>pm & send to 2222

Scan with

The Daily Star sms

QR Code Scanner

Evening News (text "start pm" to 2222)

To Text