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**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 than a pristine forest. Hardly a tree was left that did not bear the brunt 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.

This comeback is amazing and a 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

**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**

Following the order of the full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, the proceedings against Falu in the case will continue in the trial court, said ACC's lawyer advocate MA Aziz Khan.

He said the HC had earlier stayed the case proceedings against Falu after the former BNP lawmaker filed a writ petition with it.

The ACC filed the case with the Motijheel Police Station against Falu on charges of misappropriating public money.

**TUKU'S RELEASE**  
 Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique

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**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 charges.

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 cases.

In the case to be filed against Tariqul and Zafar, they will be accused along with former chief conservator of forest M Anwarul Islam of causing a loss of Tk 3.21

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**Civil suit filed to 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 Jamaat-e-Islami's Golam Azam, Nizami, Mojahid, parliamentary affairs adviser to former premier Khaleda

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**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-referendum on the ruling Congress Party ahead of a general election expected in early 2009.

Six states will vote before the 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 economy.

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 state of Rajasthan.

The insurgency-affected region 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 Indian rule.

With the exception of Kashmir and remote Mizoram, the ballots are being watched as a litmus test of the popularity of the Congress-led government, which has to call a general election by May 2009 at the latest.

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

"The Congress has a great disadvantage," said political analyst Sanjay Kumar, a fellow at the New

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**নিজেকে বদলাতে হবে আগে...**

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

১০ বছর বদলে যাও বদলে দাও

**প্রথম আলো**

**Prayer Timing**

November 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:00	5:35
Jume	12:15	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:22	5:25
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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