

YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURESDHAKA  
H 33.2 L 27.5MYMENSINGH  
H 30.0 L 27.0CHITTAGONG  
H 32.1 L 26.5SYLHET  
H 30.3 L 23.0RAJSHAHI  
H 33.0 L 27.4RANGPUR  
H 30.6 L 25.5KHULNA  
H 34.0 L 27.5BARISAL  
H 32.0 L 26.6COX'S BAZAR  
H 31.7 L 26.0

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Rangpur, Sylhet and at a few places over Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal till 6:00pm, reports UNB quoting Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am.

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



White wagtail, Iceland.

PHOTO:  
IHTISHAM KABIRBirds Here,  
Birds There

Although I spent almost three decades in the United States and spent many hours outdoors under the blue sky of that fair land, it was here in Bangladesh that I learned all about birds and birdwatching. And it has been an extraordinarily rewarding journey for me, since Bangladesh boasts almost 800 species of birds within her boundaries. When I decided to steer my photography - a lifelong passion - towards birds and wildlife, I found myself in technically difficult terrain. It was our *deshi* species that enabled me to practice and hone my bird photography skills.

During recent years, however, I have started making birding trips abroad: Iceland, Madagascar, Florida, and most recently, Brazil - these in addition to several other countries I visited where birding was a secondary activity.

In a distant land, I am usually looking for birds not seen in Bangladesh. But curiously, I get excited to find a common *deshi* bird in an unexpected location. It reminds me that we are all living beings on the same planet, tied to each other by threads of nature. For example, some years ago, I was hiking high over Lake Myvatn in Northeast Iceland on an early summer's day complete with cold wind and a light drizzle. The landscape was typically Icelandic: rocks, beautiful mountains in the distance and, unexpectedly, some short beech trees. Imagine my surprise when I saw a White Wagtail (*Khanjan*) jumping around on the branches. I am used to seeing wagtails dancing and prancing near our hot and humid rivers and ponds; to see it in the cold on this remote island was jarring. "How did you get here? I wanted to ask it.

Waterbirds, such as egrets, and shorebirds found in the mud, such as

sandpipers, are universal, and one can see them aplenty in most geographies. However, I was unsettled to see very few Great Egrets (Boro Bok) during my trip to Madagascar.

Whenever I return from such a trip I impatiently look through my photographs to assess my catch. I have come to expect that really good photographs would be rare. I am not talking about photographing a new species, but simply a good, eye-catching photograph. My photographs of birds of Bangladesh are usually better than birds of foreign lands.

It took me some thought to understand why.

First, in foreign lands, many species are new to me, so the excitement of seeing them detracts from actual picture-making. Efforts for making a well-composed photograph take a back seat to obtaining photographic evidence. But back home, when photographing familiar birds I have photographed numerous times before, I strive to make a better photograph than the last good one.

Second, over the years I have internalized the habits of our birds, so I can predict better what they are going to do. I understand their habitats and territories, how they feed, how they fly from a perch, etc. With prediction comes better poses and action. I am less familiar with the habits of exotic species.

Third, it is a matter of simply spending time watching the birds. At home, I have the luxury of lingering at one spot, or returning there, to get a better photograph. However, time in the field is always limited in foreign trips.

So, the excitement of foreign birding trips notwithstanding, it is home that offers me my best shots.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

10 injured in water  
tank explosion

Gas leakage suspected behind accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten people including six of a family were injured in an underground indoor water tank explosion, believed to be caused by a gas leak, in a building in Pallabi area in the capital on Tuesday night.

The injured were admitted to the burn and plastic surgery unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Among the six members of the family, five are in critical condition, according to doctors.

Palash Chandra Madak, an inspector of Fire Service and Civil Defense, said they suspect gas from a leaked pipe beneath the tank caused the explosion at the six-storey building in block-E of Mirpur 12.

Mohammad Shakil, son of one of the victims, brought them to the hospital around 11:30pm on Tuesday. He said he was outside during the explosion. Quoting the injured, Shakil said the explosion happened immediately after opening the cover of the tank, which was inside one of their rooms.

"There was a problem in the water line. Besides, we had been smelling gas in the house for last three months, which we informed the landlord," he said. "On Tuesday, a cleaner opened the tank and fixed the water problem. But on that night, it exploded with a loud bang and triggered a fire," Shakil said.

He added that the gas stove in the adjacent kitchen was burning at that time which flared up the fire.

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Nawshaba  
walks out  
on bail,  
thanks PM

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed has thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after she walked out on bail from Kashimpur Central Jail around 8:00pm on August 21, the day before Eid.

The actress uploaded a post from her husband Ehsan Rahman Zia's Facebook account. She wrote: "I don't have words to thank honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for giving me the opportunity to feel the joy of Eid with my only daughter Prakriti. She [PM] is a tested, real and most capable guardian of 16 crore people... Apart from her role in leading the country, she is an affectionate mother, which I could realise being a mother myself."

On August 21, a Dhaka court granted ad-interim bail to Nawshaba considering her health condition in connection with a case filed under the ICT act for allegedly spreading rumours on social media during the recent student movement for safe roads.

Metropolitan Magistrate Debrata Biswas passed the order after her lawyer

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A laudable example  
of efficiency

Dhaka city corporations clean up 29,000 tonnes of waste in 48 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both city corporations of Dhaka have successfully cleaned around 29,000 tonnes of waste, from households and of sacrificial animals, from the capital in 48 hours between Wednesday and Friday noon.

Till yesterday afternoon, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) cleaned around 11,500 tonnes of waste while Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has cleaned up 17,500 tonnes of waste.

The credit goes to the city corporation officials and workers who toiled relentlessly to clear up dung, blood and unused parts of animals and kept the city clean and stench-free.

Md Shamsuddin, a wholesaler of raw-hides at Posta, said that the area used to remain messy after Eid-ul-Azha as hides from different parts of the capital were brought there.

"This year the scenario is different. On the second day of Eid, workers cleaned the area well," he said, expressing his gratitude

to the DSCC.

This correspondent even found the dumpsters of the area cleaned.

Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan, an assistant chief waste management officer of DNCC, said that after cleaning the waste of sacrificial animals on the roads, they paid attention to the cattle markets where huge amounts of waste was produced.

"Today [Friday] we've removed waste from Bosila [temporary] cattle market, using 42 trucks. Each truck transported around 10 tonnes of waste," he said.

DNCC's Additional Waste Management Officer Abul Hasnat Md. Ashraf Alam, in a text message, said that they removed around 11,435 tonnes of waste till yesterday afternoon.

DSCC's Additional Waste Management Officer Khandokar Millatul Islam said, "We've removed around 17,500 tonnes of waste, including households", in the last 48 hours."

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Nurse Lima Rangsa, left, and a colleague at the paediatric surgery ward of DMCH. The photo was taken on Tuesday night.

PHOTO:  
PRABIR DAS

## Another kind of sacrifice

Non-Muslim nurses, doctors shoulder hospital responsibilities during Eid

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Location: Department of Paediatric Surgery, ward 205 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Day: August 21, the eve of Eid-ul-Azha. Time: 9:30pm.

Lima Rangsa, one of the two nurses who were on night shift duty (8:00pm-8:00am), had her hands full, checking up on the children, and ensuring their medications were being administered on time.

As the rest of the city took last-minute preparations for Eid festivi-

ties the next morning, some 28 children admitted at the ward were being taken care of by two nurses and three doctors by turn in three shifts.

Lima also took time to talk to the parents of the children undergoing treatment, boosting their morale and giving them hope that their children would recover soon.

Throughout the Eid vacation, she has been taking care of the children, working a 12-hour shift each day to cover for her colleagues who were on leave to celebrate Eid.

"Those who are non-Muslims have to work during Eid holidays as the Muslim nurses and doctors are on vacation to celebrate the religious festival," said Lima, an indigenous woman and a Christian, hailing from Birishiri of Netrakona.

Lima is just one of the many non-Muslim nurses and doctors at different private and government hospitals, providing service round the clock to take care of the patients during Eid holidays.

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Bearing pain of grief and  
serving people: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said she is trying hard to serve people so that they could properly celebrate their festivals despite bearing the pain of tragedies like August 15, 1975 and August 21, 2004.

"It's our duty to serve you; let Eid bring all the joy and happiness to you all. You know what we lost in August 15, 1975 and August 21, 2004. Only we two sisters are alive...we've been working hard, keeping all the pain in our hearts, for you so that you can celebrate your festivals in a befitting way," she said.

The PM was talking to media after exchanging Eid greetings with a cross-section of people, party leaders and workers, and professionals at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

She also praised law enforcement agencies for their all-out efforts so that people could celebrate Eid without any hindrance.

The PM said that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had always said for any great achievement there is a need of great sacrifice.

The gate of Gono Bhaban was opened to visitors at 9:30am. At the beginning, senior Awami League leaders and cabinet members greeted the PM with bouquets.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges Eid greetings with US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, among other diplomats, at the Gono Bhaban on Eid day.

PHOTO: PID



Md. Hashem Chowdhury

## QUL KHWANI

Md. Hashem Chowdhury, 58, Additional Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) passed away at 9:40 pm on Thursday, August 16, 2018 at United Hospital, Dhaka (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilaihi Raje'un).

MTB, in this regard, is arranging a Qul Khwani at Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Mosque) after Asr prayers on Saturday, August 25, 2018.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are kindly requested to join the Qul Khwani and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

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