



YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA  
H 34.4 L 27.2

MYMENSINGH  
H 32.8 L 23.8

CHITTAGONG  
H 33.5 L 25.5

SYLHET  
H 26.3 L 23.0

RAJSHAHI  
H 33.7 L 26.0

RANGPUR  
H 30.5 L 22.0

KHULNA  
H 35.2 L 27.2

BARISAL  
H 34.2 L 25.5

COX'S BAZAR  
H 31.7 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind and lightning flashes is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet and at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna Barisal, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am, said Met Office.

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Trees in the park, Baridhara.

PHOTO:  
IHTISHAM KABIR

## Evening Walk

As dusk settles in I am out in the park for a walk. The exercise clears my head and recharges my soul and, of course, gives me an excuse to be outdoors.

On this hot day I am grateful for the soft breeze that blows at sunset. Walking along the trail that runs alongside the lake, I see haze above the water, a mist that simply sits there. The humidity of monsoon is not yet here yet I start sweating after a few brisk minutes of walking. Presently, the breeze picks up and the mist disperses.

Most of the trees in the park are mature. I find it soothing to look at their bark, tracing with my eyes their patterns and textures, left and right, up and down, in and out. The mahogany's dark-grey skin is crinkled with deep furrows and, in some cases, the thick bark has cracked into numerous pieces to prepare for a new layer. Eucalyptus trunks in the process of peeling are patterned with many shades of brown, some pieces curled gracefully. Freshly peeled trunks are covered by a shiny smooth, beige bark that you want to reach out and touch. The various palm tree trunks have rings that repeat along its entire length, showing the locations where leaves grew as the tree ascended. A rough, brown skin covers the trunk of the krishnachuras. The *koroi* tree's skin is pockmarked by black dots on a beige background. At twilight, while the leaves prepare to rest after a day of synthesizing food from sunlight, there is no respite for the trunks: they have

to hold the tree up, day and night, for as long as they live.

As twilight recedes and night sets in, details that I could see only a few moments ago – patterns in the bark, creases in the leaves, the thin twigs making up a *doel's* nest, flowers of the *salvia* plants – melt into blurry, black-and-white impressions. Pond herons flying over the water lose the colour of their feathers and become silhouettes. Nocturnal creatures start their workday. Fruit bats fly from tree to tree looking for food. An owl, which I could never see clearly, flies below the branches above me. I wonder if it will find the large rat that had scurried across my path. And on the lake, a moving pattern of elliptical ripples tells me of a swimming snake. It is probably a checkered keelback.

I see a larger bird flying on the far side of the lake and follow it with my eyes. Moving further, I think it perches on a tree. Wishing I had my binoculars, I stop and squint for a better look. Bad move. Not only does it remain elusive, but my standing still for ten seconds garners me two mosquito bites.

As night falls, the buildings across the lake in Gulshan start lighting up. They are a rude reminder that I am in the middle of a sprawling megacity. But for a few minutes there it could have been somewhere else.

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# Rebuilding South Sudan

Bangladeshi Peacekeepers working relentlessly in war-torn country

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA,  
from South Sudan

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been working relentlessly to restore normalcy to the war-torn South Sudanese capital Juba and other parts of the country four times the size of Bangladesh.

They are constructing roads, protecting the city's natural water bodies, building airport hangars and camps for the UN peacekeepers, and repairing streets for the local community where Bangladesh army engineers are taking the lead in South Sudan.

After 22 years of guerrilla war, South Sudan became independent in 2011 but was soon embroiled in a civil war. The situation is so bad that foreigners are not welcome and photography is strictly prohibited in the streets. Walking the streets alone is not considered safe either. This correspondent even heard gunshots at night.

Armed skirmishes are so common that the peacekeepers have to remain vigilant because one little mistake could cost a life.

The South Sudanese are suspicious of foreigners as well, and care very little about the peacekeepers.

Against this backdrop, Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been working relentlessly with the South Sudanese people to establish peace and bring change through development work.

"We do not have any word to express gratitude to the Bangladeshi peacekeepers as they have contributed a lot to our country -- from transportation to health, education to sport and what not," Juma Jada, state minister for health in South Sudan, told The Daily Star.

Juma said the sincerity and dedication of Bangladeshi peacekeepers is exemplary.

BANENGR-1 was the first contingent to have been deployed in UNMISSABLE under Regional Protection Force (RPF) after escalation of the South Sudan crisis in 2016.

Since the deployment of BANENGR-1 on August 11, 2017, this contingent has accomplished 101 task orders and currently has 24 ongoing projects.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been developing Durupi South to establish accommodation for the whole RPF battalions where Rwanda, Nepal and Ethiopian battalions will reside.

The whole 2.5km project area was a bushy land without any road,

Lt Col Mohammad Tariqul Alam, Contingent Commander of Bangladesh Engineer-1, told The Daily Star.

He said Bangladeshi peacekeepers cleared the bushes and started building one of the largest UN camps in South Sudan.

They have also developed a 7.43km perimeter road and a 3km road inside the camp. The Bangladeshi contingent has also repaired the major 145km Juba-Yei road.

They constructed a 7km road in Juba too, Tariqul added.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have also been working at the Juba International Airport, the country's only international airport.

When they arrived in South Sudan for the first time in 2005, the runway was barely a strip of concrete surrounded by motley tents.

"The situation did not change

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PHOTO: MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladeshi peacekeepers are playing a significant role in the infrastructural development of South Sudan.

## Women arrested with 653 bottles of phensedyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two women in possession of 653 bottles of phensedyl from Barisal Colony under the port city's Sadarghat police station, in a block raid early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Parul Begum, 50, and Johura Begum, 52. They are residents of the colony, police said.

Shah Abdur Rouf, additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (South), told reporters on the spot that they demolished at least one hundred makeshift drug spots at Barisal Colony only a few days ago. But on Friday, police learned that a group of people are hoarding narcotics at the colony, prompting them to launch an overnight block raid. The drive was conducted as part of the nationwide crackdown on drugs, he added.

Police recovered at least 653 bottles of phensedyl in four sacks from a drain adjacent to their house.

Rouf said Parul is known in the colony as "bhabi", under whom at least 30 to 35 women are engaged in trafficking and selling phensedyl. Johura Begum is in charge of the money in the business, he claimed. Some of the women worked as informants, whose duty is to inform the traders about presence of police and new faces in the colony.

"We will seek remand from the court to glean information to know the patron behind them", Abdur Rouf said.

## A case of mistaken identity

Claims Barisal Colony 'shootout' victim's family; Rab says he was a 'drug dealer'

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Family members of Habibur Rahman, who was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) at Chittagong's Barisal Colony on May 17 amid the ongoing countrywide anti-narcotics drive, claimed that he was "innocent".

They also said he was not the person the law enforcers were looking for.

A group of locals, mostly ruling party men, implicated Habib, 42, in false narcotics cases after allegedly failing to grab a land belonging to Habib's mother-in-law in the city's Love Lane area, claimed the family.

On May 17, around 11:00pm, two persons including Habib were killed in the "gunfight" with Rab at Barisal Colony, a haven for drug peddlers. The other deceased was Md Mosharraf alias Musa.



After the "shootout", Rab seized a one-shooter-gun, three rounds of bullet, 10,000 yaba pills and half a kilogramme of hemp from the spot.

According to Rab, Habib was a "drug trader" and an accused in at least 12 cases.

His family members, however, claimed that the other deceased, Mosharraf, was an informant of Rab. He misled the officials by introducing Habib as a drug dealer named "Habib Sheikh", who the officials were actually looking for.

"Habib was implicated in false narcotics cases for his stance against few locals who tried to grab my mother's land in Makkhi Colony," claimed his sister-in-law Laila Begum.

Hailing from Patiya upazila, Habib used to live in the port city's Love Lane area under Kotwali Police Station. He went to Oman in 2005 and returned in 2009, said family members. He has two sons and a daughter.

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A police official arranges bottles of phensedyl on a table, which were retrieved from a drain in the port city's Barisal Colony. Despite anti-narcotics measures in the colony including demolition of shanties and armed operations, business has not stopped in the drug hotspot.

PHOTO: STAR

DEATH OF CTG SCHOOLGIRL

## One placed on 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in Chittagong yesterday placed an accused on three-day remand in connection with the case of Tasfia killing.

Earlier, police arrested Asif Siraj, 18, from Nasirabad Housing area early on Thursday.

This is the second arrest in connection with the case, said police. Asif appeared in HSC examinations from Sunshine Grammar School and College this year.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (prosecution) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Nirmalendu Bikash Chawkrabarty said the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Al Imran passed the remand order, after the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case produced Asif before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Tasfia, a ninth grader of Sunshine Grammar School and College in Chittagong, was found dead on the concrete blocks on the embankment of Karnaphuli River in the city's Patenga Naval area on May 3. After the recovery of the body, her father filed a case accusing six persons including a 16-year old friend of hers, with Patenga Police Station the same day.

REMEMBRANCE



Dr. Mirza M. Huq

With each passing year, the memories shine brighter, your love draws us closer.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."  
— Thomas Campbell

On the fourth anniversary of his passing, we request all friends, relatives and well-wishers of Dr. Mirza to pray for his eternal peace.

Yasmin, Shako, Tamima, Alina and Shondhi