

RAIN LIKELY

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at few places over Chittagong and Sylhet and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal, Khulna and Rangpur with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong and Sylhet till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Dhaka, Rangpur, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Chandpur and Barisal and it may continue. Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.**

Country's highest temperature 41.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 21.5 degrees in Sylhet and Rangmati. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns today were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	37.7	28.5	72	51	Khulna	38.2	28.7	70	54
Chittagong	32.2	27.0	88	81	Barisal	36.4	28.7	74	72
Rajshahi	41.2	27.4	63	81	Sylhet	31.2	21.5	85	81
Rangpur	37.7	24.6	82	60	Cox's Bazar	34.7	29.3	75	81



Unib, Dhaka

TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR



How background affects the photo.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Six Ways to a Better Photograph

Everyone seems to have a digital camera these days. Because of the large market, manufacturers spend good money on research and development of new cameras. Part of this research is the work of legions of software engineers aimed at improving camera usage. But I often wonder how much of that research actually benefits the user of the camera. Many people feel technologically daunted by their cameras. Mobile phone cameras continue to be clunky to use and often behave unpredictably. It is no surprise, then, that people are often disappointed with photos they take. If you are constantly tinkering with the camera, trying to make it take the picture when you want to, you will never find time to pay attention to composing the photograph.

we care about. So why is the background so important? That's because the wrong background distracts the viewer. In the first photograph above, the leaves behind the lizard's tail distract you from looking and appreciating the curve of the tail. Moving my viewpoint slightly in the second photograph, I was able to place the leaf away from the tail, improving the photograph.

Here are six ways to improve your photographs.

- 1. Find your mode**
Find a camera mode that works for you and stick to it. For example, if you have a "P" mode in your digital camera, use it for all occasions. For cell phone cameras, stick with a basic mode that focuses quickly and turns on the flash when needed. Once you have found a camera setting that always works predictably for you, you are free to concentrate on what you are actually photographing. Now you can compose your photograph.
- 2. Light**
Photography is light. So pay attention to the light falling on your subject. If it is too dark or too harsh you can move the subject or wait for better light.
- 3. Background**
The subject of the photograph is usually on the foreground. That's what

4. Edges
Look at the edges of your photograph carefully when taking the picture. For example, if the feet or hands of your subject fall outside the photograph, it creates a sensation of cutting them off. This bothers the viewer subconsciously. Also watch for bright objects at the edges and exclude them from the photograph. Otherwise, they will drag the attention of the viewer away from the subject.

5. Framing
Try to "frame" the subject when photographing it, that is, find a way to enclose the subject with lines or a circle. Framing helps direct the viewer's attention to the subject. For example, a child looking out a window makes an attractive photograph because the face is framed by the window.

6. Horizon
A common mistake is to tilt the camera from the horizontal. Because mobile phones are small and light, it is especially easy to tilt them inadvertently. But a small amount of tilt can spoil your photograph. Hold the phone or camera with both hands and check the horizon when taking the photograph.

With some practice you will find these steps become habitual. Then you will be able to compose your photograph quickly and instinctively.

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Destruction of nature is no development

Says USA-based expert Adnan about urbanisation in Bangladesh

TAWFIQUE ALI

In the name of urbanisation, official custodians are perpetrating the destruction of natural resources like rivers and other water bodies, conservable wetlands, floodplains and farmlands in Bangladesh, according to an urbanisation expert and architect based in America.

Irreversible damage has been done to such natural resources in and outside the capital city through an unholy alliance of political authorities and business mafias abusing power, Dr Adnan Morshed said in an interview with The Daily Star during a recent Dhaka visit.

He observed that it was happening through the "mutual desire of political

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Destruction of rivers, wetlands, farmlands

HOW IT'S HAPPENING

Through unholy nexus of political, business forces

WHAT'S NEXT

Urban flooding, loss of livelihoods, displacement, environmental degradation

and business forces".

Dr Adnan, an associate professor, who teaches architecture and planning at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC, is the author of "A Decade of Insights into Bangladeshi

Affairs". He is currently working on a book on the urban past and future of Dhaka.

Destroying conservable flood flow zones and farmlands in the name of urbanisation is suicidal for economic development, he said. If urbanisation is going on like this in Bangladesh, it will be disastrous for the people and environment in the long run, he added.

"It's an environmental genocide," said Adnan. "Let us not make destruction of wetlands and land grabbing an ideal of making business. Healthy urbanisation and business would ensure a healthy economy."

Pointing out a few of the adverse impacts, the expert said such devastation would inevitably result in urban



ZIA KILLING
Ershad slams Khaleda for accusing him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday criticised BNP chief Khaleda Zia for accusing him of killing former president Ziaur Rahman, saying she made the comments out of frustration.

"I've become surprised after hearing her comments over Zia's killing," he said, adding that she made such comments all of a sudden because her party had observed that their "future is dark".

The BNP has no political programmes, it is not in parliament, not in movement, and it has no strength to stage agitation, the former military ruler said in an

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Green activists hold a citizens' rally jointly organised by 50 environmental and social organisations in the capital's Dhanmondi Playground yesterday, demanding that all old structures inside the playground be demolished and the construction of new ones be stopped immediately. Inset, ongoing construction of new walls. PHOTO: STAR

DHANMONDI PLAYGROUND
Demolish structures, stop construction

Demand greens, ex-national players

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists and former national players yesterday demanded that all old structures of Dhanmondi Playground be demolished and the construction of new ones be stopped immediately.

They also demanded the withdrawal of false case against the activists, who had been demonstrating to protect the field. They made the demands at a citizens' rally jointly organised by 50 environmental and social organisations in the playground, said a press release.

Architect Mobassher Hossain, convener of Dhanmondi Math Rokkha Andolon, said the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) had said those who were now occupying the field were illegal occupiers.

Therefore, it is evident that Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club is an illegal occupier, he said.

Architect Iqbal Habib said the playground was prepared for the interest of planned urbanisation and it was open for the general people in the past.

He said many famous players had grown up playing in

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Tortured maid tells of two and half years' ordeal

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A housemaid of Mymensingh has landed in a hospital with critical injuries following brutal torture by her employers.

She was not only tortured without giving any treatment, but also barred from meeting her son and parents in the last two and a half years.

The horrific tale of her life came to light after some locals rescued her in the early hours of Wednesday from Phulbaria Old Bus Stand area, where she was left by her employers by a private car.

Bedena Akhtar, 26, daughter of Mozibur Rahman of Dewkhola village in Phulbaria



Bedena at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

upazila of the district, is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, with bruises all around her face.

She used to live at Balashpur Abasan Palli in the town with her cousin Nabi Hossain's family before Monira Begum and her daughter Joyati in the area persuaded her to take up the job of a housemaid at the house of Jesse and Sohagh in the town with a monthly salary of Tk 2,000.

But soon after her joining, the couple kept on torturing her over trivial issues, she alleged, adding that the scale of brutality escalated when she had demanded her

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DILAPIDATED GOVT STAFF QUARTERS IN KHULNA CITY
1,000 families living with risk of collapse

AHSANUL AMEEN GEORGE, Khulna

Around 1,000 families are living in 43 dilapidated buildings of three government staff quarters in Khulna city, putting themselves at risk of accident any moment.

Of the buildings, 28 are six-storey and the others are four-storey ones.

Cracks developed in different places, including ceilings and beams, in the 44-year-old buildings consisting of 912 flats. Each of the 500 sq ft flats has two rooms.

The three quarters -- C&B Colony in Joragate, and Low Cost Colony and CGS Colony in Boyra -- accommodate government employees of different classes from different departments, and the people, mostly with low incomes, often sublet these flats to make ends meet.

The buildings have been in such a situation for around three years, but the authorities concerned are yet to repair, demolish or reconstruct those.

Sub-division-1, 2 and 3 under Public Works Department (Khulna Zone) are responsible for supervising the overall activities of the buildings.

Acknowledging the fact, Amit Kumar Biswas, sub-divisional engineer of the sub-division-2, said a team, led by Maruful Haque, sub-divisional engineer of the Design Division at PWD Dhaka headquarters, visited the buildings four months ago.

When contacted on Thursday, Amit told The Daily Star that Maruful would submit a report to the Khulna office within a day or two.



Part of a risky building.

KEY FACTS

- Rundown buildings **43**
- All **44** years old
- No major repair work till date
- No step, but official visit

"What steps would follow depends on the report," he added.

Abul Khair, upper division assistant of the Joint Directorate of Labour, Khulna, said the building they were living in at C&B Colony was absolutely uninhabitable. "We are always scared of ceiling collapse."

Zinat Ara, a staff at Deputy Commissioner's Office, living at CGS Colony; and Sohrab Hossain, office assistant of Land Registry Office, residing at Low Cost Colony, echoed Abul Khair.

Due to a lack of repair, the buildings' condition has been worsening for a long time, said the residents.

Some residents of building no 7 and 8 at C&B Colony have already moved out after PWD declared those the most vulnerable

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4kg of gold seized, 6 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of customs intelligence and Armed Police Battalion (APBn) in separate drives early yesterday detained six people at Shahjalal International Airport with about four kilograms of gold.

Customs officials detained two people -- Sheikh Bahalul and Imran Hossain -- while they were crossing the green channel at the airport with about two kilograms of gold hidden in their shoes, said customs sources.

The duo landed from Kuala Lumpur in separate flights, they added. The gold was worth Tk 1.3 crore.

In another drive, APBn

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