

Tommy Miah's cooking demonstration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrity chef Tommy Miah gave a cooking demonstration at the Agora Shopping Centre at Gulshan on Thursday.

Many of his fans and customers of Agora enjoyed the cooking demonstration of two dishes -- *Boyal* and *malai*.

PIB workshop concludes

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day foundation training workshop for Dhaka University correspondents concluded at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) yesterday.

Former Director General of PIB Aman Ullah attended the concluding session as chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants of the workshop, organised by the PIB.

malai (curry of a local fish) and mustard chicken jhal fry.

Tommy prepared the fish dish for John Major, then British prime minister, in 1993.

With a humorous and friendly tone, Tommy welcomed his audience at 7:30pm at the Agora centre. People enthusiastically about cooking and eager to learn new dishes joined the show.

Tommy used all local spices in his dishes and picked up some imported vegetables for the chicken fry.

The Agora shopping centre invited Tommy for the cooking demonstration during his visit to Dhaka. Afroz Rahim, chairman of Rahimafroz Bangladesh Ltd., was also present.

Expressing his gratitude to Agora, Tommy said, "I am very happy to be here."

He said that he would come back to Dhaka again in November and was planning to open a restaurant in Dhaka.



PHOTO: STAR

Celebrity chef Tommy Miah gave a cooking demonstration at the Agora Shopping Centre at Gulshan on Thursday.

Preparatory meeting on WSIS Call for greater commitment to pluralist media environment

UNB, Geneva

Over 50 community media groups and other civil society organisations have called for greater commitment to a diverse and pluralist media environment based on respect for the provisions of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The call came as the third preparatory committee meeting on World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) is going to finalise the draft plan of action.

The WSIS is scheduled to be held in Geneva in December.

In the draft plan of action, the media community also demanded specific commitments to the development of community media for the poorest communities.

Regarding media, the draft declaration said the existence of free and independent communication media, in accordance with the legal system of each country, is an essential requirement for freedom of expression and a guarantee of the plurality of information.

Media community suggested deleting the sentence "in accordance with the legal system of each country" from the draft declaration, saying that local interpretation can be the cause of the viola-

tion of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which ensure the freedom of expression of every citizen.

However, most of the countries are not interested to pay heed to the proposals of the media community for changing the sentence, as any government cannot take any risk in this regard.

The delegations of different countries and regions are very active regarding the final draft declaration, which will be signed by the governments next December.

Terminating the WSIS declaration as the world agenda for development of the world and the world ICT policy, the discussants expected more attention of the world people on WSIS.

Around 50 heads of government, including Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, already gave their consent to attend the December meeting in Geneva.

Meanwhile, a four-member delegation of the Bangladesh government, led by Ashabur Rahman, additional secretary of the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), attended the meeting.

Reza Salim, member secretary of Bangladesh working group on

WSIS, also attended the meeting as civil society representative.

The delegation also includes MA Hakim of BTRC and Hafizur Rahman of BTB. Bangladesh Ambassador to Switzerland Toufiq Ali is also attending the crucial meeting. The 10-day meeting began on September 15.

Media organisations from different countries who got united here also impressed upon the preparatory committee of WSIS that a just and equitable information society strategy must be people-centred, inclusive, built on fundamental human rights and focused primarily on the reduction of poverty.

Some media groups, especially of the developing countries, said free and universal access to basic education and affordable access to electricity are required before the world's poorest people can benefit from new ICTs. They mentioned that nearly one-third of the world's population still do not have reliable access to electricity.

However, the draft Action Plan sets specific targets for access to the information society with a commitment to Internet access in every village by 2010 and in every school across the country by 2015.

Reza Salim, member secretary of Bangladesh working group on

Most people can't use literacy skills for improving living conditions: Study

BSS, Dhaka

Despite massive campaigns to promote literacy for better living, most people do not seem to find the use of their literacy skills for improving their living condition or quality of life.

"Only 10 per cent people find their literacy skills useful in collecting relevant information for a better living," said a recent study of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), a coalition of leading NGOs working for the promotion of literacy.

The study, titled 'Education watch 2002: Need for a new vision,' found 73.3 per cent people seeking improved literacy training for occupational skill development and better earning.

The CAMPE study, the fourth in

the series of Education Watch, is based on a countrywide survey to assess the state of literacy in the country, administering a literacy skill test and recording their opinions and demands.

The highest 61.8 per cent respondents said they found their literacy skills useful for communication with others and reading documents, 59.6 per cent said they use their skills to help children in study, 46.5 per cent use it only to read newspapers and book and 43.4 per cent use it in professions and workplaces.

Of the 13,145 people of different age and gender groups surveyed under the study, 49.3 per cent did poorly in the literacy test receiving less than a quarter of the total score and were categorised as non-literate.

Twenty one per cent of the respondents scored at the level of "initial literacy skills" and 20.4 per cent had scores to be placed in the level of "advanced literacy skills."

"The state of literacy in the county is a strong indictment of the poor quality of primary education and schooling in general. Major improvements in primary education is essential to make progress in literacy," the study said.

It also underlined the need for post-literacy training for providing income generation skills in view of the opinion of people surveyed under the study.

"A strong demand exists for post-literacy training for income generating skills, but no model exists for meeting this demand successfully on a large scale," it said.

Killing of ex-BMA leader protested

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League Health Affairs Secretary Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin yesterday condemned the killing of senior doctor and former BMA leader SK Mukherjee at his residence in Jhenidah town.

"People of the country have become hostage to the criminals belonging to the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and they have no security. Even an elderly doctor was not spared," said Mohiuddin in a statement.

Shudhindranath Kumar Mukharjee, 82, also the Jhenidah unit president of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad and advisor to the Pujya Udjapan Parishad, was stabbed to death by miscreants on Thursday.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Dr Mohiuddin also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers.

New e-mail worm targets hole in Internet Explorer

REUTERS, San Francisco

Anti-virus companies warned on Thursday of a new computer worm circulating through e-mail that purports to be security software from Microsoft Corp. but actually tries to disable security programs that are already running.

The worm, dubbed "Swen" or "Gibe," takes advantage of a two-year-old hole in Internet Explorer and affects systems that have not installed a patch for that security hole, according to Internet security company Network Associates Inc.

The malicious program arrives as an attachment to an e-mail pretending to contain a patch for holes in Internet Explorer, Outlook and Outlook Express and then mails itself off to addresses located on the victim's computer.

The worm also can spread over Internet relay chat and the KaZaa

peer-to-peer network, as well as copy itself over shared networks, Network Associates said.

When it infects a computer it alerts a Web site that appears to be counting the infections, according to Symantec Corp., another Internet security outfit. The number of the counter was near 760,000 by Thursday afternoon.

Network Associates rated the worm a low risk for corporate users and a medium risk for home users. The company and rival Symantec, among others, were offering anti-virus updates that detect and removes the worm.

Microsoft has cautioned customers in the past against e-mail software updates, saying it does not distribute patches that way but rather directs them to its Web site.

DHAKA TODAY

Photography exhibition 4.00pm.
Bangladesh Trekkers' Club organises a photography exhibition and slide show on Himalayan mountains. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00am.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Goldfinger 007'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Design seminar
The inaugural session of a three-day seminar on 'Formal product design in Bangladesh- A study into relevancy, feasibility and applicability', organised by Design and Technology Centre for Product Development, will be held. Venue: Hotel La Vinci, Karwan Bazar. Time: 9.30am.

Greenforce seminar
Greenforce organises a seminar on 'Accommodation of working women in Dhaka: A comparative study of government and private hostels'. Marshia Tasmeem Akbar of BUET will present the study report. Venue: Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

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

Roundtable
In observance of the International Day of Peace, the United Nations Information Centre and Dhaka Ahsania Mission will jointly organise a roundtable on 'We stand for peace'. Venue: Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

'Amra Faridpurbasi', an organisation of the people of Faridpur living in Dhaka, forms a human chain in front of the Supreme Court yesterday seeking government measures to save the Faridpur town from the erosion of the Padma.

Experts express hope for AIDS vaccine

REUTERS, Washington

Researchers expressed hope on Thursday that new approaches to developing a vaccine against AIDS will eventually vanquish the killer virus and said the needed global network of trials was finally falling into place.

Two dozen different vaccines are being tested in 27 trials involving human volunteers around the world, according to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

There are now so many different trials going on that the chances are good that scientists will find a vaccine that can actually work, said Dr. Barton Haynes, a vaccine researcher at Duke University in North Carolina.

"It is safe to say we have reached the beachhead in the quest for an AIDS vaccine," Haynes told a telephone briefing at the start of the AIDS Vaccine 2003 meeting in New York.

"There is renewed optimism in the field of vaccine development." The 1,000 researchers at the meeting will compare notes on experimental vaccines that combine genetic material from the AIDS virus with smallpox vaccines, polio vaccines and animal viruses, as well as vaccines that use genes alone.

"Clearly we are still far from the development of a completely protective and effective vaccine," Haynes said.

But the pace of research has accelerated, even as the first vaccine to go through the full three phases of testing in people, VaxGen's AIDSvax, failed to show earlier this year that it could protect against HIV.

Private companies, government researchers and nonprofit vaccine advocacy organizations are moving ahead with the next generation of vaccines, said Dr. Margaret Johnston of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"The pipeline has expanded considerably based on what it was five years ago," she said.

Dr. Norman Letvin of Harvard Medical School in Boston said one promising area involved stimulating the body's T-cells -- the immune system cells that attack and destroy invaders such as viruses and bacte-

ria. "There is a good deal of enthusiasm in the scientific community as well as in pharmaceutical companies to pursue these sort of strategies," he said. "There is also a renewed commitment to vaccines that will elicit broadly neutralizing antibodies."

Antibodies are immune proteins that attach to invaders. Experts now believe that both T-cell and antibody responses are needed to fight HIV, which is more difficult to fight than most viruses because it infects immune system cells.

DU Alumni Assoc in USA provides financial help to female student

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University Alumni Association, USA, Inc. has sent 1,000 US dollars for a female student to continue her studies at the university.

The members of the alumni handed over the amount to DU Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan during his recent visit to the United States.

Nahid, a second year student of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, earlier applied to the association for financial help.

Prof Hasan said yesterday that he would formally hand over the amount to Nahid at his office on Monday.

Meanwhile, the new committee of the DU Alumni Association, USA, took over recently in New York.

The office-bearers of the new committee are: president - Monjurul Hai Murad; vice-presidents - Hazrat Ali, Sheikh Selim and Mohammad Shah Alam; general secretary - Obayedullah Mamun; treasurer - Zahir Uddin Khan; cultural secretary - Izharul Kader; office secretary - Shah Alam; and research & education secretary - Nazir Sinha.



PHOTO: STAR

Pratyasha, an anti-drug organisation, took out a motorcycle procession in the city yesterday to raise awareness about AIDS.