

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.5 L 23.1	H 29.0 L 19.0	H 29.5 L 21.5	H 29.2 L 22.4	H 30.3 L 16.2	H 28.6 L 16.6	H 30.5 L 23.0	H 31.2 L 22.4	H 29.2 L 21.2

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24am. Country's highest temperature 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Pataukhali and lowest 14.2 in Tentulia.

Bangabandhu's bust unveiled at a Sydney university

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bust of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been unveiled at the International Centre for Ocean Governance (ICOG) of Western Sydney University in Australia.

Law Minister Anisul Huq with Prof Barney Glover, vice-chancellor of the university, unveiled the bust on February 20, a press release from Bangladesh High Commission to Australia said.

The bust was created on the Parramatta campus of the university with support of the Bangladesh government, said the press release.

Bangladesh High Commission to Australia Kazi Imtiaz Hossain and faculty members of the university among others were present during the unveiling ceremony.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Abul Kalam Muhammad Zakaria,

an archaeologist and a former secretary of the cultural affairs ministry.

The Committee for Documentation on Architectural Sites in Dhaka will organise a discussion commemorating him in Abdul Matin Choudhury Virtual Classroom at Dhaka University at 10:00am and a photo and documentation exhibition before the vice chancellor's office, said a press release.

DU VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, chairman of the committee, will chair the discussion.

AKM Zakaria also edited many famous books like "Gupi Chandrer Sonyas", and "Bangladesher Nreetoty".

He won Ekushey Padak in 2015 for his contributions to research. He had earlier received Bangla Academy award.



Bookworms browsing through books at the stall of Palash Prokashani, a publication house founded by poet Jasim Uddin in 1960, on Suhrawardy Udyan premises of Ekushey book fair yesterday. The publication house is being run by his son to introduce the poet's literary masterpieces to the new generation.

PHOTO: STAR

Bringing together all strands of folk genre

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

Srabonti Sarker inherited the love for folk literature from her parents—mother, to be precise.

"While my mother was alive, we used to read books on rural life," recalls the ninth grader of Shiddheswari Girls High School. "I still cherish the habit."

Not only was her mother an admirer of folk tales, her father has been an avid reader of this genre.

When this writer caught up with her father Swapan Sarker, the retired engineer refreshed some old memories.

"I love reading the poetry of my favourite poet Jasim Uddin. His language pleases my heart," he said. "While I was in school, I won a recitation competition by performing his poem Kabor (grave)."

Swapan was seen buying Suchayani, a collection of poems by the Palli Kabi (folk poet), for his daughter.

The love for this literature inspired Srabonti towards enrolling in the humanities group while the teachers advised her to study science because of her analytical power, she said. "I pass my times with father, my only companion, drowning in the sea of our rich literature," the girl smiled.

For people like Srabonti, the Amar Ekushey book fair brings together all strands of the folk tradition, and in the era of social media, many Srabontis were seen searching for the works of this literature at the fair yesterday.

Though Jasim Uddin is no more today, Palash Prokashani, the publication house the poet founded in 1960, presents his works to the readers, from its stall at Suhrawardy Udyan.

The poet's son, Khurshid Anwar Jasim Uddin, is now running the publication house.

The stall introduces the new generation to his literary masterpieces including the poetry books "Nakshi- Kathar Math" (The field of the embroidered quilt), "Dhankhet" (Paddy field), "Rakhali" (Shepherd), and "Sojan Badiyar

Ghat" (Gypsy wharf).

The poet also wrote some popular songs, plays, novels, memoirs, and travelogues.

Highlighting the importance of folklore, Khurshid Anwar said, "Estranged from our secular folk literature, some youths are choosing the path of extremism."

He hoped the country would produce more Jasim Uddins and folk traditions would be patronised.

Bangla Academy has a large collection of books on folklore. The academy published books on the folk traditions of 57 districts, drawing large crowds every day. People were seen collecting the book which describes the folklore and history of their district.

"We all should know our own folk literature besides the world literature to fulfil our literary palate," said Arif Raihan, a medical intern of Dhaka Medical College, who collected "Bangladesher Lokojo Samskriti Granthamala: Jessore."

Rajib Kumar Saha, an officer of Bangla Academy, said more than 200 books of the series were sold daily.

Some books on folklore arrived the fair, including "Saidur Rahman Boati: Sadhoker Sadesh O Samogra" by Najmin Mortuza, and "Payraband Kahini" by Munshi Mohammad Aftabuddin Miyan Talukder, edited by Samar Paul.

"Maimansingha Gitika", edited by Dinesh Chandra Sen, which consists of popular narrative ballads of greater Mymensingh, was selling well at Mowla Brothers stall, along with the fifth part of "Pronomohi Bangamata" by Saymon Zakaria.

Referring to the country's rich folk literature, writers expressed disappointment over lack of interest of the publishers.

An assistant director of Bangla Academy, Zakaria said, "Our rich folk literature is neglected from primary to higher education though foreigners admire it. No one wants to evaluate the research on the life of our farmers or fishermen. Publishers are not interested in these books."

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Tomorrow is the eighth death anniversary of Col Quadrat Elahi Rahman Shafique, ndc, psc, who was killed in the BDR mutiny in the capital's Peelkhana on February 25, 2009.

At that time, Col Quadrat, who was known as an outstanding officer in Bangladesh Army, was a sector commander of erstwhile BDR in Dinajpur, says a press release.

While he was working as a sector commander in the UN peace mission in Sudan, then UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon personally decorated him with the "Medal of Gallantry" which only a few officers get.

Col Quadrat left behind his wife, a son, parents, a brother and a sister and a host of relatives and colleagues.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

AKN Ahmed

CITY DESK



governor AKN Ahmed.

AKN Ahmed died in Washington DC, USA, and was buried in a Muslim cemetery in New York last year.

His wife Nilufar Ahmed, currently staying in Dhaka, requested relatives, friends, former colleagues and well-wishers of her husband to pray for his departed soul.

Obituary

CITY DESK



Multipurpose Cooperative Society, died due to his old-age complications in Labaid Hospital on Wednesday. He was 70, said a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter.

Mostofa Kamal, president of the cooperative society and its Secretary Moslem Mian mourned his death.

SNAPS & snippets

Duta condemns Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday condemned BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her party leaders for "stepping onto the main platform" at the Central Shaheed Minar while paying respects to the language martyrs in the early hours of February 21.

"We were astonished and hurt by their activities. This unacceptable incident goes against the spirit of Ekushey and is an insult to the Shaheed Minar and language martyrs. We strongly protest and condemn it," Duta said in statement signed by its president Prof ASM Maksud Kamal and general secretary Prof Rahmat Ullah. Dhaka University is the main organiser of the Ekushey programme at the Shaheed Minar, and following the customs, all including the president and the prime minister stood barefoot on the second platform while paying their respects, read the statement.

But Khaleda Zia and senior leaders of her party came to the memorial around 1:30am and violating the customs, they stepped onto the main platform despite resistance from BNCC members, it said.

2-day lifestyle show begins today

CITY DESK

A two-day show—Spring Collections and Lifestyle Exhibition—starts in Dhaka today.

Fashion house Panache will organise the show to be participated by designers from Dhaka and Chittagong, Panache said in a statement yesterday. The exhibition will primarily showcase fusion dresses and saris focused on spring colours and hues, according to the statement.

Mufti Hannan files review petition against death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgement that upheld his death penalty in a case filed for the 2004 grenade attack on the then UK envoy in Bangladesh.

The condemned militant leader submitted the 100-page review petition through his lawyer on record Nahid Sultana also seeking his acquittal.

Mufti Abdul Hannan's lawyer Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star that the Appellate Division of the SC will later on fix a date for hearing the petition.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said if the SC dismisses Hannan's review petition, the jail authorities can execute him.



Children hoist Bangladesh flags at a programme in Ankara of Turkey, marking International Mother Language Day on February 21. M Allama Siddiki, Bangladesh ambassador; Prof Derya Örs, president of Atatürk Supreme Council for Culture, Language and History; and Prof A Haluk Özen, a rector of Hacettepe University, were present.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

HIGH-PROFILE PRISONERS

Govt to introduce trials thru videoconference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Videoconferencing facilities will be introduced in Keraniganj and Kashimpur prisons to connect to court trials and avert risks associated with transporting "high-risk" inmates, such as militants, top criminals and "dangerous" persons.

Moreover, a pilot project on installing phone booths at Tangail District Jail will be taken up, sparing inmates' families the trouble of going there to stand in long queues just to talk for a couple of minutes amidst the clamour of others trying to do the same.

The videoconferencing facilities, supported by the Prime Minister's Office's Access to Information programme, will be launched as soon as the law ministry

"clears some legal aspects", said Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin yesterday.

He was addressing a press conference at the prisons headquarters in the capital's Bakshibazar marking "Kara Shoptah 2017" (jail week) from February 26.

Other initiatives include skills training, such as plumbing, masonry and home wiring, to help prisoners get back to normal lives once they are released on serving jail time, he said.

A proposal has been forwarded to the government with high hopes over providing inmates 10 percent of profits from sale of products they produce inside prisons, he added.

An armed gang ambushed a prison van in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila on February 23, 2014, shooting and hurling bombs to snatch three convicted Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh militants, including two on death row. A police constable was killed.

The video conferences will put an end to such occurrences while the phone booths stop cellphones from being sneaked into prisons, said Iftekhar.

Jail sources earlier told The Daily Star that prison authorities would collect two cellphone numbers before an inmate enters a prison and, on gathering some basic information, allow 15-minute conversations, once a fortnight for suspects and once a month for convicts.

Ensure social protection of migrant workers: Seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must strengthen labour wings at destination countries to ensure social protection for migrant workers, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

As the migration sector has emerged as a source of employment opportunities abroad for millions of Bangladeshis, their rights cannot be ignored, they added.

Simultaneously, the skill development for the migrant jobseekers must be reinforced, the speakers said at a national consultation on "Social Protection and Migration," organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements

Research Unit (RMMRU) with the help of International Labour Organization at a conference hall of Dhaka University.

Four discussants presented separate policy briefs on labour demand, supply and migration and poverty trends.

ASM Ali Ashraf, associate professor of international relations department at DU, said the labour wings are hugely understaffed and thus the migrants are being deprived of getting proper protection.

Conflicts between expatriates' welfare and foreign ministries on the recruitment of the labour wing officials are also hampering the protection mechanism for the migrants, he

observed.

"Pro-active role of the diplomats can protect migrant workers at destination countries. So, inter-ministerial coordination must be ensured for the sake of the migrants' social protection," Ashraf said.

RMMRU Executive Committee Member SN Azad said the government and stakeholders can play a vital role in better management of the migration sector.

RMMRU Founder Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui moderated the programme while DU teachers Sayema Haque Bidisha and Kamrul Islam also spoke.

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> Last Date of Application : March 27, 2017; Monday;

> Written Test: March 31, 2017; Friday; 03:00 PM - 04:00 PM;

> Class Starts: First week of May, 2017.

Contact: IBA-JU office, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342, Website: www.iba-ju.org

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