

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.0 L 17.3	MYMENSINGH H 29.7 L 15.6	CHITTAGONG H 31.2 L 18.5	SYLHET H 29.4 L 16.9	RAJSHAHI H 31.0 L 12.6	RANGPUR H 28.7 L 16.0	KHULNA H 32.0 L 16.8	BARISAL H 31.7 L 16.2	COX'S BAZAR H 32.5 L 19.5
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night and day temperatures may rise slightly, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:20am. Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 11.1 in Sreemangal.

UNBOUND SUFFERINGS



People continue to suffer as transport workers protesting conviction of two fellow drivers took their protests to a bigger scale leaving commuters stranded in the capital and all over the country yesterday. Thousands remained stuck at different bus terminals while many out of desperation tried to get on the back of trucks. Seemingly endless queues of vehicles were seen on the highways as workers blocked the roads. Passengers were seen walking for miles under the sun with their children. The strike also took a heavy toll on traders as the goods-carrying vehicles had to remain idle compelling some of them to walk carrying the goods.

HC asks lower courts to finish trial of two prisoners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the lower courts concerned to finish the trial proceedings of the cases against two under trial prisoners, who have been suffering in jails for over 12 years, in next three months.

Among the prisoners, Kailla Kalam has been suffering in Pabna jail since April 15, 2004, and Abdul Khalek has been in the Natore jail since October 18, 2005.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath gave the order after hearing their statements and examining their case records.

The prisoners were produced before the bench as per its earlier order which was issued on a suo moto move after Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee's panel lawyer Anisul Maowa prayed to the court for granting bail to the prisoners.

Fair ends on a high note

MATHEWS CHIRAN

It was a farewell mixed with hope, excitement and longing as thousands of booklovers thronged the premises of the Ekushey book fair yesterday on the last day of the month-long fair.

"I'll surely miss the book fair," said Mukta Malancha, a student of Nightingale Medical College and Hospital. "The fair hours should be extended. Those who came from a distance cannot stay for a long time."

Most of the visitors echoed her. They were also optimistic that the fair next year will be better and bigger.

This year, poetry, novel and story books dominated the fair. But the number of translated books declined.

Meanwhile, some visitors complained about the high prices of books at different stalls and wanted more translated versions of books.

"The books on the Liberation War have increased this year," said Ayesha Khanom, communication officer of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. "Even the rare ones, which were hard to get, were available."

Meanwhile, many students were seen swarming the Suhrawardy Udyan premises of the book fair yesterday as they did not want to miss the opportunity of getting their hands on new books.

"My exams are over. So, I have come to buy some new books," said Labib Shimanto, an SSC examinee. He wished the fair was extended for a couple of days.

This year, a total of 409 publications, government organisations, NGOs, research

based institutions and media houses participated. Last year, the number was 402.

Jakir Hossain, publisher of Adorn Publication, said, "Overall, we are happy that people are buying books even on the last day."

On the last day, the fair gates opened at 11:00am.

At around 6:30pm, a closing ceremony was held on the premises of Bangla Academy where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam and Director General of the Academy Prof Samsuzzaman Khan, were present.

The Bangla Academy sold books worth around Tk 1.54 crore this year, said a press release, adding, the total sale at the fair was Tk 65.40 crore. The total sale last year was Tk 40.50 crore.

AMAR EKUSHEY

YEAR	NOVEL	POETRY	RESEARCH	TRANSLATION	LIBERATION WAR
2013	532	771	52	34	64
2014	502	710	54	25	57
2015	629	877	119	12	53
2016	529	939	45	25	101
2017	521	1011	75	18	93

Nine 'abductors' held, victim rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested nine alleged abductors and rescued a victim from an under-construction building in the capital's Agargaon early yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Sohag Miah, Md Rubel alias Adu, Md Sohel, Md Obaidul, Md Alamgir, Md Shah Alam, Md Shipon, Md Shakil, and Aslam Mia. Rab seized a local shooter gun, a bullet and three knives from them.

According to Rab-2 media cell, on February 26, a woman named Ruksana Begum filed a complaint mentioning that someone went to her house to inform that some people of East Agargaon abducted her husband Md Emon and demanded Tk 1.50 lakh as ransom.

Rab officials arrested Rubel at East Agargaon intersection who was supposed to collect the ransom.

Sohag, an accused in arms and drug cases, was released from jail a month ago. Obaidul and Alam, also accused in different drug cases, served different jail terms.

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Admission in Master Programs for Spring Semester 2017.

Program	Seat	Duration	Minimum Qualification/Requirement
MBA (Regular)	100	1 to 2 years	At least 3-year Bachelor degree in any discipline.
MBA (Executive)	50	1 to 1½ years	At least 3-year Bachelor degree in any discipline with minimum 2 years job experience as an Executive.
Master of Science/Master of Engineering in EEE	10	minimum 1½ years	Minimum CGPA of 2.5 out of 4.0 in B.Sc. Engineering and must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C. and must not have a GPA less than 2.0 in other examination.
Master of Science/Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering	20	minimum 1½ years	Minimum CGPA of 2.5 out of 4.0 in B.Sc. Engineering and must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C. and must not have a GPA less than 2.0 in other examination.
Master of Architecture	10	minimum 1½ years	Minimum CGPA of 2.5 out of 4.0 in B.Arch. and must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C. and must not have a GPA less than 2.0 in other examination.
Master of Science in Mathematics	20	minimum 1 year	3 or 4 years Bachelor Degree in Math/Statistics/Physics/Engg. or equivalent Bachelor degree.

For details, please contact the respective Department office or office of the Registrar, AUST. The last date of submission of application is 25 March 2017. However for MBA program, applicants may take admission directly subject to the fulfillment of minimum admission requirements from 08 March 2017.

PHOTOS: STAR