

WEATHER FORECAST

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA | CHITTAGONG | SYLHET | RAJSHAHI | KHULNA | BARISAL | RANGPUR | COX'S BAZAR |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | H 33.7 L 27.3 | H 34.6 L 26.6 | H 33.6 L 25.3 | H 35.0 L 25.0 | H 33.2 L 27.5 | H 32.2 L 27.2 | H 33.2 L 27.0 | H 33.2 L 26.5 |

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am. Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and Bogra and lowest 24.8 in Rangamati and Kheupara.

ALLEGED MILITANCY LINK

2 Buet students' residential status suspended

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Sher-e-Bangla Hall authorities yesterday suspended the residential status of two students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) over allegations they were involved in militancy.

Hall sources said leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) searched the rooms of the second year mechanical engineering student and first year industrial and production engineering student around 2:00am and informed the hall authorities in the morning.

Director of the Directorate of Students' Welfare, Prof Md Delwar Hossain, told The Daily Star that the hall authorities found some "jihadist and Islami books" and those on "extremism", six cellphones and SIMs and "leaflets" in the rooms.

The accused claimed innocence, saying they were involved with Tablighi Jamaat (a movement to spread and preach Islamic values) and had kept the books for research purposes.

Prof Delwar said a meeting of the disciplinary committee would be held on the issue on Monday or Tuesday.

"We have informed the intelligence unit of a law enforcement agency and handed over the evidence to verify whether they have links with militancy," he added.

BCL Buet unit General Secretary Abu Sayeed Konok claimed that they had only "interrogated" the two at night.

Earlier on August 31, the Buet authorities suspended a student for one semester and cancelled the residential status of another three over similar allegations.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

The Smooth-Billed Ani

So much of birdwatching depends on luck. When I planned a two-day trip to Florida during a recent USA visit, birds were not on my mind. I wanted to see my brother Imtiaz, my old friend Tutul, and their families. I was planning three quiet days near Miami relaxing with family and friends.

Two days before my flight, Tutul sent me a link to a newspaper article about Florida birding. I discovered to my delight that Florida is indeed a haven for birds. Even in late summer, when it is off-season for birds, there was plenty to see.

So after I landed in the afternoon, we headed to Arthur R. Marshal Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. It was mentioned in the article and an hour's drive away. With two hours of sunlight left when we entered the Refuge, we skipped the Visitor Center and directly went to a trail that ran through fields and scrubland along some canals. We saw some great egrets (*boro bok*) while moorhens played among the water plants. After an hour of exploring, we returned to the car and drove further along the main road which ended at a canal. Several people were fishing from a pier. An huge alligator, perhaps fifteen feet long, remained submerged in the water, its eyes watching us. Stormclouds gathered in the western sky and the setting sun created beautiful colours. Flocks of ibis, herons and egrets flew home to their roost.

We sensed there was more to see and returned early next morning. This time we saw more birds: limpkins (with long beaks), a blue heron, tri-coloured herons, and some songbirds. Near the



Smooth-billed ani. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Visitor Center a boardwalk enabled us to walk through a cypress forest submerged in water, reminiscent of mangroves. Entering the Center we asked a Ranger for recommendations. "Have you seen the ani," he asked us. "There were so many here last week that we had to cordon them off."

I had never heard of, let alone seen, an ani. So we asked him for a description and location. Then we went off in the hot Florida sun looking for it.

As we approached the area - basically a swamp crisscrossed by dry trails and canals - I saw a black bird perched on a relatively tall plant. It looked like a *fingey* (drongo) from the distance but coming closer we noticed its parrot-like beak, confirming it was an ani.

I took several photographs of the ani. Later that day at my brother's house, I googled it. The smooth-billed ani lives in open fields and scrubland of the savannah of central and South America. Occasionally, it flies north all the way to south Florida in small groups. They make a communal nest where they lay their eggs. One bird usually guards the nest by sitting at a high spot while the other anis forage for food. This was the bird we saw.

The magnitude of our luck became clear when I learned that no less an expert than the eminent ornithologist John James Audubon himself had searched for the ani in Florida but failed to find it!

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Cohorts snatch handcuffed drug smuggler from cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

An accused drug smuggler was snatched away from a police team soon after his arrest at bordering Shatibari village in Aditmari upazila Thursday night.

Police arrested five people for allegedly snatching the handcuffed man, but locals claimed that the five villagers were innocent.

Around 12 men armed with sticks attacked two constables and Sub-inspector Sarwar Alam and fled with the smuggling ring chief, Anisur Rahman of Uttar Gobdha village, neighbouring Shatibari, around 9:30pm.

Anis is wanted in two drug smuggling cases filed with Aditmari Police Station, said police.

The OC said a case was filed against 15 unknown attackers. If found involved, the five arrestees will be shown arrested in the case, but if innocent, they will be freed, he added.

NEWS IN brief

- Tortured woman sues employer**
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A woman, who was allegedly beaten by her employer -- owner of a tailoring shop -- in Sylhet city on Tuesday, filed a case on Thursday night against him.
The victim Nazma Akhter, 30, a resident of Shekhghat, used to work for the shop, Tapu Tailors, in Ambarkhana area of the city.
On Tuesday, the employer, Tapu, beat her up following an altercation over an order in front of Ambarkhan Central Plaza. Later, police rescued Nazma. Tapu's brother Apu was also accused in the case.
- Woman 'commits suicide' in Ctg**
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house following a family feud at North Kuaish in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong yesterday.
The deceased was Jahanara Begum, 22, wife of Shamsuddin, 28, an auto-rickshaw driver hailing from Noakhali.
Police recovered the body and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.
- Abducted girl rescued after 2 months**
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
Police rescued a girl from Polashbari village of Nilphamari Sadar on Thursday, nearly two months after her abduction.
Police also arrested alleged abductor Afjarul Islam, 22, and his father Nasiruddin, 50, Khamar Bamunia village.
On July 23, Afjarul abducted the 17-year-old girl of the district from Ramdanga Forester Danga on her way to college, said police.
The next day the victim's father filed a case accusing Afjarul and Nasiruddin. Later, police rescued the girl from a house of Afjarul's relative.
- Youth held with arms, ammo**
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj
Rab arrested an alleged arms peddler with three foreign-made pistols, seven magazines and six bullets in Koilabari village of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday. The arrestee is Masud Rana, 23, of Upor Chakpara village.
Rab also seized his mobile phone set and handed him over to police. A case was filed.
- Syrian sailor dies falling from crane**
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A Syrian citizen died after falling from the crane of a ship at New Mooring Container Terminal-4 of Chittagong Port yesterday morning.
The deceased was Abdur Rahim, 25, a sailor of MV Maricana, which was berthed at the port with steel billet, said Secretary of Chittagong Port Authority Omar Faruk.
Rahim was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, police said.
- One held over murder in Jhenidah**
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah
Police arrested a man in the Monira murder case with gun making materials in Hatgopalpur area of Sadar upazila in Jhenidah early yesterday, said police.
The arrestee is Minto Munshi, 23, son of Abdul Kuddus of Achintanagar in the upazila.
Monira Khatun, 8, was found dead in a jute field in Achintanagar village on August 12 after she had been kidnapped near her house in the area on August 7.
- Obituary**
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
KJ Hamida Khanam, a former lawmaker and a BNP leader, died at a hospital in the capital yesterday, aged 75, says a press release.
In a statement, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed her sympathy to the bereaved family members.
The family requested everyone to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Administration pressuring Khasis to leave their land

Alleges Khushi Kabir

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Rights activist Khushi Kabir yesterday said the administration was putting pressure on Khasis in Moulvibazar's Kulaura and Srimangal upazilas to leave their land.

Speaking at a protest rally in Sylhet city, organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), she said it was the state's responsibility to protect indigenous people.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, vice president of Bapa, said it was the government's failure that Khasis were feeling threatened.



Participants with guests at an English in Schools workshop at a hotel in Khulna city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

MP MILLAT'S GRAFT CASE SC scraps acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Thursday scrapped a High Court verdict that acquitted former BNP lawmaker M Rashiduzzaman Millat in a case filed for amassing illegal wealth worth over Tk 5 crore and concealing information on his properties worth over Tk 4 crore.

In 2008, a Dhaka court sentenced Millat of Jamalpur to eight years in the case. In 2010, the HC acquitted him from the charges following his appeal. Responding to an appeal petition filed by the government challenging the HC verdict, the Appellate Division asked the HC to hear again Millat's appeal.

Girl gang-raped in launch cabin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Two local miscreants gang-raped a 14-year-old female passenger in a staff cabin of Sundarban-2 launch after confining her friend at Jhalakathi launch terminal on Wednesday noon, said police on Thursday.

The Detective Branch of police members went to the launch to arrest a criminal when they saw the girl crying.

According to the statements of the girl and her 20-year-old friend given before a magistrate, the two reached the terminal in the afternoon to catch the launch scheduled to set off at 6:00pm when a gang attacked them.

A case was filed against Anif Khalifa, MLSS at district revenue office and son of Jubo League's Jhalakathi city unit President Abdul Haque Khalifa, and one unidentified person on Thursday.

The girl was sent to Barisal cell home and her family was on the way to Jhalakathi till filing of this report at 9:30pm.

Justice Debesh was a protector of democracy, rule of law

Discussion on his birthday told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Debesh Bhattacharya was an uncompromising protector of democracy, human rights, and rule of law, said speakers.

Many of the verdicts of the late justice were historic, which were recognised as precedent setting judgments in Bangladesh till date, they said. Debesh is remembered for his works and contributions to Bangladesh's judiciary, they said at a discussion marking his 100th birth anniversary in the auditorium of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Thursday.

Chief Justice SK Sinha termed Justice Debesh a "philosopher of law".

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, BNP's Moudud Ahmed, Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury, ex-AG Hassan Arif, lawyers Rokanuddin Mahmud and Amir-UI Islam also spoke.

ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS IN KHULNA 75 teachers trained on tools, techniques

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is critically important for English teachers to train their students to master English as a second language in the fast changing world, speakers told a workshop in Khulna city yesterday.

The daylong training programme was organised by The Daily Star and telecom operator Robi Axiata Ltd at Hotel Castle Salam as part of their joint initiative "English in Schools", which aims at developing English language skills of secondary school students.

A total of 75 teachers from 25 schools of three districts -- Khulna, Bagerhat and Jessore -- were introduced to modern tools and techniques for the effective teaching of English.

The event focused on hands-on training, demonstrations on essay writing, verbal presentation, and communicative English.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, consultant of EIS, The Daily Star, highlighted the necessity to learn multiple languages, and importance of communicative English.

TM Zakir Hossain, deputy director of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, Khulna Region, stressed the need for improved communication skills.

Students should create a habit of speaking in English, said Ekram Kabir, vice president of Communications & Corporate Responsibility, Robi.

Maksuda Khanom, a teacher from Coronation Girls' High School, said, "Around 500 students of our school follow the EIS page. Since EIS covers syllabus-related grammar, it is tremendously helpful. However, this should include more writing tasks."

"This type of programme is very effective," added Swadesh Roy, from Khulna Collegiate Girls' School. "Both the design and contents of the page make English learning a joy. But I think EIS should conduct a survey and slightly redesign the page based on students' feedback."

The workshop was conducted by X-Cel team led by Shireen Hasan, the EIS page developer.

Ferry mounts, damages

FROM PAGE 4

On why the ferry service was running despite the shipping ministry's suspension order, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) Assistant General Manager Ashiquzzaman told The Daily Star that it was to ferry the vehicles arriving on Thursday night.

The water current has pushed the ferry, Kusumkoli, onto the dredger, said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Executive Engineer Sultan Ahmed Khan.

It was a "slight" damage and BIWTC will bear the repair costs, said Ashiquzzaman. He, however, could not estimate the cost.

The dredger of the Chinese company, which is also conducting the river training for the Padma bridge project, started working on the route from September 1. Another seven of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority has been working since July 19.

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