

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 32.4 | L 24.8

CHITTAGONG
H 32.5 | L 25.3

SYLHET
H 33.5 | L 23.7

RAJSHAHI
H 33.0 | L 22.2

KHULNA
H 33.2 | L 24.2

BARISAL
H 30.8 | L 24.8

RANGPUR
H 31.2 | L 23.8

COX'S BAZAR
H 30.8 | L 24.5

Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind will likely occur at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions and weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in the next 24 hours, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Monk parakeets in Villa Borghese, Rome.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Birds of Rome

When one thinks of Rome, "bird" is not the first word that comes to mind.

However, on a recent visit there, I learned much about Roman birds and their place in Roman civilization.

Birds were present from the beginning when Romulus and Remus, founding brothers of Rome, were competing to lead the sleepy mountainside village destined for greatness. How did the villagers elect their leader? On a fateful, auspicious day, each brother was asked to count birds they saw. Romulus claimed to have seen twelve; Remus saw six. Hence Romulus became king. When Remus rose up to unseat him, he was killed.

Birds continued holding their exalted place in ancient Rome. The eagle - *aquila* in Latin - was the standard for the Roman legion which consisted of 4000-6000 soldiers. A legionnaire, called the *aquilifer*, carried a metallic eagle as a flag when the legion moved. The eagle was considered extremely important by the soldiers and grave consequences followed if a legion lost it. In each of the thousands of towns and villages that the Romans conquered, the inhabitants must have seen this eagle looking down as Roman soldiers marched in.

(America's founding fathers, no doubt influenced by the Roman eagle, chose the bald eagle as America's national bird much to the chagrin of Benjamin Franklin who lobbied for the wild turkey.)

Coming closer to home, the *kalem*, or purple swamphen, is a common resident of our haors. It is a beautiful bird, purple on top and turquoise-blue on the side. The *kalem* was kept as a pet by ancient Romans who thought it had magical powers. Why? Because purple was a sacred colour in Rome: for example, Senators wore togas dyed purple. Thus, *kalems* were adored and

even the most adventurous Roman gourmet never ate one.

Fast forward three thousand years to present day Rome. During a short but beautiful trip I see many kinds of birds in the city. There are gulls, parakeets, starlings, pigeons and crows. The gulls are all over the city and can be bold. The parakeets make their presence known by their sound. They are non-native but thrive here.

One morning I visit the Botanical Garden of Rome, on a hillside across the Tiber in Trastevere. The Garden has around 4000 plant species, including many varieties of palm brought from exotic places and orchids that grow from the ground like bulbs. Speaking with Elisabetta Aloisi Masella who works there, I learn that the majestic pine trees that one admires in Rome are not originally Italian. Rather, the ancient Romans imported them from eastern parts of their Empire. In the Garden I see several birds including Eurasian blue tits and monk parakeets which were nesting in the crowns of the palm trees. The feisty parakeets appear to be quite destructive, wasting unripe fruits and damaging the palms with their nests.

I also visit Villa Borghese, the giant park famous for its museum. I choose nature over art and stroll the grounds, admiring the sublime shape of the tall pines while looking for birds. Several wagtails (*khonjon*) run about in their characteristic buoyant style. Monk parakeets are also here, sometimes snatching seeds from one another. A kestrel flies overhead scanning the ground for prey. But the highlight is a small flock of starlings. They forage in the grass and fly off like so many dark, glittering jewels.

In winter, I am told, Rome involuntarily hosts huge flocks of starlings numbering in the millions. Now that is a sight I would like to see!

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Khadiza to talk in 2-3 weeks

Hope physicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khadiza will be able to talk in two to three weeks, hope her physicians.

"The injuries were on the right side of her brain, which usually means that the ability to talk is not harmed," Neurosurgeon Rejaus Sattar of the capital's Square Hospitals told The Daily Star yesterday.

She may not be able to use her left limbs, he said, but with physiotherapy she will regain some functionality, while the right limbs will be "almost fully functional".

She was in a coma when she was brought to the hospital and was on life support, which was removed recently.

"She is breathing effortlessly. There is, of course, an oxygen support at the moment, which will be reduced gradually," said Sattar.

Protect sexual, reproductive rights of girls

Civil society network urges govt on eve of Int'l Day of Rural Women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists and civil society members yesterday urged the government and private organisations concerned to take all the necessary measures to protect sexual and reproductive rights of adolescent girls in the country.

About one-fourth of the country's total population is adolescents. So, the country's future advancement depends on their proper education and healthcare, they viewed.

They were speaking at a press conference titled "Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of the Adolescents: Our Commitment" organised by the National Committee on the Observation of the International Rural Women Day, a countrywide network of civil society right groups.

The press conference was held at the capital's Jatiya Press Club on the eve of International Day of Rural Women to be observed today.

Like other parts of world, the national committee and its members in 64 districts of Bangladesh will observe the day amid different programmes like rallies, seminars and street dramas to raise awareness on reproductive rights of adolescent girls.

The national committee Chairperson Shamima Akhter, its secretariat Coordinator Ferdous Ara Rume, members Tamanna Rahman, and Asif Iqbal, were, among others, present at the news conference.

Miscreants fell 1,000 trees in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Miscreants felled at least 1,000 trees on khas land (government owned land) at Boleshor village of Guainghat upazila in Sylhet on Thursday night.

According to eyewitnesses and police sources, there has been a long standing dispute between one Musa Mia and three landless families of Faruq Mia, Sayed Hosain and Sahed Mia of Boleshor village who used to live on the land and had planted the trees.

They said when they tried to stop the tree felling, they were beaten by Musa and his cohorts. The injured three were admitted to Guainghat Health Complex.

"We are landless people, we live in the DC land area," said Sayed Hosain. "All the

time we are being threatened by Musa who wants to grab the land."

The three had planted the trees by taking loans, said Sahed Mia, adding, "They not only cut off the trees, but also our dreams."

This correspondent could not contact Musa Mia as his phone was found switched off.

"How can someone destroy the greeneries like that, especially that of the poor?" said Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Sylhet chapter.

Sayed Hosain filed three cases with Guainghat Police Station in this connection, said Md Delwar Hosain, officer-in-charge of the station. "We have visited the place and are trying to arrest the perpetrators," he added.

Man 'commits suicide after killing wife'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A father-of-two killed his wife and later hanged himself from the ceiling of his house at Madhainagar in Joypurhat early yesterday.

Nasima Parvin, 35, and Abdul Hamid 45, got married 20 years ago. Quoting locals, police said the couple had been going through tough time for last four months over the alleged extramarital relationship of Nasima. On Thursday night, they locked into an altercation over the same issue and Abdul strangled her with a scarf, police added.



Garments Sramik Oikya Forum brings out a procession on the capital's Tophkana road yesterday, demanding punishment for the owner of Tongi's Tampaco Foils factory, part of which collapsed following an explosion on September 10, leaving dozens of its workers dead and countless more injured. It also demanded reparations for the victims' families.

PHOTO: STAR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Coastal Belt and Cyclone Prone Areas of Bangladesh (2nd Phase)
Department of Disaster Management (DDM)
Disaster Management Bhaban
92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212
www.ddm.gov.bd

Request for Expressions of Interest (Firm)

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Selection of Consulting Firm (National) for Architectural & Engineering Consultancy Services by preparing design, drawing, BOQ, Tender Document etc. for construction of 220 Nos. Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Coastal Belt and Cyclone Prone Areas of Bangladesh (2nd Phase) in 86 Nos. upazilas under 16 Nos. districts.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR).
2. Agency	Department of Disaster Management (DDM).
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director, Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Coastal Belt and Cyclone Prone Areas of Bangladesh (2nd Phase).
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Expression of Interest for selection of	Consulting Firm (National) for Architectural & Engineering Consultancy Services.
7. EOI Ref. No.	51.01.0000.025.14.001.16-05
8. Date	10-10-2016
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement method	QCBS (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and source of funds	GOB Fund.
11. Development partners	Not applicable.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	
13. Project/programme name	Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Coastal Belt and Cyclone Prone Areas of Bangladesh (2nd Phase).
14. EOI closing date and time	Date Time 31.10.2016 1500 hrs
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
15. Brief description of assignment	a) Preparation of Architectural, Structural, Plumbing, Electrical and all relevant Engineering Designs and Drawings of the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter including Cattle Shelter, Approach Road, Solar System, Deep Tube-Well etc. b) Preparation of Technical Specifications/Bill of Quantities, schedule of item of works & cost estimate for all works. c) Preparation of tender documents. d) Part-time supervision of construction works. e) Other relevant and necessary work as directed by DDM.
16. Experience, resources & delivery capacity req'd	The applicant consultant firm shall: o have experience in providing consultancy services in successful planning, architectural & structural designing of similar projects in government/semi-government/autonomous body. o submit company profile with detail information of experienced professional Architect, Civil, Electrical Engineer and other related experts in their pay roll. o submit facilities of the organization and performance based brochure. o submit information regarding financial capacity and resource to perform the subject assignment. o submit documentary evidence against abovementioned experience, professional, resource and capacity of the firm. o have VAT registration, up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, trade licence etc. o interested firms may obtain further information from the above address during normal office hours.
17. Other details (if applicable)	Envelop containing the application (EOI) along the relevant supporting documents to be marked with "Expression of Interest (EOI)" for Selection of Consulting Firm (National) for Architectural & Engineering Consultancy Services by preparing design, drawing, BOQ, Tender Documents etc. for Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Coastal Belt and Cyclone Prone Areas of Bangladesh (2nd Phase).
18. Association with foreign firms is	Not applicable.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
19. Name of official inviting EOI	Md. Abdus Salam Sarker.
20. Designation of official inviting EOI	Project Director (Joint Secretary).
21. Address of official inviting EOI	Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Disaster Management Bhaban, 6th Floor, 92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212.
22. Contact details of official inviting EOI	Phone: 029885262; Fax: 029892580 E-mail: pd.mcs2.ddm@gmail.com Website: www.ddm.gov.bd
23. Place of receiving the EOI	Project Director, Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Coastal Belt and Cyclone Prone Areas of Bangladesh (2nd Phase), Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Disaster Management Bhaban, 6th Floor, 92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212.
24. Special instructions	Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EOIs.

Md. Abdus Salam Sarker
Joint Secretary
Project Director
Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters (2nd Phase)

GD-2037

Home minister dismisses Rab-police tension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dismissing any tension between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the police force, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said there were some little problems which the forces would solve of their own.

"There might have been one or two misunderstandings between police and Rab. Even brother and sister believe such one or two incidents take place in the family. There has been no incident that would jeopardise the relation between Rab and police," said Asaduzzaman.

The minister said this while responding to journalists at a programme at Shilpakala Academy.

"Rab is a part of police. So they will fix it," he said. On October 8, The Daily Star published a report after obtaining a copy of a letter the Rab chief wrote to the senior home secretary, complaining of police excesses against its members.



People from different strata of society protesting the death threats against Prof Anu Muhammad and demanding immediate arrest of the miscreants in front of the capital's Bangladesh National Museum yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

One dies in 'gunfight' with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A robber was killed and four cops were injured in a gunfight at Brahmanigaon in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria early yesterday, said police.

The deceased, Manik Miah, son of Mir Hosain of Rashulpur village, was accused in nine robbery cases, police added.

Some 20 robbers opened fire as they

realised that the car they stopped on Dhaka-Sylhet highway to commit robbery belonged to a police patrol team. As a result, police fired back. Other robbers fled away.

Manik was declared dead at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. The injured sub-inspector, assistant sub-inspector and constables needed first-aid.

Police recovered two pipe guns from the spot.