

DRY WEATHER LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary, partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said. Night and day temperature may remain nearly

unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am.
Country's highest temperature 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday
in Sitakunda and lowest 12.8 degrees in Srimangal.
Highest and lowest temperature 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	18.0	64	77	Khulna	28.5	17.0	91	81
Chittagong	30.0	17.7	73	66	Barisal	29.8	15.9	88	91
Rajshahi	28.1	16.5	99	80	Sylhet	30.1	17.3	71	71
Rangpur	28.8	16.0	74	70	Cox's Bazar	29.5	17.0	64	81

Intolerance hurting women's progress

Chief Justice Muzammel Hossain tells workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rise of extremist ideologies and intolerance continue to harm women despite their considerable empowerment and advancement towards equality in the country, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said yesterday. "Despite an impressive progress, there is no room for complacency. We shall have to go a long way for the complete eradication of violence against women and girls and establishment of true equality," he told a workshop in a hotel in the capital. Meanwhile, Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court viewed that though all had the right to justice, female victims of sexual violence were

often denied justice due to bias of law enforcement agencies and a lack of adequate training of prosecutors and judges. The daylong workshop, "Access to Justice for the Victim of Domestic and Sexual Violence", was jointly organised by Bangladesh Women Judges Association and the International Association of Women Judges. The chief justice said, "It is to be noted that good laws and best policies alone are not enough to end centuries-deep inequality and disparities, which are deeply ingrained in cultures, customs, values and norms of both man and woman in developed and developing countries."

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TANGAIL'S KALIHATI TO BHUAPUR ROUTE Thousands at risk for 7 worn out bridges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Thousands of passenger buses and goods-laden vehicles plying the around 15 kilometre-route connecting Tangail's Kalihati and Bhupur upazilas everyday are facing a high risk of an accident for, as transport workers say, seven dilapidated pre-1971 Liberation War era bridges. Ranging from 15 to 50 metres, these single-lane concrete bridges, two of which are partial bailey bridges, have lost sections of their railings over the years while the tarmac surfaces are uneven, riddled with potholes. The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) signboards at the bridges' ends warning drivers to be cautious can do little to allay fears for even the slightest movement results in vibrations which can be felt from inside the vehicles, said the workers. Repeated repairs, as per RHD sources, have done little more than making them look rickety. Moreover, there are no signs informing of the weight limit, making it even more hazardous for vehicles whimsically carrying excess loads. The most vulnerable, as per RHD, is one of the two

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A bus braves the risk of an accident yesterday crossing over this single-lane bridge, the most vulnerable one as per the Roads and Highways Department among the seven dilapidated and of the pre-1971 Liberation War era situated on the around 15 kilometre-route connecting Tangail's Kalihati and Bhupur upazilas.

PHOTO: STAR

Islami Andolon declares over 3 months' demo

Wants death penalty in law centring atheists, for Latif

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolon Bangladesh yesterday declared holding rallies, "road marches" and demonstrations from December 9 to March 18, 2015 demanding enactment and passing in the upcoming parliamentary session a law with death as the maximum penalty for atheists. Announcing to present a relevant memorandum to the president, they also demanded capital punishment for sacked minister Abdul Latif Siddique for his derogatory comments on Hajj and Tablighi Jamaat at a New York programme on September 28. The party chief Mufti Syed Rezaul Karim alias Chormonai Pir made the announcement at a rally before Baitul Mukarram National Mosque's north gate in the capital after Juma prayers, attended by some 10,000 activists protesting Latif's remarks. The rally suspended vehicular movement from the gate to the Dainik Bangla intersection while scores of law enforcers cordoned the activists with barricades at the Paltan

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Marine graduates threaten 'tough' movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blaming alleged government negligence in establishing an institution dealing with job placements in foreign ocean-going vessels, in turn, allowing private recruiting agencies to impose "exorbitant" service charges, maritime academy graduates yesterday threatened to go for "tough" movements if they were not guaranteed employment at home and abroad. "Many students spend at

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Pass anti-discrimination law

Discussion marking Global Dignity Day urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday called for enactment of the proposed Anti-Discrimination Act 2014 immediately to protect the rights of the disadvantaged citizens of the country. "It is embarrassing that even after 43 years of independence, some people of our society are still struggling to earn dignity," the executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra said at a discussion titled "Anti-Discrimination Act is Needed to Establish Dignity". Sultana Kamal said though a law could not ensure human rights, it was needed to fight discriminations legally. A former caretaker government adviser, she underscored the need for a united struggle to establish the rights of Harijans and other deprived communities.

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad and Kushtia-based NGO FAIR in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organised the discussion in the capital's Bangladesh Medical Association Auditorium to mark Global Dignity Day (October 15). Krishnalal, president of Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad, chaired the meeting. A number of people from the Harijan community joined the programme, which started at 9:00am with a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar. Speaking about equal rights of all, lawmaker Shirin Aktar said, "We want to remove discriminations from society. We get one life, so we want to live it with dignity." She assured Harijans that she would persuade the government to give them land for housing.

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Demanding formulation of the proposed Anti-Discrimination Act to protect the rights of Harijan community, Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad brings out a procession from the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, marking Global Dignity Day. The photo was taken in front of Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

GIRL KILLED AFTER RAPE Proper probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of a mentally challenged girl who was raped and then strangled and residents of Chawkbazar of Old Dhaka formed a human chain yesterday demanding proper investigation into the murder. Later, they also visited the officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station with the same demand. On November 21, police recovered the body of ten-year-old Monwara Akter Moni from near her tinshed house at Islambagh and arrested a mason named Delwar Hossain in this connection. Delwar, who was remanded for three days, did not confess his involvement and is in jail now. "As Delwar did not confess, it seems that some others might have been also involved in the rape and the killing," said deceased's brother-in-law Emon Hawlader. "So we came here demanding proper investigation," he said after meeting with the OC. OC Azizul Haque said Delwar used to stalk the girl. "DNA samples from both the girl and Delwar have been taken. After tests, we can determine whether he killed her or not," he said. The OC said investigation of the case was a top priority.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Whistling ducks at Hail Haor.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Boating at Baikka

Baikka Beel is part of Hail Haor, a wetland south of Moulvibazar, about twenty kilometers' drive from town. The Beel of 250 acres is a wetland sanctuary in the midst of the fisheries and paddyfields of Hail Haor which covers over 10000 acres in monsoon. Fishing is not allowed at Baikka; neither is hunting. The Government of Bangladesh and USAID jointly set up the Sanctuary, which is managed by the local community. In winter, Baikka Beel (and, to some extent, the rest of Hail Haor) attracts large numbers of a wide variety of migratory and local birds which come here for the fish and aquatic vegetation. This shallow lake surrounded by farmlands and tea garden hills on all sides, its water punctuated by great masses of water hyacinth and lotus, is possibly my most favourite place in Bangladesh.

On this December morning I arrived at the visitor center at 9 A.M. The dreaded winter fog was absent and visibility was good, so I decided to find a boatman to take me around the lake. Things did not look promising as we started out in the small dinghy. A few pond herons (*kani boga*), parked among floating aquatic plants, took off as the boat followed a watery trail through the water hyacinth. Then the purple swamphens (*kalem*) appeared. They were accompanied by common moorhens (*pati panmurgi*) which ran and skittered among the water plants aided by their incredibly long and skinny toes. The thing about photographing birds is that you have to be prepared because birds are all about surprises. I was looking through my camera when a rushing sound like an airplane

came from my left. Several hundred whistling ducks (*shorali*) took off as we neared a large island of water hyacinth. More groups continued taking off – like dominoes – as our boat moved along, creating a racket with their whistle. Straight ahead, on the water's surface, was a group of common coots (*pati koot*.) One of them skimmed several steps on the water before taking off, leaving a track on the water's surface. The others followed suit, all of them leaving their ephemeral mark on the water. We decided to head east, into the sun, where a group of egrets (*bok*) stood in a line at the edge of a water hyacinth strip. Egrets are very common, but their beauty never ceases to amaze me. These egrets were standing absolutely still, watching the water, waiting for unsuspecting fish. I looked up to check for raptor birds which often scan the water looking for smaller birds or other prey. Instead I found a large flock of openbill storks (*shamuk-khol*) – a hundred or more – that was encircling high above. Perhaps they were trying to find a promising spot to land and look for mollusks, their favourite food. Other ducks flew by quickly. I recognized some: gadwalls (*piang hash*) by their wing pattern, pygmy geese (*bali hash*) by their small size, and common shelducks (*pati chokachoki*) by their striking orange colour. Others remained unknown. There are many beautiful places on our earth. But on this day, once again, I found Baikka Beel to be my slice of paradise.

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Road crashes kill 7

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and 22 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Thursday. Our Mymensingh correspondent reports, Sabuj Miah, 28, of Jamalpur, was killed and 12 other passengers were injured when a Jamlpur-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch at Baroigram in Nandail upazila yesterday. Our Bogra correspondent adds, Harunor Rashid, 45, son of Aynal Haque of Sirajganj, died after falling from a running log-laden truck at Atkaria Bazar of Dhunat-Jorshimul road in Bogra yesterday. Our Bagerhat correspondent adds, Sheikh Rafikul Islam, 35, of Shatgombuj union, was killed as a bus ran him over while he was crossing Bagerhat-Khulna road in Sadar upazila's Sreeghat area yesterday.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds, a motorcyclist, Nakul Kumar, 35, a technician at Bajaj Motorcycle Service Center, died as a truck ran him over on Bogra-Rangpur highway in Gobindaganj municipality yesterday. Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports, Jahangir Hosian, 20, of Sadar upazila, died when a pick-up van hit him in Konokpur of Sadar upazila in Moulvibazar on Thursday. Our Jhenidah correspondent adds, Aysha Khatun, 6, daughter of Yusuf Ali of Bhomradanga village, died and four of her family were injured when a tractor hit a three-wheeler carrying them near Safdarpur Bazar in Kotchandpur upazila. Meanwhile, a microbus driver, Nurul islam, 40, of Savar was killed and his six passengers were injured when the vehicle collided with a truck in at Jagala village in Magura Sadar upazila yesterday.



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