

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.0 L 26.3

CHITTAGONG H 33.0 L 25.2

SYLHET H 31.4 L 26.1

RAJSHAHI H 34.4 L 25.2

KHULNA H 34.0 L 24.5

BARISAL H 32.2 L 25.5

RANGPUR H 33.0 L 26.2

COX'S BAZAR H 29.0 L 25.0

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 05:16am. Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 23.6 in Feni.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

The Allure of Beautiful Places



Sundarban's beauty stays with us.

PHOTO:
IHTISHAM KABIR

I still remember the first time I saw the Grand Canyon - in 1987. After leaving Las Vegas, my wife and I had been driving north for several hours through the high desert in Colorado. The scenery was monotonous - sparse trees, rocks and red soil - and our expectations ran low. Entering through the National Park entrance, we stopped at the first viewing stop and got out of the car. That's when we saw it - the massive, colourful canyon spread out beneath us - and it took our breath away. I will never forget that first view.

While perhaps not on the same scale, there are quite a few memorably beautiful places in Bangladesh that I have had the good fortune to visit: Ratargul swamp forest and Lalakhali in Sylhet, the waterways of Sundarban, the Shomeshwari and Jadukata rivers in Netrakona and Sunamganj, and Moulvi Bazar's Baikia Beel and Lawacheria park. My first encounters with these places are etched in memory for their beauty.

Beautiful places attract all of us, so much so that we are often willing to surmount much difficulty to reach them. In fact, it seems like a rule of thumb - the more beautiful a place is, the harder it is to reach. The tourism industry employing millions worldwide is based largely on the universal allure of beautiful places.

Why do we go through the trouble - not to mention the expense and the hardship - of seeking out beautiful places?

Part of the reason seems to be an innate desire for beauty. Often, these places touch us in a way nothing

else can. They remind us of the grandeur of creation, while placing us solidly in its middle. Thus we feel uplifted from our banal day-to-day existence, even if for a short time.

This last element, together with our desire for escaping the mundane, is probably the strongest attraction for beautiful places. I have often wondered whether such a place would seem as beautiful if I lived there year round. For me the answer is "no" - the magic is strongest the first time I set my eyes on a beautiful place, but in most cases it wears off. Perhaps that is why most people do not return to the same place year after year, but search out places they

have not seen. The desire to see something new often overcomes the longing to return to the same place, no matter how beautiful.

Other factors contribute to the beauty of a place: the weather, of course, but also the company we are in. And for me there has to be an element of surprise: no matter how much we have seen the place in photographs, the real thing has to carry an extra punch. Perhaps that is why I never felt the fierce attraction for California's Yosemite Valley that many others feel. I had seen one too many pictures, and when I saw the real thing it was just not as impressive.

In the coming Eid vacation I hope you will get a chance to visit a beautiful place. May I suggest somewhere inside Bangladesh? This will support and encourage the brave entrepreneurs who are building our tourism infrastructure.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir.

CAN MAYA STAY MP, MINISTER?
HC can give right decision: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Constitution expert Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the High Court would decide whether Awami League leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya can continue holding office as the relief and disaster management minister as the Supreme Court scrapped an HC verdict clearing Maya of graft charges.

The HC can give the right decision if the question is placed before it. "No comment should be made on a sub-judice matter," the eminent jurist told journalists after a programme on legal aid.

It was organised by the South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against Maya with Sutrapur Police Station on June 13, 2007.

A special court on February 14, 2008, convicted Maya for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 6.29 crore and concealing assets worth Tk 5.90 crore.

It sentenced him to 13 years in jail, fined him Tk 5 crore, and ordered confiscation of about Tk 6 crore of his "ill-gotten" wealth.

Maya filed an appeal with the HC on May 25, 2009. The HC acquitted him on October 27, 2010. On June 14, the SC's Appellate Division cancelled the acquittal.

On June 30, an SC lawyer, Eunus Ali Akond, sent a legal notice to Maya in "public interest", asking to explain in 24 hours under what authority he was holding office as member of parliament and minister after the SC verdict.

Eunus told The Daily Star yesterday that he did not get any reply and was yet to decide whether to file a writ petition with the HC seeking necessary directives.

UN Financing

FROM PAGE 4
from the United Nations
Information Centre in
Dhaka.

On how the UN and development partners can help Bangladesh achieve middle income status by 2021, Alexander said international public finance was the most important for the least developed countries (LDCs).

"Unfortunately the recent trend shows that overall development assistance and the share of LDCs in international public finance is decreasing. So the conference is attempting to reverse the trend and to agree on allocating much greater share, up to 50 percent of the ODA (official development assistance) for LDCs," he added.

Dr Zafar Iqbal

FROM PAGE 3
removal but they withdrew their decision four days later when the VC went on a two-month leave.

As the VC joined work on June 22 following the leave, the teachers resumed their protest.

BSF rescues 30 Bangladeshi enclave residents

Prayers offered at Dahagram-Angarpota in gratitude

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

India's Border Security Force (BSF) rescued 30 Bangladeshi agricultural labourers who were about to be washed away in a sudden rush of the Teesta river water at Lalmonirhat's Dahagram-Angarpota enclave Wednesday evening.

They had gone to Quaderer Char under Dahagram, some 500 metres from Indian border, on Wednesday morning to harvest maize, but in the evening there was a sudden rush of water coming from the upstream and they did not have any boat to return to the mainland, said sources at Border Guard Bangladesh's (BGB) Dahagram camp.

When the water was rising, BSF men from the nearby Chandni camp in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal watched the situation through binocular and rushed to the char with speedboats. The char later went under water.

"If BSF didn't rescue us and give us shelter, we must have been washed away," said Hazrat Ali, 44, a rescued man living in

Dahagram.

"We will be grateful to BSF forever... If they didn't come we must have been dead; our families didn't get our bodies," added Noor Hossain, 42, of the same village.

Labourer Zahurul Islam said they went to the char by a boat, which was supposed to come back and take them back home in the evening but the boatman could not sail in the strong currents.

Mustafizur Rahman, executive engineer at Water Development Board's Dalia office, said the average depth of water was 30 metres in the morning, while in the evening the river flowed at 53 metres, the danger level being 52.4 metres.

Islam Hossain, 46, of Angarpota village, said, "We got shelter in the BSF camp, had meal, and received good behaviour from BSF men."

The BSF men returned them to their homes on Thursday morning.

The people of the enclave, which falls in Cooch Behar, prayed after Juma congregations yesterday, thanking the BSF men.

Two private firm staff found dead in office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two staff of an Internet service provider were found dead in their Mouchak Tower office of the capital yesterday.

The dead were Nasirul Islam, 19, an electrician of MH Technology, and Sohag Uddin, 17, its peon, said police.

On information, police rushed in and found the bodies on its sixth floor around 12:30pm, said Shamsuddin, sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station. Police suspect that the two were electrocuted as their bodies bore no marks of external injuries. During the incident, nobody except the duo was in the office, said the SI.

Nasir went to the office Thursday night and started working with an IPS during a blackout on that floor, the SI quoted an office staff as saying.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsies.

50 slum houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Five people were injured and around 50 houses were burnt in a fire at Fatullah slum in Narayanganj on Thursday.

The fire originated from a house near Meghna and Jamuna petrol pumps around 11:00pm, said police.

Fire fighters doused the blaze in an hour.

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OF

Plant Design, Supply and Installation of Package 4:
132/33kV Substations at Mahastangarh, Barisal (N),
Jaldhaka and Saidpur on Turnkey Basis
[Contract No.: PGCB/JICA/BD-P70/P4]

Ref: IFB No. 01/PGCB/Sec(SSD & QC)/2015/4097, Dated: May 25, 2015.

The deadline for submission of Bids for the above work is hereby extended from 12 July, 2015 at 11:00 AM Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to 02 August, 2015 at 11:00 AM BST.

All other terms and conditions for the above Bidding Document shall remain unaltered.

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary

POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
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Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban New Bhaban 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

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