

# Preserve document as nat'l heritage

PM tells BTV officials

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the BTV authorities to preserve as national heritage the documents contained in the celluloid depicting Bangladesh history and tradition.

"The documentary films and records that still remained intact have to be preserved with utmost care. From now on, no documentary materials should be marred," Khaleda told the BTV officials and employees while she was inaugurating its archives in the afternoon.

Khaleda formally inaugurated the archives of the state-run audiovisual media at its main Bhaban at Rampura in the city.

The BTV went on air nearly four decades ago from the then DIT building, now RAJUK Bhaban, without having any archives in so many years of its journey.

Information Minister Tarique Islam, Information Secretary Nazmul Alam Siddiqi and DG of BTV Mostafizur Rahman also spoke at the inaugural

function in the BTV auditorium.

Addressing the function the Prime Minister categorically said that the Bangladesh Television is a national institution, not any political propaganda machine.

"You all have to attain national perspectives and redesign all the BTV programmes. As a staff of national broadcasting media, you should not carry out your jobs just as routine work," she told the TV rank and file.

Each and every programme must reflect the national tradition, culture and values, keeping in mind that it is not merely an entertainment medium, she said.

The PM said the BTV would have to uphold national identity, maintaining international standards.

The prime minister once more asked the national telecasting media to immediately find out the main problems and solution to the impediments to upgrading the standard of its programmes, enhancing credibility to the viewers.

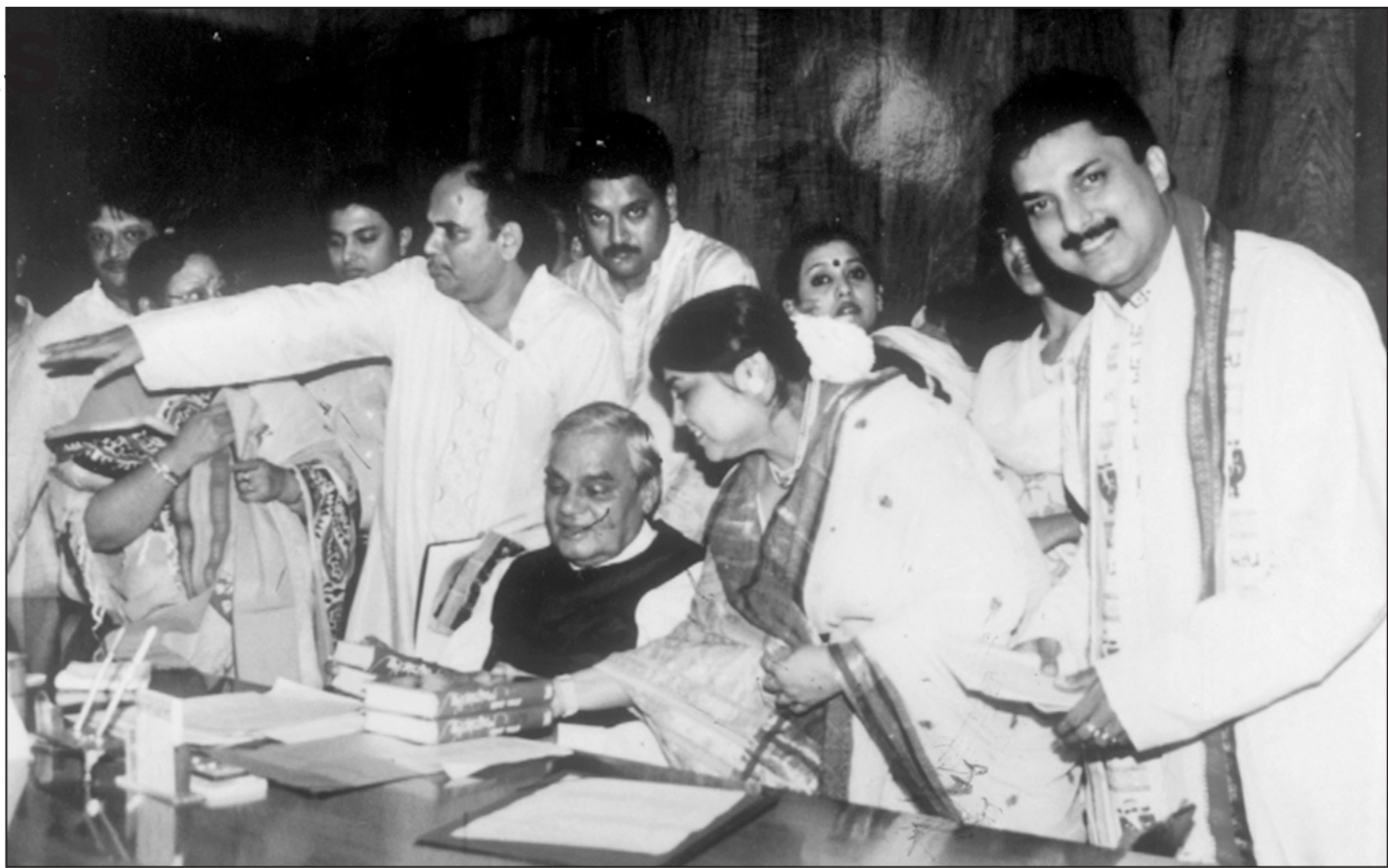
"Why BTV will not be able to present standard programmes to catch viewers' attention and why its news, information, commentary and elucidation will not earn acceptability," she posed the questions to the BTV anchors.

Failing these, she said whatever programmes on development, education, information and promotional telecasts are taken would all be meaningless.

"The slogan Bangladesh Television speaks of the country, its soil and people will become useless," she said, putting across the message that there must be a change for the better.

She said the number of TV viewers in Bangladesh is none too less as well as "we are not lagging far behind in respect of equipment and technology while telecasting experience is not also so poor".

The prime minister, however, told them: "I'm not disappointing you. I am telling you to be more sincere and active in your responsibilities."



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# UNESCO to help preserve cultural heritage

UNB, Dhaka

The UNESCO will provide all-out cooperation to Bangladesh in development and preservation of cultural heritage.

The assurance came when Director General of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre Sato Kunio called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman at her office yesterday.

Recalling the UNESCO's role in declaring 21st February as International Mother Language Day, the state minister sought cooperation of the UN in the development work of the ministry.

Sato Kunio thanked the government for giving Ekushey award to the UNESCO.

Secretary of the ministry Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury and other high officials of the ministry attended the meeting, said an official release. Meanwhile, Sato visited Community Learning Centres (CLCs) run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at

Mohammadpur yesterday.

He talked with the students and guardians and expressed his deep satisfaction on the programmes of the CLCs, saying that DAM has been playing a pioneer role in assisting ACCU in most of its regional programmes and specially in the setting up of a network of Literacy Resource Centres in 17 countries of the Asia Pacific region.

He held talks with Kazi Rafiqul Alam, DAM Executive Director and other senior officials.

M Ehsanur Rahman, Deputy Executive Director and concerned officials accompanied him during his visit. He also visited Bangladesh Literacy Resource Centre (BLRC) at Dhanmondi.

Sato arrived in Bangladesh on September 2 on his way to Bangkok to see for himself the special features of DAM and CLCs.

He exchanged views with senior officials of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh National Commission.

# Resist militant fundamentalism

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of left-leaning political fronts, intellectuals and civil society members at a roundtable yesterday called on the progressive and pro-liberation forces to build a resistance against emerging militant fundamentalism.

They also called for greater national consensus in the form of joint action committee to combat communal repression and fundamental militancy, in the wake of recent incidents of Islamist extremism in Joypurhat and elsewhere.

"As the situation has turned out very critical, we cannot sit idle any longer," said Prof. Kabir Chowdhury who chaired the discussion.

"We should have taken a staunch position against the communalism and fundamental militants before they could have reached this extent with such gravity," he said referring to Joypurhat incident. "We must encounter the emergence of militant fundamentalism and communal repression without delay."

"Fundamental militants have nothing to do with Islam as a religion," CPB President Monzurul Ahsan Khan said. "Their mission is to institutionalise fanatic extremism politically in Taliban style."

Today's volatile situation is just an outcome of indulgence that the successive governments have shown towards the militant forces, he added.

Prof. Muntahir Mamun was critical of all the successive governments for entertaining fundamentalist forces to harvest political gains.

"Even Awami League did not identify militancy and tried the militants," said Prof. Mamun, who underscored the participation of political fronts as well as civil society in combating militancy.

Cultural activist Nasiruddin Yusuf said the militant forces have taken advantage of absence of any effective political movement at the moment.

Journalist Iqbal Sobhan called on the progressive forums to unitedly arrange a national convention against communalism and militancy.

Politician Ajay Roy called on the

political parties to vow unitedly that they would not show any indulgence to the communal forces in any case.

Awami League Presidium member Abdus samad Azad said his party was committed to fighting militant fundamentalism.

Writer Shahriar Kabir presented a paper mentioning numerous incidents of communal repression and Islamist militancy.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, AL Presidium member Abdur Razzak MP, Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Huq Inu also attended the roundtable organised by the Ekkattor Ghatok Dalal Nirmla Committee at the National Press Club.

# Dhaka elected APO Governing Body Chairman

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal has been elected as chairman of the Governing Body of Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for the year 2003-04.

Sarwar Kamal was elected APO Governing Body Chairman at the first day of the three-day 45th annual meeting that began at Nadi, Fiji yesterday.

Bangladesh has been elected chairman for the first time since it has become the member of APO in 1982. Fijian Prime Minister Laisenia Qare inaugurated the meeting.

# Cypriot residents asked to register with Hon. consulate

Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus in Dhaka requests all Cypriots staying and working in Bangladesh to register themselves with the honorary consulate for information purpose only, says a press release.

For registration, the Cypriot residents have been requested to send their particulars, including contact details, either by fax or e-mail to Shahab Sattar, Honorary Consul, Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus in Dhaka, ABC House, 9th Floor, 8, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213. Fax (02) 8 8 2 6 1 1 5 . E - m a i l cyprus@gmggroup.com.

# Demand for cancellation of grading system

# DU body meets today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of sociology department of Dhaka University yesterday said course co-ordination committee of the department will meet today to discuss the students' demand for cancelling the grading and semester systems.

Prof Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury said he would take necessary steps on the basis of the recommendations of the committee.

"I will also call a meeting of the academic committee of the department soon to resolve the problem," he added.

The chairman said the grading system had been implemented through a process and if it requires to cancel the system, then it will be done through a process.

Grading and semester systems were introduced last year only in sociology department of the social science and arts faculties.

Meanwhile, the first year students of sociology department continued their protest yesterday demanding immediate cancellation of the grading and semester systems.

They took out a procession and

held a rally on the campus to realise their demand.

Addressing the rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla, the student

# BARD to publish commemorative books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) has taken an initiative to publish two commemorative books on the lives and works of Dr Akhter Hameed Khan, founder director of BARD, and Aziz-ul-Hoque, ex-chief executive of BARD and CIRDA.

In a press release yesterday, the BARD requested the interested persons to contribute essays, features, and photographs depicting the activities of two eminent personalities. All entries should reach M Khairul Kabir, Director (Project), BARD, Kotbari, Comilla by mail or fax at 081-68406 or e-mail: bardbd@hotmail.com.

leaders said they would never accept grading and semester systems.

They said the economics department also introduced the grading and semester systems but withdrew later on in the face of protests of the students.

"We will also resist the grading system with all our might and we will not return to the class until our demand is met fully", they added.

The students said as grading and semester systems have not been introduced at social science or arts faculties of any other universities, they will face problems in future.

"One can secure first class getting 60 per cent marks under the traditional system but under the grading system it will be Grade Point Average (GPA) D indicating poor result", they added.

The students of sociology department have been boycotting their classes since August 26 to press home their demands.

They have also threatened to go for hunger strike if their demands are not met.



# Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met office said.

Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and the lowest 23.8 degree at Hatiya.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:14pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	25.0	86	76
Chittagong	31.5	24.8	81	73
Rajshahi	32.0	25.8	90	86
Khulna	31.8	26.3	88	86
Barisal	31.6	25.6	100	80
Sylhet	33.5	25.3	76	94
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.0	98	86

# Urs

The annual urs of Hazrat Shah Syed Azizul Bari (RH), Shah Saheb of Paribag, will be held at the Paribag Mazar tomorrow.

Munajat will be held at 11:00am on the day, says a press release.

# Rashid Ahmed Jaunpuri

The annual Urs of Hazrat Syed Rashid Ahmed Jaunpuri (R) will be held at the Baitur Rahim Mosque, East Monipur, Mirpur, tomorrow.

Darud and qurankhwani will be held before Juma prayers and Akheri munajat after Esha prayers. A discussion will also be held after Asr prayers.

Hazrat Salahuddin, Maulana Fazole Rab, Maulana Abdul Matin, Dr Shamsur Ali, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Barrister M Aminul Haque and Prof M Harunur Rashid will speak on the occasion, said a press release.

# Death anniversary



The 32nd death anniversary of Shaheed Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuiyan, Bir Uttam, will be observed today, says a press release.

He embraced martyrdom during a fight with the Pakistan Army in the War of Liberation.

The Shaheed Khwaja Nizamuddin Bir Uttam Memorial Committee has organised programmes at Dhaka and Comilla to mark the day.

Various programmes will also be held at his younger brother's house at 15/1 Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Property Square, Apartment B-1, after Asr prayers.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Vocal recital**  
The High Commission of India will present a classical vocal recital by Sulochana Brahaspati, Dr Sharayu Kalekar and their trainees. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

**BMSF meeting**  
An interactive meeting on 'Media campaign on legal, ethical and human rights issues for the HIV/AIDS related vulnerable groups', organised by Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

**Earthquake workshop**  
A workshop on '2003 Ranganmati earthquake: Experience sharing and sensitisation', organised by Disaster Management Bureau and Bangladesh Earthquake Society, will be held with Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf as chief guest. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10.15am.

**Dialogue**  
A national workshop on 'Veterinary education in Bangladesh', organised by Bangladesh Veterinary Council, will be held with State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Ukil Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Conference room of the livestock directorate. Time: 10.00am.

**Human chain**  
Greenforce will form a human chain to protest river-link mega project of India. Venue: In front of Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 12.00 noon.

**Blood donation**  
A voluntary blood donation camp, organised by Quantum Foundation, will be held. Venue: Dhaka University Business Faculty. Time: 9.30am.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

**Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen two films titled '15 minutes' and 'About a boy'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

**Photography exhibition**  
On the occasion of the 14th founding anniversary of Drik, an exhibition featuring photographs of Drik, Pathshala and Out of Focus photographs will be held. Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

**Movie show**  
Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'L'homme du train' directed by Patrice Leconte (2001). Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

**BAA meeting**  
A special meeting of Bangladesh Advertising Association (BAA) will be held. Venue: Aheli Restaurant, Rajarbagh. Time: 6.00pm.

