



Book on works of Bangladesh artists launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book titled "Bangladesh Art -- Collection of Contemporary Paintings" was launched at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday to promote the works of Bangladeshi artists in the international arena.

The book was published by the Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA).

The 328-page book contains 293 full colour reproductions of the works of 68 prominent and upcoming artists.

Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, Grameen Phone Bangladesh Limited and Khairul Kabir Foundation funded the first project of the SPBA.

In his introductory speech, Elthem B Kabir, chairman of the

PHOTO: STAR

From left: Safiuddin Ahmed, Elthem B Kabir, Gerd Wahlstrom, Mohammad Kibria and Ola Ree at the launch of a book titled "Bangladesh Art -- Collection of Contemporary Paintings" at a city hotel yesterday.



Hearing resumes today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The hearing of the Shazneen Case has been adjourned till today.

Kazi Rahamat Ullah, Judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

The lawyers prayed for adjournment of the hearing as chief prosecution lawyer A B M Sharfuddin Khan Mukul could not appear in the court with the case diary (CD).

Two prosecution witnesses, Shahidur Rahman Molla and Faridul Islam, appeared in the court yesterday to face cross-examination.

All the six accused -- Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parvin, now in the custody were produced in the court yesterday.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

4 killed in another suicide bombing in northern Israel

AFP, Jerusalem

Four people were killed Monday when a suicide bombing ripped through the entrance of a shopping centre in the northern Israeli town of Afula, Israeli television reported.

At least 14 people were wounded in the blast, which Israeli media said may have been carried out by a woman.

A worse bloodbath was averted when the security guard posted at the entrance of the mall apparently prevented the bomber from entering.

The hardline Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for this bombing in a telephone call to AFP here.

The bombing in Afula, which lies around 10 kilometres north of the northern West Bank city of

Jenin, was the fifth suicide attack against Israeli targets in 48 hours.

Another suicide bomber wounded three Israeli soldiers yesterday in the Gaza Strip, after the government clamped a total closure on the Palestinian territories and moved to isolate Yasser Arafat further.

A Palestinian riding a bicycle detonated his explosives as an army jeep passed near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip early, Israeli military sources said.

The bombing was claimed by the hardline Islamic group Hamas, which was also responsible for an attack on settlers in the West Bank city of Hebron and the two blasts which killed nine people including the bombers in Jerusalem Sunday.

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Token hunger strike for Khosru in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Agitating journalists yesterday observed a day-long token hunger strike at Chittagong Press Club demanding immediate rescue of abducted fellow media man Atahar Siddiqui Khosru.

Sitakunda Press Club and Chittagong Journalist Forum jointly staged the agitation as a part of a fresh 5-day programme. A rally also took place during the strike.

Speakers expressed their concern over the condition of Khosru who remained untraced even 20 days after his abduction on April 30.

They also strongly condemned the police role, alleging them for protecting the suspects and harassing journalists.

Khosru is the president of Sitakunda press club and a correspondent of Bengali daily Ittefaq.

Nishimizu meets PM, praises leadership

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) Vice President for South Asia, Meiko Nishimizu, has underscored the need for practising good governance in all spheres of the administration to ensure development.

She said the situation in Bangladesh has changed a lot in many areas and "a quiet revolution was on under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia".

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New road tech can save Tk 1,000 crore a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mix of cement and brick aggregates to form the base of paving can make roads durable and save up to Tk 1,000 crore a year, speakers told a seminar yesterday.

The seminar on Cost Effective Improvement of Bangladesh Roads, organised by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), asked the government to carry out a test on the new way of road building. Assistant Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department

(RHD) SM Shafiqul Alam presented the keynote paper on the theme.

Bangladesh spends more than Tk 3,500 crore on the growing road network, but the roads wear out easily because of tropical weather, says Alam.

Floodwater seeps through the bituminous surface of roads and destroys them, as engineers now use only brick aggregates in the base of pavement, he said.

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Depression over Bay intensifies

UNB, Dhaka

The depression over east central Bay and adjoining northeast bay yesterday rapidly intensified into deep depression, and moved north-eastwards into northeast bay and adjoining east central bay.

According to a Met Office special bulletin, the depression was centred at about 475 km southeast of Chittagong port, 385 km south-east of Cox's Bazar port and 610 km east-southeast of Mongla port at 3pm.

Maximum sustained wind speed within 48 km of the depression is

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 20		6-36 pm
May 21	5-13 am	

Prayer Timings		
May 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-42	6-48
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation