

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 28.2 IL 15.2	H 27.2 IL 15.3	H 29.5 IL 16.5	H 29.0 IL 15.5	H 28.4 IL 10.6	H 26.4 IL 13.5	H 29.0 IL 13.0	H 28.9 IL 12.4	H 30.5 IL 17.0	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may rise slightly, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:51pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am. Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khepupara and lowest 10.0 in Chuadanga.



Clockwise from left, hawkers demonstrate with empty plates symbolising starvation triggered by the ongoing eviction drives against them, in the capital's Paltan yesterday. The demonstration causes a severe traffic jam on Topkhana Road and adjacent streets. A Dhaka city corporation bulldozer removes shops from a road and footpath in Karwan Bazar. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, PRABIR DAS

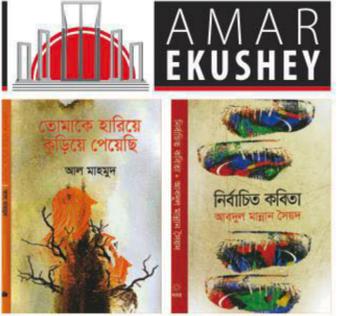
**BRANDISHING GUNS Expelled BCL leaders denied bail, sent to jail**

COURT CORRESPONDENT  
Two expelled Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders, who brandished guns during a hawkers eviction in Gulistan last year, were denied bail and sent to jail yesterday after they surrendered before a Dhaka court in an attempted murder case.  
Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzaman Ansari passed the order. The court also fixed February 12 for hearing a seven-day remand prayer submitted by Sub-inspector of Shabbagh Police Station Emaranul Islam, the investigation officer of the case, for quizzing the duo.  
Former BCL general secretary of Dhaka city south unit Sabbir Hossain and former general secretary of the organisation's Wari unit Ashiqur Rahman were seen firing during the October 27 clash between staff of Dhaka South City Corporation and hawkers in Gulistan that left 10 people, including two corporation employees, injured.  
Earlier on December 4 last year, another Metropolitan Magistrate Md Khurshid Alam, who on November 17 granted them bail, issued the arrest orders as the two remained absent from that day's court proceedings.  
In the bail order, the magistrate said the accused were granted bail as the charges brought against them were not specific. They were granted bail against a bond of Tk 3,000 each with two guarantors.  
The same court ordered the officer-in-charge of Shabbagh police to submit by January 8 a report on execution of the arrest warrants.  
The picture of Sabbir and Ashiqur brandishing guns during the October 27 clash appeared in the media the next day.  
Three days later, SI Abdul Mannan of Shabbagh police filed the case against the two and 50 to 60 unnamed people.

**A rendezvous of poets and poetry lovers**

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM  
Why do we read poetry?  
Is it because poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity, as said by William Wordsworth?  
Or is it the transformative power of words that can reach one on an emotional level, make us think, question, cry, smile and inspire to be a better person?  
Whatever the answer may be, poetry can change us and help see things in ways we had not seen before.  
And every year, Ekushey book fair turns into a joyous festival of poets, their verses and readers -- where all congregate to find the answer.  
This year's fair is no different. Poetry lovers were seen quenching their thirsts at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.  
Sayedatunnesa Ruhi, a sophomore of Dhaka Dental College, was reading poems of veteran poet Al Mahmud at a stall.  
"Al Mahmud's writings highlight nature, riverine life, Language Movement, nationalism, and chronicles of the oppressed," said Ruhi, flipping the pages of Al Mahmud's "Kobita Sangroha" (Collection of Poems) at Akhtar Prokashani.  
Poetry lovers also got a chance to get a new poetry book of the 81-year-old, considered one of the greatest poets of the country. His book "Tomake Hariye Kuriye Peyechi" is available at Joyotee publication.  
Meanwhile, Ruhi was also planning to buy a poetry collection of Jibananda Das, a favourite among poetry lovers at the fair, for his ability to shape themes with words, metaphors, and imagery. "His poems are to be felt, not read or heard," she smiled.  
This correspondent also met Wahida Zaman Shithi, a final year student of Dhaka University, who said she cannot leave the fair without buying the poetry collection of Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah.  
"There's a sense of melancholy and longing embedded in his words that I love the most,"

she said, adding, "I love the song (poem) Amar Bhitir Bahire Ontore Ontore..."  
The stall of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro was abuzz with university and college students reading verses -- some aloud and some softly -- enthralled by the words.  
"Sukanter Shreshtho Kobita" (best poems of Sukanta) and "Nazrul's Nirbachito Kobita" (selected poems of Nazrul) both edited by Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed also generated much enthusiasm.  
Meanwhile, young poets were also hopeful they will draw attention of poetry lovers.  
"I have tried to portray happiness and sorrow in everyday life through poems," said Emran Mahfuz, whose first poetry book "Dirgasthaee Shokshava" was published by Oitijjo publishing.  
Also, translated versions of poetry added an extra flair to the festival. "Kabita Down Under", a collection of Australian poetry, published by Bhachitra generated much curiosity.  
Anisur Rahman of Somoy Prokashani said, "Abdul Mannan Syed's Nirbachito Kabita (selected poems) is selling well, which arrived this month."  
In addition, the book fair provided a great opportunity for the readers to meet writers. Nayamatullah Rahat, a ninth grader, was ecstatic as he got an autograph from his favourite writer Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.  
The book fair not only brought together bookworms or authors, but many, after a hard day's work, were seen walking around the premises, enjoying the ambience with their loved ones.  
A fountain was set up on the fair ground at Suhrawardy Udyan, which in the evening exuded calmness awash in colorful hues and became a much coveted selfie destination.  
On the 9th day, 125 new books arrived, including 28 poetry books.  
Yesterday, a discussion on "Bangla Bhashay Itihash Chorcha" (studying history in Bangla) was held at the Bangla Academy, presided over by historian Prof Muntasir Mamun.



**DEATH OF SALMAN SHAH It was murder, not suicide**

Mother tells press  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Actor Salman Shah's mother Nilufar Chowdhury yesterday said her son didn't kill himself, he was murdered.  
Twenty one long years after the popular movie star's death, Salman's mother is still hopeful that justice will be served to the bereaved family.  
"Many longstanding cases have been solved during this government's tenure. I hope the mystery in this case will be revealed too," Nilufar said at a media briefing at National Press Club yesterday.  
Nilufar alleged that in the past, there have been "intentional" efforts to establish the case as a suicide case.  
Salman Shah, born Shahriar Chowdhury Emon, was a popular silver screen actor in the 90s. He mysteriously died on September 6, 1996 at the age of 25. His father Kamaruddin Chowdhury had filed an unnatural death case which he later turned into a murder case.  
Later, the case took a dramatic turn when one Rezvi Ahmed in a confessional statement said he

**Dhaka road crashes cost three lives**

Two others die in Mymensingh, Bogra  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Three people were killed in road accidents in the capital yesterday.  
Maksudul Karim Raihan, 35, the manager of Pizza Hut's Uttara branch, died as a car hit his motorcycle near Chandrima Udyan.  
He was on his way to workplace from his Mohammadpur residence, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge GG Biswas told The Daily Star.  
In Merul Badda, Saida Akhter, 25, an employee of Jamuna Bank's Motijheel Branch, died as a bus hit a motorbike on which she was riding pillion.  
She was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said DMCH police.  
In another incident, Abdur Razzak, 56,



Exhausted, these two children fall asleep, sharing a torn piece of paper and body warmth, on a sidewalk in Sylhet city. As the day was long -- full of rummaging through garbage for food and asking alms -- the brothers did not even find time to put the money away. The photo was taken in Zindabazar area recently. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor speaks at the inauguration of "Chekhov and Seagull" based on Chekhov's play "Seagull" performed by Russian theatre troupe Chekhov Studio at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday. Russian Ambassador Alexander I Ignatov, and Dean of Russian University of Theatre Arts, Professor Vladimir Baicher, were also present. PHOTO: COLLECTED



**Death anniversary**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Today is the ninth death anniversary of Prof Khaleda Akhtar Banu, an organiser of Liberation War and former chairperson of Bangla department of Abuzor Gifri University College, says a press release.  
Khaleda, wife of Prof Abdul Mannan, was also a writer and researcher.  
A doa mehfil will be held today after Asr prayers at their 17/3 Pathapath residence. Family members have requested relatives and well-wishers to attend the event.

**Arms, ammo found during N'ganj excavation**

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj  
Kamaluddin, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station, said labourers were digging earth at the house of Taherunnesa Runu, sister of former lawmaker and freedom fighter Sirajul Islam, in Bhuigarh area. At one point, they found the sack of bullets and the firearms, and informed the police, he said.  
He said they would conduct further investigation in this regard.  
Police yesterday recovered a sack of bullets and seven three-knot-three rifles, which were discovered by labourers during earth digging at a house in Fatullah of Narayanganj district.  
Police suspected that the firearms and ammunition might have been used during the 1971 Liberation War as the recovered rifles are very old-fashioned.

**LOVE IN TEARY EYES**  
সামাজিক মূল্যবোধ ও বাল্য বিবাহের পরিণতি নিয়ে লেখা অসাধারণ একটি বই।  
Written by Shahzada Basunia  
বই দু'টি বিশ্ব সাহিত্য ভবন স্টল নং- ৩৪৯, ৩৫০, ৩৫১ ও ৩৫২-এ পাওয়া যাবে