

# Dhaka Lit Fest



Three Bangladeshi writers of English fiction, from left, Nesar Nadim, Khondokar Ashif Uz Zaman and Srabonti Narmeen Ali in conversation with Indian novelist Nirupama Subramanian on the closing day of the three-day Dhaka Lit Fest in Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

## ATTACK ON PASTOR

# Jamaat leader remanded for two more days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Jamaat-e-Islami leader was placed on remand for two more days in connection with shooting an Italian national after his one-day remand ended yesterday.

Mahbubur Rahman Bhutto, general secretary of Dinajpur district unit Jamaat, was arrested in the town on Wednesday after Italian national Piero Parolari was shot around 8:30am that day.

A Dinajpur court on Thursday put him on one-day remand.

Detective Branch of police yesterday produced the Jamaat leader before the court seeking seven-day remand. The court however allowed them to quiz him for two days.

Police have so far detained 11 suspects including the Jamaat leader in connection with the case. Ten of the arrestees were released after primary interrogation, said detectives.

Parolari, an Italian physician and pastor, was shot by unidentified criminals near BRTC bus terminal at Mirzapur in the town. He was going to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital to see patients voluntarily.

Locals took him to the hospital from where he was air-lifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka by a helicopter of Bangladesh Air Force.

Health of Parolari was improving, said Father Silas Kuzur in Dinajpur.

Superintendent of Police Ruhul Amin said they had beefed up security in the district and he himself was monitoring the situation.

## NEWS IN brief

### 93 held in special drives in Ctg

Bss, Ctg

Police arrested 93 people including four Jamaat-Shibir activists in different upazilas of Chittagong on Friday night.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Special Branch) of Chittagong district, Mohammad Naimul Hasan, said the 89 arrestees were accused in many cases. Police also recovered 5,580 Yaba tablets and 1,109 litres of locally made alcoholic beverage during the drives.

### India to host South Asian disaster management exercise tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Rescuers and other officials from Bangladesh and seven other Saarc countries will begin a three-day First South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise in India tomorrow. Meanwhile, a daylong SAARC Regional Workshop on sharing best practices on "Disaster Risk Reduction" will be held in New Delhi on November 27.



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## British Council holds career summit

DU CORRESPONDENT

A career summit was organised in the capital yesterday aiming to connect Bangladeshi graduates who studied in the UK with different renowned organisations in the country.

The British Council Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM) organised the summit at the British Council centre on Fuller Road.

Representatives of leading corporate houses, professionals and alumni of education institutions in the UK, among others, participated in the event.

Candidates were assessed and graded by potential employers based on their current competencies in the required sector, salary expectation, previous experience, extracurricular activities, IT skills, English proficiency and references from their educational institutions.

The career summit hosted plenary sessions and different parallel sessions on job oriented course specifications, and curriculum vitae writing and mock interview sessions conducted by HR specialists, UK delegate, Alumni and HR of British Council.

### DHAKA LIT FEST ENDS

## Be subtle under govt pressure

Journalist Jon Snow advises fellow newsmen about working in regimes curtailing free speech; Nesar Nadim's first horror fiction 'Demons' published by Daily Star Books launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating the triumph of creative and liberal thoughts over trepidation, the three-day Dhaka Lit Fest hosted by Bangla Academy in the capital came to an end yesterday with UK-based international journalist Jon Snow urging fellows to be subtle if under pressure while working in regimes barring free speech.

The veteran reporter was having a conversation with Dhaka Lit Fest Director Ahsan Akbar in the morning when he shared his experiences from around the world and also talked about the influence of media ownership, dangers of de-sensitisation and terrorism worldwide.

In a conversation with Indian novel-

ist Nirupama Subramanian, Nesar Nadim, Srabonti Narmeen Ali and Khondokar Ashif Uz Zaman spoke about the space English commercial fictions by Bangladeshi writers occupy in the country.

Nesar stressed the importance of forming fan groups using events and social media to promote and create readership.

Among other interesting events of the day was the speech of Nobel prize-winning Harold Varmus on his lifetime passion for literature and science.

Besides discussions, the day was marked with spiritual songs, staging of a children's play, storytelling sessions, poetry recitals and many more.

## 126 more go to India today

FROM PAGE 4

Indian enclaves will travel to India today through the Chilahati-Haldibari border.

Chilahati is a bordering town of Nilphamari district and Haldibari is a subdivision under Cooch Behar district in the Indian state of West Bengal.

A few days ago, Border Guard Bangladesh at Dangapara border outpost in Nilphamari and Indian Border Security Force at Khalpara camp of Cooch Behar constructed a 150-metre-long road on the no man's land for smooth migration of people.

Domar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sabiha Sultan said people from the six erstwhile enclaves will go to India in four phases (November 22, 23, 24 and 26).

The district administration has com-

pleted preparations for smooth passage of people through the border.

Today, 55 people will be first taken to Dangapara Abdur Rouf Govt Primary School where officials will verify their transit documents and perform medical check-up on them.

The BGB will then take them towards the newly built road on the no man's land and hand them over to the BSF at Khalpara camp, said officials.

On Thursday, 67 former enclave dwellers crossed the Burimari border in Lalmonirhat into India in the first batch.

The two countries swapped 162 enclaves on July 31 midnight to implement the historic Land Boundary Agreement.

Our correspondents from Kurigram and Nilphamari contributed to this report.

## Dipan believed in books'

FROM PAGE 3

Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq, a professor of Dhaka University, said these at a commemorative meeting organised by Bangladesh Pustak Prakashak O Bikreta Samity yesterday in the capital's Banglatabazar.

Dipan, owner of Jagriti Prokashani, was hacked to death in his office at Shashbagh on October 31. In a similar attack around the same time, Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, owner of Shuddhsowar, writer Ranadipam Basu and blogger Tareq Rahim were injured in Lalmatia.

Both Dipan and Tutul published secular writer Avijit Roy, who was slain by suspected Islamists in Dhaka in February.

Prof Abul Quasem said Avijit and Dipan were childhood friends.

"That's why when Avijit asked him to publish his books he didn't refuse," he said.

"But that does not mean that Dipan was against Islam or against any religion," he added.

He also observed that Dipan was aware of the contribution of Islam in the advancement of civilisation and some of his other publications were a testament to that fact.

Referring to his earlier comments that he would not seek legal redress for his son's murder, he said, "But I have not created any hurdle in the path of justice either."

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