

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.0 L 24.8	H 32.2 L 26.0	H 28.5 L 24.13	H 31.0 L 25.8	H 33.8 L 26.4	H 30.3 L 25.0	H 28.0 L 23.4	H 31.0 L 24.7

Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am. Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and Jessore and lowest 23.4 in Rangpur.

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Mourning dove at Central Park. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR.

## Birds of Central Park

Central Park is an urban park of 843 acres in Manhattan, New York, in the heart of the city that never sleeps. It was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux - their design won an open competition - and inaugurated in 1857. At that time New York was undergoing rapid growth and the park offered inhabitants a respite from the concrete jungle of the city. Today it continues to be a lovely breath of green among Manhattan's skyscrapers. Not only is Central Park the most visited urban park in the United States, it is also one of the most filmed locations in the world. It includes several lakes and ponds, fountains and streams, meadows and gardens, and of course thousands of trees.

While Central Park is widely admired for its visionary urban planning, what is less well known is the variety of the birds it attracts. Since its creation, over 280 bird species have been recorded here, of which about 200 are regular inhabitants or migrants and the rest are infrequent visitors. In particular, a 36-acre section of the park called The Ramble - with dense large trees - is a haven for birds. Olmstead had envisioned The Ramble as someplace where the visitor could get lost in "wild nature."

Tempted by this, I decided to visit Central Park with my camera during a recent trip to New York. August is a slow month for birding here, but I hoped to at least see some "baromashi" species.

I entered the park early on a cool morning. Joggers ran on various roads and paths inside the park. As I walked towards The Ramble with the lake on my right, my eyes were on the bushes

to my left which were illuminated by the rising sun. Presently I saw several red-breasted American robins, migratory birds of the thrush family. Perched on a berry bush was a brilliant red male cardinal (like many other bird species, the females are a duller colour.) A mourning dove was rapidly tip toeing under a giant oak tree, looking for food. The blue jays - pretty blue-and-white birds with a blue crest - stuck to the higher branches. A grackle, black and deep shiny blue, about half the size of our crows, sat on a tree nearby. The air was filled with the songs of many birds.

While the Ramble did not quite give me a feeling of wild nature as Olmstead had intended, I enjoyed walking here. I got "lost" in its meandering trails (to the extent that one can get lost in an urban park.) Finding a creek I sat down on a raised boulder overlooking it. Several smaller birds were chasing flying insects. These included catbirds and (I guess) some flycatchers. A sparrow stopped by for a drink of water.

I left after two hours, but returned twice on subsequent days. On one occasion my photographer friend Frank Dobbs accompanied me. Towards the end of our walk, we spotted a mammal family climbing from one tree to another. These turned out to be raccoons; later, we found two more peeping from their home in a tree-hole.

Like any other new place rich in birds, Central Park would take weeks or months - even years - to explore fully. However, the time I spent there was time well-spent. I look forward to my next opportunity to visit it.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

# Abul Mansur was a literary giant, statesman, visionary

Academics, writers recall Abul Mansur Ahmad's contributions to politics, literature, nation-building; 5 awarded for their research works on him



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academics and writers have termed Abul Mansur Ahmad a visionary statesman, litterateur and journalist whose life was dedicated to the much needed social and political reforms for the progress of common people of his era.

The social and political double standards and hypocrisy exposed in his satirical stories and articles are very relevant today and can provide valuable lessons for the present generation for nation building, they said yesterday.

"Abul Mansur's political wisdom was unique. When there were discussions of Pakistan movement in undivided India in 1944, he talked of three nations - India, West Pakistan and East Bengal," said Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman.

He always fought for the Muslims of East Bengal who were deprived of their economic and political rights, said Anisuzzaman, chairman of Abul Mansur Smriti Parishad.

The observations came at the daylong Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Conference organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad in the Abdul Karim Shahitya Bisharad Auditorium of the Bangla Academy on the occasion of his 117th birth anniversary on September 3.

For the first time, five academics were presented awards for their research works on Abul Mansur Ahmad. They are Dr Nurul Amin, Dr Rajib Humayun, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dr Md Chenggis Khan and Emran Mahfuz.

A special recognition was accorded to Dr Rafiqul Islam for editing the six volume collection of Abul Mansur's works.

Each was given a crest, a certificate and Tk 50,000.

The daylong conference was divided into three sessions focusing on Abul Mansur's literary, journalistic, and political life respectively. Eminent academics, writers, journalists and social activists attended the event.

In the first session on litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad was chaired by writer and novelist Syed

Shamsul Haque. He said, "Abul Mansur made great contribution to the satirical literature of Bengal through his stories like 'Aina' and 'Food Conference'. In fact, after him there was almost none to write true satires."

Writing such satires on Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy while working directly under them needed great courage, he said.

"Today, satirical writings are absent in literature. Even, the editors don't dare to print satirical cartoons. Our society has become so touchy," the novelist said.

Novelist Selina Hossain said Abul Mansur Ahmad was a guiding light in the world of literature during the 50s, whose essays are comparable only to world literature.

"None other than the highly talented litterateurs was able to write satires like him in the world of literature. His satires were very sharp," she said, adding that his stories still resonate.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



From left in front row, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dr Rajib Humayun, Professor Emeritus Dr Rafiqul Islam, Dr Md Chenggis Khan, Dr Nurul Amin and Emran Mahfuz were awarded at the Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Conference organised at Bangla Academy yesterday marking Abul Mansur's 117th birth anniversary. Behind them are, from left, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Selina Hossain, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Syed Abul Maksud, Syed Shamsul Haque, Syed Anwara Haque, Kamal Lohani, Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, Anwarul Morshed and Mahfuz Anam. PHOTO: STAR

## Donate Tk 10,000 to build Liberation War Museum

Trustees urge all citizens; start 3-month fundraising campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Liberation War Museum has launched a three-month long special fundraising campaign to complete the construction of the museum building.

Trustees of the museum at a press conference at the under-construction building in the capital's Agargaon, urged all citizens of the country, particularly the youth, to participate in the initiative.

Some other major works like interior designing and gallery work will need three

more months.

Trustees -- Dr Sarwar Ali, Tariq Ali, and Sara Zaker -- and a member of the finance committee, Matin Chowdhury, among others, were present.

Reading out a written statement, Tariq Ali said the estimated cost of the building is Tk 102 crore.

Of the total amount, Tk 80 crore was raised from the public, including school students' donation. No foreign donation was sought or received, Ali read.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



A nearly completed Liberation War Museum in the capital for which the authorities have started a three-month fundraising campaign. PHOTO: STAR

## Teachers to get MPO online

BSS, Dhaka

The government is going to make distribution of Monthly Pay Order (MPO) online for 26,000 educational institutions including secondary level schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutions to change the traditional cumbersome process, top officials said.

They said the education ministry took the decision in line with its education policy 2010 that emphasised the decentralisation of education management.

The online distribution of MPO will be held in nine regions-Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Comilla, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal and Khulna to ensure transparency and accountability, said Education Secretary Md Nazrul Islam Khan.

He said a circular in this regard will be issued soon.

The entire spectrum of online activities will be done in a well-thought-out management plan to remove bottlenecks and bring transparency, said NI Khan, adding each educational institution must have a website with a provision to receive online applications.

The existing process to receive hard copy application will also remain but for a particular period and gradually all functions of MPO distribution will be automated, the education

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## ARRESTED CONSTABLE FLED FROM CUSTODY 3 policemen closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three members of Bagharpara Police Station were closed to the District Police Lines on Thursday night after a constable, arrested in connection with mugging in Narail, fled from the custody.

The three are officer-in-charge Kaiyum Ali Sardar, assistant sub-inspector Nasiruddin and constable Olier Rahman, said Additional Superintendent of Police KM Ariful Haque.

The arrested constable of Jhikargachha Police Station, Mizanur Rahman, told the police officials that he along with four others, including DB police constable Lipton and Pabna's Sujanager Police Station's constable Rabayet, intercepted one Touhidur Rahman's car near Gabtala Bridge, introducing themselves as DB officials and took him to a brick kiln Wednesday. They beat Touhidur and made away with his car, around Tk 5,000 and two mobile phone sets.

Following a case filed by Touhidur, Bagharpara police arrested Mizanur while others fled.

## Two beaten up for harassing DU student

DU CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat two youths in Dhaka University's TSC area allegedly for harassing a female student yesterday evening.

But Imrul Hasan Titu of Jatrabari and Habibul Rahman of Narayanganj denied the allegation.

The two stalked the female student of law department and demanded her cell phone number introducing themselves as members of the Detective Branch of police, said witnesses. As she refused to comply, the two tried to harass her. The victim later phoned her other friends. They and others beat the duo and handed them over to police.

FROM TWO ECONOMIES TO TWO NATIONS  
MY JOURNEY TO BANGLADESH  
by REHMAN SOBHAN

Home Delivery Service  
www.rokomari.com  
16297  
Scan this QR CODE

Daily Star Books are available at:  
Aziz Super Market, Shahbag; Prothoma (9664825), Pathak Shamabesh (01713034440) Dhanmondi; Gyankosh (8623251), Baily Road; Sagor Publishers (01716544444), Gulshan; Gloria Jean's Coffees (01914426135), Banani; Ananya Crafts (9882542), Old Aripport; Bookworm (9120387), Airport; Omni Books (8901808).  
Chittagong: Batighor (01713304344) and Prothoma (01711649422)