

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 34.8 L 27.6	H 34.4 L 27.3	H 33.6 L 25.5	H 36.1 L 25.3	H 33.3 L 26.3	H 35.8 L 27.0	H 33.7 L 26.0	H 34.0 L 25.0	H 33.0 L 26.0

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions and one or two places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may fall by (1-2 degree Celsius) over the country, says Met office.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

The Author's Stamp

As a child I loved all kinds of stories and read voraciously. Starting with adventures, fairy tales, detective novels, popular science, all the way to newspapers, magazines and even encyclopaedias - words printed on a page attracted me like magnet. The fresh smell of a new book never failed to cheer me.

Then one day something happened. My father's friend who was paying us a visit started talking with me. "So do you have a hobby?" he asked. I did not need to think. "I read books, I love books," I said. "That's wonderful. I like to read too. So who is your favourite author?" he asked.

His question befuddled me. Up to this point - I was ten or eleven - I had chosen books based on the colours of the cover, the name of the book, the pictures inside and of course the promise of the story. I had never paid attention to who wrote them!

But being a proud bibliophile I could not let this one pass. Scouring my brain for an author, I remembered Mohammed Nasir Ali, a prolific writer, whose name I had noticed in passing on some of my book covers. This seemed to pass muster.

"Oh yes, he is good. But you could also read..." Our guest reeled off several other authors I had never heard of.

You can guess what happened next. A new phase of my reading career started. I started paying attention to the author. Once I enjoyed a book, I sought out others by the same author. And vice versa: once a book bored me, I avoided others by the same author.

I had discovered the author's stamp - how a writer embeds her or his own style and story-telling into the book. I had also discovered a better, more efficient way to get to good books.

Today's world of books revolves around famous authors with devoted and loyal readership. This is particularly true for fiction and



Looking for a favourite author?

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

poetry. In non-fiction, because of the dependence on expertise on a subject, it is easier to find unknown authors among the bestsellers.

Was author's brand-recognition as important in ancient times? We don't know the authors of classics such as *Beowulf*, *The Arabian Nights*, and the oral stories of many cultures, including American-Indians. As a child I loved listening to *kissas* that my great-grandmother spun late into the night for her brood. So in many cases, stories were stories and told and re-told for enjoyment. Not many knew or cared who the author was.

My sense is that the author's stamp became ubiquitous during the European Renaissance which emphasized the importance of the individual, particularly the individual artist. Capitalism then dictated the author own the copyright of the story and

profit from it.

Today's famous writers concentrate on creating work in the same style - action stories, spy stories and detective/suspense stories come to mind - often because their readership expects it. However, there are exceptions: authors who deliberately break their own mould to produce a variety of work.

Our own Syed Mujtaba Ali traversed between several different genres of literature with effortless grace. American author Annie Dillard has written poems, novels, non-fiction narratives and memoir, some of them considered classics.

Reading books written in a predictable style can bring comfortable enjoyment to the reader, but tasting the offerings of an adventurous writer, while not always comfortable, surely comes with its own rewards.

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CHINA'S ONE BELT ONE ROAD PROJECT Dhaka differs with New Delhi's stance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Disagreeing with India's opposition to China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) connectivity project, Bangladesh yesterday said there are times when economic benefits outweigh issues of sovereignty.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said this at a press conference at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

He also pointed out that Dhaka has signed 100 initiatives with New Delhi in the last seven to eight years for economic integration.

The secretary told the media that it is for individual countries to decide whether an initiative for economic benefit impinged on their sovereignty. At times, the benefits of economic integration override concerns over sovereignty, he added.

Haque was responding to a question on his remarks on OBOR made at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting at a hotel in New Delhi on Thursday.

He said Bangladesh wants con-

nectivity and economic integration with South East Asian and East Asian countries. "In fact, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has repeatedly stressed economic integration..." he said.

Earlier, at the WEF meeting on Thursday, he had said, "Economic issues now dictate how much sovereignty one should exert. We cannot become isolated in the name of sovereignty... There are times you have to put the sovereignty issue in the backseat, for economic benefit of the people."

India has refused to join China's Belt and Road Forum on the ground that it was not transparent, and most importantly because a part of the project, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In May, India stayed from a meeting on OBOR held in China but Bangladesh joined the initiative.

"We can't forget what the people want and before joining the belt road initiative we had several discussions

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PM returns home today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home today wrapping up her three-week visit to the United States and United Kingdom.

"A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the prime minister and her entourage is scheduled to depart from Heathrow International Airport in London at 6:20pm local time (Bangladesh time 11:20pm) today (Friday)," PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Nazmul Quamrui will see her off at the airport.

The flight is scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 9:25am today.

The Awami League will accord a reception to the prime minister, also the party president on her return.

Party leaders and workers and its associate bodies will greet their leader standing on both sides of roads from the airport to Gono Bhaban, PM's official residence.

Wrapping up her 16-day official visit to the USA, Hasina left Washington on Monday for London on her way back home.

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As part of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's campaign to raise awareness on road safety, a DMP official speaks to pedestrians in Kalabagan area. The campaign has been going on for the last one month and was also held in some educational institutions, said officials. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



A few skeletons of trees stand surrounded by garbage beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Hemayetpur area, on the outskirts of the capital. Not so long ago, the scenario was completely different with rows of trees lining the highway. However, continuous dumping of garbage there have left many trees dead and many others dying. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Noise pollution turns acute

Says DoE survey

UNB, Dhaka

Noise pollution, also known as sound pollution, has turned acute in the capital city as it always goes far beyond the permissible level, putting the public health at risk, says a new survey of the Department of Environment (DoE).

The survey, conducted at 70 points of the city this year, reveals that sound pollution has reached the highest 120-130 decibels (dB) at many points -- almost double the permissible level.

According to the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006, the acceptable sound condition for Bangladesh is 50dB for daytime and 40dB for the night in silent areas, 50dB for daytime and 45dB for the night in residential areas, 60dB for the daytime and 50dB for night in mixed areas (residential, commercial and industrial localities),

70dB for daytime and 60dB for the night in commercial areas, and 75dB for daytime and 70dB for the night in industrial areas.

The survey shows that noise pollution has increased alarmingly at different parts of the capital. The highest noise level recorded at Farmgate was 130.2dB during daytime and the lowest 65.7dB at night.

DHAKA CITY

The noise level was above 120dB during daytime at Gabtoli, Arambagh intersection, Gulshan-2 intersection, Gulistan intersection, Mirpur 10 intersection, Banglamotor, New Market, Mascot Plaza of Uttara, Jagannath University, among other areas.

Among the 70 points, the lowest sound level was recorded 99.6dB

during daytime and 43.7dB at night at Road-18 of Uttara-14.

Sound pollution is the disturbing noise with harmful impacts on the activity of human or animal life. The source of ambient sound worldwide is mainly caused by machines and transportation systems, motor-vehicles engines and construction works as well.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), generally 60dB sound can make a man deaf temporarily and 100dB sound can cause complete deafness.

The survey says sound pollution causes mental and physical illness among people. It causes high blood pressure, headache, indigestion, ulcer, and also affects sleep. Anyone may become deaf for the time being if

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