



President of Sierra Leone Ahmad Tejan Kabbah placed wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar yesterday to pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Microcredit summit in Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Delegates from 35 countries will gather at a microcredit summit in Dhaka on February 16 next year to hammer the common millennium goal of halving poverty by 2015.

Writer Sayeeda, 2 others get gold medals

Sayeeda Zaman, a renowned writer, has been awarded Dr Ashraf Siddiqui Foundation Gold Medal in recognition of her contribution to story and novel, says a press release.

An aesthetic poet, researcher and journalist, she is not only a storywriter or novelist, she has dealt with all genres of creative writing.

Two more writers have also won Dr Ashraf Siddiqui Foundation gold medals this year. They are Selina Doza Panni (juvenile literature) and Sajia Chowdhury Parag (research).

to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Some 250 foreign representatives including top officials of the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), Department for International Development (DFID) and European Bank will brainstorm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, the venue of the summit.

Salehuddin Ahmed, managing director of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and convenor of the Summit Meeting Organising Committee, announced the summit schedule yesterday at a press conference in Dhaka.

Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, executive director of Brac, AFM Matur Rahman, director general of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Saiful Amin Khan, director general of Multi-lateral Economic Affairs, Abdul Mannan, executive director of Credit Development Forum, Shafiqul Haque Chowdhury, managing director of ASA, and Dipal Chandra Barua, general manager of Grameen Bank, were also present at the press briefing.

Contractor shot dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unidentified assailants yesterday gunned down a contractor of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) in front of Mailapota Police Box.

Witnesses said a gang of four fired on the victim popularly known as Hat Kata Russell, 25, in his chest and right eye at 6:45pm. He died on the spot. The killers left the place by a three-wheeler.

'Form independent municipal commission'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed Municipal Association of Bangladesh (Mab) yesterday urged the government to form an 'independent municipal commission' to ensure unhindered autonomy of the local governments.

It gave the call at a two-day workshop in Dhaka on National Agenda for Strengthening Paurashava.

Chairmen and members of 250 Paurashavas (municipality) attended the workshop, organised by the USAID-funded Local Government Initiative (LGI) -- Associates in Rural Development (ARD). Some foreign delegates were also present.

The participants asked the government to stop issuing circulars 'infringing' on the Paurashava Ordinance, 1977.

They opposed local lawmakers' interference in municipal affairs and

demanding adequate budgetary allocation for all municipalities in line with their population.

The workshop recommended empowering all municipalities to employ their own staff and generate new resources, and allowing representation of the local bodies in the government policymaking.

Speaking at the workshop, Meherpur Paurashava Chairman Mohtasim Billah said all successive governments pledged to strengthen local governments but no-one acted in that direction.

Jacquelin Holzman, who was mayor of Ottawa twice, said local government representatives are 'new freedom fighters'. There are many barriers to municipalities all over the world to ensure better services to citizens, she said.

"Local government leaders have to prove their ability to discharge duties properly and make best use of available resources," Jacquelin said.

Social affairs director of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities Leo van de Kerckhof

stressed a balance of power among the central government, local governments and civil society.

President of the International Union of Local Authorities Peter Woods said Mab might be given membership of his organisation.

LGI Chief of Party William James Cartier, Deputy Chief of Party Zarina Rahman and Senior Policy Advisor Rasheda Nawz, among others, were present.

Onion prices dropping, claims govt

BSS, Dhaka

The market monitoring cell of the commerce ministry yesterday visited several city markets including Shyambazar, Karwan Bazar and Mohammadpur Krishi Market to observe prices of essentials, particularly onions.

During the visit, the team found that onions cost between Tk 21.50 and Tk 22.50 per kg, a press release of the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the committee for monitoring the price of onions yesterday held a meeting at the commerce ministry.

Importers, wholesalers and retailers at the meeting observed that the price of onions is coming down due to a large volume of import from India.

They said retail prices will be under Tk 20 per kg by next week, adding that there is no shortage of supply in the market now.

Customs sources said some 1,000 tonnes of onion was imported through Benapole land port following the waiver of import duty and that truckloads of Indian onions are still awaiting clearance at the port.

Port officials have been asked to handle onion-laden trucks on a priority basis in an effort to bring down and stabilise prices within a short time, the press release said.

Demonstration against 'misrule' of govt today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Oikyabaddha Nagorik Andolon, a front organisation of civil societies and NGOs, will demonstrate across the country today to protest 'misrule' of the BNP-Jamaat government.

The organisation will hold processions and wayside rallies and form human chains along 1500 km highways in 50 districts and six divisions.

At a press conference yesterday, the organisers said people from all walks of life would join the demonstration carrying banner, festoons and placards.

They called for meeting their 11-point demand including an end to politicisation of police, administration and judiciary and ensuring security for people.

They called on the political parties, including the BNP and the Awami League, to expel godfathers, criminals and extortionists.



Shamsur Rahman's birth anniversary today

Today is the 75th birth anniversary of poet Shamsur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, he will be accorded a reception at Bakultala of Fine Arts Institute on Dhaka University with Prof Kabir Chowdhury in the chair. The reception ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. followed by a cultural function.



Film star Ilyas Kanchan leads a procession in the city yesterday to mark the Road Safety Day.

Lawyers observe hunger strike

UNB, Dhaka

Lawyers yesterday observed two-hour token hunger strike to realise their six-point demand including separation of judiciary.

Some 50 lawyers observed the hunger strike from 10 am to 12 noon in the Supreme Court Bar Association hall.

Shawkat Ali Khan, Abdul Baset Majumder, Amirul Islam, Ozair Farooq, Mahbube Alam and Subrata Chowdhury were on hunger strike.

Course on modern public relations ends

A two-week training course on 'Modern public relations and techniques of public relations' concluded in the city on Tuesday, says a press release.

The Bangladesh Institute of Communication Studies and Public Relations (BICSPR) organised the course at its conference room.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. SMA Fayeze gave away certificates to the participants as chief guest.

General Secretary of the National Press Club Shaukat Mahmud and Founder-President of Bangladesh Public Relations Association Md Nurul Islam were present as special guests.

BICSPR Chairman Anwar Hossain Chowdhury presided over the concluding ceremony. Executive Director of BICSPR Mirza Tarequl Qader and governing body members SM Emdadul Islam and Neesar Ahmed also spoke.

Prof SMA Fayeze said, "Freedom of thoughts is the main feature of public relations profession."

He also said that there was no alternative to public relations to improve the image of institutions and to inform people about their activities in this global village.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over the country till 6pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and the lowest 21.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26 pm today and rises at 6:00 am 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	31.4	25.3	77	74
Chittagong	33.8	25.5	76	73
Rajshahi	31.2	24.6	97	83
Khulna	35.0	25.6	81	80
Barisal	33.2	24.8	79	--
Sylhet	31.5	24.5	87	83
Cox's Bazar	33.6	25.0	78	82



BGMEA President Quazi Moniruzzaman presents a crest to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at the closing ceremony of Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

HC dismisses appeal of acid thrower

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday dismissed appeal of an acid thrower and upheld the judgement of the trial court.

A Division Bench comprising Justice AK Badrul Haque and Justice Mohammad Abu Tarek gave the verdict after hearing the appeal.

The Court of Women and Children Repression Prevention, Dhaka, sentenced Tofazzal Hossain to life imprisonment for throwing acid on his 13-year old sister-in-law. She was acid-burnt after she disclosed that Tofazzal violated her several times.

Her father Mohammad Motaleb Fakir filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station on December 31, 1996, under section 5 and 6(1) of the Act.



Chehlum

Chehlum of Sheikh Ahmed Jalal, a former diplomat and representative of the Mujib Nagar government in Japan during liberation war, will be held on Friday, October 24 at his residence at House-31, Road-123, Gulshan-2, says a press release.

A milad and doa mahfil has been arranged after magrib prayers. Late Jalal's relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend and pray for the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of journalist, columnist, litterateur and dramatist Aziz Misir. On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his village home at Maddhapara of Brahmanbaria district for salvation of the departed soul.

Aziz Misir was the advisory editor of the Bengali daily Manabjamin.

Shamsun Nahar Karim



The first death anniversary of Shamsun Nahar Karim, wife of former chief engineer of PHED MA Karim will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at her residence at House # 38/2, Road # 27, Dhanmondi, after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

DHAKA TODAY

Japanese doll exhibition

An 11-day Japanese doll exhibition titled 'The World of Kokeshi doll' will be inaugurated. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 4.30pm. The exhibition will remain open for visitors from tomorrow.

Film show

The Dhaka Film Society will hold a study circle on 'Film: sound & music'. A film titled 'The Sound of Music' will also be screened. Venue: 4/3 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4.00pm.

Evening of old Bangla songs

Srijan organises an evening of old Bangla songs, with Subir Nandi as chief guest. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 6.30pm.

Findings sharing meeting

The Centre for Services and Information on Disability organises a meeting to share the findings of a study titled 'An Alternative Eye', with Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury as key discussant. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 2.30pm.

Reception to poet Shamsur Rahman

Poet Shamsur Rahman will be accorded a reception on the occasion of his 75th birthday, with National Professor Kabir Chowdhury in the chair. Venue: Bakultala, Fine Arts Institute. Time: 4.30pm.

Lecture

The Bangla Academy organises a lecture on 'Cultural economy of Bangladesh' on the occasion of two years of the BNP-led coalition government in power. Venue: Bangla Academy. Time: 3.00pm.

Eid fair

The Concerned Women for Family Development organises a three-day 'Eid fair' to showcase various items made by destitute women. Venue: Plot # 16, Road # 18, Block # 1, Rampura Banarsi Project. Time: From 8.00am to 9.00pm daily.

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'Development activities of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs' will be held on the occasion of two years of the BNP-led coalition government in power. Venue: BCIC seminar room. Time: 10.00am.

Food & handicrafts exhibition

A daylong food and handicrafts exhibition will be held, organised by the Bangla Academy in collaboration with the Bangladesh Business Women's Network. Venue: Bangla Academy premises. Time: 10.00am.

Women's rally

The Bangladesh Mahila Samity organises a women's rally to press for its demand for an increase in the number of seats for women in parliament. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.



Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. SMA Fayeze gives away certificate to a participant of a training course on 'Modern public relations and techniques of public relations' at its concluding ceremony in the city on Tuesday.