

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

WEATHER
TODAY

Unb. Dhaka

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 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's

Bazar and lowest 09.4 degree Celsius in Sreemangal.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.0	15.2	51	43	Khulna	30.2	15.2	80
Chittagong	28.8	17.0	82	61	Barisal	29.4	14.0	85
Rajshahi	28.7	11.2	76	60	Sylhet	28.4	13.5	74
Rangpur	27.0	13.0	86	67	Cox's Bazar	31.0	17.0	67

TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIRRema-Kalenga
Wildlife Sanctuary

I first heard about Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary some years ago from Phil DeCosse who was working with the Nishorgo programme to develop sustainable eco-tourism in protected forests of Bangladesh. Phil mentioned that it is an unusual forest with wide-ranging biodiversity. Situated in Habiganj, its 1796 hectares are home to a variety of flora and fauna including some special birds and mammals.

To go there from Dhaka, one takes the Chunarughat road from the Shayestaganj roundabout in Habiganj. From Sylhet, the Sundarpur Road from Mirpur Bazar is faster. There is also a third approach from Srimongol. All these roads converge into a four kilometre unpaved road leading to the park entrance. In winter, you can take almost any vehicle on this stretch, but in monsoon its mud precludes all but jeeps and CNGs. Approximate driving time from Dhaka is four and a half hours.

Before going there, I contacted Abdur Rahim who was trained as a guide under the Nishorgo program. When I arrived, just as the morning's thick fog began to burn away, he was waiting for me. Rahim turned out to be very knowledgeable about the flora/fauna and trails of the park.

As we started walking, I saw movement on a Shegun branch. Coming closer, I saw my first White-rumped Shama.

Further up the trail, I could hear loud bird calls from a leafless Shimul tree - it was covered by a flock of Red-breasted Parakeets. Later we saw a flock of Cattle Egrets, scattered like white flowers on a tall leafless tree. On our way back, a dozen Openbill Storks were occupying the same tree.

As we walked up a hill and entered the forest, we encountered many old growth trees. A Chhatim tree, perhaps a century old, was astonishing. Its gigantic twisted form was unlike other Chhatims I have seen, which are smaller and straighter. A double-barrelled Banyan tree at the edge of a meadow dwarfed me. Another tree - a Chapalish - boasted a massive girth, perhaps thirty feet.

The Sanctuary is home to 638 plant species, 205 species of birds, and 20 mammal varieties.

Among those mammals are several primates. I saw Phayre's Langur, Capped Langur and common monkeys. I was told there is a group of five Hoolock Gibbons in the park, as well as Slow Loris. There are also Fishing Cats and Civets, and signs of a Black Bear



Capped Langur at Rema-Kalenga. | PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

were seen recently.

Given its variety, the park will delight nature enthusiasts of many persuasions. For me, however, the birds were astonishing. Unusual birds we encountered included Laughingthrush, Lineated Barbet, Serpent Eagle and Pallas Fish Eagle.

My most tantalizing moment came when I saw the shadow of a largish bird land behind the branches of a large tree. I could see its silhouette and hear it flap its wings behind the leaves. Wanting a direct look, I approached cautiously and could see long black tail feathers with white tips protruding from the leaves. Alas, it flew off before I had a proper look. It was probably a rare Oriental Pied Hornbill (*dhonesh*), our answer to the Toucan.

The park has three trails for half-hour, one-hour and three-hour walks. I look forward to my next visit to this gem.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

2 committees formed to probe Surma boat fire
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two committees were formed on Thursday to investigate and submit reports on reasons behind the February 3 trawler fire and subsequent capsizes on the Surma river following which 11 bodies were recovered while over 30 people still remain missing.

The Sunamganj District Administration team is scheduled to submit the report in seven days while the district police team in five.

Survivors say the trawler was carrying over 100 passengers, mostly workers of a stone quarry in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila, when its engine caught fire near Setura and Protupur villages at Duarabazar upazila around 8:30pm.

Enthusiasts celebrate bird diversity at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Amidst the clamour of local and migratory birds and the excitement of enthralled birdwatchers and avian enthusiasts of all ages, Jahangirnagar University witnessed its annual bird fair yesterday.

Several telescopes and binoculars were set up at different points on the campus for a bird identification competition either visually or from their calls.

The fair's Convener Prof Mustafa Feroz of the zoology department said this year there were 199 bird species on the campus, 20 of which were migratory.

Two more competitions, one on children's painting and another on short lectures, were held at the Zahir Raihan Auditorium.

A photography exhibition was organised inside the auditorium while outside stalls were erected with books, journals and stamps on sale.

This year the fair's organisers -- the JU Department of Zoology, its Wildlife Rescue Centre and the Ministry of Environment and Forest -- presented the award, "Big Bird of the Year-2014", for contributions in saving endangered birds.

The awardees, all forest department officials, are Munir Khan and his wife Tania Khan, Rezaul Hafiz and Kiron Khan.

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12 carjackers arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in separate drives across the country yesterday and on Thursday detained 12 alleged carjackers and recovered two microbuses and four CNG-run auto-rickshaws from their possession.

Talking to The Daily Star, Assistant Commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Abu Yusuf said they also recovered drugs used to make people unconscious.

The arrestees are Shamim, Mizan, Saiful, Khalil Miah, Alamgir Hossain, Mohammad Sumon, Mohammad Amin, Abdus Salam, Mohammad Mizan, Mohammad Jasim, Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Shahadat.

They were held in five separate raids in Barisal, Chittagong and in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Kamrangir Char of the capital.

World Vision International chief Jenkins visits projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arriving in Bangladesh for the first time on a four-day visit yesterday, World Vision International President Kevin J Jenkins interacted with children under three projects -- Child-Friendly Space, Street Child Project and Sex Workers Project -- run by World Vision Bangladesh in Khulna.

The visit focuses on interactions with communities under the projects and the impacts of the projects' activities on health, education and economic development. Jenkins is scheduled to visit other projects in Bogra and Dhaka, says a release.



(From left) Ranjana R Williams, chief nursing officer, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka; R Basil, executive director and CEO, STS Holdings Limited; novelist Imdadul Haq Milon, editor, the daily Kaler Kantha; Sarath N Jayasinghe, director, Human Resource, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka; and Dr Shagufta Anwar, general manager, Business Development, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka at the launching of "Apollo Priyojon" in the hospital in the capital's Bashundhara residential area yesterday. "Apollo Priyojon" is a programme to educate residents in the vicinity of the hospital in first aid and basic life support training.

PHOTO: STAR



Hawkers set up shop occupying this foot bridge in the capital's Farmgate, narrowing down the path meant for pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday around 2:30pm.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA CITY AIR
Brick kilns, old vehicles major polluters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A host of green organisations yesterday demanded immediate action to reduce air pollution in Bangladesh, which has become one of the world's 10 worst performers as revealed by a recent environmental study of Yale University, USA.

Speaking at a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, the activists blamed emissions from brick kilns, old vehicles, burning of coal, and dust

for air pollution in Dhaka city. Of the 10,000 brick kilns across the country, half are located around the capital,

contributing to 30 percent of air pollution in Dhaka, they said.

Citing Yale's Environment Performance Index 2014, the speakers said Bangladesh had ranked 169th among 178 countries in terms of environmental soundness and ranked lowest, 178th, in terms of fresh air. The latter makes Bangladesh "a champion in polluting air", they said.

According to the findings of the World Bank and the Department of Environment, a cubic metre of Dhaka city air contains 250 milligrammes of airborne particulate matter, five times the tolerable amount, the green activi-

sts said in a press release.

Due to such a high level of air pollution, people are increasingly being infected with chronic cold, inflammation of lungs and respiratory system, pneumonia, bronchitis and cancer. A 2001 survey of British donor agency, DFID, revealed that airborne diseases were a major cause of deaths in Bangladesh, said the media statement.

The environmental bodies said that in the face of their relentless movement, the government had removed two-stroke auto-rickshaws, known as

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