

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.0 L 25.4	H 33.9 L 24.6	H 28.4 L 20.2	H 37.0 L 23.9	H 36.8 L 24.4	H 36.5 L 26.2	H 32.6 L 20.0	H 33.0 L 24.0

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:30pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am. Country's highest temperature 38.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 20.0 in Rangpur.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Osprey landing in nest. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Looking for Birds in Florida

The American state of Florida, situated in the country's southeast, is a favourite destination of bird lovers. The state boasts about five hundred species of birds. Like our country, winter and spring are the best seasons for seeing them.

Last year, on my first birding trip there, I lucked upon a rare bird: a smooth-billed ani. I was eager to return and made the trip last week. My destination was a lake on the eastern part of the state which is home to many species of birds including ospreys, owls, hawks and ducks.

For me the osprey is a special bird. It was one of the first birds I photographed (in Sundarban in 2011.) I have seen several ospreys in Bangladesh, but only as solitary birds. Closely related to eagles and hawks, ospreys are known from time immemorial for catching and eating fish.

The lake I visited is popular among fishermen and birders. The edges of the lake are lined with cypress trees. One day, at sunrise, I took my place on a boat to travel across the lake to the other side.

As the boat came closer to the shore, I saw scattered cypress trees emerging from the lake, roots submerged in the water. They varied in height from ten to fifty feet. On top of many of them, ospreys had built nests. There must have been several hundred osprey pairs spread around the lake. The round nests, made from sticks, twigs and moss, were large: three feet or more in diameter.

Spring is breeding season for the ospreys, and normally by this time nests contain chicks. However, this year the eggs were late in hatching and chicks were sparse. I spotted two. Their

most distinguishing feature is their orange eyes. Adult ospreys have yellow eyes.

Several male ospreys were looking to attract a mate by performing their breeding display. They would hold something in their talons – a fish, stick, or even moss – and dive, hover, shoot straight up and in general show off their flying skills. Whether it was targeted at a particular female or all single females of the neighbourhood, I could not tell.

I also saw nests of cormorants and saw a mother feeding its chick which inserted its entire head into the mother's open mouth to get its food.

Every so often a flock of ducks flew across the sky. Most were black-bellied whistling ducks with pink bills. Some pretty wood ducks also showed up as did groups of ibis.

We took the boat into a smaller canal that fed into the lake. On the sides we saw green and little blue herons. The latter were particularly friendly. We also saw great blue herons which resemble our grey herons. There were two types of egrets (great and little) but our intermediate egret was missing. Cattle egrets clumped together in groups, some of them in orange breeding plumage.

On the taller trees red-shouldered hawks looked for prey. A barred owl called to its mate and flew across the canal. Dark, dramatic-looking black vultures circled the sky. Pileated woodpeckers resembled bullets flying from one tree to another.

After my time here I could understand the magnetism that Florida holds for birders. I will be sure to return.

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MIGRATION TO LIBYA FOR JOBS

19 illegal Bangladeshi brokers identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 19 Bangladeshi brokers, who are allegedly cheating and trafficking fellow countrymen in Libya, have been identified, said officials at Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli.

The brokers' names have been posted to the mission's Facebook page on Thursday.

They are: Sabuj, Anowar, Nasir, Anjan from Comilla, Jamal, Razib, Sajib of Munshiganj, Sabuj, Rafik, Miraz of Barisal, Based, Alamgir of Narsingdi, Anowar alias Kana Anowar of Feni, Lal Mia of Tangail, Razib of Gazipur, Nasir of Chandpur, Murad of Jessore, Ali of Jhenidah and Nasir from Faridpur.

Labour Counsellor ASM Ashraf Islam at the mission confirmed these names to The Daily Star yesterday. He said the names were collected based on the victims' allega-

tions in the last several months.

The Daily Star, however, could not verify these names independently.

The Bangladesh government has banned sending its nationals to Libya since June last year following the fresh clashes among different fighting groups in the North African country.

The private recruiting agencies are pressing the government to withdraw the ban and even approached the apex court in this regard but their attempts failed.

But the brokers and the traffickers are now alluring the desperate jobseekers to go to Libya through its neighbouring countries--Sudan, Lebanon or Egypt, said the embassy officials, claiming that they are also kidnapping the jobseekers from Libya-Sudan border and realising ransom from

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Girl's two-month battle for life ends

The 17-month-old was stabbed over land dispute; prime suspect still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A 17-month-old girl, who was stabbed over a land dispute in Nandail upazila on March 13, died after battling for her life for nearly two months at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) Thursday night.

The victim, Bithi Akhtar, is a daughter of a day labourer Deen Islam, of Chandipasha village.

"The condition of my daughter was improving at the initial stage, but it deteriorated suddenly on Thursday night," said a grief-stricken Beauty Begum, Bithi's mother.

Quoting doctors as saying, Md Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station, said Bithi died of a severe infection, adding, the body was sent to MMCH morgue for an autopsy, said the OC.

Bithi was buried at her family graveyard after Maghrib prayers yesterday.

Deen lodged a case with Nandail Police Station accusing 11 persons including Shahjahan and his accomplices

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After a hard day's work a group of floating people in a deep slumber on the adjacent street of the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital yesterday morning, oblivious to the fact that the street has been reopened at 6:00am for vehicular movements, posing serious risk to their already insecure lives. As the nearest footpaths are already occupied, they have no other options but to sleep here once the three gates circling the stadium area close at midnight.

BNP welcomes HC verdict of scrapping 16th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday welcomed the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, which had restored the Parliament's power to impeach judges.

"This verdict has enhanced the dignity of the judiciary," said BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed at a press conference at the party's headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan.

The amendment passed in 2014 empowered parliament to impeach Supreme Court judges for "incapacity or misconduct". Following Thursday's verdict, the Jatiya Sangsad has lost the power to remove SC judges based on those grounds.

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Frequent power cuts make summer unbearable in Ctg

ARJUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Konka Chowdhury of Teri Bazar is one of the worst sufferers of the soaring temperature this summer as Chittagong city has been gripped by frequent power cuts for around a month.

"Although my family arranged an IPS (instant power supply) device for me, it cannot support for such a long time," said the pregnant woman.

Like Konka, suffering of dwellers from every walk of life knows no bound.

Locals from different areas told this correspondent that they were experiencing power outage 10 to 12 times almost every day and do not get electricity for around 7 to 8 hours on an average.

"My two-year-old baby can't sleep a bit due to severe heat," said Rehnuma Khanam, a resident of Bibirhat, adding, "I can't tolerate my baby's suffering."

Tickly Sarkar, a student of English at Chittagong College, who resides in

Chawk Bazar DC Road area, said, "My honours final exams are going on but I can't take preparation properly due to frequent outages."

In the evening, her suffering doubled, she said.

Amid intolerable heat, it was not possible to concentrate on studies at daytime, she said, adding that she could not afford an IPS device to ease the situation.

According to the Met Office, mild and severe heat waves are sweeping over many regions in the country including Chittagong in recent times.

Asthma patient Badal Dutta, who suffered a heart attack a few days ago and is staying in his son's house in Ghat Farhadbegh area, said the power cuts intensified his suffering.

Power outages are also affecting business badly. Business leaders said production in around 1,000 factories in the city was being hampered.

AM Mahbub Chowdhury, senior vice-president of Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CMCCI), said, "Factory owners are compelled to operate machines with generators although it is very costly." He added, "Cost of electricity production through a generator is up to Tk 22 per unit whereas the owners pay Tk 7 per unit for PDB supplied electricity."

The officials of Power Development Board (PDB) said a gap between demand and supply led to such power cuts in this summer.

Chittagong Zone of PDB that covers the city, some parts of Patiya, Hathazari, and Shitakunda upazilas and Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts gets 12.1 percent of electricity of the total production of the country from the national grid, they said.

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Mango lovers beware as some unscrupulous businessmen are using chemicals for artificially ripening them inside a house in the Sheikhghat area of Sylhet city for a quick profit. These fruits are being sold at Tk 200 a kg in front of the Hassan Market.

RU alumni protest Prof Rezaul killing

DU CORRESPONDENT

Covering faces with black clothes, former Rajshahi University (RU) students yesterday formed a human chain in front of the capital's Bangladesh National Museum demanding immediate trial of the gruesome murder of RU Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee in Rajshahi city's Shalbagan area on April 23.

The protesters also urged the government to stop the delay of the investigation and unearth the fact behind the killing of the teachers and free thinkers, which continue unabated as their perpetrators are seldom arrested.

Prof Rezaul is the fourth RU teacher to be killed since 2004 in a similar manner.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

Prime accused held over use of bamboo in building

Arrestee Moni Shing is MD of Joy Construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime accused in a case filed over the use of bamboo sticks instead of iron rods in the construction of a building at Damurhuda Upazila of Chuadanga was arrested in the capital's Pallabi area on Thursday night.

Maj Abu Sayed Khan, deputy director of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-4, confirmed the arrest.

Arrested Moni Shing is the managing director of the capital's Joy Construction Ltd, tasked with the construction of the two-storey government funded Biological Research Centre under supervision of the Engineering Construction Ltd (ECL).

On April 12, Merina Subunnahar, acting project officer and senior monitoring and evaluation officer of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), lodged the case with Damurhuda

police against four persons including Moni.

The other three accused are Abdus Sattar, managing director of ECL; Ayub Hossain, project consultant on purchase of biological research centre and lab; and Kamal Hossain, sub-assistant engineer on project planning and implementation in ICT of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Dhaka.

Anti Corruption Commission in Kushtia is now investigating the case.

On April 5 this year, as some local youths pointed out the gross anomalies, the authorities concerned stopped the construction work.

Three probe bodies have already submitted their reports to the ministry concerned, and they found the allegation to be true.

The DAE in Chuadanga last year received Tk 2.41 crore for constructing the research centre and lab.

Jessore war crime accused dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lutfar Morol, 69, an alleged Razakar from Keshobpur upazila of Jessore, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday after he was admitted to the hospital on April 4 with diabetes and some old age complications, said hospital and jail sources.

Lutfar was one of the nine persons of the upazila, who are currently facing five charges of crimes they allegedly committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The other accused include former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker of Jessore Shakhawat Hossain.

So far seven war crimes accused including Lutfar died in hospitals due to old age complications while they were imprisoned.