

DHAKA H 31.8 L 22.7

H 29.2 L 20.2

RAJSHAHI H 33.0 L 20.3 H 32.0 L 19.7

KHULNA H 32.8 L 22.0

BARISAL H 32.7 L 21.7

RANGPUR **H** 30.5 **L** 20.0

COX'S BAZAR H 29.5 L 20.0

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:20am. Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Patuakhali and lowest 18.0 in Teknaf and Dinajpur.

The Baily Star

# Book fair ends undaunted

### Turnover larger than last year's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long book fair that was an oasis amid political chaos in the country came to an end yesterday night.

Continuous blockades and hartals, political violence on the streets, and not even the shutdown of a stall in the face of protest by religious extremists could mar the spirit of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015.

In the eyes of Farid Ahmed, publisher of Somoy Prokashon, the fair was a success considering the circum-

stances during which it was held.

"Sale at some stalls may have been affected, but if you are able to publish good books and market

those well then your books will sell," he In fact, according to Bangla Academy's

public relation office, the total sale this year was Tk 21.95 crore, while last year the total sale was Tk 16.5 crore. Even on the last day, 125 new books

arrived at the fair totalling the number of books to 3,700. Most stalls on the Suhrawardy Udyan

portion of the fair yesterday refrained from any kind of transaction for 10 minutes at 4:00pm in protest of the murder of Avijit

At the closing ceremony of the fair, prizes to the awardees.

awards of Bangla Academy -- "Chittaranjan Saha Smriti Puroshkar", "Munier Chowdhury Smriti Puroshkar", "Rokonuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai Smriti Puroskar" and "Qayyum Chowdhury Smriti Puroshkar" -- were given to seven publishing houses.

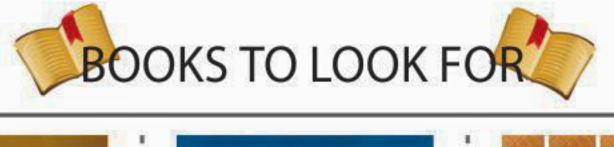
Mowla Brothers, Bengal Publications Limited, Pathak Samabesh and Somoy Prokashon, which received the first three awards, got Tk 25,000, certificate and a crest each.

> The University Press Limited, Prothoma Prokashon and Journeyman Books got the fourth award. The University Press Limited received Tk 20,000, a certificate and a crest for the best

pavilion, while Prothoma Prokashon and Journeyman Books received Tk 15,000, a crest and a certificate each for best decorated stall.

Meanwhile, poet and writer Iqbal Hossain and artist Syed Igbal received Bangla Academy's "Syed Waliullah Puroskar" for their contribution to Bangla literature abroad. The awardees were given a cheque of Tk 50,000, a crest, a certificate and a flower bouquet each.

Minister of Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor handed over the

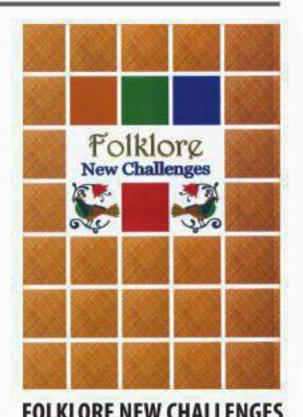




AGEKAR MELA KOTHA Author: Md Shajahan Miah Publisher: Shirin Publication Price: BDT 100



**SHUNDOR EI PRITHIBI AMAR** Author: Afroza Bulbul Publisher: Adorn Publications Price: **BDT 1,100** 



**FOLKLORE NEW CHALLENGES** Edited by: Shamsuzzaman Khan, Firoz Mahmud, Shahida Khatun Publisher: Bangla Academy Price: **BDT 1,000** 



Visitors crowd the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 on its last day yesterday. The photo was taken at the Suhrawardy Udyan portion.

#### DISABLED PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, PROTECTION ACT Empowerment of Orientation for judges recommended women decelerates

Prothom Alo-UNFPA roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh has made an enviable progress in women's health and nutrition, and reduced maternal mortality in last two decades, their empowerment has been limited, women's rights activists said yesterday.

Women rarely get to make decisions in their homes and workplaces, they said at a roundtable on gender equality and women's empowerment organised by Prothom Alo and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at the daily's office in the capital.

Women are in the top leadership of the country but it is still patriarchy that rules everything, said Ayesha Khanam, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad president.

Discriminatory laws allowing women little

control and ownership of properties have slowed down their empowerment, she stressed. Frequent incidents of rape and violence

prove that attitude towards women have not changed much, she concluded. Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said

Bangladesh had made notable progress in reducing maternal mortality, improving health, nutrition and education since the Beijing Declaration in 1995. In spite of that, 4,654 women suffered

he said, citing newspaper reports. The resolution, adopted by the United Nations at the Fourth World Conference on Women, stipulated a set of principles concerning gender equality.

oppression while 939 rapes took place in 2014,

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy said political parties can play the most crucial role in empowering women.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judges should be given an orientation about Disabled People's Rights and Protection Act, 2013 in their basic training, speakers at a national conference yesterday recommended. The court buildings as well as police stations should be

designed to be accessible for the people with disabilities, they added. The conference on "Access to Justice for People with Disabilities in Bangladesh" was organised by Handicap

(BLAST) in the capital's Six Seasons Hotel, said a press release. They also urged lawyers to provide at least 10 percent of their services to the poor people with disabilities for free.

International (HI), and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust

Justice Naima Haider, special guest of the event, said the people with special needs, particularly women, were vulnerable to violence and discrimination.

A lack of knowledge on the legal procedures, lengthy trials and its expenses are major barriers to access justice for the people with special needs, she said.

Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah committed to proposing judicial administration training institute to include the act in its curricula. The event was chaired by Barrister Sara Hossain, executive director (honorary) of BLAST.

## Impunity breeding such savagery

FROM PAGE 3

awarded Avijit's Mukto-Mona (free thinker) blog site for its contributions to the anti-communalism movement in 2012, said the savagery of the fundamentalists had crossed all limits.

In a statement, the anti-war criminal platform demanded punishment over all other such attacks and killings in the past.

Cultural organisation Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will stage a mass hunger strike and sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on March 6 protesting the murder of Avijit and all killings during the ongoing political violence.

The hunger strike that aims to build mass resistance against killing, destruction and sabotage will begin at 11:00am and continue till 4:00pm, announced Golam Quddus, president of the Jote, while addressing a rally at

Around a dozen cultural personalities and academicians, who spoke there, called upon all the proliberation and progressive forces to stand united and fight fundamentalism and militancy. They demanded the government's necessary steps to secure the lives of the people.

Progotishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance killers. of leftist student organisations, will enforce a strike on the DU campus tomorrow for the immediate arrest of the killers of Avijit Roy.

Its three-point demand, announced at a press conference at a press briefing at Madhur Canteen, also includes trial of those who attacked Prof Humayun Azad and a stop to "state interference" in the right to freedom of expression.

In addition, the alliance will hold a solidarity rally with teachers, student and mass people at Shahbagh Tuesday and submit a memorandum to the home minister the following

Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, a platform of left-leaning parties, will hold a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club today demanding immediate arrest of the

In its condemnatory statement, Bangladesh Economic Association urged the government to take effective action against the individuals and institutions giving funds and arms to the militant

forces. The faction of Gonojagoron Mancha, led by Imran H Sarker, will hold a mass rally at 4:00pm at Shahbagh.



Stéphane Nordé, managing director of Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd; and Dr Md Nazrul Islam Khan, professor of the **Institute of Nutrition** and Food Science of **Dhaka University,** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on a programme "Nestlé Healthy Kids" on Thursday. Naquib Khan, corporate affairs adviser of the company; and Mirza Golam Hossain, one of its senior managers, were also present on the occasion.

PHOTO:

The 15th convocation of American International University–Bangladesh was held on the Bangladesh military museum field in the capital yesterday. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presided over the ceremony where Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran was the convocation speaker. AIUB Trustee Board Chairman Ishtiaque Abedin and Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna also spoke on the occasion. A total of 2,755 graduates were conferred degrees at the event. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Provide cellphones

FROM PAGE 4 should engage more with hopeful migrants and form a special committee to oversee the migration process, sug-

gested media personality Mohammad Jahangir. If there are skilled females, the salary can be increased from the Saudi Riyal 800, equivalent to around Tk 16,000, set in the

agreement, said Baira Secretary General Monsur Ahmed Kalam. The discussants added that the government should take up a public-private initiative to develop the training quality and that both it and Baira should engage more with one another to ensure safe migration for the females.

### Family visits war crimes

FROM PAGE 3 February 19.

The convict has to file a review petition, if any, within March 5. During the meeting, Kamaruzzaman expressed concern over the arrest of his brother-in-law, Monowar Hossen Babul,

Tejgaon Police Station in the capital, said the lawyer Manir. They were picked up by plainclothes police from Kamaruzzaman's Mirpur residence on February 24, he added.

and nephew, Abdul Alim, over an arson case filed with

#### RU BCL men 'beat staff

Meanwhile, Swapan Sarker, a guard who runs a laundry in Sher-e-Bangla Hall, said he was beaten with a stick around 8:00pm after "asking" Mamun to get his clothes ironed the next day, citing that he was ill and closing business for the day.

RU BCL President Mizanur Rahman Rana and Proctor Prof Tarikul Hasan assured of punitive measures if their respective investigations proved the allegations to be true.

## COLLECTED Man dies from electrocution

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar** 

A person died after being electrocuted at his house at Nagarchor of Rajfulbaria in Savar, outside Dhaka

yesterday. The deceased Shantosh Ray, 30, hailed from Nilphamari

was a RMG worker. Locals said Shantosh came in contact with a leaked electric wire while he was crossing the boundary wall of his house as the main gate was closed in the early morning when he came from work.

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