

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 20.5 L 11.5	H 19.0 L 09.1	H 24.0 L 11.5	H 22.0 L 13.0	H 19.6 L 07.9	H 17.2 L 07.3	H 18.4 L 10.5	H 22.6 L 09.6	H 25.7 L 12.8

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during mid-night to morning and it may continue at places till noon. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:32pm and rises tomorrow at 06:44am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

NAKHALPARA RAID Killed militant suspects yet to be identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three suspected JMB militants killed in Friday's Rab raid in the capital's West Nakhhalpara near Prime Minister's Office (PMO) are yet to be identified.

None came to claim the bodies, Lt Col Emranul Hasan, commanding officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star last evening.

They are trying to ascertain their identities through fingerprint match with the Election Commission database, he added.

One of the militants rented a room on the fourth floor in the six-storey building, "Ruby Villa", identifying himself as Jahid.

Rab found copies of two national ID cards with his photographs. In one copy, his name was mentioned as Jahid from Comilla and in the other as Sajib from Brahmanbaria.

Filing of a case with Tejgaon Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act against some unnamed persons was underway.

Meanwhile, autopsies on the three bodies were conducted at Suhrawardy Medical College morgue yesterday.

Prof AM Selim Reza, head of the forensic medicine department, said they died from bullet wounds.

According to Rab, the militants were plotting to carry out attacks on key establishments in Dhaka including in the building that is several hundred yards off the PMO.

The flats on the fourth and fifth floors were rented out to bachelors and the rest to families.

House owner Shah Mohammad Sabbir Hossain and its caretaker Rubel were being interrogated, said Rab officials.



Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star; Shamsur Rahman, one of the board of directors of the company, other members of the board; and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of the newspaper, along with the staff of The Daily Star on annual Staff Day 2018 at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Star celebrates Staff Day 24 staff members awarded for outstanding performances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star celebrated its annual Staff Day 2018 amid festivity and various programmes at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman pledged to uphold the standard of journalism.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of the board of directors of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star; Shamsur Rahman, one of the directors; and Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, also spoke.

Twenty-four staff members, including journalists and officials of the newspaper, were awarded for their outstanding performance towards the newspaper.

Mohammad Al-Masum Molla received the "Reporter of the Year-2017" award while Meer Taneem Hasan got

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Twenty-two out of the 24 staff members of The Daily Star who received the "Performer of the Year" and "Employee of the Year" awards in different categories in recognition of their contribution towards the newspaper, on annual Staff Day 2018 at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Revisiting Bangla literature Three-day 'International Bangla Literature Conference 1424' kicks off in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To revisit the rich heritage of Bangla literature, a three-day "International Bangla Literature Conference 1424", on the theme "Bishwamanab Hobi Jadi Kayemon-e-Bangalee Hao" (if you want to be a global citizen, be a true Bangalee first), began yesterday at the capital's Bangla Academy.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the conference as the chief guest in Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

This is the second such event since 1974 when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inaugurated the first Bangla literature conference.

Professor Emeritus Asaduzzaman, the convener of the conference, presided over the inaugural programme while Nasiruddin Yousuff, chief coordinator of the event, delivered the welcome address.

Noted Bangladeshi and Indian authors and organisers such as Pradip Bhattacharya, Satyam Roy Chowdhury, Sunilmoy Ghosh and Rabeya Khatun spoke among others.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor recited a Syed Shamsul Haq poem titled "Amar Porichoy" (my identity) that depicts the political backdrop and cultural identity along with the artistic and literary history and heritage of Bangladesh.

About 300 literary personalities including poets, playwrights, novelists, short story writers, singers, theorists and critics from Bangladesh, India, Japan, the UK, the USA, and Germany are attending the event.

Kazuhiro Watanabe, chief programme director of Bangla section at Radio Japan, who translated "The Unfinished Memoirs" of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Japanese, is among the figures attending.

The conference aims to bring together eminent litterateurs, artists, filmmakers and theatre and cultural personalities under one umbrella.

The luminaries are taking part in a variety of programmes including seminars, discussions,

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HUNGER STRIKE DAY 5 30 more madrasa teachers fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indefinite hunger strike of the madrasa teachers rolled onto the fifth day yesterday with at least 30 teachers falling sick and 21 more being given intravenous saline drip.

At least 124 teachers fell ill and six of them had been hospitalised till yesterday, said Qazi Ruhul Amin Chowdhury, president of the organisation leading the demonstration.

A few hundred teachers under the banner of "Bangladesh Swatantra Ebtedai Madrasa Shikkhak Samity" started the hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday, demanding that the government nationalise the ebtedai madrasas that teach students from class I to V.

"Five days have passed by, we haven't got any response from the government," said Ruhul.

Kibria Khatun, a madrasa teacher from Joypurhat, said, "I'll not leave until the government meets our demand."

There are around 48,000 teachers of around 10,000 madrasas who are not getting any pay, since the institutions got registered under the Madrasa Education Board in 1984.

In 1994, some 6,776 teachers of 1,519 madrasas started getting Tk 500 as allowances through a government circular. Later in 2013, the government elevated the amount to Tk

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A place to unwind

UNB, Dhaka

Imagine a place where you can browse through an array of books before making up your mind about which one to buy. What if you can also grab a couple of your favourites, sit down and start browsing through them over a cup of coffee -- wouldn't that be nice! Your friends can do the same too!

With the changing trend in book-reading culture, booklovers now tend to look for places where they can go through the books for a while before buying any. They also look for places where they can get together with friends to discuss their literary adventures.

Quite a few bookstores, opened over the last one year in the capital, are not only offering booklovers a wide range of local and international books but also a cozy environment with light refreshments.

Bookstores with cafés such as Dipanpur, Bengal Boi and Batighar, and café with library like Nerdy Bean were introduced to the urban bookworms in 2017.

Sanjoy Basak Partha, a student of Dhaka University, said there should be more such bookshops. "To make people interested in reading books, such bookstores can definitely play a vital role."

Having a reader-friendly environment is as much important as choosing the right book, he said while buying books from Batighar Dhaka.

Batighar Dhaka, designed in the Mughal architectural style especially like the Lalbagh Fort, offers booklovers over 1 lakh books and a corner where they can enjoy reading over a cup of coffee.

Tarek Abdur Rob, its manager, said the main attraction is the bookstore. "In addition, people can spend a good amount of time here reading books." The availability and a good collection of books create more scope of creating quality readers, he said.

Dipanpur, which also started its journey last year with an aim to fulfill slain Faisal Arefin Dipan's dream of spreading knowledge, offers a corner, "Dipanjali", where people can read books over a cup of coffee or snacks.

"We want to create a friendly environment for the readers..." said Salma Siddique, one of the directors.

Dipanpur also has a "children corner" where parents can keep their kids busy with toys, colour boxes and books, she added.

Bengal Boi, another newly-

launched bookstore, offers a wide range of books and a cozy environment. People can read books there while having breakfast.

The lost habit of reading books is coming back gradually, claimed its Operations Manager Golam Sarwar Farouque.

Tanzila Chowdhury Antara, a student of Dhaka University, said, "Here you can sit as long as you want and read the book you like."

Anwar Hossain, owner of Boi Bichitra, one of the pioneers of chain bookstores, claimed that people these days tend to visit bookstores with cafés more than the regular ones due to the changing taste of readers.

In addition to these bookstores, there is also a café which for the first time in the country included library facilities for its customers.

Nerdy Bean in Dhanmondi aims to offer its customers an experience as if they are reading books in their living rooms, said the store manager Sheikh

New bookstores offering people place to read, buy books over refreshments

Sazid, adding that they have around 1,200 books.

Arani, a student of North South University, was visiting the place with her friends. They were reading and discussing about books while taking coffee.

In addition to reading and buying books, Pathak Samabesh, one of the premier bookstores, has introduced a new service for booklovers.

They would inform the readers about new books depending on readers' preferences via e-mails, said Roksana Akhter, admin of the bookstore.

"It's a good thing that children now can spend time with books in stores, which will help create future readers," said Safir Abdullah, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

These bookstores can play a vital role in boosting the reading culture, said many of the bookworms.



Covered in a blanket, the teacher of an ebtedai madrasa continues her hunger strike in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The teachers have been staging an indefinite hunger strike for last five days. Before that they demonstrated for eight days demanding nationalisation of all the registered ebtedai madrasas under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS