



YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 31.6 L 23.3

MYMENSINGH
H 29.8 L 21.5

CHITTAGONG
H 32.6 L 22.2

SYLHET
H 30.2 L 20.5

RAJSHAHI
H 30.0 L 20.4

RANGPUR
H 29.7 L 21.5

KHULNA
H 32.0 L 22.0

BARISAL
H 31.7 L 20.4

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.0 L 22.7

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 06:03am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Writing About Nature

For most of us who live in cities, walking inside a forest, climbing a hill, taking a boat ride through the countryside, or even standing in an endless open field can be a liberating experience evoking a myriad of emotions and feelings. When we are surrounded by nature, we can leave behind our everyday thoughts and worries and, consciously or otherwise, reconnect to the primeval umbilical cord that binds us to this earth. Some of us feel poetic, some want to explore the interconnectedness of life, others remember their childhood playing in the grass, while yet others think of ways to preserve nature for future generations. Some are lucky enough to have an epiphany or a flash of insight. For most of us, spending time in nature is a deep and profound experience that, more often than not, leaves us yearning for more.

Writers have written about their experience in nature for a long time. These writings communicate the experience as well as educate and inform the reader. Today, perhaps because of the sense of urgency created by climate change, nature writing has gained renewed importance. The genre has a new name: it is called "Environmental Writing."

Environmental writing is one of the strongest and most original branches of American literature where it finds its roots in Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* as well as the writings of John Muir, John James Audubon and other pioneering conservationists. More modern classics include Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and Barry Lopez's *Arctic Dreams*. You may not have read these works, but chances are you have read these classic lines of environmental writing from the poet Robert Frost: "the woods are lovely, dark and deep/but I have promises to keep/and miles to go before I sleep."

While the styles and narratives of these disparate works vary, the authors have one thing in common. They have spent a long time outdoors, in nature, contemplating, observing, following, often being challenged and facing difficulties but ultimately having an illuminating experience they want to share.

Why is time spent in the field so important? Because it takes time to observe significant details. For example, I knew that baby dragonflies (called nymphs) hatch and live underwater. But I puzzled

how the adult female dragonfly lays its eggs on water until I read, in Dillard's book, that it does so by flying so close to water that its belly skims the surface, releasing the eggs. Dillard made this discovery only after patient observation and her writing completed the connection for me. Sure enough, after the heavy rains, I observed dragonflies perform the same trick over water in a submerged road in Purbachol.

With a few notable exceptions - Jibananda Das, Bibhutibhusan Banerjee, Buddhadeb Guho - environmental writing was, until very recently, scarce in the literature of our land. This is despite the rich biodiversity and natural beauty of the region. Fortunately, along with budding naturalists, birders, explorers and

mountain-climbers, a group of mostly younger environmental writers has emerged in Bangladesh today. Fortunate, because as we stand at the threshold of middle-income nationhood, it is vital that our people know about our natural treasures so they can make informed decisions on matters impacting our environment, and these writers can educate the public on this matter. After all, if you don't know what you have, how can you save it?

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR
www.ihishamkabir.com



The forest beckons.

Licence counterfeiting gang busted

2 held with 'huge number' of fake driving licences, number plates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion detained two alleged fraudsters with a huge number of fake driving licences and digital number plates from Demra and Gazipur areas early yesterday.

Forged legal documents, educational certificates, hologram stickers and equipment for making such documents were also seized from them, said Shahabuddin Khan, commanding officer (CO) of Rab-10, at a press briefing at the elite force's media centre in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

The detainees were Zakir Hossain Babul, 32, and Masud Hawlader, 34. Zakir was held in Demra area while Masud in Gazipur. Based on information, Rab conducted drives in the areas and made the arrest, he said.

The Rab commanding officer claimed that Zakir was involved in selling forged mark sheets and certi-

cates of different universities and training centres since 2003 in the guise of a stationary business in Nilkhet. Masud joined him in 2016.

Around nine months back, Zakir moved back to Demra and continued the business from home, the CO added.



A seized equipment that the criminals used to make fake digital number plates.

PHOTO: STAR

"They used to sell forged documents and items at Tk 500 to Tk 2,000. They also supplied those to various districts as per demand," he said.

The fake driving licences and number plates were used in different parts of the country and the certificates were used while applying for jobs.

"But at times, we find fake number plates or registration numbers after any incidents of crime. In such cases, criminals often remain untraced," said Shahabuddin Khan.

According to traffic sources, traffic police use a hand-held device to scan the digital number plates and obtain information of the vehicles from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

But the device needs to be updated as it does not contain latest information of the licence plates and registration numbers, said a traffic sergeant, wishing anonymity.

The Rab is trying to arrest other members of the group, said the CO. Filing of a case was underway with the Demra Police Station, he added.



Several of the fake digital number plates of various types of vehicles. The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday held two fraudsters for allegedly producing a large number of fake digital number plates and driving licences. PHOTO: STAR



A cross section of people yesterday remembered war hero Masud Sadique Chullu, fondly called Chullu Bhai by his loved ones. He was a member of the special squad "Crack Platoon" that carried out secret guerrilla attacks on Pakistani occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War. On invitation by The Daily Star, his friends, relatives and well-wishers attended a memorial meeting at The Daily Star Centre, recalling the contribution and love the valiant freedom fighter had for the country and its people. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam moderated the meeting, where Ismat Ara Sadique, state minister for public administration, below, spoke, among others. Chullu Bhai breathed his last on October 16, at the age of 72. PHOTO: STAR



Society needs people like Dr Anisuzzaman
Speakers tell event marking his 80th birthday; say he can be called 'nation's conscience'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman can be recognised as the "nation's conscience" for his lifelong journey into literature and multifaceted contributions to society, eminent personalities said at an event yesterday.

On one hand, the scholar authored numerous books to enrich Bangla literature, while he also took to the street and echoed people's demands during different movements, they said.

Marking his 80th birth anniversary, which was on February 18 this year, cultural organisation

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Greed knows no bound

Bogra school management committee illegally sells scrap materials of dismantled building; all 11 members sued

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Located in the Jamuna basin, Char Pakuria Government Primary School was constantly under a threat of river erosion.

In July 2016, the school, under Kajla union of Sariakandi upazila in Bogra, was shifted to a safer and close by location after building a new tin-shed structure there with the help of the Upazila Parishad, who allocated Tk 1 lakh for the school.

The new school also had an open space in front for its 150 students to play.

The old structure was dismantled and later the materials including tin, angles, doors and windows were kept in a corner of the field.

The idea was to sell the materials, amounting upto 3 tonnes, at a convenient time and use the money for the betterment of the school.

But greed took over the members of the school management committee and they allegedly sold the materials to a local councillor.

On Wednesday around 9:00pm, when the councillor and his people were taking away some of the materials, police, on information, arrested him, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sariakandi Police Station.

The headteacher of the school, Sahar Ali,

and chairman of its management committee, Tofazzal Hossain, had sold the materials to municipality councillor (ward 1) Milon Pramanik for Tk 75,000, said the OC.

Meanwhile, yesterday, Rafiqul Alam, assistant thana education officer (ATEO) of the upazila, filed a case against 11 school management committee members including the headteacher and the chairman, said the OC.

According to locals, the 11 committee members are also activists of Awami League.

Contacted, Tofazzal Hossain alleged that they had sold the materials with permission from the assistant education officer. Sahar Ali also echoed him.

Refuting the allegation, education officer Rafiqul Alam said the school committee can only sell the materials through an auction after forming a committee. "They sold the stuff without informing me," he added.

A similar allegation was found against the management committee of Bahula Danga Government Primary School in Chaluabari union under the same upazila, he said.

The management committee consisting 11 AL activists sold materials weighing 4 tonnes at Tk 2 lakh at different times starting from 2016 after the school was relocated, he added. A case was also filed against the 11 committee members yesterday, said Rafiqul Alam.

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