



WEATHER  
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA  
H 33.2 L 24.4

CHITTAGONG  
H 34.6 L 27.7

SYLHET  
H 35.6 L 25.4

RAJSHAHI  
H 32.1 L 24.8

KHULNA  
H 35.5 L 27.8

BARISAL  
H 33.4 L 27.6

RANGPUR  
H 32.5 L 25.8

COX'S BAZAR  
H 33.5 L 27.0

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am. Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and the lowest 21.8 in Tentulia.

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Black-crowned night heron, High Park, Toronto.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## HIGH PARK

Last month, while on a visit to Toronto, I spent a few hours exploring High Park. With an area of 400 acres, it is the largest park within the city. It was established in 1876. Used as both a nature and a recreational park, High Park is a convenient spot to see birds and wildlife while enjoying a summer's day.

From the street it looked like any urban park: a field in the foreground blending into a mix of tall trees in the back. But at the right edge was a trail that disappeared into a grove of trees. It took me through a ravine meandering through pines, oaks, ash and other northern trees. A stream ran along the ravine's bottom and ducklings gently swam in it. I came to the source of the stream: a lake perhaps 200-300 feet across with reedbeds scattered in it. Several types of ducks including mallards and black ducks dabbled on the lake. Then to my delight I spotted two black-crowned night herons in the reeds. They were standing absolutely still waiting for fish.

The trail soon veered towards my left. A grey catbird flew back and forth between branches on either side of the trail. A chipmunk ran away at my approach and watched me from safety. The trail ended at a meadow with a circular garden of flowers. Sitting on a bench, I saw red-winged blackbirds playing in among well-trimmed hedges. Starlings hopped about, foraging for insects on the ground. Blackbirds and starlings got into occasional fights when one stepped into the other's territory.

Off to the distance was a mature oak tree under which played two large

black squirrels. They were a couple, showing affection by jumping over one another, then rolling on the grass entwined in a tight hug. Their fat, furry tails streamed through the air when they jumped.

Seeing my camera, a couple stopped by and asked what birds I had seen. I mentioned the night herons. "Is there a way to get to the other side so I can get closer to them?" I asked. "Oh no, the other side of the lake is private property. That's where all Toronto's millionaires live - with a view of the lake and High Park and herons playing in their backyard." Not a bad life, I thought.

The trail meandered through the park and led me to another lake. On an overhanging branch sat a family of belted kingfishers. The mother flew away and the chick immediately opened its mouth in anticipation. She returned after a few minutes - the chick was still agape - and quickly deposited some morsels into the mouth before flying off in search for more.

Farther on, I found a pair of great egrets in a smaller pond. Two photographers with large cameras had trained their lenses on the birds, less than fifty feet away. The birds concentrated on their fish, paying scant attention to the cameramen.

My time ran out and it was time to leave. Being so close to these birds was a magical experience. I felt jealous of the people of Toronto. But then I thought of the winters they must endure and realised they had earned their beautiful summer.

facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

BID TO EASE EID TRAFFIC

### Obaidul asks RMG owners to grant workers leave in phases

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday urged the authorities of the Savar and Gazipur garment factories to grant their workers Eid-ul-Azha leave in alternate phases for the sake of eased traffic.

He was talking to journalists during his visit to the construction site of the Gazipur-Tangail four-lane highway in Gazipur.

Obaidul said the government has taken a decision not to allow any cattle markets on or near the highways and also asked for stopping the unfit vehicles carrying cattle at the very start of their journey.

### Probe report on Ctg gas tank explosion likely Sunday

Says BCIC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The probe report on the ammonia tank explosion is likely to be submitted on Sunday, said Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) chairman.

"The investigation team is still working... Hopefully, we will get a report on Sunday," said BCIC Chairman Mohammed Iqbal.

"I always support the idea of publishing important investigation reports of BCIC but as it is a national issue I would consult with other relevant organs of the government and then decide on making it public," he added.

The exploded gas tank was built by a Chinese company and a team will visit the site once their members arrive, he added.

Alamgir Jalil, general manager (admin) of DAP factory, said the Chinese team is likely to visit the site on Sunday.

On August 22, a tank containing 250 tonnes of ammonia gas exploded at the Diammonium phosphate (DAP) factory in Anwara upazila of Chittagong. The gas spread all over the area, affecting people and the local environment.

## Bangla lit in Chinese soon

Writers of two countries agree to translate each other's works

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Litterateurs and academics of Bangladesh and China yesterday agreed to enhance literary and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

"We will translate Chinese poetry and short stories into Bangla while the Chinese authorities will translate ours into Chinese," said Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy.

Bangla Academy will soon sign an agreement with the Chinese authorities in this regard, he told The Daily Star on the sideline of Bangladesh-China Literary Meet, organised by the Academy in its auditorium.

Speakers at the meet observed that two countries have a long tradition of economic ties, but there has been little literary or cultural cooperation.

"China is helping us in various

infrastructure projects, including the Padma Bridge, but we are lacking literary connectivity," said Mofidul Hoque, trustee of Liberation War Museum.

Literary works of contemporary Chinese and Bangladeshi writers and folklore can be translated for the readers of both countries, he said. There can also be an exchange of young writers, he said.

Litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque said Bangladeshis were familiar with English, European, Latin American and even African literature, but not with Chinese literature despite China being a close neighbour of Bangladesh.

"We knew China is a closed country," he said, adding that it was good that China was extending its cooperation in literary matters.

Theatre activist Ramendu Mazumder said he knew Chinese theatre was quite rich, and that if

Chinese dramas were translated into Bangla, they could perform Chinese forms of theatre in Bangladesh.

He Jian Ming, vice president of China Writers Association, said Chinese publishers and Bangla Academy could collaborate in publishing translated books.

There are some eminent Chinese writers who have begun writing mostly since the cultural revolution of China around 1970s, he said.

"We have a strong desire to learn more of other literature. Bangla literature is one we are eager about," said Lin Xiu me, a member of the five-member delegation of Chinese Writers Association.

Litterateur Professor Rafiqul Islam, poet Asad Chowdhury, poet Nurul Huda, poet Kamal Chowdhury, and Dhaka University English professors Fakrul Alam and Niaz Zaman also spoke.



Litterateurs and academicians yesterday at Bangladesh-China Literary Meet, organised by Bangla Academy in its auditorium.

PHOTO: STAR

## 4-km Moulvibazar road inundated for 3 months

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Almost the entire 4kms Jagatpur-Ontehori road beside Kawadighi Haor in Sadar upazila of Moulvibazar has been inundated as the water body overflowed due to down-pour, causing immense sufferings to around one lakh people for around three months.

While visiting the area, this correspondent found three to four feet of water on several spots on the roads. Different parts are covered with waterhyacinth.

People were wading through the submerged road. Some were travelling through a boat, which became the only transport.

Manju Chakraborty, a drug trader in Antehori Bazar area, said, "The fare for boat is very high -- Tk 20 for per kilometre."

Travellers had also suffered before the inundation as "Most parts of the road were broken."

Many of the villagers live in the town only for easy communication through the road, which ultimately does not bring any advantage to them rather sufferings during the monsoon, he added.

Locals said people from 15 villages use

the Jagatpur-Kashimpur road on a daily basis.

Another resident Purnendu Chakraborty said, "Students cannot go to schools and colleges."

Moin Miah of Antehori village said the road had been badly damaged before because of the haor water.

Nokul Das, chairman of Fatehpur Union Parishad, said the road was repaired often, but it did not last as the haor water reached there during the monsoon.

Md Abdul Barik, upazila engineer of Moulvibazar Sadar Upazila, said, "The haor is on the both sides of the road which goes under water every year."

The government undertook "Sylhet Division Sustainable Development Project" in which reconstruction of Jagatpur-Ontehori road is included, said the engineer.

Under the project, the height of the road will be increased so that the haor water cannot reach its surface, he said.

Once the project gets approval from Ecneec meeting, the work will start, he added.

## JU student killed in road crash

CITY DESK

A student of Jahangirnagar University was killed in a road accident yesterday, reports a JU correspondent.

Shahidullah Tusher, vice-president of Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal's Jahangirnagar University unit and a master's student of statistics department, died as the bus carrying him struck a pick-up van on Dhaka-Aricha road near the university gate and he fell from the busgate.

He died at Enam Medical Hospital.

Our Pirojpur correspondent adds, 20 passengers were injured when a bus carrying them overturned at Charakhali village in Zianagar upazila in the district. The injured were taken to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

SIX-POINT DEMAND AGAINST OPEN-PIT MINING

## Still no implementation despite Hasina's support in 2006

Says Prof Anu at rally marking 'Phulbari Day'

STAR REPORT

People need to transform their shocks into strength for a stronger movement to save the Sundarbans, said leaders of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday in Dinajpur.

If there were no anti-coalmine movements in Phulbari upazila, then the Rampal and Banskhali projects would be a reality by now, they added.

They were speaking at a rally at Nimtolamor in Phulbari town, marking the 10th anniversary of "Phulbari Day", to pay tributes to the three persons killed and some 70 others injured on this day in 2006 when law enforcements opened fire on protests against open-pit coal mining.

Prof Anu Muhammad addressed the rally as the chief guest, where the speakers announced a tougher agitation including hartals for complete implementation of the six-point agreement, which included expulsion of Asia Energy and ban of open pit mining in Bangladesh.

BNP-led four party alliances signed the agreement on August 30, 2006, while Sheikh Hasina at a public meeting in Phulbari on September 4 the same year saluted the Phulbari people for their anti-coalmine movement, he said, adding, but her government has not implemented it.

"Every year we observe the black day to remind the government to implement our demands. Phulbari, Rampal and Banskhali are now their targets to implement such projects damaging the environment," he said.



People raise their hands protesting the law enforcements' attack during a street demonstration against setting up of an open-pit coalmine at Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur on August 26, 2006. On that day, police and now-defunct Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) opened fire on the agitating locals and protest organisers, leaving at least three persons dead and 70 others wounded. The photo was taken on August 29, 2006.

FILE PHOTO

Prof Anu said some political parties support the protest movement of the national committee for their political gain.

Prof BD Barkatullah, an energy expert, said many countries are closing such power plants for its high environmental pollution. Power can also be produced through solar, wind and river currents, he said.

Saiful Islam Jewel, president of Phulbari union of the national committee, announced tougher agitation programmes if their demands were not

met by September 30. He also called for a half-day hartal in Phulbari on December 21.

Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Golam Mortuza Manik, mayor of Phulbari municipality, and Tipu Biswas, also spoke.

Meanwhile, the national committee's Narayanganj unit held a meeting at Narayanganj Shaheed Minar yesterday morning in remembrance of the day, a Narayanganj correspondent reports.

## Dhaka urges Saarc to focus on economic growth

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Finance and Planning Mohammad Abdul Mannan has urged the Saarc member states to work together to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility to achieving economic progress in the South Asian region.

"Bangladesh is committed to continuing her cooperative and coordinated efforts and to work jointly in this regard..." he added, while delivering his statement at the eighth Saarc finance ministers' meeting held in Islamabad yesterday.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the daylong meeting, chaired by Federal Minister for Finance of Pakistan Senator Ishaq Dar, said a press release of Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad.

The Bangladesh state minister urged all the member states for early finalisation of schedules of specific commitments under Saarc Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS), on promotion and protection of investment, and on avoidance of double taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

Mannan further said that the member states have shown commendable resilience to global financial crisis, and continue to achieve robust GDP growth.

The robustness of developing and emerging Asian economies has helped safeguard global economic performances, he said.

He said the country's economy registered a significant growth at the rate of 6.4 percent on an average over the last five years.

## A mother's hope

FROM PAGE 3

But Namita became anxious when she could not reach him around 3:00pm.

One of his friends Tanveer Alam said, "After crossing two small waterfalls we lost the way to our destination, Napitta Chhara waterfall, and started getting back through a steep hill. Then, he (Animesh) slipped and fell while he was hit in the head against the hill."

Anamika said now her grief-stricken mother, who cannot talk properly, cannot find ways to mend her broken heart.

## Two journals

FROM PAGE 4

They also snatched two cell phones and broke their cameras, alleged the victims.

Anwar was admitted to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital, while the other three took first aid.

On August 23, Islam, who claimed ownership of the pond, filed a case against Anwar and 23 others with the chief judicial magistrate's court, accusing them of killing fish after pouring poison into the pond.

Earlier, Kutila Rajoar, an ethnic community leader, filed another case with Sadar police against the businessmen on a similar charge.

## 14 Shibir men held in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday detained 14 leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body, from Bogra town "for planning to commit subversive activities".

The detainees include Secretary of Bogra district unit Shibir Rezaul Karim Tanvir, town unit Publicity Secretary Rafique Islam, IT Secretary Mostakim Billah, Azizul Haque College unit President Hanjela Rahman, Secretary Yeamin Ali and Organising Secretary Elias Ali and former Shibir leaders Shafiqul Islam and Ajgar Ali.

Police said on information, plainclothes policemen raided Jamilnagar area around 2:00pm and nabbed them along with four machetes and some jihadi books.

Police said 10 of the detainees stand accused in cases filed in connection with arson and vandalism with different police stations in the district.

Contacted, Gaziur Rahman, senior assistant superintendent (B circle and media) of police in Bogra, said the Shibir men were nabbed while they were holding a secret meeting to run subversive activities.

After interrogation, they would be produced before the court today, the police official added.