

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 33.4   L 26.9	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 34.7   L 26.5	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 34.0   L 26.5	<b>SYLHET</b> H 35.0   L 25.0	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 33.6   L 26.0	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 34.5   L 26.8	<b>KHULNA</b> H 34.3   L 27.0	<b>BARISAL</b> H 33.7   L 26.0	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 33.0   L 26.0
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Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Barisal and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.**

**TANGENTS**  
BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Juvenile bulbul drops a catch.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

**Monsoon Birds**

For good reason, monsoon is not the favourite time of birders. The migrants that fill our wetlands, forests and fields in winter are long gone like a distant dream. Then there is heat, humidity and rain to contend with. No wonder many birders feel discouraged from outings during this season.

But for those who don't mind the discomfort, monsoon can be a rewarding time for birding.

First, some special birds are seen only during monsoon. For example, on a trip to Sundarban last month I was able to photograph a ruddy kingfisher, a beautiful red kingfisher that can only be seen there in monsoon. The same goes for the mangrove pitta, a gorgeous but furtive bird that I glimpsed but was unable to photograph.

Second, some birds migrate here only during summer. Last August, in the haor, I saw a blue-tailed bee-eater, a gorgeous bird slightly larger than a sparrow with an unusual blue tail. While our other bee-eater species spend all year here, the blue-tailed one is a summer migrant. Several members of the cuckoo family also come here during the warm months. These include the Jacobin cuckoo which Taher, a fellow birder, photographed in Keraniganj recently.

Third, the locally breeding birds can be seen doing things that you will not observe in winter. Recently I saw a family of red-vented bulbuls with two chicks on a fruit-laden *nachna* tree in Purbachol. What surprised me was this: even though the chicks were close to the fruits, the mother plucked them

with her beak and put them into the chicks' mouths. But later I saw another chick trying to pluck a fruit and dropping it. I realised that even the basic plucking of fruits from trees requires some coordination on the chick's part. When I re-visited the site two weeks later, the chicks had grown are able to feed themselves.

In fact, some of the chicks of *shalik*, *doel*, *finzey* and bulbul always appear to be hungry with their mouth open. So with patience one can watch their feeding. For the photographer, an added bonus is that chicks are often less wary and shy than the adult birds and thus more approachable.

The hot and wet months are also that time when many birds make their nest. Perhaps the most remarkable is the *babui*. At the beginning of the breeding season, the male bird builds elegant nests, usually hanging from palm trees, which it uses to attract a mate. It is a joy to watch these industrious birds at work.

Some birds also change their plumage during this season making them more attractive to suitors. For example, the male *babui* grows yellow crown of feathers in the head, and the Indian pond heron, seen in just about any paddyfield or lake, sports a layer of maroon feathers on its back.

So, while there is no denying that the most variety of birds can be seen in wintertime, summer and monsoon bring unexpected joys for the persistent birder.

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**SAVING RIVERS**  
**Implement HC directives**

*Green activists urge govt*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded that the government implement a 2009 High Court directive with regards to protecting the country's rivers from encroachment and pollution.

At a press conference in the capital's Mukti Bhaban, they also demanded implementation of the recommendations made by the River Task Force and empowering the River Commission.

Bishwa Nadi Dibosh Samannaya Parishad (BNDSP), a platform of green organisations, organised the conference ahead of World River Day, to be observed on September 23.

The High Court bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mamtazuddin Ahmed in 2009 issued a set of directives for the government to save the rivers surrounding the capital from encroachment and pollution.

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**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY**  
**'Fake news' corrupts democratic process**

*Says UN expert*  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

True democracy cannot function properly without a pluralistic and free press, but "fake news", "spin" and campaigns focused narrowly on trendy issues confuse and corrupt the democratic process, Alfred de Zayas, United Nations independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, said in a statement marking International Day of Democracy on September 15.

"While freedom of opinion and expression are indispensable to a democratic society, such freedoms must serve -- not manipulate -- democracy. What is needed is free

access to pluralistic information and opinion -- rather than homologated news services that echo each other and try to impose a "politically correct" version of reality.

The media has a responsibility to disseminate information, without selectively suppressing pertinent facts, or forcing the facts into a single possible interpretation. Democracy needs alternative news services and a general democratization of the media.

True democracy requires education, access to multiple, reliable sources of information and opinion, consultation in good faith with all those affected by decisions, and open debate free of intimidation, ostracism and the constraints of "political correctness".



Protesting the ongoing military offensive against the Rohingyas including children in Myanmar's Rakhine State, Kendriya Khelaghar Asor forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Since the violence broke out there on August 25, around 400,000 Rohingyas have fled into Bangladesh.

**DHAKA-BEIJING TIES**  
**Youths vow to work as envoys**

UNB, Kunming, China

Bangladeshi and Chinese youths vowed to work as "Ambassadors of Friendship" to contribute to better future of the two countries.

They made the promise during an informal discussion as part of "Bangladesh-China Youth Camp 2017" being held on the Yunnan University campus in Kunming, China on Thursday.

Prof Dr Zhang Li, vice-president of the university, spoke on the occasion.

A 150-member Bangladeshi youth delegation arrived in China on Monday to attend the camp.

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**CANCER, KIDNEY DAMAGE**  
**Contaminated food to blame**

*Dr Badruddoza tells discussion*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumption of contaminated food is one of the main reasons for kidney damages and different types of cancers, said noted physician Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday.

People who are involved in mixing chemicals with food should be given exemplary punishment such as "life-term imprisonment and death penalty", said Dr Badruddoza, also the president of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh.

The former president made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on cancer prevention organised by Mosabbir Cancer Care Centre, a charity organisation, at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

"Early detection is very important to prevent and cure cancer. To detect cancer, doctors of all health centres have to take training in

duration of three days in a year," suggested Dr Badruddoza.

Speakers at the discussion stressed the need for prohibiting tobacco consumption, healthy lifestyle, consumption of chemical-free food and early detection of cancer for preventing the deadly disease.

They also urged the government to take an initiative for making the cost of cancer treatment affordable and withdraw taxation from import of raw materials of medicines.

The government should impose more tax on all types of tobacco products, he said. Also, people have to be aware of the dangers of consuming tobacco.

Mahbub Jamil, former adviser to a caretaker government, said along with the government initiative, affluent people should

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**Curtain falls on 'Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The final round of knowledge-based reality show titled, "Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid" (an expert of Bangla) was held at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center yesterday.

MM Ispahani Limited and Channel i jointly organised the event to inspire youths to use Bangla language in their everyday activities.

The show started in February with 35,000 participants and on the final day, Susrat Sayem, a student of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, became the winner.

At the event, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor stressed the need for spelling and pronouncing Bangla words correctly.

Termining the style of language used in different dramas improper, he urged everyone to discard such use of language. "Otherwise, the new generation will be confused," he said.

Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Channel i, also spoke.

Dhaka University Bangla Professor Dr Soumitra Shekhar, agriculture development activist Shykh Seraj and eminent actress Suborna Mustafa were the judges.

**JAKARIA MURDER IN SYLHET**  
**22 BCL activists sued**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A case has been filed against 22 Bangladesh Chhatra League activists in connection with the killing of fellow Jakaria Muhammad Masum, who was allegedly stabbed to death by rivals of another faction on Wednesday in Sylhet.

Jakaria's mother filed the murder case with Shahporan Police Station on Thursday late night, accusing Sylhet city unit BCL leader Titu Chowdhury, nine named and 12 unnamed BCL activists.

Akter Hossain, officer-in-charge of the station, said police are trying to arrest the accused.

Jakaria, 24, died of stab wounds at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College

Hospital on Wednesday afternoon, around one and half hours after he had come under attack allegedly from members of a rival BCL faction in the city's Shibganj Lamamapara area. He was from Chalibandar area in the city.

Police and BCL sources said Jakaria was killed in retaliation for beating up a BCL activist in the city's Sobhanighat area on Tuesday evening.

Jakaria's brother Khaled Saifullah said some BCL men called Jakaria to Shibganj Lamamapara and stabbed him.

Abdul Alim Tushar, Sylhet city unit secretary of BCL, said they will take disciplinary action against accused BCL leaders if their involvement is found.



Traffic towards Paturia ferry dock has been backed up for several kilometres due to a shortage of ferries plying between Paturia and Daulatdia docks. The photo was taken around 3:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**12 Rohingyas sent back to camps from Sunamganj**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Twelve Rohingyas were sent back to Teknaf camps after being caught in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj yesterday, around 600 kilometres from Cox's Bazar.

Six of them were bearing Bangladesh national identification (NID) cards, said Nandan Kanti Dhar, officer-in-charge of Tahirpur Police Station.

Police seized the NIDs and sent the Rohingyas back to the camps, the OC said.

The Rohingyas, hailing from Mongdu in Myanmar's Akidabad, reached Sunamganj three months ago and were sheltered by the locals for some time, he added. Police caught them from a house in Gutilagram under Badarghat union.

**ATROCITIES IN RAKHINE**  
**Protests pour in**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two groups of people formed two separate protest programmes in Savar yesterday, demanding that the Myanmar government immediately stop the "horrific acts of violence" against the Rohingyas.

They also urged the international community to put pressure on Myanmar so that the latter stops this humanitarian tragedy.

After performing the Juma prayers, people from different mosques gathered at Baipail in Savar and brought out a procession on Nabinagar-Chandra highway. Later, they held a brief rally, protesting military offensive in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, another group of people brought out a procession in Savar bus stand area on Dhaka-Aricha highway.

The protesters slammed Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader, for failing to condemn the violence against the minority group of her country.

Around 400,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since August 25, with thousands more arriving every day, Unicef said on Thursday.

The Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh in the face of what the international community called "genocide" by Myanmar's military forces in the Rakhine state.

**2nd batch of Indian aid arrives**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India yesterday sent the second consignment of aid and emergency support for the Rohingya refugees who have fled into Bangladesh following persecution in Myanmar.

An Indian Air Force aircraft carrying 50 tonnes of relief materials landed at the Chittagong airport yesterday. The first consignment of 53 tonnes of relief materials arrived on Thursday.