

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.7 L 18.7	H 34.0 L 26.2	H 32.0 L 25.3	H 35.2 L 25.5	H 33.5 L 27.0	H 33.3 L 27.2	H 33.9 L 25.0	H 33.5 L 26.0

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am. Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 24.6 degree in Sayerpur.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Chestnut-tailed starling feeding its young. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

A Midsummer's Morning

On a Saturday morning I set out for Purbachol. I leave my car where the 300-ft road ends and walk along the bank of a wide canal. The water level is low and the canal's breadth is covered with water hyacinth. A lone bronze-winged jacana forages there looking for insects. It is only half past seven but the sun shines ferociously on my back, drenching me in sweat. The air feels heavy with moisture and the heat stifles. I am glad to be wearing a hat but wish I had brought a *gamcha* for better heat protection. Presently I take a right turn towards the village of Deamunkhali. There is a sour smell of decomposing leaves as I pass a grove of banana trees. It is the smell of the earth, of life on fast-forward, speeding its way through our planet. Vegetable creepers crisscross a field, growing in every which way. In the bright sunshine, chlorophyll in the leaves works on overdrive, creating the plant's food. Heat radiates from the sky and the earth, dry above, humid below. I understand why everything grows faster here in the tropics. A field of tall grass covers my left as I approach the village. The needle-thin stalks are waist-high, growing on sand that was used to fill this once-submerged patch. Black-headed munias play among them, balancing their tiny weight on the stalks. Something bothers me here like it does every time I am in Purbachol. It is the lack of trees. There are miles and miles of open fields and very few trees - only around the scattered homesteads. This morning there is little shade in this land, filled only recently for residential purposes. Farmers are out early tending to their fields. An older couple, working

on their vegetable field, decide to take a break and go into their tin-shed. The older man is tough, sinewy, with leathery skin covering his torso. She is well-covered and has wrapped her sari loosely around her head for protection; he wears a *gamcha* and a *lungi*. Another woman brings out her sluggish cow and ties it mid-field for grazing. Then she sits under a *macha* tying the stems of her *dhumdol* vegetable creepers so they can follow the *macha's* bamboo supports. Birds ignore the heat. After spring's mating season, their chicks are out and about, growing fast. *Shalik*, *doel*, *fingey* - mother-child pairs are easy to find. The chick waits alone, with its mouth open, while mother goes to look for food. After a few minutes she returns with a morsel in her mouth which she deposits in the chick's open mouth - a transaction you are likely to miss if you blinked. A juvenile *fingey* (its divided tail is shorter than the adult's) has recently learned to feed itself. It scans the grass while perched on a *Macha* bamboo and then swoops down, catching a fat larva in its beak, which it beats first to eliminate any venom before swallowing whole. I surprise a *guishap* when I jump over an open drain. He runs for his life on his four squat feet, swaying from left to right like a penguin's waddle, only faster. A mongoose tiptoes through the weeds, sniffing for snakes. Relief finally arrives in the form of clouds and a cool breeze. Shielded from the sun's rays, I heave a sigh of relief. The creepers keep growing and the birds keep chirping as life runs its feverish race on this hot midsummer morning. facebook.com/tangents.ikabir.

Two killed in Jamalpur clash over trivial matter

Another killed, 10 injured in Habiganj clash

CITY DESK
Two men died yesterday after they had been severely injured in a clash over a trifling matter at Goalganj village under Baksiganj municipality in Jamalpur on Thursday afternoon. The deceased are Mandol Miah, 60, and Mosharaf Hossain. Locals and police said seven-year-old Shamim, grand-son of Shaha Ali who is the younger brother of Mandol, had an argument with eight-year-old girl Manjurani, daughter of Mosharaf, while the two were playing. Within few hours the two families locked into a fierce clash centring the issue, leaving 10 people including Mandol and Mosharaf injured, said

Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Baksiganj Police Station. Mosharaf was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the others including Mandol were admitted to Baksiganj Upazila Health Complex, said the OC. Mandol was referred to DMCH as his conditioned deteriorated; he succumbed to his injuries on the way around 7:00am, said the OC, adding that Mosharaf died at DMCH around 8:00am. Police arrested Shaha Ali, his relative Amirul, and Mosharaf's relatives Khalil, and Zakir Hossain, the OC added. A murder case was filed and another was being prepared to be filed as of filing of this

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Nityaranjan's son demands exemplary punishment

CRACKDOWN ON EXTREMISM: Stop to arbitrary arrests: HRW

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
The son of the slain Hindu monastery volunteer Nityaranjan Pandey yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for the killers of his father. Speaking at a meeting of the Pabna district administration at the monastery, Nanda Pandey said, "My family is in extreme anguish for the death of my father. I know what the pain of loss is. I hope no son of this country loses his father." The meeting was attended by Health Minister

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The Bangladeshi authorities should investigate attacks on secular writers and others, and identify and prosecute the perpetrators but must stop arbitrarily arresting people without proper evidence of a crime, the Human Rights Watch said yesterday. "Between June 10 and 16, 2016 security forces have reportedly arrested over 11,000 in connection with a spate of murders of bloggers with secular or atheist leanings, non-Muslims, members of the LGBT community, and other progressive or liberal thinkers," the New York based rights body said. Those detained should either be charged on the basis of credible evidence of criminal activities and brought immediately before a judge, or be immediately released, the HRW said. "After a slow and complacent response to these horrific attacks, Bangladesh's security

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Conscious citizens under the banner of "Khun-Dhorshon-Jongibad Birodhi Gono Andolon" yesterday forms a human chain before the national museum in the capital's Shahbagh, protesting recent rapes, secret killings and militancy. Inset, Nanda Pandey, son of the slain Hindu monastery volunteer Nityaranjan Pandey, breaks down in tears while speaking at a meeting in Pabna, attended by Health Minister Mohammed Nasim. PHOTO: STAR

Blood donation to meet Ramadan's demand

Ramakrishna Mission organises camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ramakrishna Mission Dhaka yesterday organised a voluntary blood donation programme in its medical centre to meet the shortage of blood in Ramadan. Swami Guruservananda, assistant secretary of the mission, inaugurated the campaign, and followers of the mission donated blood. On Thursday, the head Hindu priest of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission received a death threat letter. However, there was no sign of panic during the campaign, conducted by SANDHANI's Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka unit. Priests of the mission said despite the threat, they did not postpone the programme as the blood might be used for people from any religion and would help save their lives. "As the Muslims fast in Ramadan, the rate of blood donation has fallen compared to other months, and we think that this time Hindu people can donate blood to help with the shortage," said Swami Devadhyanananda, a member of the mission. "When we serve people we do not consider their religion, we only treat them as human beings," he said. He said they wanted to continue their initiative in the spirit of communal harmony, which is the foundation of the country. The mission regularly organises several welfare programmes including medical check-ups and pure drinking water supply to locals. SANDHANI collects 230-250 bags of blood every month. But during Ramadan, the number has dropped to 120-160 bags.

WB to lend \$360m to improve waterways

UNB, Dhaka
The World Bank has approved US\$ 360 million to help Bangladesh improve the navigability and year-round safe transport for passengers and cargo along the country's busiest waterways. "The Bangladesh Regional Waterway Transport Project-1" will improve the navigability of 900 km of inland waterways along the Chittagong-Dhaka-Ashuganj corridor and connecting roads, which will help reduce travel time and cost for cargo and passenger transport and boost national and regional trade, said a press release issued from World Bank's Washington office.

"Bangladesh can expand intra-regional trade with India, Bhutan and Nepal by improving connectivity through road, rail and inland waterways," said Qimiao Fan, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The project will build one new general cargo terminal at Pangaon and improve the existing cargo terminal at Ashuganj. It will also build new and rehabilitate existing passenger terminals at Sadarghat, Narayanganj, Chandpur, and Barisal. The project will construct 14 landing Ghats/stations in Chars (shoals), where often waterways are the only mode of transportation. SEE PAGE 5 COL 8



A volunteer donating blood at a blood donation programme organised by Ramakrishna Mission Dhaka yesterday in its medical centre to meet the shortage of blood in Ramadan. The campaign was conducted by SANDHANI's Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka unit. PHOTO: STAR

Over 400 illegal structures dismantled in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
The Tangail District Administration demolished over 400 illegal shops and other structures beside Dhaka-Tangail Highway at Elenga in Kalihati upazila yesterday and Thursday. A mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Abu Nasar Uddin, also Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kalihati, conducted the drive, said Mahbub Hossain, deputy commissioner of Tangail. Some unscrupulous people have been occupying the road setting up different shops and structures, causing traffic congestion, he said, adding that the drive will continue.

Healthy RAMADAN

FASTING AND FEMALE HEALTH

In Ramadan, fasting is not mandatory for pregnant and breastfeeding women, as prolonged food and fluid deprivation might affect the baby's health. Women who are anemic because of malnutrition or menstrual problems, should have more iron and protein-rich foods in Iftar and Sehri. Ramadan fasting is beneficial in women suffering from Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome as it reduces stress hormone levels i.e. serum cortisol and noradrenaline. Fasting also reduces stress neurohormone levels and insures physical and mental health in women. Post-menopausal women on hormone therapy can continue their medication while fasting, with once daily estrogen supplement.

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E-mail: info@aiub.edu