

WEATHER FORECAST

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA | CHITTAGONG | SYLHET | RAJSHAHI | KHULNA | BARISAL | RANGPUR | COX'S BAZAR |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | H 30.8 L 19.9 | H 30.5 L 20.4 | H 29.4 L 20.0 | H 31.2 L 18.7 | H 31.5 L 19.8 | H 30.5 L 19.3 | H 31.5 L 19.5 | H 30.6 L 21.5 |

Weather will remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:13pm and rises tomorrow at 06:13am.



The footpath opposite New Market in the capital near Balaka Cinema remains a haven for hawkers and vendors, forcing the pedestrians to walk down the road amid traffic. Despite numerous eviction drives, Dhaka's footpaths continue to stay in the grip of illegal occupants causing sufferings to the dwellers and creating traffic congestion every day. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Curtain rises Nov 17 for Dhaka lit fest

VS Naipaul to inaugurate event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Prize winning litterateur VS Naipaul is coming to Bangladesh to attend the Dhaka Literary Festival, to be held at the Bangla Academy on November 17-19.

"VS Naipaul will inaugurate the festival," said K Anis Ahmed, a director of the festival.

The sixth edition of the festival will also feature writers -- Sir Vidya, Pulitzer Prize winner American-Indian poet Vijay Seshadri, 2016 Man Booker Prize winner Deborah Smith and winner of 2014 European Union Prize for Literature Evie Wyld.

Over 200 talents and more than 60 guests of the literary world from 18 countries will be attending the event, inaugurated at 11:00am Thursday, said Anis Ahmed.

"The main objective of the festival is to introduce Bangla literature and culture to the world and vice versa," he told a press conference at the Bangla Academy yesterday. It will be a fiesta for those interested in literature, he added.

There will be some 100 panels during the three-day event, which will also feature cultural programme, folk performances, poetry recitations, an editing workshop, children's programme and film screenings.

"We will pay tribute to eminent Bangladeshi novelist late Syed Shamsul Haq with a stage enactment of his short novel Neel Dongshon in English," he said.

A young and an established writer will also be awarded for their work, he added.

Festival director Sadaf Saaz said there were security concerns among many, especially after the Gulshan café attack of July 1, and it was very important to reaffirm Bangladesh's harmonious cultural tradition to the world.

The festival will feature Bangladesh's traditional musical programme -- Jaari Gaan, Behula Lakhindar and Pala Gaan - - to highlight the country's rich culture and history, she said.

Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan said the festival for the last several years has been very

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Equal land rights for women urgent

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women need to be given equal land rights and their labour recognised to ensure women empowerment in the country, speakers told a seminar yesterday.

They also urged the government to ensure land rights of minorities and resist violence against them.

The Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) and Nijera Kori organised the seminar in the capital's Cirdap Auditorium.

Referring to the previous studies, Bela Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan in her keynote presentation said over 45 percent of women are directly involved in agricultural sector, but only 22 percent own land that represents a gender inequality.

"Religion-based inheritance laws to distribute land and ignoring the women's economic contributions are some of the major barriers to empowering them," Rizwana observed.

They should be given equal land rights like those of their male counterparts and a minimum wage needs to be fixed for female farmers, she added.

A farmer from Khulna, Rahela Begum, said they want an equal dignity because, according to her, they contribute to the economy as much as men do.

Prof Sadeka Halim of Dhaka University said nowadays women are doing different kinds of work, but violence against them has increased at the same time as well, adding, especially the women of the hill tracts area are facing it most.

Echoing Prof Sadeka, Chairman of Barkal upazila in Rangamati Moni Chakma said, "Should we get land rights, we hope we could be able to change our current situations."

ALRD Executive Director ABM Shamsul Huda, Programme Coordinator Shanjida Khan Ripa and academic Dr Shapan Adnan also addressed the programme.

Religion-based inheritance laws to distribute land and ignoring the women's economic contributions are some of the major barriers to empowering them

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Convict militants go missing after being freed on HC bail

Families allege men claiming to be DB picked them up from Barisal jail gate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Seven convicted militants serving a four-year sentence have allegedly gone missing after being picked up by plainclothes detectives right after they came out of Barisal Central Jail on bail on Thursday evening, claimed their families yesterday.

Organising a press conference at Barisal Press Club, they said to have stopped trying to file a general diary (GD) after law enforcers allegedly expressed ignorance and asked to rewrite a GD hours after it was filed yesterday claiming it contained mistakes.

One convict, Masum Billah, was below 18 years of age when he was arrested, claimed his family.

Convicts Masum, Nurul Islam, Md Sohag, Md Jubayer, Abul Bashar, Sirajul Islam and Minhajul Islam along with one Mashiur Rahman and another youth were arrested at a madrasa at Nachan Mahal of Mollarhut union in Jhalakathi on August 14, 2013.

Nalchhiti police filed three cases accusing them of being involved in militancy and possessing sharp weapons and a grenade.

Charges were pressed against the eight named and a Jhalakathi court found them to be guilty of the first charge and jailed them at 2014's end.

The accused appealed with the High Court which granted them bail on October 10. Only Mashiur was not released as he was accused in another murder case.

Senior Superintendent of the jail Kamal Hossain said whatever happens after release was not their liability.

The families said some men claiming to be members of the Detective Branch took them away in two minibuses.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Azad Rahman said he had returned from a leave and would look into the GD.

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