



After Sidr









This mosaic of photos taken at places in Kotka and Kochikhali a few days after cyclone Sidr hit the Sundarbans shows a trail of devastation the storm left behind.

Sidr-hit Sundarbans grows back strongly

Govt's ignoring Forest Dept's bid to cut 'affected' trees pays back

SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN and SHARIER KHAN

The greens are back and with it the beings, to the forest.

Exactly a year ago, the terrible Sidr lashed the Sundarbans, leaving it battered and copper red. It looked more like a scene of disaster of the 250-km an hour wind.

A year later, that scene is a fading memory, as our photographer Syed Zakir Hossain discovered. Green leaves have sprouted around, the birds are twittering, the deer and hogs and squirrels are quick footing around.

great deal of tribute goes to the government's correct decision to let the forest grow on its back without any interference. It ignored the forest department's mindless and criminally inclined suggestion to cut off 25 percent of trees of the

Sundarbans that it thought was a must to save the jungle.

Experts said otherwise--leave the forest alone and let it grow back on its own. That is exactly what has happened a year later.

In addition, the forest was relatively undisturbed during this period. Deer, wild boar, monkey, than a pristine forest. Hardly a tree and birds have thrived in this world was left that did not bear the brunt heritage forest. A good number of pugmarks in different places of the forest indicate that the famous Bengal tiger population is also thriving.

The forest still bears the marks of Sidr that destroyed 25 percent of it. But the fast pace of regeneration has already brought back the old This comeback is amazing and a glory of the Sundarbans. It has also dismissed the opinion of forest department experts who had professed that it would take years to recover the loss.

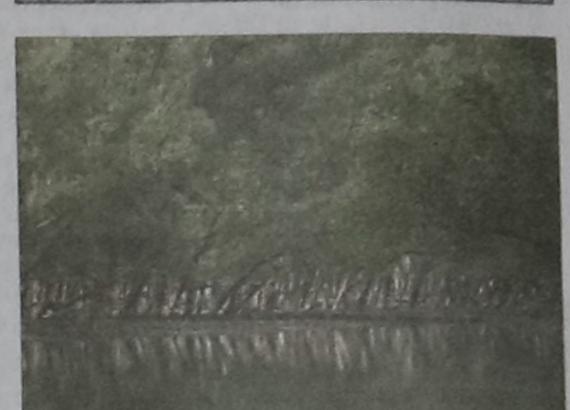
A four-day visit to the forest last week revealed that the so-called SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Now







This set of recently taken photos of Kotka and Kochikhali of the world heritage forest shows the forest has greatly regenerated in just over 11 months.

SC gives go-ahead to case against Falu

Tuku freed on bail; Mir Nasir gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division yesterday stayed the High Court (HC) order that halted the proceedings against former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu in a corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Meantime, former state minister for power Iqbal Hassan after the former BNP lawmaker filed Mahmood Tuku was released vesterday on bail from the Dhaka Central Jail.

(HC) granted three months' ad ingpublic money. interim bail to former state minisruption case.

Following the order of the full

court, said ACC's lawyer advocate MA Aziz Khan. He said the HC had earlier stayed the case proceedings against Falu

bench of the Appellate Division

headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul

Amin, the proceedings against Falu

awrit petition with it. The ACC filed the case with the Motijheel Police Station against Meanwhile, the High Court Falu on charges of misappropriat-

TUKU'S RELEASE

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ACC approves cases against 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has approved filing of three cases against eight persons including former forest and environment minister Tariqul Islam and planning ministry Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury on different

in the case will continue in the trial The commission also approved five charge sheets against 15 persons including former LGRD state minister Ziaul Huq Zia, his son Mashfiqul Huq Joy and former Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu in different

In the case to be filed against Tariqul and Zafar, they will be accused along with former chief ter for civil aviation Mir Deputy Inspector General (Pris- conservator of forest M Anwarul Mohammad Nasiruddin in a cor- ons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique | Islam of causing a loss of Tk 3.21

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

যতোই আওয়াজ তুলি, হবৈ না কিছুই। যদি না নিজে পাল্টাই। আমাদের অনেক ছোট ছোট অভ্যাস পাল্টালেই বদলে যেতে পারে সুমাজটা। তাই বদলানোর কথা বলি প্রতিদিন

declare Golam Azam, Nizami, Mojahid war criminals

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three lawyers from Dhaka Judge's Court yesterday filed a civil suit, asking the court to declare Jamaate-Islami's Golam Azam, Nizami, Mojahid, parliamentary affairs adviser to former premier Khaleda SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-00	5-35
Jume	12-15	1-15
Asr	3-45	400
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Prayer Timing

Civil suit filed to | Litmus test for Indian govt in state polls

AFP, New Delhi

India kicks off a round of crucial state polls today, seen as a mini- Indian rule. referendum on the ruling Congress Party ahead of a general election expected in early 2009.

end of the year against a backdrop of rising food prices and growing concerns over the impact of the global financial crisis on India's Maoist rebel-hit Chattisgarh

will hold its two-part assembly polls starting Friday, followed by central Madhya Pradesh, the capital Delhi, tiny Mizoram in the northeast and the western desert inflation. state of Rajasthan.

of Jammu and Kashmir will vote in a seven-part election starting on

Monday that is likely to see low turnout due to a boycott called by separatist leaders opposed to

With the exception of Kashmir and remote Mizoram, the ballots are being watched as a litmus test Six states will vote before the of the popularity of the Congressled government, which has to call a general election by May 2009 at the

The opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governs in three of the states voting, but analysts say antiincumbency sentiment may be offset by anger with the federal government over double-digit

"The Congress has a great disad-The insurgency-affected region vantage," said political analyst Sanjay Kumar, a fellow at the New SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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