


Dry weather likely



WEATHER
TODAY

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am.

Country's highest temperature 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at

Temperature in Celsius

Max: 29.4

Min: 19.0

Humidity in percentage

Morning 72

Evening 67

Dhaka

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Rangpur

27.4

28.5

28.3

18.1

14.1

15.0

80

77

82

72

76

65

Temperature in Celsius

Max: 28.5

Min: 16.8

Humidity in percentage

Morning 76

Evening 73

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

28.8

30.7

30.0

16.3

16.7

18.7

80

69

72

76

72

77

ACHIEVING MIDDLE INCOME STATUS

Bangladesh needs skilled workforce

New Generation Seminar told at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to boost the skills of its workforce to increase their productivity for giving them a better livelihood and turning the country into a middle-income nation, speakers told a seminar yesterday.

They said the country did not lack infrastructure for grooming skilled workers but there was a huge gap between what they learned at technical and vocational education institutions and what the country's industrial firms and the international market needed.

Their observations came at New Generation Seminar 2013 themed "Skills Change Lives" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga organised the event in association with International Labour Organization (ILO), Industry Skills

Council for Tourism and Hospitality Sector, and DU Alumni Association.

Bangladesh's population is estimated to reach 180 million by 2030 from 160 million now and the size of the workforce will be 120 million two decades later, said Hari Pada Das, programme officer, ILO country office in Dhaka.

"This population can change the fate of Bangladesh."

He stressed grooming migrant workers, as they earn two times less than their Indian peers and three times less than Sri Lankans for the same work just because of their low level of skill.

Arthur Shears, chief technical adviser of ILO, said the UN agency was working in Bangladesh in association with the government, private sector and NGOs to develop skills of the workers.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

People ready to resist one-sided polls: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded that the government immediately cancel the 15th constitutional amendment, which repealed the caretaker government system.

Presiding over a meeting in the capital's Central Shaheed Minar premises, he also demanded that the next general election be held under a neutral government and independent Election Commission for the sake of peace, democracy and rule of law.

People are ready to sacrifice their lives to resist a one-sided election. "I shall be the first (to do so)...if anything other than a free, fair and neutral election is held," he said.

Gonoforum organised the meeting on "Shoirachar Poton Dibosh", annually observed on December 6 marking the fall of the autocratic regime of HM Ershad in the face of a mass movement against his military rule in 1990.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Sykes's warbler (left) and large-billed reed warbler.

PHOTO: ENAM UL HAQUE

Finding New Birds

How many species of birds are in Bangladesh? For a small country, perhaps we have more than our fair share. Bangladesh boasts about 650 out of the 10,000 species of birds in the world, or 6.5% of the earth's species (in a landmass that is 0.1% of the earth's land area.)

But what is interesting is that this number keeps increasing. That is, we keep finding birds that we did not know were here.

For example, in the last three years, seven species of such birds were found for the first time in Bangladesh. One of them, the large-billed reed warbler, was a first for the entire subcontinent.

Note that these are not new species of birds per se. Rather, they are birds that are known in other parts of the world but not seen before in Bangladesh.

How were these "new birds" found? I asked noted bird expert and author Enam Ul Haque, who played an instrumental role in these discoveries.

Haque said there are two ways that a bird is added to the bird-list of a country. One is a "vagrant" – that is, an accidental rarity – perhaps a migrating bird losing its way after a storm.

Sighting a vagrant bird must be properly recorded and documented to be added to the bird-list.

The second kind is the bird that resides year-round in the country but was not seen before because it was hiding so well.

All seven findings were of the second kind. Birders with the Bangladesh Bird Club found these species through field work.

But where does one go looking for them? Is it all accidental and happenstance?

Haque said that first you must

decide what type and category of bird you are looking for. The habitat can, of course, be very different for different species. For example, warblers and flycatchers, two prolific families of birds, often live in bushes and open grassland. Therefore, looking for new (to Bangladesh) species of these birds, you must search in those habitats.

When I asked him how they were found, Haque first explained the "ringing" of wild birds. In order to track and monitor them, researchers often catch the birds, and, after measuring and photographing them, attach a small, individually numbered ring to their leg or wing before releasing them. Bird's data is entered into a worldwide database. If another researcher catches the same bird later on, he can check the database and add new information on the bird.

Ringing is a difficult and expensive process that takes many years to learn. Since it started in Bangladesh in 2010, over 4000 birds have been ringed in Bangladesh. They are caught in very fine nets called mist nets which are hoisted early morning near the habitat. Mist nets must be monitored every thirty minutes.

Three years ago, suspecting that there were more birds here than we knew about, the ringing group went looking for new birds in three areas: Baikka Beel, Tanguar Haor and Pashuar Haor.

The result? Seven species of birds were found for the first time in Bangladesh. They are: chestnut-crowned bush warbler, aberrant bush warbler, grey-sided bush warbler, Baikal bush warbler, oriental reed warbler, large-billed reed warbler and Sykes's warbler.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

New Generation Seminar-2013

"Skills Change Lives"

Organized by:

Supported by:

Chief Guest: Professor Md. Abul Kashem

Chairman: Bangladesh Technical Education Board

International Labour Organization

Industry Skills Council



From left, Arifur Rahman Khan, Francis De Silva, Munir Hasan, Rubina H Farouq and Shafqat Haider at the New Generation Seminar-2013 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University yesterday.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga organised the event in association with International Labour Organization (ILO), Industry Skills Council for Tourism and Hospitality Sector, and DU Alumni Association.

PHOTO: STAR

Politicians ignore child rights

View 62pc of country's children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 62 percent of the country's children between the ages of 12 and 17 think that political leaders are heedless of ensuring their rights because they cannot vote, reveals a Unicef opinion poll.

Findings suggest that 90 percent of children are aware of their rights, while 70 percent believe that they face discriminatory attitudes from older children the most.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Satkhira AL man shot dead by 'Jamaat' in house

CITY DESK

An Awami League activist was shot dead allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men at his house in Kuchpukur village of Satkhira on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Sirajul Islam, 53.

They also shot Sirajul's brother-in-law Kawsar Ali and beat up Kawsar's son Md Shimul, leaving the two critically injured. The gang vandalised and looted Sirajul's house, reports a correspondent from Satkhira.

Amena Khatun, the victim's wife, said about 10 Jamaat-Shibir activists broke into their house and began calling Sirajul's name.

When Sirajul came out of their bedroom, the gang shot him dead, she said, adding that they also entered her brother's house and attacked her brother and his son.

Enamul Haq, officer-in-charge of Satkhira Sadar Police Station, confirmed the incident.

With Sirajul's death five AL leaders and activists have been killed in Satkhira in the last two weeks; all allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men.

Meanwhile, a former leader of pro-AL Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot dead by unidentified miscreants at Dattapara Bazar in Laxmipur sadar upazila.

The victim was identified as Abdul Hannan Suman, 35, former joint-general secretary of Dattapara Degree College unit of BCL, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

Police and locals said a gang of about 10 miscreants waylaid Suman who was on a rickshaw with his child. They stabbed Suman in the left leg and shot him before fleeing the spot.

Locals rushed Suman to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital where he was declared dead.

The body was sent for an autopsy.

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Family members meet Quader Mollah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes convict Quader Mollah's family members met him at Dhaka Central Jail yesterday a day after the release of the full text of the Supreme Court judgment awarding him death penalty for committing crimes again humanity in 1971.

The 30-minute conversation with one son, three daughters and a nephew started around noon. "He was normal and talked only about family issues," said Senior Jail Super Farman Ali.

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