



Khan Foundation organised a workshop on 'Active participation of the elected women members in local development' at its auditorium in the city yesterday.

'Empower elected women members of local govts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for more empowerment of elected women members of local government bodies to ensure development at the grassroots level.

They also identified 'reserved seats' as one of the main obstacles to women's participation in development activities and observed that introduction of direct elections to the women's seats would have positive impact on local government administration.

The Khan Foundation organised the workshop on 'Active participation of the elected women members in local development' at its auditorium in the city, with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest.

Former advisor of the caretaker government Rokia A Rahman was present as guest of honour while LGED Chief Engineer Shahidul Hasan as special guest, Foundation Executive Director Advocate Rokhsana Khandkar presided.

Begum Selima Rahman said the

provision of reserved seats hinders effective participation of women in the development programme.

She called on the political parties to nominate more women so that they can contest directly in the general elections.

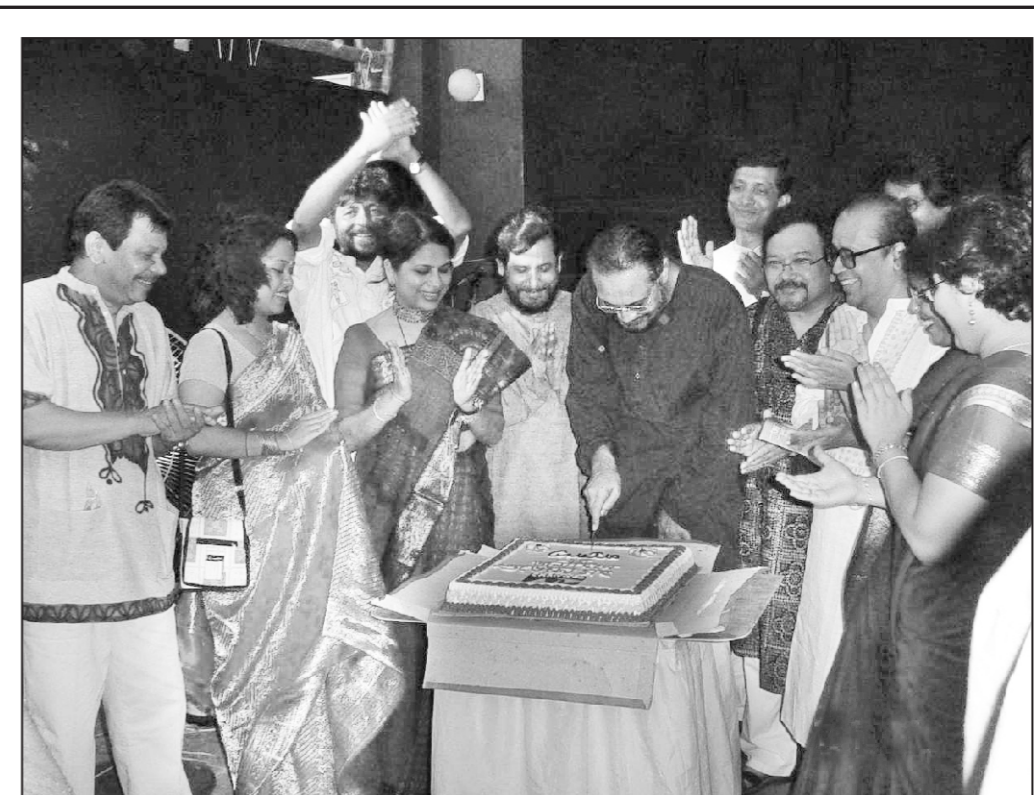
She said women can expedite the pace of development as they do not resort to corruption.

Rokia A Rahman said that Bangladesh has been a model in terms of women's progress in today's world and the micro-credit programme for women has been acclaimed worldwide.

She called on women to come forward to make sure their active participation in the development programmes and work together with the men.

ADB representative Ferdousi Sultana and Prof. Dalim Chandra Barman of Dhaka University also spoke.

Women members of the Union Parishads, women Ward Commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation, lawyers and members of the civil society attended the workshop.



CEO of Asiatic Marketing Communications Limited Aly Zaker cuts a cake at the advertising agency's founding anniversary programme at the Asiatic Centre in Banani on Friday.

Asiatic celebrates its 37th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asiatic Marketing Communications Limited, a leading advertising agency, celebrated its 37th founding anniversary on Friday with a manifestation of its creativity and aesthetic zeal.

An exhibition titled 'Antorey Sunanda Pakhi' featuring an array of paintings and photographs by its own artists and staff and a musical programme were

held at its new building in Banani.

The exhibition showcased a total of 54 artworks by 13 artists of the Asiatic. A seven-episode collection of photographs titled 'Girl Child' by the agency's CEO Aly Zaker, also featured in the show along with Creative Director Shankar Sajoal's photography 'Brikhha-Manush-Bedana.'

The celebration was intended to

introduce the agency's own building to its well-wishers and give an impression that Asiatic is something more than being mere an advertising firm.

Staff, friends, well-wishers, clients and renowned personalities joined the celebrations at the Asiatic Centre.

Journalists Golam Sarwar, Abed Khan, columnist Muntasir Munam, and Faridur Reza and Nawajesh Ali of Channel i, were present among others.

ASEAN Regional Forum membership Manila to back Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

The Philippines will extend support to Bangladesh in its bid to become member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

The newly appointed Ambassador of the Philippines in Dhaka Jose Lino B Guerrero said this when he made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Earlier, some other ASEAN countries also expressed their support to Bangladesh in this regard.

The Philippines envoy assured the prime minister that his country would take an initiative to translate the existing friendly relations between Dhaka and Manila into tangible cooperation.

8 colour TV sets seized

UNB, Dhaka

Members of the Coastguard East Zone seized eight coloured television sets worth Tk 1.65 lakh from an engine boat from the Chittagong coastal area Saturday.

Coast Guard sources said a patrol team halted the boat in Gohira area of Anwara upazila and seized the television sets but the smugglers managed to flee.

The seized boat and televisions were deposited with the customs authorities, says a press release.

Guerrero thanked Khaleda for Bangladesh's support to the democratic process of the Philippines. He also conveyed the thanks of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in this regard to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The Ambassador recalled that the Philippines is one of the first few countries that had recognised Bangladesh as an independent nation in February 1972.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called for narrowing the trade gap and expanding trade volume between the two countries. Presently, the balance of trade has been in favour of Manila.

Responding to her, the envoy stressed the need for reactivating the Bangladesh-Philippines Business Forum formed in 1995.

He said the Philippines is interested to invest in ICT, and agribased and other industries in Bangladesh as well as to increase technical cooperation for resource development between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to work on climate and environment areas.

The ambassador mentioned that Bangladesh worked in close cooperation with the Philippines in various multilateral and regional forums.

The Prime Minister assured that the cooperation would continue in the days ahead.

Ambassador Guerrero appreciated the leadership quality of Khaleda and mentioned various pragmatic steps and innovative programmes taken up by her government in various sectors including

women education, poverty alleviation, micro-credit and employment generation.

Khaleda conveyed her best wishes to Philippines President Gloria Macapagal through the envoy. She also assured the ambassador of her fullest cooperation to help him in his mission in Bangladesh.

Outgoing Egyptian envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador in Dhaka Mohye Myousses yesterday called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at latter's Shudha Sadan residence in the morning.

They discussed various bilateral, international and matters relating to Muslim ummah during the meeting.

AL Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad MP, Kazi Jafrullah MP, International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain and Hasina's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present at the meeting.

Dr Moshir made JU proctor

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities yesterday appointed Dr Moshir Rahman as acting proctor replacing Prof Saleh Ahmad Khan.

Dr Moshir Rahman, assistant professor of statistics department, took over his office at 12.00 noon.

Earlier on July 23, Prof Saleh Ahmad Khan applied to Vice Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad for his release saying that he wanted to go back to teaching.

Different student organisations had been agitating for Saleh Ahmad's removal since his appointment as proctor accusing him as pro-Jamaat.

Jamaat-Shibir politics is banned at JU campus following the murder of Habibur Rahman Kabir, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist, by Islami Chhatra Shibir on the campus in 1989.

IT programme at City University

A training programme on IT education by overseas volunteers began at the City University yesterday, says a press release.

The three-week programme aims at developing computer literacy of the students.

A team of student-experts from Electronics and Information Engineering Division of Chonbuk National University, South Korea will train the students.

The programme includes different aspects of IT including web page design on the internet and presentation of recent trends in educational and cultural arena of South Korea.

The programme has been sponsored by the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity (KADO) under the Ministry of Information and Communication.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon inaugurated the programme as chief guest. Laying emphasis on IT education, he said without computer literacy our students cannot compete with others in an era of globalisation.

South Korean Ambassador Kyu-Hyung-Lee, and team leader Pill song Hum also spoke at the inaugural function.

Prof M Shamsul Haque, vice-chancellor, Alhaj Anwar Hossain, chairman of the board of governors, Hossain Khaled, vice-chairman, and Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chief advisor of City University, and M A Hamid, managing director of City General Insurance Company, Sadat Hossain Salim, managing director of Anwar Landmark Ltd were present.

SSC candidates demand re-examination of answer scripts in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of students, who appeared at the last SSC examination under Chittagong Education Board (CEB), yesterday formed a human chain demanding re-examination of their answer scripts.

They formed the human chain on the local press club premises at 11.00am. A rally was also held there.

Speakers at the rally alleged that the scripts were not examined properly and that is one of the main causes of bad result of the board this year.

They said the question papers were also not prepared properly due to callousness of the authorities

concerned.

The speakers called for stern action against the persons responsible for bad results of the board.

Ayesha Arefin, Tania Akhter, Shamima Nasrin, Farhana Sultana addressed the rally.

A large number of students from Collegiate School, Muslim High School, Bangladesh Women Association (BWA) School and Railway Public School took part in the human chain.

Death anniversary



The second death anniversary of Lion Quazam Muazzam Husain, former Member Director of BADC and a social worker of Manikganj will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 14/4 Salimullah Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka after Maghrib prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Heroin seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police Friday seized 300 grams of heroin worth Tk 30 lakh from a hotel at Sutrapur and arrested a couple.

A team of CID west zone raided Hotel Super and seized the heroin in three plastic packets from Momtaz Begum and Altaf Hossain alias Selim, a press release said.

They are professional drug peddlers, police said.



Awami Sangskritik Forum forms human chain at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday demanding immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

Acute transport crisis at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Rajshahi University (RU) have been facing an acute transport crisis as most of the university buses have worn out.

At least six university buses, out of 31, have been lying damaged and the others often remain out of order.

Students coming from a distance suffer a lot due to lack of reliable transport facilities.

The buses plying on only 11 routes are quite inadequate for about 15,000 students living outside the campus.

Moreover, most of the buses are worn-out and go out of order frequently, resulting in cancellation of scheduled routes. Seats of many buses have also reduced to a skeleton.

Sometimes, students reach the

campus hanging onto footboards and windows of buses, risking their lives, due to shortages of transports, although they pay Tk 180 in transport fees annually.

The female students are the worst sufferers as there are only six buses allocated for them and two of them went out of order.

Most interestingly, helpers and mechanics of the buses often act as drivers for shortage of genuine drivers.

The university has a total of 32 drivers and 25 helpers and technicians. Of them, nine are earmarked for the vehicles of important persons and the rest 23 drivers and 25 helpers drive the buses for students by turn.

According to budgets of previous years, the RU authorities collect about Tk. 50 lakh from the transport

BNEF leaders meet Observer editor

Newly elected executive members of Bangladesh Newspaper Employers Federation (BNEF) met with Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of Bangladesh Observer and president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists yesterday, says a press release.

The BNEF leaders sought his cooperation in realising their seven-point demand including the housing problem.

BNEF President Matiuur Rahman Talukdar (Jalil) and Secretary General Khairul Isla led the team comprising Afsar Uddin Khan, Shahjalal Miah, Shahjahan Talukdar, Salimuddin Salim, Nazrul Islam, Tapon Chandra Das, Khokon Chandra Das, Mohammad Ali and Tanveer Hossain.

BCL observes strike at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday observed a strike on the campus protesting the attack on its central leaders by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres.

Classes in most of the departments could not be held owing to poor presence of students.

Scheduled examinations were, however, held normally.

The movement of the university shuttle train was delayed for an hour

as the BCL activists laid a barricade at the Sholoshahar station in the city at 8.00am.

They took out a procession and held a rally at the Sholoshahar station.

General Secretary Kazi Mazharul Islam presided over the rally addressed by Joint Secretary Minhaj Uddin, Abedin Al Mamun, Shahidul Kawasr and Nazrul Islam.

They urged the student community to launch greater movement against the cadres of JCD and Islami Chhatra Shibir to maintain academic atmosphere on the campuses.



Defence Secretary K M Ehsanul Haq and Ambassador of France M Michel Lummaux exchange documents after signing an agreement for cooperation in the field of military training in the city yesterday.



Bangladesh Chhatra League took out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding steps to ensure congenial atmosphere.



AN M Ehsanul Haque Milon, state minister for Education, speaks at a training programme titled '2003 Overseas Volunteer Teams Programme for Internet Education' on the City University campus yesterday. Vice-Chancellor Dr M Shamsul Haque, Korean Ambassador Kyu Hyang Lee, university Chairman Anwar Hossain and Chief Advisor Mizanur Rahman Shelly were present.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Omen'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama Swapna, a cultural organisation, will stage a drama titled 'Ekti Swarnaghatito Durgahatana' directed by Nirzhar Adhikari. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 7.00pm.

Discussion Department of Population Sciences of Dhaka University in collaboration with the UN Population Fund organises a discussion on 'Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health: Rights and Access to information and services in Bangladesh'. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Tophkana Road. Time: 11.00am.

Symposium A symposium on 'Update on Tuberculosis management: Role of FDC in TB control', organised by the Chest and Heart Association of Bangladesh in collaboration with Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited, will be held. Venue: Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00am.

Human chain Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will form a

human chain to protest the government's dilly dallying over the separation of the judiciary from the executive. Venue: In front of the Supreme Court. Time: 11.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24 degree at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet.