

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 29.2 L 17.2	H 29.2 L 14.5	H 30.6 L 14.5	H 30.2 L 13.4	H 27.3 L 13.8	H 27.5 L 13.5	H 28.3 L 14.4	H 28.5 L 13.5	H 30.2 L 16.0	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am. Country's highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 08.8 in Sreemangal.

# Bhortas full of love

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE, Gazipur

The place can accommodate around 65 people -- a tin-roofed one storey building surrounded by trees.

Its ambience is vibrant and interior is decorated with plants and flowers. It is also impressively clean for a countryside eatery.

There are no tourist spots nearby to attract visitors and the eatery is situated at a remote village in Kapasia upazila of Gazipur, but it always stays abuzz with people.

"Niribili" has become sort of a tourist attraction at Tok Noyon Bazar, popularly known as Tok Bazar, in the area.

And it is not the ambience or decoration that makes the place such a popular destination.

It is the wide variety of Bengali cuisine, especially the traditional and mouth watering bhortas (a mash of cooked foodstuff, mixed with raw onions and spices), which keeps on attracting people, and can spice up any food lovers' palate.

A visit to Gazipur is never completed without a stopover there.

The restaurant boasts of around 100 traditional food items including 60 varieties of bhortas, 20 items of curries, eight types of pickles and other delicacies.

And the person behind this culinary extravaganza is Tota Miah.

"I left home when I was 19 to avoid studying," smiled the 50-year-old owner. "I took a job as a waiter at a hotel in Cox's Bazar. As I kept on working at different hotels, I learnt to make



Niribili, the restaurant in Kapasia of Gazipur, a place for wide variety of Bangladeshi cuisine, especially the traditional bhortas.

bhortas from the chefs."

"There's something magical about seeing people's faces enjoying meals with simple yet highly satisfactory items like bhortas. These bhortas make them feel as if they are home away

from home," he said.

Though he was talking to this correspondent, he kept on greeting each customer and made sure they were being taken care of and served accordingly.

Many of the customers said they were from the capital and other places. They heard about the restaurant from friends and social media and had to drop by.

"I always had a passion for cooking

and dreamt of opening up a restaurant far from the chaos of city life. Hence the name Niribili. In 2004, along with my family members, I opened up the restaurant," said Tota Miah.

Besides the bhortas, other items

ranging from dried fish, pigeon's meat, and various types of pulses are also available at the hotel to satisfy the customers' cravings.

Around 15 employees assist Tota Miah at the restaurant. All of them are his neighbours or relatives.

"We learned to cook from Tota Bhai (brother). He always emphasised cleanliness and proper mixture of ingredients to make the food tasty," said Nuruzzaman, an employee.

The spices are made with garlic, ginger, and onion by Minara Khatun accompanied by Hasina Aktar and Joshna Begum.

Minara is busy grinding spices. "We try to maintain the same quality in all our food items," she said. "Pickles are made from olive, mango and hog plum, among others."

Tota Miah said everyday they serve around 300 people. "We also take orders for various programmes," he said. "We only serve freshly cooked food here. The leftovers are distributed among the employees and destitute."

People from all strata of life ranging from the government officials to students visit the restaurant to enjoy the smashed delicacies.

President Abdul Hamid visited the place while he was the Speaker, prided Tota Miah.

"Everyone who works here is a family. It's the love we have for each other that eventually is reflected on the food we serve," he said smilingly as if sharing secrets of his special dishes.

"Once you eat here, you become a part of our family too," he told this correspondent.



Jars of pickles inside the eatery.



Customers enjoying their meal.



The restaurant owner Tota Miah with different varieties of bhortas. PHOTOS: STAR

## President would form stronger EC

Hopes BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although BNP is disappointed over the search committee, the party yesterday hoped that President Abdul Hamid would constitute a stronger Election Commission.

"Common people are saying that the Election Commission will be formed at the prime minister's will. We're now waiting to see whether the president can reflect people's hopes and aspirations," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said.

"We hope as a seasoned politician he (president) will take the right steps to help the nation overcome the current political crisis," he told a discussion on formation of EC, which was organised by Dhaka city unit of Jatiya Ganatantrik Party at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

After discussions with 31 political parties, the president recently formed a six-member search committee, led by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain of the Supreme Court, to propose names for appointing the next election commissioners as the tenure of the current EC expires in the middle of this month.

On the other hand, Fakhrul said an election-time neutral government is a must to help the EC hold a free, fair and inclusive election.

## Nazrul still a favourite at book fair

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

Yeasmin Moon was patiently combing through books at a stall at the Amar Ekushey book fair yesterday.

The ones she was planning to buy, she kept to her right and continued her search.

"I came to the book fair only to buy books of my favourite writer Kazi Nazrul Islam. I love reading poetry, songs and dramas of Nazrul," said Yeasmin, a resident of Chittagong.

She bought "Nazruler Kabayanabad" -- a collection of Persian and Arabic poems translated in Bangla by Nazrul from the Nazrul Institute on the Bangla Academy premises.

"I was looking for the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (translated by Nazrul) everywhere. This book not only has those but also more poems by Nazrul," she said.

Suddenly, while talking to this correspondent, the 65-year-old

picked up a book and smiled triumphantly.

"I wanted to introduce Nazrul to my grandchild Rayan," she said, and showed the book titled, "Nazruler Shishu Kishor Sahitya" to this correspondent. "Rayan is in fourth grade and loves to read, and what's better to read than the works of Nazrul?"

Mohammad Ilias, a staff of the stall, said two new items "Nazrul Institute Potrika" and "Bidrohi Kobi Nazrul and Bangabandhu" will be available soon. "People still love to read the national poet's books."

At the same time, enthusiastic youths were seen reading and buying literary works of the legendary writers.

Shadid Sayeb, a tenth grader from Uttara, was reading "Ami Nazrul" (I am Nazrul), edited by Shantiranjan Voumik, at the stall of

Abosar Prokashana Sangstha. While, Kathaprakash, another publication, was selling Nazrul's biography by Taha Yeasin.

Farhan Arnob, a staff of the stall, said, "We have 54 biographies of eminent personalities. People of different ages are buying those to feel inspired."

Besides, yesterday being a weekly holiday, the fair drew a large number of booklovers, especially in the evening.

The morning and the afternoon were also vibrant with children's laughter as they were enjoying the "Shishu Prahar" (Children's Hours) at the Suhrawardy Udyan. While their parents got a much needed respite from their busy life and cheerily embarked on a literary adventure at the book fair.

INT'L LITERARY CONFERENCE Yesterday was the last day of the

four-day conference, where poets, writers, researchers and translators from home and abroad took part.

A discussion on literature in translation was held in the morning on the Bangla Academy premises, where Prof Khaliqzaman Elias presented the keynote speech. "It's important to think about the target readers while translating," he said and stressed the importance of holding workshops on translation.

In the afternoon, a discussion on Children's literature, presided over by Prof Hayat Mamud, took place.

"Through children's literature, we have to make them understand about various aspects of life," said writer Ali Imam. Children litterateur Rashed Rouf gave the keynote speech.

A discussion on "Bangla Bhasay Soraochito Kabita Path" (self-composed Bangla poetry recital) was held in the evening, participated by Swedish poet Christian Carlson and Bangladeshi poets.

## INT'L KOLKATA BOOK FAIR 'Bangladesh Day' today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Curtains on the International Kolkata Book Fair will fall today with the concluding day being observed as "Bangladesh Day".

The last day of the 10-day fair, held at "Milan Mela", has been dedicated to the poems of Bangladesh.

Cultural Affairs Minister of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the day in UBI auditorium.

This time, the 750-square-foot "Bangladesh Pavilion" has been designed after the 18th century Kantaji Temple of Dinajpur. Bangla Academy, Islamic Foundation and 31 other publishers from Bangladesh are participating in the fair.

## DMCH interns protest 'attack' on fellow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intern doctors of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday night went on a sudden "work stoppage" protesting an alleged attack on one of their fellows by a patient's relative.

They shut the main gate of the emergency department for about half an hour as part of their protest to the "assault" on a fellow intern of the department of pediatrics surgery, DMCH sources said.

The stoppage continued from 9:45pm to 10:15pm, causing sufferings to patients, the sources said.

When this correspondent visited the hospital around 10:30pm, some intern doctors alleged that a relative of a patient assaulted a female intern around 8:00pm that left an injury mark in her hand.

Amanullah, grandfather of the patient, told The Daily Star that his six-month-old granddaughter Ashfida got admitted to DMCH on Friday, and an operation was conducted yesterday evening.

When Ashfida was brought into a ward after surgery, relatives wanted to see her; but doctors misbehaved with them, he said. Out of frustration, a relative kicked the door of the ward that hurt the doctor, he added, denying the allegation of assault. He was later taken to Shahbagh Police Station for inquiry.

OC Abu Bakar Siddique said they had taken Amanullah and another person to the station to know what actually happened.

Khawaja Abdul Gafur, deputy director of DMCH, said intern doctors gathered at the emergency department for a discussion following the "attack." He, however, denied the work stoppage, and said the emergency gate was never closed.



The Bangladesh pavilion at the International Kolkata Book Fair. The fair concludes today. PHOTO: STAR

## Community mediation to raise

FROM PAGE 3 making the arbitration fairer, and reaching the grassroots, he added.

Quoting a recent UNDP study, WAVE Foundation Executive Director Mohsin Ali said around 31 lakh cases remained pending with courts for disposal until December 2016, and the number is expected to hit around 50 lakhs in 2020.

The government needs to give more emphasis on community-based mediation to solve the local disputes, which will help decrease the case backlogs, he said on the keynote presentation.

Khan Mohammad Shahid of MLLA, Barrister Sara Hossain of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Sharmeen Murshid of Brotee, Fawzia Karim Firoze of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Zakir Hossain of Nagorik Uddyog, and Jerome Sarge of CLS project, also spoke.

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