

## DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Rangpur division, Met Office said. Night and day temperature may remain

nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27am.**

Country's highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati

and Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.5 degrees in Srimangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns

yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius  
Max: 27.5 Min: 14.0  
Dhaka  
Chittagong 28.6 15.7  
Rajshahi 27.8 10.6  
Rangpur 26.7 13.3

Humidity in percentage  
Morning 51 40  
Evening 77 59  
Khulna 29.0 13.0  
Barisal 28.4 12.0  
Sylhet 29.2 13.0  
Cox's Bazar 30.2 16.5

Temperature in Celsius  
Max: 76 Min: 45  
Morning 76 45  
Evening 68 60  
Khulna 29.0 13.0  
Barisal 28.4 12.0  
Sylhet 29.2 13.0  
Cox's Bazar 30.2 16.5

Humidity in percentage  
Morning 62 69  
Evening 62 69

WEATHER  
TODAY

Unb. Dhaka

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Ekushey surrounded by smaller leaves.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Old Leaves, New Leaves

**A**s a result of the recent rain, tiny leaves have appeared almost overnight in many trees which had earlier shed their leaves. This is particularly true of our deciduous trees with smaller leaves, such as Bohera, Shajna, Sengfisla, Shimul and Rubber.

In cold lands, the fall of leaves is preceded by a spectacular show. The leaves of many trees take on numerous shades of yellow, brown and red, tiny brushstrokes painting the forests with vivid colour. In fact, an entire season, Fall, is named after this phenomenon. The trees then shed the leaves so they can survive the winter. Otherwise, the freezing weather would damage the leaves and clinging ice would weigh them down, increasing risk to branches. Winter's frozen ground makes it impossible for the trees to extract water needed to support the functioning of the leaves (which is to make the tree's food.) Trees with small leaves – pine, for example, whose leaves resemble long needles – can survive winter with leaves intact.

But we don't have freezing winters, so why do our trees drop their leaves?

Our trees shed leaves during winter not because of cold but because of dryness. There is less moisture in air and soil. As a result, if they held onto their leaves in winter, many trees would end up with a net loss of moisture. So for their survival these trees shed their leaves which grow again after rains start.

The trees actively promote the shedding of leaves by producing new cells at the joint of leaf and branch. These "abscission" cells grow quickly

and make a kind of bump at the joint, pushing out the leaves – like a scissor cutting them off. Abscission cells also produce scar tissue preventing a wound where the leaf has fallen. Just before this process starts, the tree extracts whatever useful nutrients remain in the leaves and stops producing others including chlorophyll. It is the lack of chlorophyll that lends colour to the leaves before they drop.

Perhaps our trees don't sport the same colours as those of colder lands, but the cycle of falling leaves nevertheless provides us with a variety of memorable sights. On the large thick leaves of Shegun, pale green recedes before a resurgent bright yellow before capitulating. The fan-like Ekushey leaves persist till the last minute, disintegrating gradually and providing food for insects. Remember those gentle green Koroi trees that protected the tea plantations in summer and monsoon? Leafless on a foggy winter morning, they become stark angry forms reaching up to the heavens. And would Shimul's flowers look as breathtaking from miles away – or Shajna's white blossoms be as delicate – if their trees were full of leaves? On the Bohera, fledgling new leaves of a tender yellow hue remind us of the preciousness of life. One who has seen the soft green new leaves radiating from a graceful curved branch of Sengfisla is not likely to forget the sight soon.

New leaves, just like spring, bring us renewal and hope.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

## Visitors throng fair with Ekushey spirit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Being a public holiday marking International Mother Language Day, thousands of visitors, including ones arriving to pay tribute to the Language Movement martyrs at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar nearby, flocked to the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2014 yesterday.

Many of those arriving on the fair's Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan premises had headbands and cheeks adorned with paintings of the minar, national flag and Bangla alphabets and were donning saris and panjabis in shades of black and even school uniforms.

Although the fair begins on February 1, the huge number of visitors stood proof to the wholeness the day brings to the fair which is aptly named in remembrance of the sacrifice of the language heroes on the same day in 1952.

One visitor from Rampura, Amena Akhtar, said coming to the book fair, especially on February 21, has become a habit as

her entire family loved books. "Earlier I used to come with my parents but now I come with my friends," she said.

The fair opened at 8:00am, seven hours in advance than on weekdays, and closed at 8:30pm, half an hour past the regular schedule, to accommodate the rush of visitors, which included some foreigners with whole families.

"Without any doubt we saw the maximum sale today," said Md Aminur Rahman, proprietor of Pranto Prokashon, expecting the figure to be double that of other days. He said they wait every year for the day's sales boom.

Though most returned home with their favourite books, some were a bit disappointed.

"I came to get a book of Bangla Academy named Bangla Bhashar Riti but did not get it... I needed it urgently," said Saiful Sakib Wriju, a class six student of Bir Shrestha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School & College. However, he got two other books.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## No room for terrorism

PM tells Int'l Mother Language Day programme launching

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there was no room for terrorism, militancy, money laundering and corruption in Bangladesh.

"We want to establish Bangladesh as the peaceful nation in South Asia," she said while inaugurating a four-day programme in the capital's International Mother Language Institute marking International Mother Language Day.

"We were known as a country of militants... Bangladesh was blacklisted after 2001. Now, Bangladesh is no more known as a blacklisted, militant and corrupt country," she said, stating that the government aims to build a developed country by 2041.

She said the nation's achievements were through struggles and sacrifices. "We did not and will not bow down before anyone. We will protect the Liberation War's spirit at any cost," she said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2014 in the capital saw an increased number of visitors yesterday which was a public holiday marking International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: STAR

## 25 hurt in post-poll clashes in two dists

CITY DESK

At least 25 people were injured as Awami League and BNP-Jamaat activists clashed in two districts after the first phase of the upazila parishad elections was held Thursday.

In Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari, the loyalists of the two archrivals clashed in different areas on Thursday night after BNP-backed Tajul Islam won the chairman post, defeating AL-backed Shamsul Haque. The clashes left 15 people injured.

Of them, Anamul Haque Ali, joint secretary of the upazila AL, and Hiron, a member of the unit, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition. They were stabbed by BNP activists. Twelve others were treated in the upazila hospital.

Locals said the AL supporters vandalised the house of BNP-backed Delowar Hossain, who was elected vice chairman, in Gomoti union, leading to the clashes. Leaders of the two parties could not specify the numbers of their activists and leaders wounded.

In Atghoria upazila of Pabna, where pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Johurul Islam was elected chairman, defeating

## 10.5kg of gold seized at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials seized 90 gold bars, weighing around 10.50kg, worth Tk 4.50 crore, from a Biman

Bangladesh Airlines flight at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday morning.

The bars were in a polythene bag found in an overhead luggage rack of the plane during regular checking after all the passengers got off the plane that came from Oman, said Md Mosteir Rahman, assistant commissioner of airport customs. None was arrested in this connection.

IGC International Growth Centre



## Public Lecture

On  
Beyond Education for All:  
Meeting the Human Resource Needs of  
Economic Development

By  
Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud

Member, UN Committee for Development Policy  
& former Advisor to the Caretaker Government

Chair: Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman



Tomorrow, 23 February, 10:30 AM, BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium  
BRAC Centre (2nd Floor), 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

Interested all are requested to register!

Email: kazl@igs-bracu.ac.bd or Call: 0181 754 8803

IGC Directed and Organised by



IGC Initiated and Funded by



## Road crashes kill 11

CITY DESK

Dakkshin upazila yesterday. One of the dead was identified as Fakru Islam, 55, a professor of Horicher College. The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, Akbor Ali, 45, of Kaligonj upazila, died after his motorbike collided head-on with a truck near Bahirgachi Bazar in the upazila yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds, 15 persons, of Narayanganj, were injured when a bus carrying picnickers fell into a ditch beside Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway at Gasbaria in Chandanaish upazila yesterday.

Meanwhile, an unidentified boy, aged about eight, died after a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at Horicher Bazar in Sadar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Expanding Horizons

Daily Star Books available at  
Ekushey Boimela

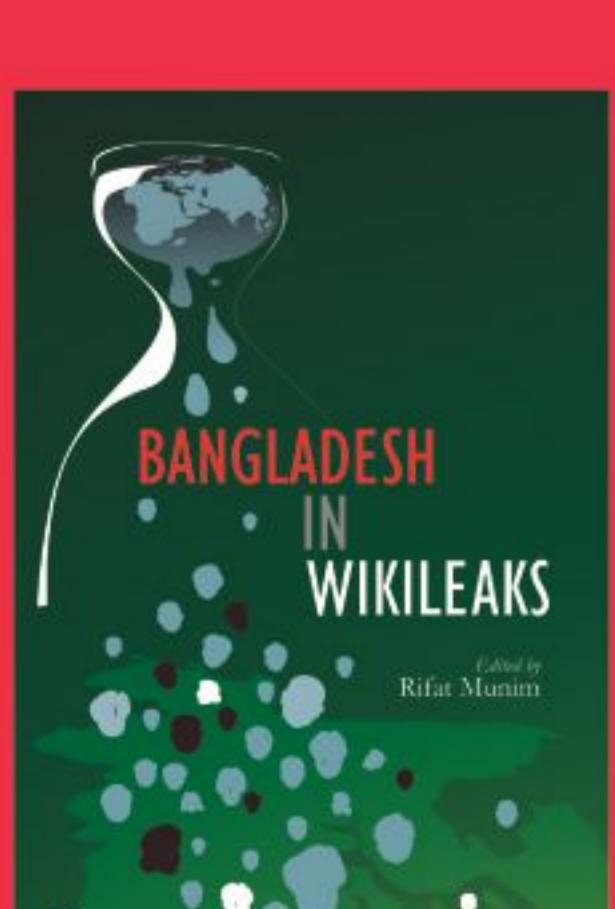
at

পাঠক সমাবেশ

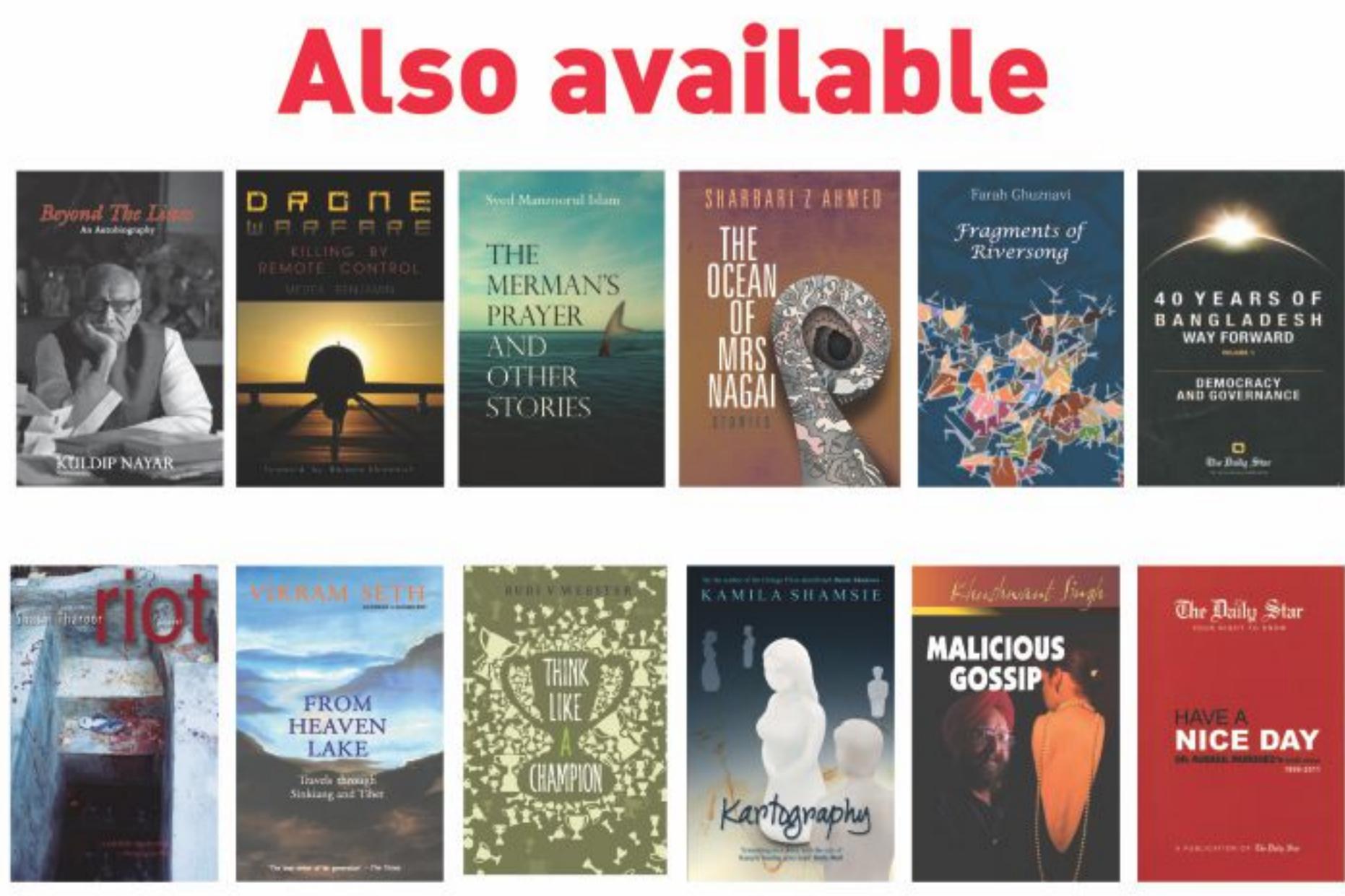
Stall No-347,348,349,350

Suhrawardy Uddyan  
Bangla Academy Boimela, Dhaka  
Phone :+8801713034440

## Special Attraction



Bangladesh in Wikileaks



All Daily Star Books titles will be available at The Pathak Somabesh stall on the premises of Bangla Academy