

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.5 L 21.2

MYMENSINGH H 29.7 L 19.4

CHITTAGONG H 32.5 L 20.8

SYLHET H 28.2 L 18.2

RAJSHAHI H 33.5 L 18.8

RANGPUR H 31.0 L 18.0

KHULNA H 34.5 L 20.8

BARISAL H 33.2 L 21.6

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 18.5

Light rain or thunder showers is likely to occur at one or two places over Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise slightly, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow at 6:17am.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Yellowstone National Park.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

A President to Admire

These days the American president is on everyone's mind. But today I want to talk about a past president whom I admire greatly - Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the USA.

Roosevelt was president from 1901-1909. Born in New York in 1858, he was a frail child who suffered from asthma, but with his strong belief in physical fitness and a strenuous lifestyle, he was able to overcome his weak health. Besides President, he served in other important roles including Vice President and Secretary of Navy. As chief of New York Police Department, he was able to stamp out corruption that plagued the department. While in this role, he met and influenced the photographer Jacob Riis who was documenting child labourers in New York. The photographs of Riis and another photographer, Lewis Hine, did much to abolish child labour in the US.

Today Roosevelt is perhaps best remembered for his motto "speak softly and carry a big stick." These words, originating in a West African proverb, formed a philosophy of foreign policy which emphasized intelligent forethought and timely action before issues became crises. Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his role in ending the Russo-Japanese war. But my admiration of Roosevelt stems from his love of nature. From childhood he was interested in outdoor activities. Later in life, he became an avid outdoorsman and a hunter. In this role, he did much to preserve the American wilderness. He was responsible for setting aside many million acres of land for preservation. Earlier in life he had been a rancher, but that business failed in part due to overgrazing. Therefore, Roosevelt was acutely aware of human impact on land and acted accordingly.

Roosevelt was also interested in birds since childhood and established

the first bird sanctuary in the US. Having spent much time in the field observing birds and animals he had little patience with armchair writers and scientists who floated theories about nature without adequate observation. One such author was the artist-naturalist Abbott Thayer who promoted a grand unified theory of animal colouration, claiming (among other things) that flamingos have their pink colour because it helps camouflage them from predators when flying during sunset. Roosevelt, who had observed plenty of flamingos, took time out from his presidential campaign to write a 100-page journal paper demolishing Thayer's theory.

Some of Roosevelt's achievements seem superhuman. In 1903 he visited Yellowstone National Park and neighbouring areas and gave 263 speeches in eight weeks covering 14,000 miles. On New Year's Day, Roosevelt's White House was opened to the public and he shook hands with all who came and stood in line, earning the reputation of the fastest handshaker in history averaging fifty grips a minute. Not an intellectual sissy either, his collected works span 23 volumes on history, warfare, nature, biography and other topics.

Roosevelt influenced many but who influenced him? One such person was the conservationist John Muir. After reading Muir's book, Roosevelt travelled from Washington all the way to California and spent three days camping with Muir in Yosemite valley. The time they spent with each other profoundly affected both men. Upon returning to Washington, Roosevelt set aside Yosemite as a federal park.

Roosevelt died in his sleep in 1919 at the age of 67. An admirer commented that it was good that he died while asleep because if Death came for him when he was awake, it surely would have been a terrible fight.

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Girl stops going to school fearing 'abduction'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

It has been 18 days since a tenth-grader has stopped attending school in Taltali upazila of Barguna out of fear of abduction by an alleged stalker.

The stalker beat up her father and threatened to kidnap her after he had filed a case against him, alleged the father.

Now, out of fear, she is in hiding. Nasir Sharif, 35, of the same area was stalking her for long, the father alleged.

Finding no alternative, her father filed a case with Barguna Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Tribunal on February 12. Nasir beat him up the next day, and also threatened to kidnap his daughter, he alleged.

The court asked Taltali police to investigate the matter, said OC (Inquiry) Md Fazlul Haque. An investigation is underway, he added.

Nasir has not been seen in the area ever since, said the OC, adding, his phone was also found switched off.

Drug traffickers linked to Myanmar, India

Says report of US Department of State

UNB, Dhaka

Transnational drug trafficking organisations operate within Bangladesh with connections to Myanmar and India, says a new report released by the US Department of State.

Narcotics enforcement agencies have reported increased trafficking of synthetic drugs such as "Yaba" (a mixture of caffeine and methamphetamine, sometimes with heroin) and diverted pharmaceuticals, such as Phensedyl (codeine-based cough syrup), the report observes.

Drug traffickers continue to divert precursor chemicals and chemical preparations (incorporating ephedrine, pseudo-ephedrine, toluene, and acetone) from Bangladeshi pharmaceutical or chemical companies' illicit drug production, says the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, US Department of State.

Bangladesh has successfully engaged bilaterally with India to control the diversion of Phensedyl, and Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies work closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to seize and disrupt illicit drugs and chemicals, said the report released on Thursday.

Bangladesh continues to struggle to allocate sufficient resources to control precursors through consistent enforcement of existing laws despite government efforts.

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SSC examinee kidnapped in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A secondary school certificate examinee was abducted when she was returning home after attending an exam at Khanka Sharif intersection in Thakurgaon municipality on Wednesday.

Her mother yesterday filed a case against Roman Rasul, and Kama Hossain, of Harinarayanpur Baniapur village, and Md Jibon of Jogonathpur Adarsha colony in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The youths used to stalk the teenager, said the complainant.

On Thursday morning, Roaman's father beat up the girl's father with sticks when he went to their house in search of his daughter. Victim's father was admitted to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Thakurgaon police said they are trying to arrest the fugitives and rescue the girl.



Visitors at a photography exhibition titled "London 1971: The Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh's Liberation War" organised by Project London 1971 initiator Ujjal Das at British Council on Dhaka's Fuller Road yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rediscovering UK expats' role in 1971

Exhibition featuring rare photographs opens at British Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of Bangladeshi expatriates were crowding outside the Heathrow airport in London to welcome and receive their hero Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 8, 1972. It was indeed a pleasant gathering as the father of the nation went there soon after getting released from Pakistan's prison.

Bangabandhu arrived at the airport at the dawn of January 8. In the evening, he held a crowded press conference at Claridge Hotel, for building public opinion and raising the "Bangladesh Fund".

Former secretary and ambassador Mohiuddin Ahmed still recalls that moment with Bangabandhu. He narrated how the expatriate Bangladeshis and the British government greeted the great leader in the United Kingdom (UK) after Bangladesh's independence.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, who was a second secretary at then Pakistan High Commission in the UK, shared his memory and recalled contributions of his fellow Bangladeshis for the independence at a photography exhibition titled "London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh's Liberation War," launched by British



Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali inaugurating the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

Council at its main office on Fuller Road in the capital yesterday.

The former ambassador recalled the outstanding contributions of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury who played a leading diplomatic role to build support among the international communities for the Liberation War.

Introducing his fellows who worked with him in the UK during the war, he said the Bangladeshis were fighting for democracy and human rights, which the UK government cherished.

"Finally, the tacit support of the British government... it was not open as it didn't recognise the government of Bangladesh but supported. And that was very strong support against the Pakistan government," Mohiuddin said.

Addressing as chief guest, Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said the relations between peoples of Bangladesh and Britain went back a long way and this relations had matured over the years.

He thanked Ujjal Das, initiator of the Project London 1971, and urged him to bring more stories of the Liberation War to the young generation.

Deputy British High Commissioner David Ashley said the British-Bangladesh relation was not just about governments and high commissions,

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3 lives lost in road crashes

CITY DESK

Two people were killed and three others injured as a truck hit an auto-rickshaw-van carrying them at Shrikole Point on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj yesterday morning.

The deceased was Saiful Islam, 30, and Akash Kumar, 18, of Purbo Delua village in the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge of Ullapara Police Station Dewan Kawshik Ahmed said Shariful and Akash died on the spot while three others were injured.

Two of the injured were admitted to Ullapara Upazila Health Complex and another was taken to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College.

Police seized the truck but the driver fled.

In Thakurgaon, a youth was killed as a Baliadangi-bound truck ran him over while he was crossing the Baliadangi-Ranishankoil road in front of Nekmarad Bangabandhu Degree College in Ranishankoil upazila on Thursday afternoon.

The deceased was Robiul Islam, 20, of Bhabanandapur village under the upazila. He died on the spot.

Three women honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three women were given the Radhuni Kirtimoti Shommanona award yesterday for their role in their respective arenas, marking International Women's day.

They are war heroine Roma Chowdhury of Chittagong, Nurun Nahar Begum of Pabna and Laili Begum of Kurigram.

Roma got the award for social development; Nurun Nahar for entrepreneurship and Laili Begum for her investigative reports.

Square Food and Beverage Ltd honoured the women at a hotel in the capital. Each of the recipients received a crest and Tk 1 lakh.



Awardees, fourth from left, Laili Begum, Roma Chowdhury and Nurun Nahar Begum along with guests at the Radhuni Kirtimoti Shammanona 2016 award giving ceremony in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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