



Young bookworms go through books on plays at a stall yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Books of play on the wane

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Though sharp dialogues and intensity of characters of a play can leave any audience captivated, how many read this specific mode of fiction that is represented through a theatrical performance?

The number is quite few and that also became apparent in this year's Ekushey book fair.

"Only those involved in theatre buy the prose," said Sohel Khandaker, publisher of Bhasachitra.

In the 663 book stalls set up this year, it is easy to find most of the genres of literature, except for the plays.

People mostly buy novels, poetry or short stories these days, said many publishers, adding, there was a time writings of playwrights Munier Choudhury or Selim Al Deen were in high demand.

Last year, Bangla Academy announced its Sahitya Puraskar in seven categories but playwriting was not one of them.

Though a stall named "Theatre" keeps collections of plays and literature based on it, most of them are edited versions of old classics.

Playwrights focus on writing scripts for theatre or television, instead of publishing those in a book format, they said, adding, which is one of the reasons behind the decline of this mode of literature.

Only handful of publications brought out plays this year. "Charti Natok" by Usuf Hasan Arka, "Tinti Natok" by Baker Bokul, "Dosti Onubad Natok" by Sahadat Rumon, "Collection of Plays by Masum

Reza", "Duti Natok" by Shadhona Ahmed and "Tinti Natok" by Suvash Sinha were published by Bhasachitra.

Safwan Mahmud, a student of the department of theatre and performance studies at Dhaka University, was going through some of the new ones at the stall. "People just want to see the plays and writers are more interested in other genres of literature." Plays must be read to appreciate them to the full extent, he added.

"While reading, imagination has no bounds," said litterateur Anisul Hoque, highlighting the importance of reading. He said if the plays are read, the habit of reading will flourish and it will also help the development of this art form.

Shahman Moishan, assistant professor, department of theatre and performance studies at DU, who published a play titled "Oses Kritto" last year at the fair, said, "Organisations like Shilpakala and Bangla academies should come forward to encourage young playwrights and engage the readers."

"Bangla Academy should play the leading role regarding this and hold dialogues with playwrights and theatre personalities on a regular basis."

Inclusion of plays in the textbooks will create an interest for this genre of literature, emphasised Shaman.

"All of us need to come forward for the betterment of this genre," said Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy. "We will extend our help if playwrights and theatre personalities reach out to us."

On the 12th day, 96 books arrived and 31 were unveiled.



Sunny denied bail, sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent cricketer Arafat Sunny to jail after rejecting both the petitions for remand and bail in a case filed for torturing a 23-year-old woman, who claimed to be Sunny's wife.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzaman Ansari passed the order after Sunny was produced before the court in the case filed on February 1 by Nasrin Sultana under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

In yesterday's remand prayer, Sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station Masudur Rahman, also the investigation officer, said Sunny needs to be remanded to gather information about the incident of torturing Nasrin



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

BCL factions clash at CU over 'tender' again, 5 hurt

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladesh Chhatra League factions clashed at Chittagong University over "sharing of tender money" early yesterday, injuring five activists, said CU BCL insiders.

Inspector Mokaddesh Mia, in-charge of CU police outpost, said they seized several machetes, a sack of brickbats, and iron rods from Shahjalal Hall. However, none was detained, he said.

Jewel of the finance department, Abdul Khalek Rony of economics, Shamim of political science, Al-Amin of anthropology and Kawsar Mia of Bangla took treatment at the CU medical centre, said doctors and

campus sources.

Of them, Jewel and Rony were later sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, they said.

An activist from shuttle train-based group, Sixty Nine, loyal to CU BCL president Mohammad Alamgir Tipu, had an altercation with an activist of another such group, Varsity Express (VX), before the dormitory Saturday night leading to a scuffle, said witnesses.

Three hours later, the two groups gathered there again and hurled brickbats at each other. Ten rooms of the dormitory were ransacked at that time, they added.

Afterwards, police dispersed them by

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Putrajaya

Malaysia

When clear blue waters meet the best rides in the sky. fun will conquer fear.

The world's highest Via Ferrata in Mount Kinabalu, deep sea diving in Sipadan, Flyboarding in Putrajaya. For the ultimate adrenaline rush, let Malaysia turn your fears into fun and push you to the edge of excitement.

1 Malaysia Super Sale

One destination. a million milestones.

For more information, please contact your nearest travel agent.
 TOURISM MALAYSIA: Cell: +88 01 985 850000, +88 01 717 626205,
 Tel: +88 02 9891651, +88 02 8827759/60 (Ext. 22)

facebook.com/malaysia.travel

twitter.com/tourismmalaysia

@malaysiatrulyasia

www.malaysia.travel

Visit Asean@50 GOLDEN CELEBRATION 2017

Malaysia Truly Asia

Piles, Fistula, Constipation, Dysentery, Colonoscopy, Polyp, Colon & Rectum Cancer

পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা ও কলনোস্কোপি ক্যান্সার

To Know about most modern treatment of diseases involving Colon, Rectum and Anus like, Piles (bleeding in toilet), Longo operation (Piles operation without cutting anus), Cause of failure of operation around anus, pain after passing stool

New Edition is available

(Fissure), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation, Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative Colitis), for incomplete evacuation (Obstructed Defecation) STARR operation, Colonoscopy, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer operation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Childrens bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by:

Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of Bangladesh & the Sub-Continent
Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque
 International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)
 Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka
 Edited by: DR. ASIF ALMAS HAQUE
 MBBS(SSMC) MRCS(ENGLAND) FCPS(SURGERY), Colorectal Surgeon.

EDEN MULTI-CARE HOSPITAL
 753, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Phone : 02-58150507-10
 Mobile: 01755697173, 01755697174, 01755697175-6
 www.profdrakmfazlulhaque.com, www.piles.care

8 HC judges sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight High Court judges, whose appointments were regularised last week, were sworn in yesterday.

They are Justice SM Mozibur Rahman, Justice Amir Hossain, Justice Khazir Ahmed Choudhury, Justice Razik-Al-Jalil, Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty, Justice Md Iqbal Kabir, Justice Md Salim and Justice Md Shohrowardi.

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha administered the oath to them at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge.

Buy a **SINGER®** Refrigerator

AND YOU TOO CAN SCORE A 50!

Cut your electricity bill by **50%**. New R600a Gas (Refrigerant) of Singer Refrigerator saves electricity and it's environment friendly.

R600a GAS

Saves Electricity

Environment-friendly

SINGER HELP@LINE 16482

- Over 40 eye-catching models in 3 series
- The highest quality within your reach