



Winners of different competitions pose with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the closing ceremony of National Primary Education Week-2003 at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday.

\$5.75 million Canadian aid for ICDDR,B

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canada will provide \$5.75 million to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) for health and population research, says a press release.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Canadian High Commissioner Gerry Campbell and ICDDR,B Director David Sack in Dhaka yesterday.

The Canadian government made the contribution to an institution which has earned international recognition for its work, said the high commissioner at the signing ceremony.

The money will be disbursed over a period of five years, says a press release.



Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad speaks at a protest rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. The city AL organised the rally protesting price hike of essentials and increasing crimes.

4 get life in Faisal murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four persons to life imprisonment for killing a student of Dhaka College in February 2000.

ABM Faisal, 18, an HSC examinee, who had ranked 10th in the SSC examinations in 1998 from Dhaka Board, was killed by a gang of assailants at their Azimpur home on February 3, 2000.

The convicts are Ibrahim alias Sumon, Gopal Kumar Saha, Atiqur Rahman alias Sohel and Parul, a domestic help at the victim's home. Of the convicts, Sohel and Parul were present in court yesterday, while Sumon and Gopal have been evading arrest since the murder.

Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmad of the Court of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge delivered the verdict at a crowded courtroom.

The judge took his seat at 12:05pm and read out the important portions of the 48-page judgement in 30 minutes.

The victim's parents MM Anwar Hossain, project director of the agriculture ministry, and Tanzeem Saleha, assistant vice-president and deputy manager of the Prime Bank Ltd., were present when the judgement was pronounced.

On hearing the verdict, they said they had expected that the accused would be sentenced to death.

Following the murder, Anwar filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station the same day without mentioning names of any suspects.

In the FIR, he stated that the assailants entered his flat at Azimpur government staff quarters at around 5:00pm on February 3, 2000, killed his son and took away gold ornaments, prize bonds, share certificates, valuable articles worth Tk 12.21 lakh and Tk 25,000 in cash.

During the investigation, Parul gave a judicial statement to a magistrate on February 15, 2000 as a witness. In her statement, she said the victim's cousin Sumon and three others came to the house in the after-

noon on the day of the incident and she opened the door to let them in.

They went to Faisal's room and demanded the key to a locker.

When Faisal refused to give them the key, the visitors stabbed him with a dagger that Sumon pulled out of his pocket.

Parul said she tried to intervene, but the visitors also attacked her with a stick. The maid said she fainted and could not remember what happened afterwards.

But an investigation revealed that Parul was also involved in the crime and when she was arrested as an accused in the case, she divulged the facts. Later, she gave a confessional statement to a magistrate.

The investigation officer of the case pressed charges against the four on January 15, 2001.

The court framed charges against them on April 27 last year and the trial began on July 15.

Extortionists ransack city hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of extortionists, being 'angered' for filing a case against them, ransacked a restaurant at Motijheel in the city and stabbed one employee and beat up two others on Saturday.

Employees of Café Jamuna said about 12 extortionists including Jahangir, Mintoo, Rahman, Rubel, Joy and Rafiq entered the café with knives, hockey sticks and iron rods at around 7:00pm and began to damage furniture, wall glasses and utensils.

As restaurant employees tried to stop them, the extortionists began to beat them up and stab one Rahmat who along with two others injured badly, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Anwar Uddin Patwari, owner of the restaurant, said the attackers damaged furniture and other materials worth about Tk 50,000.

They demanded Tk 2 lakh from me on October 1, but I refused to pay and filed a case with Motijheel police under Speedy Trial Act the same day," he said, adding "Police pressed charges against them recently and the first hearing of the case was held today."

Motijheel police said they received no complaint in this regard and none was arrested till writing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.



Ithas Samity executives

Prof Sharif Uddin Ahmed and Prof Zaheda Ahmed have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Ithas Samity for 2003-05, says a press release.

Dr Nurul Huda Abul Mansur was elected treasurer.

The 39-member new executive committee was formed at the 13th biennial conference of the samity at the BARD in Comilla on October 20.

Around 200 historians and researchers from home and abroad presented their research papers at the conference.

Obituary



M Ataher Hossain, former Additional Chief Engineer of BADC and President of Mirzaganj Thana Samity, died at National Heart Institute Hospital on Saturday at the age of 56, says a press release.

He left behind his father, mother, wife, one son, two daughters and three grand children to mourn his death.

His Qulkhani will be held on Tuesday after Asr prayers at his residence at 9/D, Shyamoli Apartment, Road No-1, Dhaka.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the Qulkhani.

Death anniversary



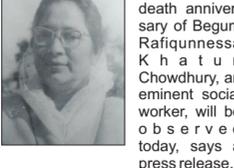
The 9th death anniversary of Rokeya Begum, mother of Hasan Jahid Tusher, Dhaka University Correspondent of The Daily Star, and wife of Miah Md Abdur Razzaque, junior agriculture officer, will be observed today, says a press release.

She died on this day in 1994 leaving her husband, four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives.

A milad mahfil will be held at her village home at Sreerampur under Sadar upazila of Magura district after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Rafiqunnessa



The tenth death anniversary of Begum Rafiqunnessa Khatun Chowdhury, an eminent social worker, will be observed today, says a press release.

She was the wife of late Ghyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury of Golapganj, Sylhet who was a civil servant during the British and Pakistan period.

A doa mahfil will be held on this occasion.

Gazi Rafiqul Islam



Today is the third death anniversary of Gazi Rafiqul Islam, former chief feature writer of Press Information Department, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his family residence at Shyamoli in the city after Asr prayers on October 31.

16 houses looted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Robbers looted gold ornaments and valuables worth over Tk 22 lakh from 16 houses in Satkania and Patiya upazilas of the district in the last four days.

In Satkania, the robbers took away gold ornaments and valuables worth over Tk 10 lakh from two houses in the early hours of yesterday.

Witnesses said about 20 robbers stormed into the house of Rafiqul Islam at Kanchana at around 1:30am and looted 110 tolas of gold ornaments and valuables from the inmates of the house and their guests.

The guests came to the house on the occasion of wedding ceremony of Rafiq's brother.

Another robbery was committed at the house of Murshid Ahmed at Madhya Charoti. The robbers looted 17 tolas of gold ornaments, other valuables and money totalling Tk 25,000, sources said.

At a meeting of the thana law and order committee yesterday, the local UP chairman expressed resentment and concern over the robberies. He demanded security for the people and stern action against the persons involved.

On Friday night, a gang of 35 robbers raided four houses at West Dengapara under Patiya upazila and looted 60 tolas of gold ornaments, mobile phone sets, Tk 15,000 and other valuables.

In another raid on Thursday night, robbers looted gold ornaments, valuables and money totalling over Tk 4 lakh from ten houses at Nakhain village under Patiya upazila, sources said.

Newspaper union leaders call on land minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation and the Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers made a courtesy call on Land Minister M Shamsul Islam at his office on Saturday.

During the meeting, the leaders apprised the minister of their various demands.

The minister assured that he would look into their demands.

Press workers' leaders Fazle Imam, Asadullah, Abul Hashem Golam Sarwar Azad and Abu Kaiser, and Karmachari Federation leaders Md Motiur Rahman Talukder, Md Salimuddin Selim, Shahjalal Mia, Md Khirul Islam, Md Shahjahan Talukder and Md Nazrul Islam were present at the meeting.

Nasir sues 16 AL leaders on godfather issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin filed a defamation suit yesterday against 16 Awami League (AL) leaders including the AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil for listing him as a 'godfather'.

Nasiruddin, also Chittagong city unit president of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, appeared before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Monwarul Islam at noon and filed the suit under the Section 500/501.

The other accused AL leaders are Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Tofail Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan, Mukul Bose, Asim Kumar Ukil, Abdur Rahman, Ishaq Ali Khan Panna, Abu Shaheed, Faruk Khan and BM Mozammel Hoque.

The leaders were summoned to appear before court by January 7, 2004.

Later, the state minister addressed a brief rally at the court premises.

The AL published a list of alleged godfathers in an October 16 press briefing that prompted some leaders of the ruling alliance to file defamation cases against the AL leaders.

Jailil visits ailing Nirmal Sen

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP yesterday visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital to see ailing Nirmal Sen, the eminent journalist, columnist and elderly political leader.

He stayed with Sen for some time and inquired about his condition. AL joint secretary Obaidul Kader accompanied Jalil, says a press release.

'Send Nirmal Sen abroad for treatment'

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded of the government to send ailing noted journalist and columnist Nirmal Sen abroad for better treatment.

Nirmal Sen, who was also the founder president of BFUJ, is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University as he suffered a stroke resulting to the paralysis of the left side of his body.

In a statement, the BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan and DUJ President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and General Secretary Omar Faruque said Nirmal Sen is a dedicated journalist and he should be sent abroad immediately for saving his life.

The leaders also expressed deep concern at the deterioration of his health condition.

In separate statement, BFUJ president Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Secretary General Munirul Alam and president of DUJ Elahi Newaj Khan and General Secretary Abdus Shahid appealed to the government to send Nirmal Sen abroad for treatment.



Former state minister for jute Faezul Haq and others offer prayers after placing wreaths at the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 130th birth anniversary.

DU student assaulted

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University was beaten up by fellow students and outsiders in front of AF Rahman Hall yesterday over a love affair.

Nasimuzzaman, a fourth year student of English department and resident of Ziaur Rahman Hall, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injuries after police from Nilkhet outpost stepped in.

Police also arrested two students of Ahasanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) - one of them is Nazmul Hasan.

Sources said Nasimuzzaman had a love affair with one of his classmates, but the girl broke up with him about 15 days ago.

On Saturday evening, Nasimuzzaman beat up Nazmul in front of the Rokeya Hall after he spotted Nazmul with the girl, a resident of the Rokeyahall.

In retaliation, Sohel, a student of accounting department of DU, Sharif, a

student of AUST, and Nazmul along with some others attacked Nasimuzzaman in front of the AF Rahman Hall at about 2:00pm and took him to the hall's guestroom. Sohel and Sharif are uncles of the girl.

On information, police picked up all, including the girl, from the guestroom and took them to the Nilkhet outpost. Later, Ramna police arrested Nazmul Hasan and another student from there.

Nilkhet police freed the others,

including the girl, after DU Assistant Proctor Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman went to the police outpost. He handed over the girl to Rokeya Hall authorities.

Meanwhile, about 50 students of Ziaur Rahman Hall went to the Nilkhet outpost and demanded punishment to the outsiders who beat up Nasimuzzaman.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23 pm today and rises at 6:02 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	30.2	25.4	87	93
Chittagong	32.5	24.7	69	69
Rajshahi	27.3	22.2	98	98
Khulna	29.0	25.0	92	100
Barisal	31.2	24.8	79	93
Sylhet	30.0	23.6	91	87
Cox's Bazar	33.6	24.8	75	73

Finlay manager's house in Khulna robbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Armed robbers yesterday looted cash, foreign currencies and valuables from the residence of a multinational tea company's manager at Natun bazaar in Khulna.

A gang broke into the house of AKM Shamsuzzaman, manager of Finlay Tea Company, at 4:30am and confined family members at gunpoint. They looted Tk 17,000, £1200 and 16 tolas of gold, said the first information report.

However, officer-in-charge of Khulna Police Station termed the incident as a sequel to previous enmity between the manager and company employees. Police picked up three persons for questioning.

APEC-CEO Summit held

A T M Saidul Alam, Managing Director of Best Western La Vinci Hotel, participated in APEC-CEO Summit-2003 in Bangkok, says a press release.

Five hundred business delegations including 21 world leaders from APEC countries attended the summit. The summit was held on October 18-21.

Alam has discussed various issues of interest of Bangladesh with world business delegations in this summit.

He appealed to the business delegations to help education and garments sectors in Bangladesh. He also urged the delegation from the United States to discuss with its government to allow 'quota facilities' for Bangladeshi garments industries.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'American Desi'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7:00pm.

Human chain An anti-drug human chain and discussion, organised by Madok Birodhi Chhatra Parishad, will be held. Venue: Aparajeo Bangladesh, Dhaka University. Time: 11:30am.

Foundation laying ceremony The foundation laying ceremony of a hostel for the physically challenged will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: National Special Education Centre, Mirpur-14. Time: 10:00am.

Opening ceremony The opening ceremony of Prime Konka-Gree Showroom of the Electro Mart Ltd will be held with Chairman of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of

Commerce and Industry Abdul Awal Minto as chief guest. Venue: Noor Tower, Free School Street, Time: 4:00pm.

Film show Academy Film Society will screen an Iranian film titled 'Baran' (Rain). Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7:00pm.



A T M Saidul Alam, managing director of Best Western La Vinci Hotel, (first from right), poses with Thai Deputy Prime Minister Korn Dabbaransi (second from right) during the APEC-CEO Summit in Bangkok recently.