

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 during the day. 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

**A**s 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 Krishnachurias. 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 dove'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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**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 the 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 RAHMAN, 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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## Advance Eid bus ticket sale from May 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

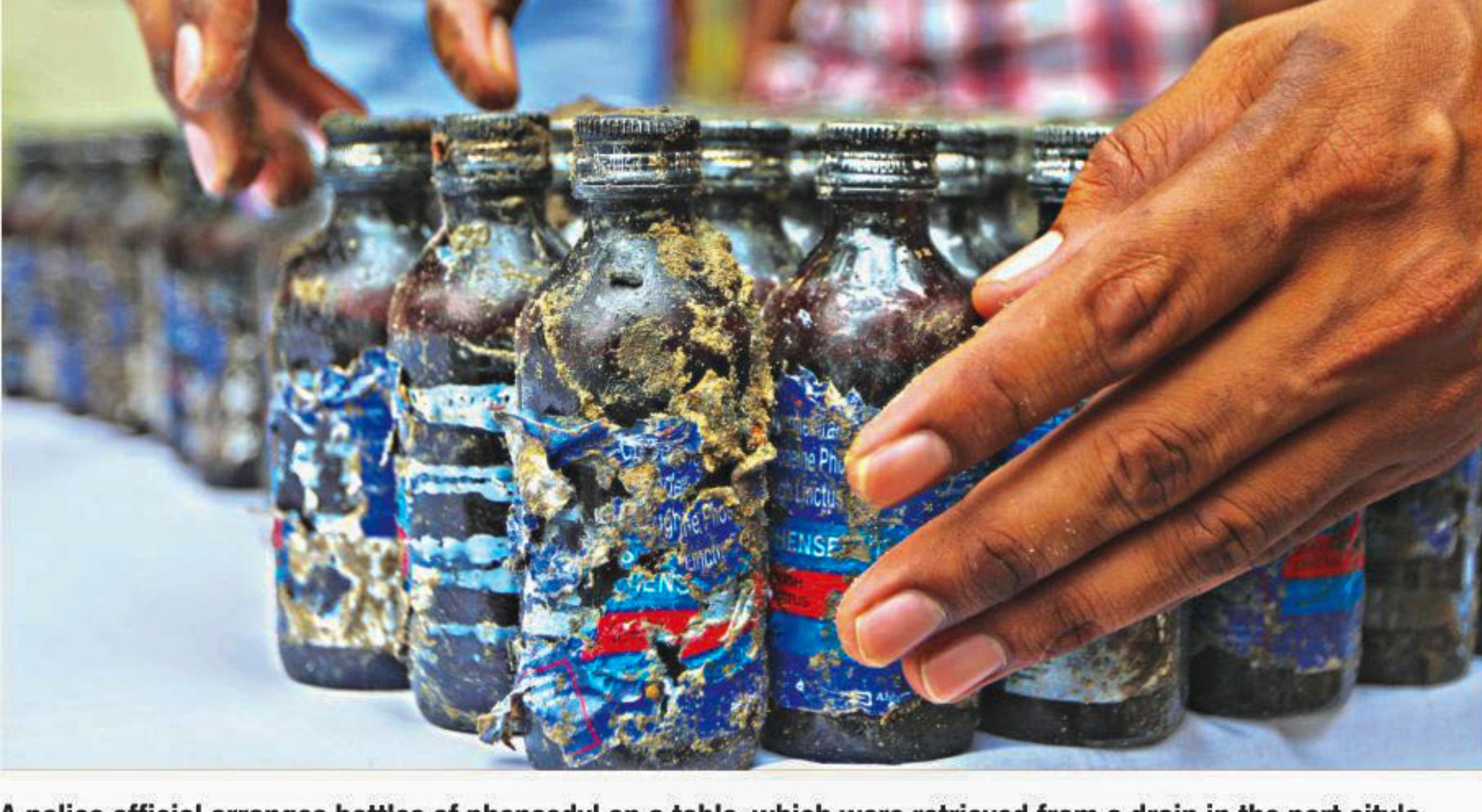
Private bus operators will start selling advance tickets from May 30 ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The decision was taken following a discussion with the top officials of Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners' Association, Faruk Talukdar Sohel, chairman of the association, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier on Thursday, Bangladesh Railway announced to begin the sale of advance train tickets from June 1 ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. It also announced that seven special trains will operate during the Eid rush, to ensure a hassle-free journey for the public.

Railway Minister Mujibul Haque made the announcement while briefing reporters at Railway Bhaban. Earlier, a "preliminary" decision was taken to sell advance train tickets on June 2.

Every year, tens of thousands of people leave the capital to celebrate Eid with their near and dear ones at their village homes. But their journey often turns bitter largely due to traffic jams, overpricing of tickets and collapse of bus and train schedules.



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

## 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 Tasnia killing.

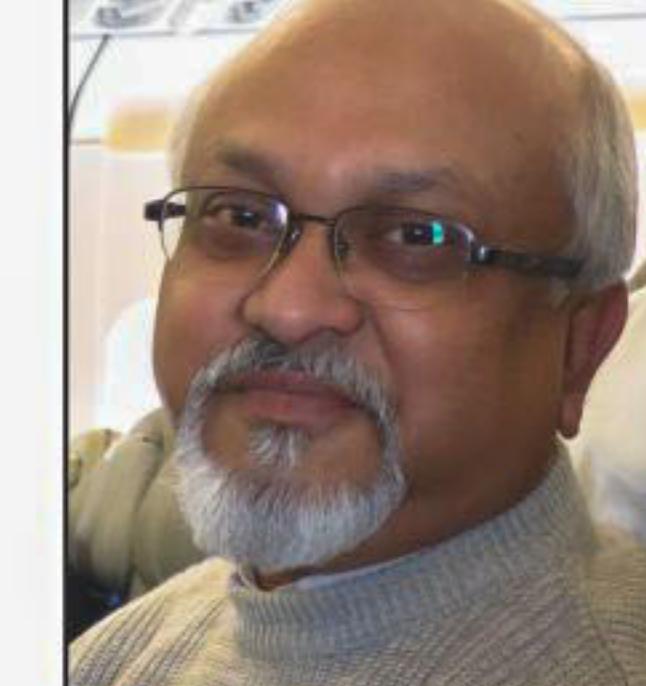
Earlier, police arrested Asif Siraj, 18, from Nasirabad Housing area early on Thursday.

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.

Tasnia, 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



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