

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 38.1 L 22.4

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 28.8 L 25.8

**SYLHET**  
H 27.8 L 22.3

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 30.7 L 21.5

**KHULNA**  
H 36.6 L 28.5

**BARISAL**  
H 35.5 L 26.4

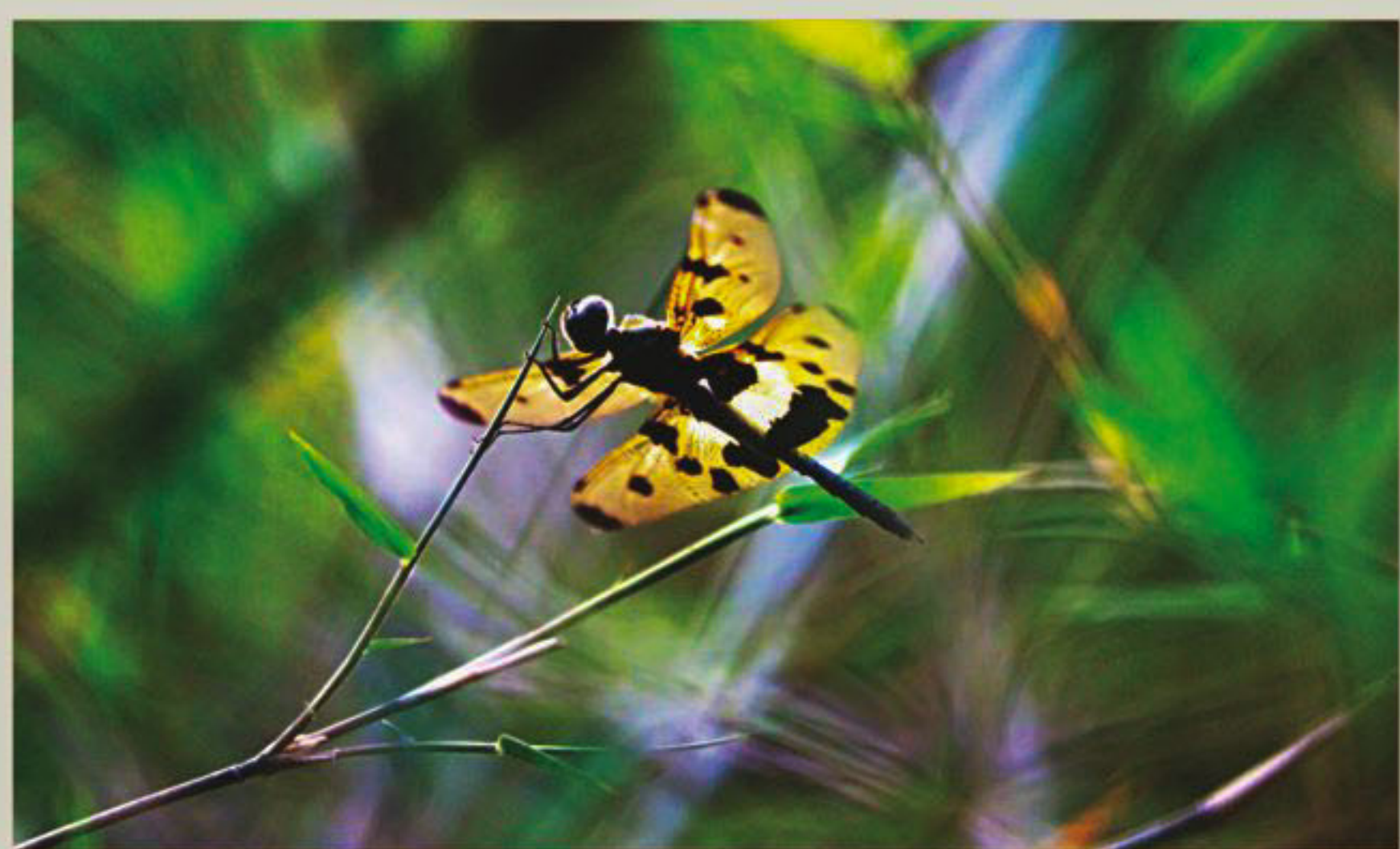
**RANGPUR**  
H 26.2 L 21.6

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 34.4 L 27.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34pm and rises tomorrow at 5:16am.

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Dragonfly in bamboo tree.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## The Amazing Dragonfly

What is the world's deadliest predator? You might be surprised at the answer. It is not the tiger, lion, shark or even the falcon. If you measure "deadly" by success in catching prey, dragonflies (*foring*) are the champions. They catch 95% of all prey they target, compared to 50% by the shark or 25% by the lion. What do they eat? Mostly mosquitoes, flies, bees, other tiny insects, but sometimes even butterflies.

The versatile dragonfly can be found in all continents except Antarctica. There are about 5000 species of dragonflies in the world. They were not always so small. Fossils show that millions of years ago, some dragonflies had wingspans of 30 inches!

Satyajit Ray immortalized the dragonfly's grace in the famous *foring* sequence of the movie *Pather Panchali*. I have spent delightful time observing them around water's edge where they fly from one stalk of grass to another. Their wings are extended horizontally whether they are resting or flying. Sometimes two dragonflies fly together during mating, joined in a loop.

The dragonfly's life starts as an egg. The mother can lay 1500 eggs at a time. Baby dragonflies, which live underwater, are called nymphs. They are similar to adult dragonflies but lack wings and reproductive capacity. Most of the dragonfly's life is spent as a nymph - up to several years. While underwater, nymphs eat smaller insects such as mosquito larva or even smaller nymphs. Close to maturity, they spend several weeks with bodies underwater and heads emerged, so they can adapt to breathing in the air. Then they take to flight. This part of their life is shorter and lasts weeks, not years.

In the 1920s, American agricultural scientists, using airplanes to study the

aerial movement of insects, found dragonflies flying at 7000 feet altitude. More recently scientists have discovered that some dragonfly species migrate in their short flying career. Millions of dragonflies which arrive in the Maldives annually come from southern India on their way to Africa, it is thought. They possibly cover 10,000 km in their journey. In America, scientists who attached tiny radio gear on the underside of these insects found they can fly up to 100 miles in one day. About 50 species of dragonflies are migratory. Their migration patterns - including flyways - are similar to that of migratory birds, but with one exception: the migration is one-way. We have much to learn about dragonfly migration. For example, we do not know why they migrate and what their migration mechanism is.

Of course, dragonflies are not the only insects that migrate. For example, monarch butterflies and locusts are migratory. For me the most fascinating aspect of dragonflies is their hunting skill. Their large, powerful, wide-angle eyes and fast flight make them deadly hunters. Their visual neurons bypass the brain and instruct their wings to move instantaneously whenever they see moving prey, giving them lightning quick reflexes. Their long hairy legs help them hold on to their victim. But being the deadliest predators does not save them from becoming prey. Sometimes at twilight you might see a crowd of dragonflies over a field. Watch for birds such as drongos (*finger*), ash woodswallows (*ababil*) or swifts (*batashi*) to swoop in and carry them away to be eaten! Such is the way of our world.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

# Budget should aim at changing lives

Budget reporting workshop at DU told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national budget should reflect expectations of the common people since only figures of growth and development will not bring any real change in their lives, observed noted economists yesterday.

It is more urgent to ensure the citizens' welfare rather than emphasising on the increase of some development indexes in the budget which is still being prepared without views or participation of the majority of people, they added.

The economists made these remarks at a programme titled "Budget and the Bangladesh Economy: A Capacity-Building Workshop for Young Reporters on Budget-Reporting," held in Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of Social Science Faculty building in Dhaka University.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association (DUEADA) jointly organised the programme.

"The announcement of growth indexes

is not enough. It must be reflected in the components-services, agricultures, industries and above all it is urgent to create employment opportunities," observed Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government.

Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said budget allocation should be based on sectors' performance.

The former governor also disagreed with the national growth rate of 7.05 and inflation rate of 5 percent.

Mohammad Zahid Hossain, former principal economist of the ADB in Bangladesh, said the taxation policy should be based on benefits of the majority.

Jalal Ahmed, additional secretary of finance ministry, the keynote presenter, said it will be difficult to fulfill the target of becoming a middle-income nation by 2021 if the investments cannot be increased.

Prof MA Taslim, a teacher at DU Economics Department, and Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, president of DUEADA, were also present.

# BNP denies having link with Mossad

Announces two-day demo on Sunday, Monday across country protesting 'persecution' of party chief Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the ruling Awami League leaders' allegation that BNP is plotting with Mossad, Israeli intelligence agency, to oust the government, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the party has no link with Israel and its intelligence agency.

"We want to make it clear that BNP has no relation with Israel... It is a liberal and democratic political party and does not believe in conspiracies," he told a press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan headquarters in the capital.

"BNP does not even think about ousting the government using any other means except through elections," added the BNP leader.

The party organised the press conference to inform the media of the decisions made at its standing committee's Monday meeting at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

Fakhrul said, "BNP fully supports the rights and sovereignty of Palestine. We have always been vocal in favour of Palestinians and we will always be so."

Meanwhile, a two-member team of the party met Palestinian embassy officials in Dhaka on Tuesday to elucidate their stance, said a BNP leader involved in handling the party's foreign affairs.

Fakhrul came up with the remarks as a Bangladeshi daily

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The remains of a BRTC bus after angry locals set fire to it following a road accident at Chandana intersection in Gazipur yesterday, in which two siblings died as a motorbike they were riding hit the vehicle from behind.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Principals mistreated at NU offices

They share 'grievances' at dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of principals of different colleges under National University (NU) yesterday complained that they face different problems when they go to the NU for any official purpose.

Misbehaviour of the officials and delaying in service delivery were complaints most of them made in the presence of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at a dialogue arranged by NU in the capital's Bangla Academy auditorium.

"We do not get proper respect when we

deal with some officials at NU. Do we deserve such attitudes from them," said Prof MM Anwar Hossain, principal of Bangabandhu Law College.

Principals from Mymensingh and Dhaka region shared their problems at the programme titled "Management of National University and Improving Education Quality". Yesterday's programme was last of the series of dialogues NU held with the college principals.

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# Siblings among four killed in road crashes

CITY DESK

Two siblings were killed as their motorcycle hit a BRTC bus from behind after the rider lost control over the vehicle at Chandana intersection of Dhaka-Gazipur Highway in Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased were Iqbal Hossain, 25, and Eshfaque, 11, -- a class-III student of a local school. They were the sons of Maidul Islam of Netrakona.

Protesting the incident locals set fire to the bus and

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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

A performance from one of Tagore's dance-dramas, at a musical soiree organised by Star Melodies, celebrating the 155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at The Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct in the capital yesterday.

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**ADMISSION INFORMATION:**  
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**GRADUATE PROGRAM OFFICE [12 NOON TO 8 PM]**  
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