

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the 24 hours till 6:00pm

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary

partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, the Met Office said.

unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am.

2nd Edition

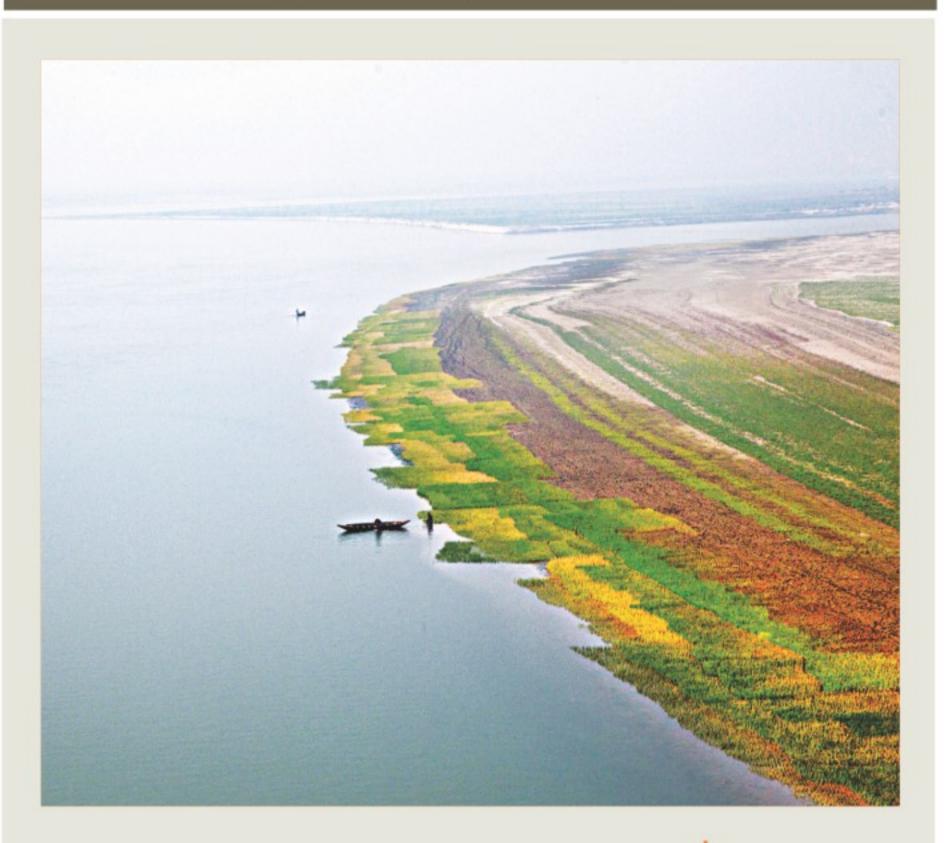
The country's highest temperature, 35.1 degree Celsius, was recorded yesterday at Sandwhip and Day and night temperature may remain nearly lowest 22.7 degrees at Dinajpur.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percenta	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Eveni
Dhaka	34.0	25.3	68	67	Khulna	35.0	26.0	79	80
Chittagong	31.8	25.5	79	79	Barisal	33.5	25.5	80	89
Rajshahi	33.2	23.8	89	79	Sylhet	34.6	24.7	69	68
Rangpur	33.4	24.0	75	76	Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.3	76	76

### TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



From Dhaka-Khulna train.

PHOTO: **IHTISHAM KABIR** 

# Our Landscape

andscape" - in our mind's eye the word recreates the world outdoors, the variety and greatness of nature, and our place within it. Forests and fields, rivers and lakes, mountains and deserts, and the lay of the land as it unfolds in front of our eyes - and, of course, the ceaseless work of painters and photographers to capture them inside a frame.

When you think about the geology of Bengal - an essentially flat delta washed by three large and countless small rivers - you might be tempted to dismiss its potential for impressive landscapes. But to patient observers, this land offers sweet rewards.

Take the ubiquitous fields of rice. We are treated to velvet green so soft they caress the eyes - not once but three times a year. The seedlings gradually turn yellow, then shiny golden. These come with seasonal perks, from the dew-laden leaves of winter mornings to the rain-drenched fields of monsoon showers. After harvest, the fields, holding only the stubs of the rice plants, wear a stark beauty.

Dotting the rice fields are the occasional vegetable patches; and farther away, the clumps of trees that cover villages and the river that snakes its way through the land.

Your transportation helps shape your experience of the landscape. A river-centric view from a boat is very different than the view from a car. On rivers, you travel through the belly of the villages, the small plots where villagers grow their own food, the schoolhouse and its children, a ghat for the boats and washing the rocks for

Administration Building(Ground Floor)

Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani,

Phone: 8811749, 9894229, 9897387

**Faculty of Engineering** 

House 83/B,

Dhaka 1213.

(Extension: 100, 200)

laundry. The trains, running on tracks elevated several feet to avoid flooding, give you a bird's eye view of the land. Tiny villages come and go, with even tinier people going about their daily business. Bicycling is also an excellent means of discovering our landscape up-close.

Down south in Sundarban, where boat is the only way to travel, the landscape is dramatic and intense, with dense vegetation on a land sculpted by tides. It is also fraught with danger - sharp mangrove roots emerge from the ground, and the sleek, grey soil camouflages mud that can instantly swallow you waist-deep.

Up in the hills, tea gardens offer a contrast from the fields. Tea plants grow on rolling hills which curve in and out, convex and concave, like great dunes of green, punctuated overhead by shade trees of different shapes and sizes, while under your feet, tiny paths cut through the bush to provide access to the tea pickers.

Our flat land holds other pockets of surprise. For example, in Durgapur, Netrakona are beige hills cradling lakes bluer than the bluest turquoise. On outskirts of Sylhet is Ratargul, an unexpected, alien-looking fresh water swamp forest. A friend who visited Nilgiri in the Hill Tracts tells me clouds are frequent visitors to your rooms.

I wish we had preserved more forests. However, the old-growth trees in the dozen national parks such as Lawachara give you an idea of this land as it once was - a landscape still worth celebrating, cherishing and preserving.

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### Opposition's Oct 25 threat rubbish: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Describing the opposition's threat over the October 25 rallies as "rubbish", Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the Eid day said there was nothing to be worried about it. "There's no scope to escalate

tension over October 25 and the opposition's threat to create something unusual is just nonsense," she said while talking to reporters after exchanging Eid greetings with people at her official residence Gono Bhaban. Both the opposition and ruling

alliances called for their respective rallies in an apparent bid to stage showdowns in the capital on October 25 at the last phase of the current government's tenure.

Hasina said what would happen

after October 25 is clearly written in the constitution. "Anyone can get a clear idea about it if s/he goes through the articles 123, 72 and 57 of the charter." Responding to a volley of ques-

tions from journalists, she said the parliament session could continue until the election schedule was announced by the Election Commission. Hasina also said there would be

no anarchy in the country unless the opposition leader created it.

In this connection, the premier referred to the recent remarks of an opposition stalwart asking its leaders and workers to come out with machetes and axes on October 25, she said such threats in broad day

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## BNP rally to be surely held: Khaleda

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on October 16 laid stress on holding a rally on the Eid day in which she may announce the next course of action to realise the demand for reinstating the caretaker government system. "Nobody has any right to stop us

from holding the rally. The government must let us hold it and it will be surely held," she said, adding that everyone has the right to organise rallies. Dhaka city BNP on October 10

sought permission from the authorities for holding the rally, proposing three venues -- Suhrawardy Udyan, Paltan grounds or in front of the BNP office. The leader of the opposition was

addressing journalists while

exchanging Eid greetings with envoys of different countries, eminent citizens and people from all walks of life at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. "This is not acceptable that they

(the government) will be able to hold rallies but we will not," she said, adding that this country does not belong only to the government or any individual. Khaleda called upon the Awami

League-led government to create an environment through dialogues in order to hold a free, fair and participatory election.

"We do not want any unrest and violence in the country. We want holding of a free and fair election under a non-party neutral

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### Two killed in capital Jubo League during Eid holidays STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were murdered in the capital during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

Sujan alias Kalu, 22, a trader of filtered water in the city's Kodomtoli area, was allegedly killed in a mob beating in his neighbourhood in Muradpur.

His father Idris Mia told The Daily Star that Kalu went out for tea after the two returned from a cattle market on Monday evening. When Idris went to look for him, he

found Kalu badly beaten and tied to a pole near the house of a local. "Locals told me that he was beaten because he tried to steal mobiles from the nearby houses," he said.

Kalu died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Kalu's father claimed that Kalu was beaten by cronies of local BNP activist Sayem out of grudges against Idris, who was a former Jubo League president.

However, Officer-in-Charge of Kodomtoli Police Station Mohammad Mazharul Islam said Kalu was subjected to mob beating because he tried to steal a mobile phone from a house.

A man named Azim, 30, was arrested on Thursday and a case was filed against six to seven unnamed persons in connection with the beating, said Sub-Inspector Abdul Malek. Meanwhile, police recovered seven dismembered body

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#### leader murdered on Eid day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jubo League leader was hacked to death allegedly by intra-party rivals in Enayetpur thana of Sirajganj district on the Eid day. Motaleb Hossain Tikka, 32, president of

Sadiachandpur union unit of the Awami League front body, was attacked by around 10 men in front of Betil Cinema Hall around 9:00pm.

Locals rushed him to the nearby Khaza Eunus Ali Medical College Hospital within half an hour but doctors declared him dead Officer-in-Charge of

Enayetpur Police Station Md Waheduzzaman said people loyal to the union unit Jubo League Secretary Md Russel killed him.

"Tikka and Russel had a long-running feud over

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### RAWHIDE TRADE IN BARISAL Small traders accuse big businesses of paying less than fixed prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Small rawhide traders have alleged that big businesses in Barisal region formed a syndicate and purchased animal skins from the traders at prices which were lower than the fixed rates this Eid. They said Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods

and Footwear Exporters' Association, Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) and Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association (BDHSMA) jointly fixed the purchasing rate of one square feet of salted cowhide at Tk 85-95 in Dhaka and Tk 75-80 elsewhere, goatskin at Tk 50-55 and buffalo skin at Tk 40-45.

But members of Barisal Hide and Skin Merchants Association (BHSMA) purchased the skins by paying for per

piece instead of per square feet of the skin, they said. Abu Hanifa and Sohrab Hossain, two small traders, said all members of BHSMA offered almost the same prices for

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#### Indigenous **Buddhists** celebrate Probarana today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The indigenous people of Buddhist faith in Bandarban will start to celebrate the three-day Probarana Purnima, the second largest festival in

Locally called Wagai Poye, it is one of the greatest religious festivals in Chittagong Hill Tracts, which is populated by a wide range of ethnic communities.

Plain land Buddhists, however, observed the

the religion, today.

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#### Two 'commit suicide'

CITY DESK

A student allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from her bedroom ceiling fan on Wednesday night in a staff quarter of Patuakhali General Hospital.

The victim was identified as Sanjida Islam Sichita, 16, an SSC examinee of Patuakhali Government Girls' High School. She was the first girl in her class and had also received a scholarship in 2011 from the school.

Her father, Rafigul Islam, is working as a chemist at the hospital, according to our Patuakhali correspondent.

Family sources said the girl was alone at home on Wednesday night. When her parents returned home that night they found the door to her bedroom locked. Rafiqul broke down the door and found Sichita's body hanging from the ceiling fan, they added.

An unnatural death case was filed.

Meanwhile, a man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in Uttarkol village of

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For details see inner page



