

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 30.0 L 18.2

MYMENSINGH
H 29.7 L 16.2

CHATTOGRAM
H 30.5 L 15.9

SYLHET
H 30.5 L 14.9

RAJSHAH
H 29.0 L 13.0

RANGPUR
H 29.1 L 14.6

KHULNA
H 30.5 L 14.5

BARISHAL
H 30.5 L 12.6

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.5 L 16.8

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of rain/thundershowers at one or two places over Rangpur & Rajshahi divisions in next 24 hours till 6pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises**



A camera trap photo shows a Royal Bengal tiger walking off with a clay pot in its mouth in Sundarbans. Increasing human encroachment, coupled with climate change, has put the animal's habitat in threat.

PHOTO COURTESY: FOREST DEPARTMENT

Alarm bells for the Bengal Tiger

Study says climate change could wipe out world's biggest cat from Sundarbans in 50 years

UNB, Dhaka

A new study has warned that the Sundarbans' famed Royal Bengal tiger could be gone within 50 years, especially from the Bangladesh part, because of constant rise in sea levels and climate change.

The study, titled "Combined effects of climate change and sea-level rise project dramatic habitat loss of the globally endangered Bengal tiger in the Bangladesh Sundarbans" was carried out by a team of Bangladeshi and Australian scientists.

It reveals that constant rise in sea levels and climate change could bring a catastrophic situation to the mangroves of Sundarbans -- the iconic Bengal tiger's last coastal stronghold and the world's biggest mangrove forest.

The study was published in the journal Science of The Total Environment.

"Fewer than 4,000 Bengal tigers are alive today," said James Cook University's Professor Bill Laurance, a co-author of the study. "That's a really low number for the world's biggest cat, which used to be far more abundant but today is mainly confined to small areas of India and

Bangladesh," he said.

"Spanning more than 10,000 square kilometres, the Sundarbans region of Bangladesh and India is the biggest mangrove forest on earth, and also the most critical area for Bengal tiger survival," said lead author Dr Sharif Mukul, an assistant professor at Independent University, Bangladesh.

"What is most terrifying is that our analyses suggest tiger habitats in the Sundarbans will vanish entirely by 2070," said Dr Mukul.

The researchers used computer simulations to assess the future suitability of the low-lying Sundarbans region for tigers and their prey species, using mainstream estimates of climatic trends from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Their analyses included factors such as extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

"Beyond climate change, the Sundarbans are under growing pressure from industrial developments, new roads, and greater poaching," said Professor Laurance. "So, tigers are getting a double whammy -- greater human encroachment on the one

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Man arrested over rape of indigenous girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The alleged rapist of a 16-year-old indigenous girl was arrested from Kaptan Bazar area of Dhaka yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion-3 and detective branch of police in a joint drive arrested Md Yousuf, said Lt Col Emranul Hasan, commanding officer of Rab-3, at a press briefing.

The victim was employed as domestic help at the home of Yousuf's second wife in Kalachandpur in late January, Emranul said.

On Wednesday, when Yousuf's wife went out for work, he allegedly raped the girl around 6:30am. The victim lost consciousness due to excessive bleeding.

Yousuf informed his wife over

phone that the girl fell sick, and fled the house. His wife informed the victim's cousin who rescued the girl around 9am and took her to a nearby hospital. As her condition worsened, she was admitted to the One-Stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

After regaining consciousness, she told her family that she was raped twice by Yousuf.

A case was filed with Gulshan Police Station.

Meanwhile Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in a press statement yesterday expressed grave concerns condemning the rape of the indigenous girl and demanded exemplary punishment of the culprit.

40 Coast Guard personnel awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty personnel were awarded with the prestigious "Bangladesh Coast Guard Award" and "President Coast Guard Award" yesterday for their outstanding contributions.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan adorned all awardees, including Chief of Bangladesh Navy Vice Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury, also immediate-past director general of Coast Guard.

Speaking at a programme at Bangladesh Coast Guard headquarters in Agargaon, the home minister said despite various constraints, the members of coast guard are playing a commendable role.

Public Security Division Secretary of Home Ministry Mostafa Kamal Uddin and Director General of Bangladesh Coast Guard Rear Admiral M Ashraf Haq also spoke at the programme.

46 deportees return from Indonesia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 46 Bangladeshis, who were rescued by Indonesian police from a house in crammed situation in Medan of Sumatra Island in the first week of February, returned home early yesterday.

"Forty-six of us flew to Malaysia from Indonesia. From there, nine flew in one flight and others were put on another," said 19-year-old Moniruzzaman, one of the deportees.

The flights carrying them reached Dhaka airport in the early hours yesterday, said Tanvir Hossain, assistant director of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training posted at Expatriates' Welfare Desk at the airport.

"They went to Indonesia by tourist

visas and their ultimate destination was Malaysia," he said.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia Maj Gen Azmal Kabir said 290 Bangladeshis were rescued by Indonesian police on February 6, and then detained.

Two Bangladeshi officials visited them and confirmed their identities. All of them -- except for three -- had machine-readable Bangladeshi passports, he told The Daily Star by phone yesterday.

"Those who were able to manage money from their relatives for air ticket are flying home," he said, adding, he has written to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka asking how those who are unable to manage air ticket would be repatriated.

Sgt Zahurul Haque's 50th death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 50th death anniversary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque.

Zahurul, an accused of Agartala conspiracy case, was killed by Pakistan military on February 15, 1969.

Following his killing, the movement demanding unconditional release of Bangladeshu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other arrestees in the case gained momentum, said a press release.

On the day of his killing, students of Dhaka University renamed the then Iqbal Hall to Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall.

After the independence of Bangladesh Air Force's Chattogram base was also named after him.



1st time in Bangladesh
ALL NEW
3.0T Signa™ Pioneer
Wide bore MRI

SAY GOODBYE
to noisy and claustrophobic MRI scans

Shorter Scans
Sharper Images
Superior Comfort



from GE



Rest Easy

The wide bore design means more space and less anxiety thereby helping you feel more relaxed



Breathe Free

With free-breathing imaging applications and advanced motion correction software, SIGNA™ Pioneer allows complete free-breathing body imaging



Soothing Silence

Say goodbye to the noise and claustrophobia usually associated with our Silent Scan technology



Fast

Exclusive technology allows for faster, more efficient exams and less wait time for you



Plot 15 Road 71 Gulshan Dhaka 1212
www.uhlbd.com | facebook.com/uhlbd

Appointment

9852466 | 10666