

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 35.5 L 27.2

CHITTAGONG H 34.7 L 27.9

SYLHET H 27.5 L 22.7

RAJSHAHI H 38.1 L 27.4

KHULNA H 37.6 L 28.8

BARISAL H 26.1 L 28.3

RANGPUR H 30.3 L 22.8

COX'S BAZAR H 34.0 L 27.7

Mild heat wave may continue to sweep over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Faridpur, Chandpur, Barisal and Patuakhali. Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am. Country's highest temperature 38.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 22.0 in Dinajpur.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Arctic tern, Lake Myvatn, Iceland.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR.

The Arctic Tern

I first read about the arctic tern while researching bird migration. It is a special bird because it flies more distance in migration than any other bird. How? In the spring, it breeds in or near the arctic circle, including countries like Greenland and Iceland. As the northern summer wanes, it flies southward all the way to Antarctica, reaching there in October when summer begins in the southern hemisphere. Thus, while the arctic circle suffers through winter, the terns enjoy a warm and bountiful environment in the south. When autumn arrives there in March and April, the terns fly northwards to reach the arctic circle in time for the arrival of summer.

In exchange for its hard work – flying over 25000 miles every year – the arctic tern enjoys perpetual summer.

When I came to visit Iceland last week, I wanted to see this legendary bird. I drove to Lake Myvatn in north-east Iceland and went bird-watching on a cold and windy morning. I quickly found the tern, elegant in white and grey, a black hood stretching from its beak to its nape, its beak a bright red beak. It was hovering like a helicopter over the lake's water, and when it saw a small fish it dived and caught it with a great deal of acrobatic grace.

After a week here, I have seen hundreds of terns. They are busy

constructing nests all over this island, getting ready to breed. The nests are lumps of grass, hay and soil on the ground and they are guarded jealously. The athletic bird is exhilarating to watch but difficult to photograph because of its speed. Its small size (about 8 inches, 100-200 grams) can mislead, but watching its life-force I lose all doubt about its capacity for marathon flying.

Arctic terns have been studied extensively. For example, a bird ringed in Greenland in June was found four months later in October in South Africa. During its long flight, it does not fly in a straight line. Instead, while heading towards Antarctica, it flies southeast into Europe from America and then heads south. It does this in order to follow ocean currents rich in food supply. The bird returns year after year to the same place for breeding. With its aggressive personality it snatches food away from slower birds by buzzing over their head to distract and frighten them.

Arctic terns have a relatively long life span of up to 34 years. In their lifetime they fly a distance longer than that from the earth to the moon.

I saw many birds in Iceland, including ducks, swans, geese, songbirds and seabirds. But none enchanted me as much as the arctic tern.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Salahuddin denied bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A court in Shillong yesterday rejected the bail plea of BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, who has been arrested for entering India without valid travel documents, in view of the red corner notice issued against him.



The court of Judicial Magistrate First Class LK Kharshiing rejected the bail application of Ahmed who wanted the relief to get better treatment in Singapore for his health problems.

The bail application was rejected by the court on two grounds -- a red corner notice received by the government of India from authorities in Bangladesh and a report from the Meghalaya police that he is likely to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

One rally but too much suffering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After crippling traffic jams on workdays, the weekend was supposed to bring Dhaka city commuters some respite. But yesterday did not, especially for those travelling to Shahbagh's Shishu Park, Ramna Park, and adjacent areas through Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

Buses, cars, and other vehicles had to remain stuck even up to one hour at Shahbagh, Bangla Motor and Farmgate, thanks to a rally arranged to congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Suhrawardy Udyan in the afternoon, for her government's political and diplomatic successes including India's ratification of the 1974 land boundary agreement.

The reception, by Jatiya Nagorik Committee, started at 3:30pm.

Traffic police sources said the congestion got intensified from noon when people started rushing to the venue. "We had to halt vehicular movement for security concern," said a high official of traffic police.

Heavy showers in the afternoon also contributed to the gridlock, said pedestrians and passengers at Farmgate.

Vehicles were stuck on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and adjacent roads, while crowds of passengers waiting to catch a bus home swelled at Karwan Bazar and Farmgate in the evening.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

MODI'S VISIT BNP wants PM, chief to discuss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday called upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to discuss Bangladesh-India bilateral issues with party chief Khaleda Zia and its experts before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh.

"Based on the outcomes of the discussion with BNP's chief, the prime minister will tell her Indian counterpart that the demands which she placed are not of the ruling Awami League, but every party of the country endorsed those," BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltna central office in the capital.

Key issues like the land boundary agreement, sharing of the Teesta river waters, and sub-regional connectivity will feature prominently during Modi's two-day visit starting on June 6.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A tailback at the capital's Shahbagh, as Awami League leaders and activists head towards Suhrawardy Udyan where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was felicitated yesterday afternoon for her government's political and diplomatic successes including India's ratification of the 1974 land boundary agreement.

PHOTO: STAR



Shayera Moula passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shayera Moula who had been with The Daily Star since the age of 15 passed away in the capital's United Hospital last night, succumbing to infections she battled for the past three weeks.

The vibrant feature writer and interviewer was only 29, SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

NARSINGDI BOAT SINKING IN MEGHNA

4 more bodies recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more bodies were recovered yesterday from the river Meghna in Sadar upazila of Narsingdi after a boat capsized during a storm on Thursday, increasing the death toll to seven.

Earlier on Thursday, three bodies were recovered. Of the total seven, five were members of a family.

The deceased were identified as Bayezid, 2, and Faisal, 7, sons of Faruk Miah of Kathalia village of the district;

Sumaiya, 9, and Omainy, 4, his daughters; Farzana Aktar, 8, daughter of Swapan Miah; Falani Begum, 60, wife of Rudro Miah; and Noor Begum, wife of Sahazuddin of Bogargoth village.

The engine-run boat with around 70 passengers was going to Bogargoth in the upazila from Narsingdi's Puranchar area.

The boat was caught in the storm around 3:00pm and sank in the middle of the river in Bogargoth area. Most of the passengers managed to swim ashore.

A team of divers from the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Narsingdi and Dhaka recovered the bodies.

Ruhul Amin Mollah, warehouse inspector of Narsingdi Fire Service, said the rescue operations were hampered due to the tremendous current and waves of the river till 10:00pm on Thursday.

However, the boat could not be recovered yet, he added.

Local administration of Narsingdi gave Tk 5,000 to each of the victim families.



Qulkhwani of Samad tomorrow

CITY DESK

The qulkhwani of Mirza Abdus Samad will be held at his Gulshan residence in the capital after Maghrib prayers

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

National Housing
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
স্বপ্ন গড়ার পথে, আছি একসাথে

একটি বাড়ির স্বপ্ন থাকে সবার।
আর সেই স্বপ্ন পূরণে হোম লোন সুবিধা নিয়ে আমরা আছি আপনার পাশে।

ন্যাশনাল হাউজিং
ফাইন্যান্স এন্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্টস লিঃ

☎ ০১৮৪১-৪১৮৮০০, ০১৮১৭-০৪২২১০, ০১৮১৭-০৪২২১২ ☎ ৯৬৭০৬১২-৪ ✉ sales@nationalhousingbd.com