

LIGHT RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER
TODAYUnb. Dhaka
Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the region of Comilla till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

A moderate cold wave that is sweeping over the regions of Sreemangal and Dinajpur and a mild cold wave

sweeping over Rajshahi and the rest parts of Rangpur division and the regions of Sitakunda, Rangamati, Khulna, Madaripur, Khepupara, Jessore and Kushtia may continue as mild cold wave.

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:30pm and

rises tomorrow at 6:44am.

Country's highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 7.6 degree Celsius in Dinajpur.

The highest and lowest temperatures and

humidity recorded in some major cities and towns

yesterday were:

| Temperature in Celsius | Morning | | Evening | | Temperature in Celsius | Morning | | Evening | |
|------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Max: | Min: | Max: | Min: | | Max: | Min: | Max: | Min: |
| Dhaka | 23.1 | 11.0 | 97 | 66 | Khulna | 23.2 | 10.0 | 88 | 79 |
| Chittagong | 24.2 | 11.8 | 93 | 50 | Barisal | 24.3 | 10.5 | 100 | 77 |
| Rajshahi | 23.5 | 9.0 | 96 | 73 | Sylhet | 25.0 | 12.1 | 100 | 79 |
| Rangpur | 23.2 | 9.0 | 99 | 75 | Cox's Bazar | 28.0 | 13.2 | 82 | 67 |



POLITICS OF VENGEANCE: The burning BNP office, left, on Post Office Road, and the ruins of the Awami League office, right, on the main road in Pirojpur district town yesterday. The activists of the opposing parties allegedly set fire to each other's office.

PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA

FEAR OF ATTACK
No young Hindu female member in Kornai village
Finds Tureen Afroz while visiting Dinajpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Tureen Afroz, a prosecutor at the war crimes tribunals, yesterday found no young Hindu female member in Kornai village of Dinajpur amid fears of further attacks on them after the election.

Earlier, soon after the election ended on Sunday, hundreds of Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men attacked around 60 Hindu families of Kornai village vandalising and torching their houses.

At least 600 people of the village have been affected during the

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ATTACK ON HINDUS
Demand for punishment of perpetrators reiterated

Gonjagoron Mancha road march reaches Jessore

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different cultural and socio-political organisations yesterday reiterated their demand for exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of the attacks on minority communities just after the 10th parliamentary polls on January 5.

The organisations blamed the government for recurrence of such attacks, saying as it failed to punish the perpetrators of these crimes at the beginning. They also demanded a ban on politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

Gonjagoron Mancha began its two-day road march from the capital and reached Jessore last night. The mancha organised the march to visit the Hindus

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TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Bird Migration



Siberian Rubythroat.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

The other day I travelled to the outskirts of Dhaka, guided by bird enthusiast Omar Shahadat. We traversed a large field and approached a bush sitting on a slope. As we got closer to the bush, we tiptoed and sat down about ten feet away. Then we quietly waited. After a while, a small bird emerged from the bush and scampered about, picking food from the ground. Within seconds it had returned to the bush. As the morning progressed, this scene repeated itself several times. Other birders and photographers joined us; the bird disappointed none.

It was a Siberian Rubythroat, a rare migrant bird that breeds in Siberia and flies south during autumn and winter. About five inches long and weighing twenty-two grams, it had flown over two thousand miles, most of it by night, to spend the winter here in Bangladesh.

The bird is one of 176 migrant bird species that land annually in Bangladesh. They come in all shapes and sizes from the tiny Grey-Headed Canary Flycatcher (seven grams) to the Greylag Goose at three kilograms. They arrive after an arduous journey from faraway places such as Europe, Central Asia or the Himalayas. All but six of these species arrive during the winter.

Bird migration has taken place worldwide for a very long time. Migrating birds showed up in paintings left behind by ancient Egyptians 5000 years ago. The Greek philosopher and teacher Aristotle studied migration in detail. But the why and how of bird migration continue to fascinate and puzzle us to this day.

The reason for migration is easier to understand. Mostly, birds migrate for survival. As the weather turns cold, they migrate to warmer climates for food. The journey entails considerable risks. But this Rubythroat, which easily gets its insects, grains and larvae from the field in Keraniganj, would have starved in the harsh Siberian winter.

But as I watched that little bird, I had to ask myself: how did it find its way from Siberia to Bangladesh? How do migrating birds know which way to fly? We understand only parts of this great mystery of nature. Birds follow familiar landmarks, but what about those flying over oceans? Some birds follow star maps at night. Some birds follow variations in the earth's magnetic field. As they get closer to their destination, many birds use their sense of smell.

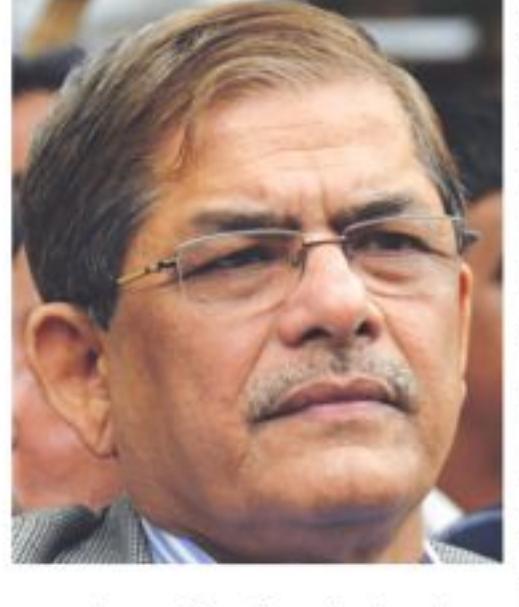
About ten billion birds migrate every year, mainly from colder to warmer locations. The highest flier is the Bar-Headed Goose which travels at 30,000 feet, the cruising altitude of jet airliners. The Arctic Tern travels the longest: it makes a round-trip from the Arctic to Antarctica, about 25,000 miles every year. In its lifetime, it flies longer than distance from earth to moon. Before beginning their flight, birds overeat to add fat to their body, some doubling in weight; however, their flight minimizes energy usage. For example, the Ruddy Turnstone can travel 125 miles on one gram of fat. Some birds fly fast enough to cover 600 miles in a day.

I now realize that in the scheme of things, that small bird was perhaps not so small after all!

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AL to embrace autocrat's fate
Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the Awami League would have to face the fate of the past autocrats if it does not stop "misusing the state power and oppressing and arresting the opposition leaders and activists."

The government is arresting opposition leaders and activists intentionally by bringing allegations of violence to hide the low turnout in the January 5 farcical elections and the boycott by voters. With the help of the joint force, the Awami criminals are attacking, looting and torching the houses of opposition leaders and activists," he complained in a statement.

The BNP leader claimed that the government declared itself winner in the January 5 farcical elections, which is illegal.

The fascist government is trying to suppress the opposition by the law enforcers, which is pushing the country towards instability," he mentioned.

After carrying out attacks on the Hindus, "the ruling party cadres" are putting the blame on the opposition, said the statement.

On behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Fakhrul again called upon the party leaders and activists to help the religious minorities.

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No law-breakers in new cabinet
17 eminent citizens urge PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not to include controversial people, law breakers and those who committed constitutional violations in the new cabinet.

They said this way corruption can be stopped, which was one of the pledges made by the ruling party in its election manifesto.

In a statement, signed by 17 eminent citizens, they demanded not to give any person whose wealth increased abnormally the post of minister until Anti-Corruption Commission declares them innocent after investigation.

M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dr Hamida Hossain, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Syed Abul Maksud, Hossain Zillur Rahman, Khushi Kabir, Selina Hossain, Architect Mobasher Hossen, Shaheen Anam, Dr Shahidul Malik, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Shamsul Huda, Barrister Sara Hossain, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Aroma Dutta and Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar were signatories of the statement.

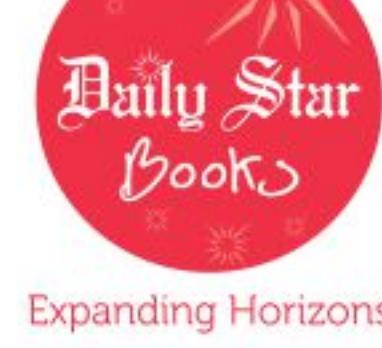
Expressing concern over the abnormal rise of assets of some ministers, they demanded that income statements and assets of ministers, advisers, lawmakers and their family members be revealed to the public every year.

Saying that as per the constitution, a person cannot be a lawmaker, if he has any kind of business relationship with the government, they urged the prime minister to take an initiative to cancel the membership of those lawmakers who have such relationships.

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a party rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyana yesterday marking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA