

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.5 | L 23.8

CHITTAGONG
H 27.8 | L 22.6

SYLHET
H 29.3 | L 19.0

RAJSHAHI
H 34.7 | L 22.4

KHULNA
H 36.2 | L 25.6

BARISAL
H 34.8 | L 26.5

RANGPUR
H 25.5 | L 20.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 31.0 | L 27.5

Rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and Pabna and Bogra till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave sweeping over Khulna and Pabna may continue, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises tomorrow at 05:47am.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Blue capped rock thrush.

PHOTO: OMAR SHAHADAT

An Avian Bonanza

One morning last October, the birder Omar Shahadat and his friends crossed the Buriganga river from Dhaka into Keraniganj and headed to Arakul looking for birds. The open scrubland there is dotted with bushes and occasional trees planted around homesteads. The birders were photographing a Taiga flycatcher near some *ghora-neem* (chinaberry) trees when a small bird jumped up from the ground and sat on a branch. Shahadat could not recognize it but, waiting patiently, he was able to photograph it clearly.

At first, Shahadat thought it was a blue rock thrush, a rare but well-known winter visitor. But he wanted to be sure and emailed a query with the photograph to several experts including eminent birder Enam Ul Haque. He was thrilled by the replies he received. It was a blue-capped rock thrush which breeds in the Himalayan foothills and spends winters in the hills of southern India. This was the bird's first sighting in Bangladesh.

Then came the annual *pakhi mela* (bird fair) at Jahangirnagar University in February. A part of the fair is a competition called Big Bird Bangladesh. I asked Dr. Monirul Khan about this contest which he initiated in 2014. "It recognizes notable sightings and new records for Bangladesh. We want to encourage birders from all walks of life while disseminating new information they have uncovered. Birders can enter by submitting photographs to our Facebook page," he said.

At the *mela*, Shahadat was awarded first prize of Big Bird Bangladesh and named "Big Birder of the Year" for his discovery.

I asked Shahadat, who is Treasurer of the Bangladesh Bird Club, about his

bird-spotting technique. "When looking for birds, even with friends, I stay silent and concentrate on observing. It helps to spend more time watching instead of photographing." For those who want to start out on birding he suggests getting binoculars before a camera. "Learning to observe nature and training your eyes is important. A binocular costs much less than a camera with birding lens." He also recommends leaving a light footprint behind so that others may enjoy the scenery. This includes not leaving any trash and refraining from smoking.

The last several months were exciting times for birding in Bangladesh. In addition to Shahadat's thrush, several other bird species, previously unrecorded in Bangladesh, were spotted: Paul Thompson found a red-breasted flycatcher, also in Arakul, in October; a Tristram's bunting was seen by Tania Khan and Munir Ahmed at Satchori National Park; a bay-backed shrike was sighted in Chittagong by Masudur Rahman of Chittagong Bird Club, the first time it was seen in Bangladesh since 1947; and Sayam Chowdhury spotted a slender-billed gull and a black eagle, both new to Bangladesh.

Khan and Ahmed, winners of last year's Big Birder of the Year title for spotting a hill blue flycatcher for the first time in Bangladesh, received the second prize this year for the Tristram's bunting. The third prize went to Rahman for the bay-backed shrike.

We hope to see more exciting findings from our enthusiastic birders and naturalists in the coming years. Surely there is much that remains to be discovered about nature and life in our land.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Road crashes kill four

CITY DESK

Four people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Benapole correspondent reports, Selim Joarder Shimul, 30, BCL central joint secretary, lost his right leg after a bus hit his motorbike on Jessore-Jhenidah Highway at Barobazar yesterday and Thursday night.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, Enayet Hossain alias Shahab Mia, 70, a former union parishad chairman, was killed as a speedy truck hit him on Dhaka-Dhaka Chittagong highway in Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds, a tractor driver and his helper were killed and three brick kiln workers injured when the vehicle overturned after it had a flat tyre at Mollan village in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj.

The dead were the driver, Md Badsha, 22, and Kalimuddin Kalu, 28, of Sadar upazila.

Diseases contracted from animals emerging threat

Bapa official tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though not an immediate cause for alarm, zoonosis will gradually turn out to be a threat for Bangladeshis if proper measures are not taken to ensure treatment of animals found to be carriers, said a Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) member secretary yesterday.

"Animals and birds spread different virus related diseases like bird flu...and anthrax in our country. It is still not alarming but we will gradually face these diseases," said Zahedur Rahman of the safe food, drinks and consumer rights programme.

He was addressing a seminar "One Health Movement: Effective ways of healthy food management"

Bapa organised in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Government bodies for regular monitoring to ensure the treatment are inactive while there is no surveillance in food markets, he said.

Hormones to fatten cows were passing on to humans and posing health hazards while poultry was not always healthy for being fed contaminated feed, he added.

Although citizen bodies are sometimes raising their voice for safe food, the government is not taking necessary steps.

So, it is essential for doctors, agriculturalists, environmentalists, scientists and people from all walks of life to unite under a platform to raise the demand, he added.

Hotline to bring back Bangladeshis in Yemen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

To bring back Bangladeshis stuck in war-torn Yemen, the foreign affairs ministry yesterday asked relatives to contact three of its officials to aid the process.

Director General (Consular and Welfare Wing) Lutfur Rahman can be reached at +8801726260967 and dgcnw@mofa.gov.bd while Director (Welfare and MRP) BM Jamal Hossain at +8801711380374 and dircnmp@mofa.gov.bd.

Counsellor at the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait SM Mahbulul Alam, now in Djibouti, is available at +96599574203 and mahbul50@yahoo.com, says a press release.



The faction of Gonojagoron Mancha led by Imran H Sarker brings out a procession carrying flaming torches in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday protesting the murder of blogger Oyasiqur Rahman and delay in executing the death penalty verdict of war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and in arresting killers of blogger Avijit Roy.

PHOTO: STAR

Confiscate funds of madrasas with terror links

Human chain urges govt, protests killing of blogger Oyasiqur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must block the sources of funding of madrasas which are involved in terrorist activities in Bangladesh, speakers told a human chain yesterday.

They claimed that different militant organisations including Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) were taking training on terrorism at the madrasas backed by Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefazat-e-Islami.

So all qawmi madrasas should be brought under a special monitoring

system, they told the programme at the capital's Shahbagh, organised by Sammilito Samajik Andolon to protest the killing of blogger Oyasiqur Rahman Babu and demand a ban on the politics of religious fundamentalist groups including Jamaat-Shibir.

Oyasiqur, 27, a blogger, was hacked to death by three youths, two of them madrasa students, in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial area on March 30. About one month ago, some assailants killed writer-blogger Avijit Roy and badly wounded his wife Rafida Ahmed Banya on Dhaka University campus.

Oikya NAP President Pankaj

Bhattacharya said the attack on and killing of freedom fighters, bloggers and free-thinkers must not be tolerated.

Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha, said the same group committed the murders, and their patron was also same.

Such incidents are recurring, as the culprits are not given exemplary punishment, he said. "If the incumbent government fails to take any action, we will believe that it is following the footsteps of the previous governments," he said.

Sammilito Samajik Andolon President Ajoy Roy presided over the programme.

Biman resumes Dhaka-Barisal flights on Wednesday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume its flights for Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route from Wednesday, after nine years.

With this, Barisal Airport will also become operational for commercial passenger flights after eight months as United Airways also suspended its Dhaka-Barisal-Dhaka flights on August 11, 2014.

Khalilur Rahman, Barisal office manager of Biman Bangladesh, said 74-seated Dash-8 Q-800 plane will fly twice a week, Wednesday and Sunday. One way fare is between Tk 3,000 and 4,000. And the airlines will also provide free transport for the passengers from its office to the airport, eight kilometer away from the city.

Fish worth Tk 5 lakh poisoned to death in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Fish worth around Tk 5 lakh were poisoned to death in three ponds at Udoypur village in Jhenidah sadar upazila yesterday.

The owner of the ponds Razzak Hossain, president of Jubo Dal's municipality unit, was arrested by Sadar police on Tuesday in connection with the recent petrol bomb blast in the town's Pabahati.

Razzak's wife Bithi Khatun claimed that local Awami League activists deliberately got him arrested and later poisoned the fish.

Police said Razzak is one of the four accused in the case and they will take actions about the fish poisoning if anyone lodged a complaint.



From left, Dr Farid Abdul Hadi, medical manager at Vifor Pharma, South East Asia, Timothy Cushway, vice president and regional marketing manager at Vifor Pharma, Asia Pacific, M Mosaddek Hossain, managing director at UniMed and UniHealth Manufactures Ltd, and Nazmul Hossain, executive director at UniMed and UniHealth Manufactures Ltd, at a training programme of UniHealth Ltd organised at The Daily Star Centre in the capital to market a newly launched drug, Ferinject Intravenous Iron Preparation (Ferrous carboxymaltose), in Bangladesh. Ferinject, a research-product of Switzerland-based company Vifor Pharma, is used to treat iron deficiency and anaemia when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used. PHOTO: STAR

Shajahan declares rally, procession for Khaleda's arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minster Shajahan Khan yesterday announced organising a rally on the capital's Manik Mia Avenue tomorrow from 3:00pm followed by a procession ending at Suhrawardy Udyan demanding arrest and punishment of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for "instigating violence during the BNP-led 20-party alliance's recent hartals and blockade".

He made the announcement at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Srarnik-Karmachari-Peshajibi-Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad, formed on January 20 and convened by Shajahan, in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Police are yet to receive three warrants issued in the last two months, two for her arrest in the Zia orphanage trust and the Zia charitable trust graft cases and another to search her Gulshan office for communication devices allegedly being used for subversive activities.



The nightmare returns to the Chittagong city thoroughfares every time it rains, and yesterday was no exception. Waterlogging is a never-ending problem of the country's second largest city, particularly because its canals that take water into the river are being shrunken by grabbers and choked with garbage the local residents dump. For years, the authorities have failed to solve the problem. The photo was taken in Bayezid Bostami, one of the low lying parts of the city.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PM to give film award today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over the National Film Award-2013 to the winners in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the country's film industry.

The award giving function will be held today at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

Earlier on March 10, the government announced the winners of National Film Award-2013.