



YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 28.8 | L 17.2

CHITTAGONG
H 29.5 | L 18.0

SYLHET
H 29.8 | L 15.7

RAJSHAHI
H 27.2 | L 16.8

KHULNA
H 30.8 | L 18.2

BARISAL
H 30.5 | L 16.0

RANGPUR
H 24.4 | L 17.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 30.7 | L 18.4

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27am. Country's highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Mongla and lowest 11.7 in Sreemangal.



The colours of different nations feature in Bangladesh Sangskritik Karmi Sangha's procession at Dhaka University yesterday on the eve of International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO:
STAR

Young leaders can bring sustainable change

Economist Haider A Khan tells public lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young leadership has the potential to bring positive changes to the country. If guided by a vibrant civil society, youth leadership can be developed in different sectors across the country and can organise large movements for sustainable change.

Such movements are likely to be waged on the issues of unemployment, climate change and inequality.

The views were expressed by internationally acclaimed economist Haider A Khan at a public lecture organised by Brac University yesterday.

The lecture, "Egalitarian Development: A Strategy for Bangladesh in the 21st Century", was delivered in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

The John Evans Professor teaches eco-



Haider A Khan

nomics at Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver.

Commenting on the current political impasse, he said the loss to the economy has worried most people.

"It can't go on for months," he said, "But a solution should come from within the country, not prescribed from outside."

Pointing out that representative democracy and parliamentary constitutional politics have limitations, he stressed that without the right political and civic culture, democracy cannot function anywhere in the world.

"Unless we find credible means to change the political culture within which we function, and affect the attitudes, values and indulgences of our political elite, the viability of democracy will be doubtful," he concluded. Prof MM Akash also spoke.

Youth jailed for proxy exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday sentenced a youth to one-and-a-half years' imprisonment for giving proxy examination in the English 1st Paper of Dakhil examinations in Chittagong.

Led by Executive Magistrate Achia Khatun, the mobile court also fined Mohammad Omar Faruk, 23, Tk 10,000 in default to serve three more months in prison.

Faruk sat for the exam in place of Mohammad Bayezid at Darul Ulum Dakhil Madrasa centre, said Achia Khatun.



WB vice president for South Asia due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vice President of World Bank for South Asia Region Annette Dixon is due in Dhaka today to further the longstanding partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank Group, said a press release yesterday.

She will meet senior government officials, including the finance minister, as well as private sector and civil society leaders. She will also visit World Bank-financed projects, it added.

Mamata seeks

FROM PAGE 3

"Whenever I come here, I become upset mentally. There are so many signs of bullets and dead bodies," she said with teary eyes.

"It can not be justified that I will be in Bangladesh but will not visit Bangabandhu's residence...How will the new generation know about history and the movement of freedom if we do not recall the history?"

Mamata later attended a reception hosted by Pankaj Saran at his Gulshan residence in the capital where ministers, politicians, litterateurs, cultural activists and journalists were present.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Mamata, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and BNP leader Moudud Ahmed sat in a row together.

Awami League ministers Amir Hossain Amu and Asaduzzaman Noor and BNP leaders Moyeen Khan and Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman were present.



Amar Ekushey Granthamela sees a large turnout at the weekend yesterday. The photo was taken at the entrance of the Suhrawardy Udyan portion.

PHOTO:
STAR

No books in indigenous tongues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every year, the Amar Ekushey Granthamela commemorates the right established by the language martyrs in 1952 to express themselves in their mother tongue in all spheres of life.

It was their sacrifice which also established February 21 as International Mother Language Day, to promote multilingualism and multiculturalism.

Yet books written in indigenous languages of Bangladesh, other than in Bangla and English, are absent in the fair.

Three years ago, Manipuri Sahitya Sangsad had a stall in the fair and sold books written in Meithei, a branch of Manipuri language.

Chandrajit Singha, vice-president of the organisation, said, "Novels, stories and poems are written in Meithei. But it was very difficult for us to bring the books all the way from Sylhet and run a stall without patronisation for one entire month."

Singha said mainstream publishers did not show interest in publishing books in indigenous languages, as they did not want to take the risk of low turnover.

"We publish literature from our organisation," he said.

Sanjeeb Drong, a prolific columnist, writer and general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, feels that Bangla Academy should

take initiatives to encourage indigenous literature.

"When the state itself does not want to recognise us by the identity we prefer as indigenous people instead of tribal groups, it becomes difficult to promote our language," said Drong, who writes in Bangla. His mother tongue, Achik, has no script of its own.

According to Shourav Sikder, a professor of linguistics at Dhaka University and indigenous language researcher, there is no recent survey on the languages of

Bangladesh.

"But during my research, I came across 37-40 indigenous tongues. Of them only a few including Chakma, Marma, Murong and Meithei have their own scripts," he said.

However, books on the life, culture, traditions and rights of indigenous communities are available in the fair, both in English and Bangla.

Books by indigenous writers sell especially in Sucheepratna, Ankur Prokashani, National Publication and Janaprio Prokashani.

"These books have very limited

demand. Mostly researchers look for books on indigenous people's life and their rights," said Md Dulal, a marketing manager of Ankur Prokashani.

University Grants Commission, Bangla Academy, Pathak Samabesh, University Press Ltd, Ittadi Grantho Prokash, Mizan Publishers, Shova Prokash, and Samhati Publications have research volumes by Bangalee writers on ethnographies and indigenous rights and cultures.

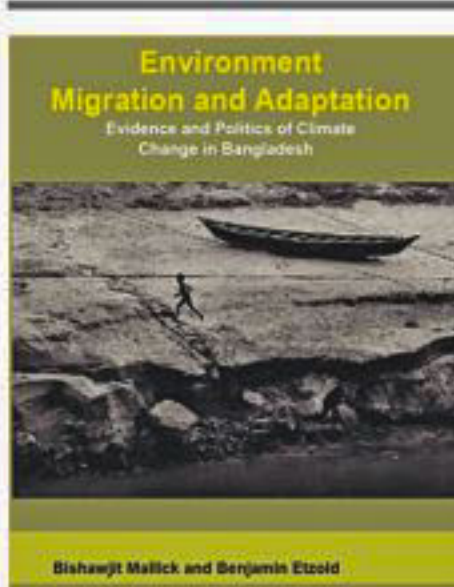
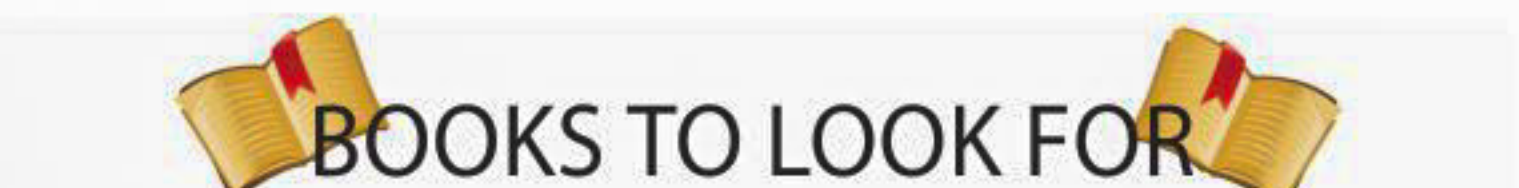
Yesterday, 264 new books hit the fair while 27 were launched.



To listen to the Amar Ekushey song by Madol, scan this QR code



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "I-NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



ENVIRONMENT, MIGRATION AND ADAPTATION: EVIDENCE AND POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANGLADESH
Edited by: Dr Bishawjit Mallick and Dr Benjamin Etzold
Publisher: AHDPH
Price: BDT 1,200



PAHARE BIPANNO JONOPAD
Author: Biplob Rahman
Publisher: Samhati
Price: BDT 240



AMI JIBONE JIBON MELABAR KOTHA BOLECHHILAM
Author: Sanjeeb Drong
Publisher: Sucheepratna
Price: BDT 250

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

THE WRITING LIFE

I have loved books since childhood and somewhere along the way I also became interested in writing. In my twenties and thirties becoming a writer was a dream second only to my passion for photography. Naturally I experimented with merging the two, but this turned out to be easier said than done. Nevertheless I read voraciously, wrote whenever I could, and looked for ways to improve my writing skills.

In particular, I went through a period of searching out and reading books on writing. It turns out that so many people dream of becoming a writer (and, presumably, escaping their humdrum existence) that there is a cottage industry of such books. The classic, for me and many others, is *The Elements of Style* written by Will Strunk and E.B. White. Strunk was an English professor at Cornell University. White was a renowned American writer and a student of Strunk's.

Strunk and White show the basics of writing: how to construct a sentence, how to write correct, persuasive and direct prose, how to omit needless words. However, many other books of the genre go further by showing the reader a path to becoming a writer.

There is, for example, Natalie Goldberg's *Wild Mind* which offers a Zen approach to turning your life around to become a writer. *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser gently complements Strunk and White. Many serious writers revere John Gardner, who, in *The Art of Fiction*, coined a new term, "profluence" to help aspiring writers with the notion of the flow of a story.

Back then, I had no idea about how many others



Is there a writer in all of us?

PHOTO:
IHTISHAM KABIR

thought-provoking. They give the aspiring writer a warm and fuzzy feeling about a possible writing career, thus keeping the dream alive. Most of them bypass the cruel reality of how hard it is to "make it" as a writer, but so what?

We often hear stories about famous writers – larger than life geniuses such as Tagore, Hemingway or Tolstoy – and are tempted to draw romanticized pictures in our imagination. However, writing is a demanding and difficult task. As Hemingway said, "Writing is easy. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open up a vein."

Writing is also something that can be learned and improved. In my case, I found discipline, practice, and an occasional encounter with the how-to book helped a great deal.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

NEWS IN brief

'Mugger' chased by mob drowns in Gulshan Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger running away from a mob jumped into the Gulshan Lake in the capital and drowned yesterday.

The deceased was Shakil, 25.

Quoting witnesses, Sikdar Mohitul Alam, sub-inspector of Gulshan Police Station, said Shakil snatched a man's mobile phone and tried to escape with it. Chased by passers-by, Shakil jumped into the lake, he added. Divers recovered the body and sent it for an autopsy.

Man hurt in clash over boat queue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A man was injured in a clash between two groups over maintaining a queue of speed boats in Shimulia ghat of Munshiganj yesterday.

Police arrested two youths -- Rocky and Ahad Sheikh -- in this connection and seized a pistol from them.

Police said employees of speed boat owners -- Abul Kalam and Dinu Khan -- clashed with sticks.

Mahindra Comviva opens new service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahindra Comviva, an India-based firm providing mobility solutions to mobile operators and service providers, has introduced customer value management solutions to mobile network's mobile data growth strategy, with an aim to extend its footprint in Bangladesh.

The new service will "support operators in achieving customer retention and improved customer service goals", Amit Sanyal, its assistant vice president, said in Dhaka recently.

Five detained for tax dodge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion personnel on Thursday night detained five members of a gang that used to evade paying taxes by taking goods out of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with fake documents.

Rab Commanding Officer Lt Col Tuhiin Mohammad Masud, told this at a press briefing at Rab headquarters yesterday. He said the detained confessed to tax fraud during primary interrogation.

Indian navy chief due tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy Admiral RK Dhowan will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a five-day goodwill visit.

Admiral RK Dhowan's visit is a part of the tradition of regular high level exchanges between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

Dhowan is visiting at the invitation of Chief of Naval Staff of Bangladesh Navy Vice Admiral M Farid Habib, according to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.