

RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also

likely at places over the country, Met Office said.
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.

Country's highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 24.7 degrees in Rangamati.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.7	27.0	86	57	Khulna	35.3	28.2	74	62
Chittagong	33.2	25.7	77	84	Barisal	33.5	27.0	77	73
Rajshahi	36.8	27.8	88	81	Sylhet	35.6	26.2	91	77
Rangpur	31.6	28.3	84	92	Cox's Bazar	33.5	26.7	69	74

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Eliot Porter's Photographs

I have admired Eliot Porter's photographs for many years. But it was only recently that I discovered the depth and breadth of his work. His subject is nature in all its splendid variations. He was also a pioneering bird photographer. His photographs are special because they draw the viewer close to the subject. It is as if one gets to have one's own intimate conversation with nature.

Porter (1901-1990) was born in Illinois, USA, to an affluent family. He attended Harvard University, receiving his medical degree in 1929. His planned career as a medical researcher changed when he acquired a Leica camera and began photographing in his spare time.

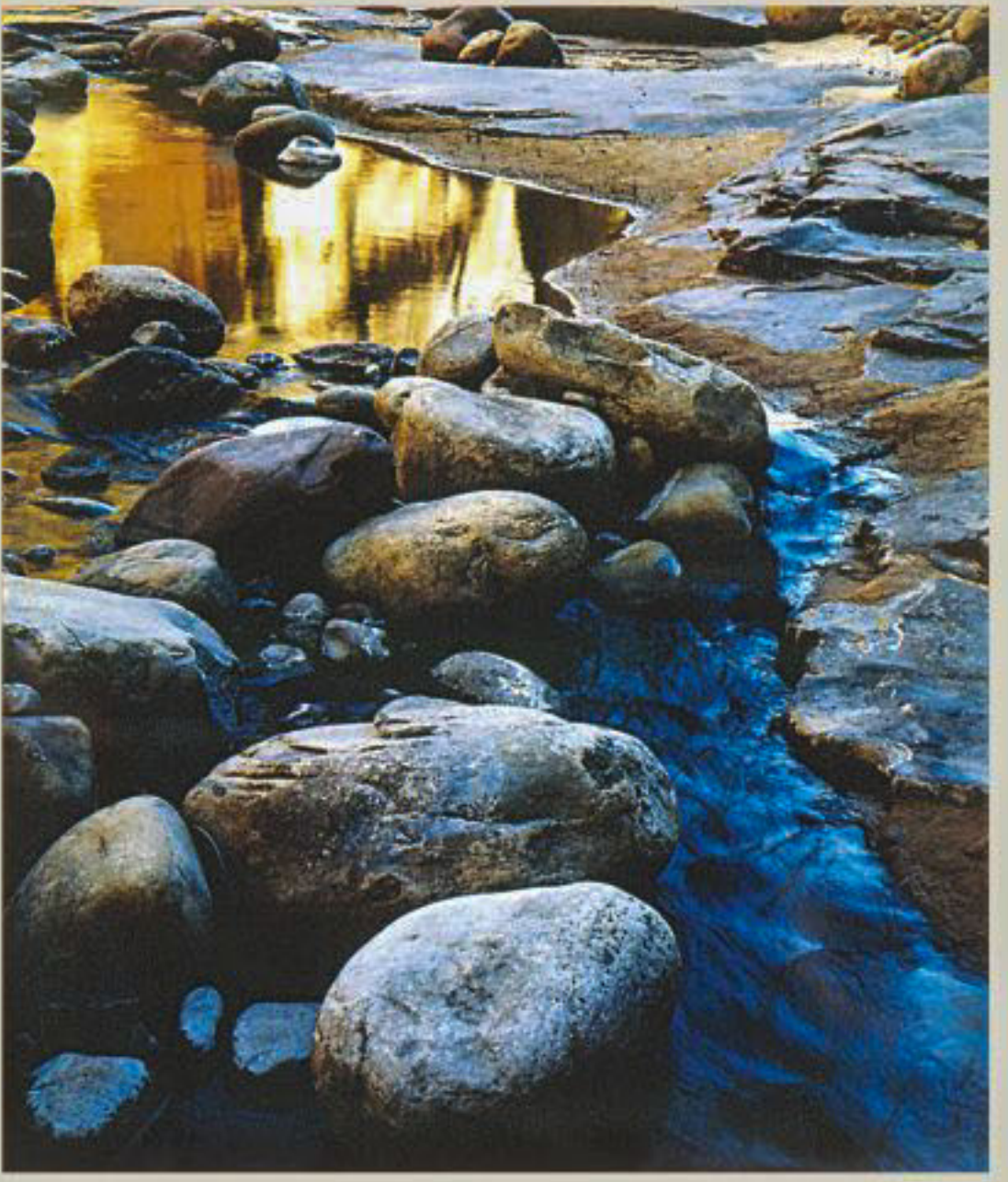
Meetings with influential photographers helped him decide on his life's direction. In 1935, he met the seminal photographer Alfred Stieglitz who encouraged him to continue working. The following year he met Ansel Adams and saw some of the majestic photographs of Adams. These photographs convinced him to pursue photography with more commitment and zeal.

While the influence cannot be ignored, there are marked differences between the work of Adams and Porter. Adams' photographs, in black-and-white, are formal and majestic, designed to show the glory of nature in all its splendour; you, the viewer, are a spectator. Porter's work is, I think, more personal – the kinds of things you encounter if you are out walking in the wilderness: a collection of leaves underfoot, water in a stream, or an unusually beautiful tree standing out among others in a grove.

I was amazed by Porter's bird photographs. Photographed close to nest, they are usually doing what birds do best: flying or eating a worm. But there is also feeling of being close to them.

The technique he used - during the 1950s - for bird photography was astounding. Since he photographed with a large view camera on tripod, he had to construct platforms high up where he could place his camera as he photographed birds in nest. He also had to use bright lights and so carried batteries up to the platform. In short, with cumbersome and heavy equipment, he was able to create some beautiful images.

Porter's work was also instrumental in conservation in America. His book of photographs called *In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World* was published by the Sierra Club to great acclaim. It helped galvanize public opinion about preservation of wilderness. His



Aztec Creek, Utah. PHOTO: ELIOT PORTER

next book was intended to stop the building of a dam. *The Place No One Knew: Glen Canyon on the Colorado* was published by Sierra Club which sent a copy to every member of Congress. While the book could not stop the dam, it inspired Congress to pass the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Another area where Porter innovated was in colour photography. He used a method invented by Kodak called "dye-transfer printing" to print his colour photographs. This method yielded high quality colour photographs. The rich and expressive colours of his prints convinced many about the artistic potential of colour photography at a time when black-and-white ruled the day.

In today's glut of easy digital images, it is hard to imagine the world in which Porter worked. A long day's work perhaps yielded ten photographs – such was the effort and discipline needed. It was this hard work that led him to the creation of astonishing images, any of which cannot be created with perhaps millions of digital images.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Homestead farming gains popularity in Rajshahi

Gardening around homesteads in both summer and winter seasons in Rajshahi region including its vast Barind tract has been gaining popularity.

Marginal farmers and the poor people in the region are mostly engaged in this venture of producing different fruits and vegetables by making the best use of spaces around their homes over the last couple of years.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) have been providing necessary cooperation alongside need-based training and required inputs to the farmers to grow fruits and vegetables for their own consumption and extra earning by selling those.

They said the On-Farm Research Division (OFRD) of BARI had been implementing various types of need-based programmes through which the farmers could produce traditional fruits and vegetables round the year.

OFRD Senior Scientific Officer Dr Abdus Salam told BSS that the interested farmers were being given preference to use BARI's Tested Pattern Technology in their gardening projects around homesteads.

As part of the programmes, OFRD established a live crop museum at Kodomshohar under Godagari upazila where high yielding varieties of 35 Rabi crops developed by BARI are put on display

Native fish species disappearing fast

The indigenous fish species, particularly the small ones, are facing extinction on the basin of the Old Brahmaputra River for a host of reasons, especially habitat loss, according to experts.

They laid emphasis on the conservation of rivers and wetlands like khal, beel, haor and baor to protect the species.

Other reasons identified by the experts include unchecked use of agro chemicals, scarcity of water, over-fishing, and the impacts of climate change.

"Agro chemicals are destroying the breeding grounds of the fishes endangering their existence," said Dr Mahmud Hasan, a professor of Dhaka University's fisheries department.

Framers indiscriminately use agro chemicals and pesticides to boost their crop production and prevent pest attacks, but after rains, the agricultural runoff containing pesticides and other chemicals come down to the water bodies, destroying the natural habitats of fish, he said.

The freshwater fishes in Bangladesh are comprised of 265 species and about 140 of them are the small indigenous ones, according to the Wildfish Centre in Dhaka.

Some of the threatened species include mola, dhela, koi, napit koi, kajoli, baspata, chital, chanda, sarputi, jat puti, tit puti, meni, bele, bain, taki, foli, boal, rani, chela, darkina, pathorchata, khailsha, lal khailsha, tarabiam, bata, gutum

EXPERTS' OPINION

MAJOR SPECIES
Mola, dhela, taki, koi, kajoli, baspata, chital, sarputi, boal, chela, khailsha, tengra

REASONS

- Habitat loss
- Water scarcity
- Overfishing
- Agro chemicals
- Climate change

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Locals and relatives of those who died in the Mirsarai tragedy place wreaths at the monument "Abeg" (emotion) on the premises of Abu Torab Bahumukhi High School yesterday observing the third anniversary of the tragedy that left 44 schoolchildren and a guardian dead. On July 11, 2011, a truck carrying more than 60 students plunged into a roadside ditch in Mirsarai of Chittagong. The kids were returning home by the truck after watching a football match.



LIFE IN BOAT

A boat housing a gypsy family on the Patarhat River in Mehendiganj upazila, Barisal recently. Inset, a woman cooking lunch on the boat. The nomadic manta community lives, travels, and earns their living on rivers, their children deprived of the access to basic rights including education. Though these landless people say they want to hold on to their traditional nomadic past, the grim reality is they actually have nowhere else to go but to live a life of destitution, cut off from the mainstream of society. Unfortunately, the government's social safety nets barely reach them. At least 15 boats were anchored there when the photo was taken.



PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

EXPLORATION IN BAY OF BENGAL

Govt plans to float int'l bid

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has planned to float an international bid shortly as part of a desperate campaign to tap hydrocarbon and aquatic resources in the sea after the energy-starved country won its second crucial claim over the maritime boundary earlier this week.

"Our greatest challenge is to ensure immediate availability of gas . . . we want to get it in soonest possible time," State Minister for Energy Nasrul Hamid Bipu told BSS yesterday.

Under the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) verdict on July 8, Bangladesh got all the 10 offshore blocks, which were simultaneously being claimed also by India, halting the exploration process in the disputed area.

The state-run Petrobangla convenes a high-level meeting next week to review the expanded scope created under PCA verdict against the backdrop of dwindling reserves and growing demands for gas, said Bipu.

The PCA verdict earned Bangladesh 19,467 square kilometres out of disputed 25,602-square-kilometre areas of overlapping claims with neighbouring India in the Bay of Bengal.

It came two years after the country won a nearly identical maritime dispute with Myanmar at the German-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), which awarded Bangladesh an area of 70,000 square kilometers against a demand for 80,000 square kilometers.

RU admission tests now under 3 units

RU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for first year honours students under the 2014-15 academic session at Rajshahi University this year will be held under three units instead of the usual eight, said a press release of the university.

The tests will be held under science (A), arts (B), and business studies (C) units.

The decision came at a meeting chaired by RU Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin yesterday.

Previously, the tests were held under arts, law, science, business studies, social sciences, life and earth sciences, agriculture and engineering units.

Prof Mizanuddin said they reduced the number of tests to relieve sufferings of teachers, students and staff members.

Meanwhile, teachers expressed their happiness at the fewer number of admission tests.

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Man kills 2 wives in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man allegedly hacked his two wives to death over a family feud in Ruposhi-Gachhuapara village in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur Thursday night.

The victims were Momena Begum, 40 and Makhhuda Begum, 35. Both were wives of Ilias Ali, 55.

Quoting locals, police said on Thursday night Ilias had an argument with his wives. Following the argument, Ilias entered Makhhuda's room in which she was sleeping. He attacked her with an axe hacking her indiscriminately.

Ilias also attacked Momena who had rushed into the room hearing Makhhuda's screams. The women were killed on the spot.

Raoshan Ali, the eldest son of Ilias, lodged a murder case against his own father.

Md Robiul Alam, officer-in-charge of Mithapukur Police Station, said locals had detained Ilias Thursday night and informed police of the matter.

Ilias is now under police custody, said Robiul.

The two bodies were sent for autopsies.

8 die in road crashes

CITY DESK

Eight persons were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in four districts in the country yesterday and Thursday.

Our Natore correspondent reports, a man was killed when a truck carrying him fell into a roadside ditch at Mahishbhanga in Baraigram upazila in Natore yesterday.

The deceased was Hannan Shekh, 35, of Sirajganj.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds, a police officer was killed and a constable was injured when a bus rammmed the motorbike carrying them on Kushtia-Rajbari highway at Bhaktipur in Pangsh upazila of Rajbari yesterday.

The deceased was Sagar Ahmed, assistant sub-inspector of Pangsha Police Station. Constable Sabu Mia was admitted to Rajbari General Hospital.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong adds, three persons were killed

and three others injured when a three-wheeler carrying them crashed into the rear part of a trolley carrying a container near Saltgola crossing area in Chittagong city yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Kafil Uddin, 27, and Farida Akther, 25, garment workers. The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Our Noakhali correspondent adds, two persons were killed and another was injured when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them collided head-on with a bus at Begumganj Sonaimuri road near Rashidia Madrasha area on Thursday.

The dead were CNG driver Liton and Afsar Ali, 25. The injured was admitted to Noakhali Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile on Laxmipur-Chaumuhani road, another CNG driver Liton, 28, was killed and his passenger Ruhul Amin was injured when the vehicle collided head-on with a pick-up van near Banglabazar.

South Point School & College

Admission open for limited seats in session: 2014-15.

Admission forms can be collected from respective branches within 17th July during office hours (9am- 3pm)

Playgroup to Grade 10 (Cambridge) Banani Branch House # 02, Road # 02, Banani Phone: 9895153	Playgroup to Grade 4 Malibag Branch House # 89/A & B, Malibag Chowdhury Para Phone: 9362873-4
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Areas of strength of this school

- Cambridge Curriculum of UK
- Well-qualified and well-trained Teaching staff
- Excellent Result in O Level Exam. including the position of 'Top in the Country'
- Result of O Level Exam. in 2013, A* & A : 54%
- Private coaching is not necessary.
- Student-Teacher Ratio = 10:1
- Attractive play ground adjacent to the school building (Banani Branch)
- Air-conditioned classrooms.

Md. Matiur Rahman
 Principal

Mrs Hamida Ali
 Founder Principal