

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 29.4 L 18.6	MYMENSINGH H 29.0 L 16.6	CHATTOGRAM H 29.5 L 19.5	SYLHET H 30.1 L 19.2	RAJSHAHI H 29.4 L 17.7	RANGPUR H 29.0 L 18.3	KHULNA H 30.0 L 17.5	BARISHAL H 30.0 L 16.8	COX'S BAZAR H 30.0 L 19.8
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11am.

FRESH POLLS SCHEDULE LDA to march towards EC if 24hrs deadline not met
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) yesterday threatened to march towards the Election Commission (EC), if it does not announce a new schedule for the upcoming national election in the next 24 hours.

The coalition of eight left-leaning political parties came up with the threat at a protest rally held in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

At the rally, the LDA leaders alleged that the EC announced a "one-sided schedule to hold a one-sided election" in favour of the government. People will not accept it, they said, urging all to take part in their protest in resisting this conspiracy.

Speaking at the rally, SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



An activist with caged tiger replicas flashes a placard reading, "We won't stop, nor will our pen", as part of a rally and procession against the construction of the controversial Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans. Inset, Prof Rahnuma Ahmed, among others, takes part in the protest, which also raised concerns about the Rooppur nuclear power plant. The photos were taken in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Do not boycott the upcoming election Shujan to BNP
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The early announcement of the polls schedule and decision to use Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) has created uncertainty regarding the fairness and acceptability of the election, speakers said at a programme yesterday.

They also urged the main opposition party BNP not to boycott the upcoming election despite the current spree of "political arrests".

"We want not only a peaceful election, but also a fair one... Restriction on political activities, Digital Security Act spree of arrests -- in this prevailing situation, we can't be sure that a fair and acceptable election will be held on November 23," said Shujan President Hafiz Uddin.

He was responding to a query of a participant at the "National Election Olympiad" held at CIRDP Auditorium in Dhaka.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform, organised the event in association with an international voluntary organisation, 'The Hunger Project'.

Some 73 youths from 30 constituencies in the country, selected through regional Election Olympiads and renowned personalities, participated in the programme.

Regarding the early announcement of the election schedule, Shujan president said, "We don't understand the need to hold it [election] so early despite calls from opposition parties. Why can't you [Election Commission] move it to January next year? What is the problem?" SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

DAP was altered as 'no one wanted' to comply with city plan
Says public works secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government had to alter Dhaka's detailed area plan (DAP), as "no one wanted" to comply with the city plan, said the public works secretary at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Implementation -- and not plans merely on paper -- is important, for which people's participation is vital, said secretary Md Shahid Ullah Khandaker at a discussion marking World Town Planning day (globally observed on November 8).

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), with support from four other organisations, organised the discussion on "Sustainable Cities and Communities" on its premises.

"If developed unplanned, the entire country will be unliveable someday, like what Dhaka city has become today," he said. He underscored the need for coordination among 54 government authorities involved in Dhaka's development and public service delivery, and passage of the proposed law on urban and regional plan.

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EC giving scope to Jamaat men to contest the election

Prof Mesbah Kamal says at citizens' dialogue
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a citizens' dialogue yesterday urged countrymen not to cast vote for candidates who opposed the country's independence and are convicted for war crimes, and their dependants in the upcoming national election scheduled to be held on December 23, 2018.

They also urged Election Commission (EC) to cancel the nomination forms of anti-Liberation War individuals.

A group of rights activists, journalists, educationists and freedom fighters made the call at the event titled "Muktijuddher Bangladesh O Nirbachan 2018" (Bangladesh with the spirit of Liberation War and Election 2018) organised by the Sector Commanders' Forum—Muktijuddho '71 at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Speaking at the dialogue, eminent educationist Prof Mesbah Kamal criticised the role of the EC for giving scope to candidates linked to Jamaat to contest the next election.

"EC has given a scope to Jamaat men to contest as independent candidates and under symbol of any registered party in the election, so imposing a ban on Jamaat is a just an eyewash," he said.

Prof Mesbah Kamal, also a teacher of DU history department, alleged that the anti-Liberation War forces are being united under the banner of Oikyafront, centering the election.

"I am waiting to see the role of Dr Kamal Hossain as a freedom fighter when BNP will give nomination to Jamaat candidates," he added.

In his speech, former DU vice chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique alleged that Dr Kamal and ASM Abdur Rab are patronising anti-Liberation War forces right now, though they claim to be freedom fighters.

He urged all to unmask of these persons, especially to the young generation, so that they are not misguided by any deceiving platform.

In his speech, Harun Habib, secretary general of the Sector Commanders' Forum, said, "We don't SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

MN Larma was a leader for all
Speakers tell memorial discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manabendra Narayan Larma does not belong to any particular group or party; he is a leader for all to follow, said speakers at a memorial programme marking the 35th death anniversary of the eminent politician.

A national committee to observe his death anniversary organised the programme at the Bokultola of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Speaking at the programme, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim said MN Larma wanted the recognition of his own people and their ethnicity, and did not get derailed from his ideology.

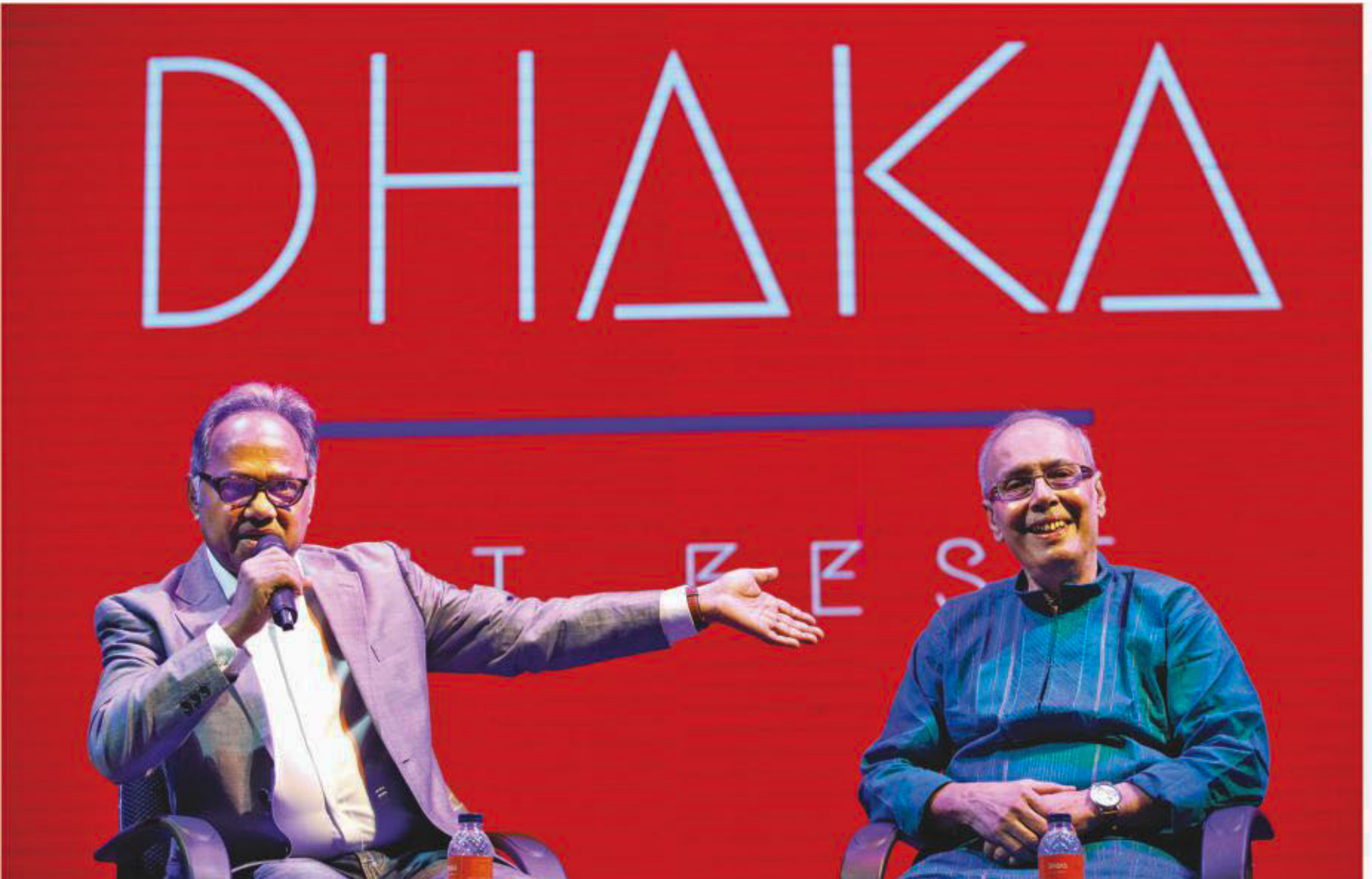
"He not only worked for his own people, but also worked for the under-privileged, oppressed and also raised voice for rights of women," he said.

Oikya Nap President Pankaj Bhattacharya said Larma's bold demand in the parliament for the rights of his community was courageous, and such a brave soul should always be celebrated.

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I wait days, sometimes months for the apt first line

Shirshendu says about his writing process at DLF



Writer-editor Imdadul Haq Milon hosts a panel discussion with novelist Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, who is equally popular among Bangla readers of India and Bangladesh, on the closing day of Dhaka Lit Fest at Bangla Academy yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 8th edition of Dhaka Literary Festival (DLF) ended yesterday at Bangla Academy, promising to uphold values of righteousness in the years to come.

This year, the festival featured some 200 speakers, performers, and thinkers from 15 countries in over 90 sessions. The sessions were open to all, according to the organisers.

Some of the biggest contemporary literary minds from across the globe joined in the three-day fest which started on Thursday.

Speaking at the closing session held at Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium of the academy, British novelist Philip Hensher said the festival has become part of Dhaka city that witnessed many historic events, including the Language Movement of 1952.

Literature nurtures multiplicity of

voices and it reflects what's contained by the world. Some of these voices may make us uncomfortable, and some may be inconvenient to hear, he said.

However, literature helps make the world stronger by ensuring freedom of expression, said Hensher, a winner of Ondaatje Prize.

He condemned the detention of internationally acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam and other free-thinkers.

"Restriction of freedom of speech is never in the interest of civilisation," he added.

Oscar-winning British actress Tilda Swinton described DLF as a "humane spaceship".

Participants will be scattered after the end of the fest but they will take with them the values gathered from here, she further said.

Speaking as chief guest, Finance

Minister AMA Muhith said despite political ups and downs in recent years, the areas of arts, culture and literature remained "more or less protected and safe."

He hoped the festival will be back next year with even more enthusiasm.

After the formal closing session, eminent Indian author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay shared the stage with noted Bangladeshi litterateur Imdadul Haq Milon in a session at the same venue.

Shirshendu said he considers himself an "unscripted" author who waits for days and sometimes months to find an appropriate line to start a new story.

"Once that particular line is found the rest comes easily as I can visualise the characters," he said.

He suggested writers to know their languages well, because "language can be used in many ways."

Weeklong 'Income Tax Fair' begins Tuesday

UNB, Dhaka

The weeklong "Income Tax Fair" will kick off in Dhaka and other divisional headquarters across the country on Tuesday for the ninth consecutive year, aiming to provide better services to the taxpayers and include more taxpayers in the tax net.

The divisional headquarters will hold the fair for seven days, four days in 56 districts, two days in 32 upazilas and one day in 70 upazilas. November 30 is the last day for submitting the income tax return for individual taxpayers.

The fair in Dhaka will be held at the Officers' Club. During the last two years, the fair was held at NBR office in Agargaon. To avoid traffic jam due to the ongoing construction of metro rail, NBR said it has shifted the fair venue.

Ziauddin Mahmud, coordinator of the fair and NBR member (income tax admin), said they have included a new feature -- tax training through audio visual means -- at the fair this year.

"New taxpayers can collect e-TINs (electronic tax identification numbers) at the fair while other taxpayers can collect e-TINs through re-registration," he said.

Ziauddin also said separate booths will be set up for e-payment and for freedom fighters, women, people with disabilities and elderly taxpayers.

On November 12, NBR will distribute awards among the highest and long-time taxpayers at district level.

Tax cards will be given to 76 individuals, 53 companies in 12 other categories for paying the highest amount of tax based on the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Victim of his own body

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Zinnat was living like any other boy. He could walk freely and used to give a hand to his brother at work. Everything went well till age 13 when he started growing tall at an abnormal rate. Within the next few years, he became of a victim of his own body.

Now aged 22 and at 7.5 feet tall, Zinnat suffers from numerous complications. He has a voracious appetite, which he could rarely satisfy due to poverty. His right leg is several inches longer than the left one, causing discomfort and pain in his body when he walks.

The youth from Ramu of Cox's Bazar was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on October 22.

Doctors said a hormonal disorder led to his abnormal height and increased his demand for food intake to more than five times of a normal person his age.

But his poor family cannot provide enough food most of the time. His father Amir Hamza used to collect logs and tree branches from the hills to support the family. To meet dietary needs of Zinnat, other family members often have to go half-fed.

"Zinnat is the third among four siblings. He started growing abnormally at age 13, though none of our family members has this trend," said Ilias Ali, 24, elder brother of Zinnat.

"It is really tough for me to run the family alone as my father has been out of work for the last six years. Zinnat also cannot help me due to his illness."

It created another crisis in the family. "My wife left home around eight months back as I cannot ensure enough food for all. She is now demanding I live with her separately."

"With a daily earning of Tk 200-300, I can't pay for the family's needs," he said.

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Zinnat standing next to his brother in a cabin of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH