

President seeks Indo-Bangla cooperation in IT, culture, edn

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has said Bangladesh and India have enough scope to extend cooperation in the field of science, education, culture and information technology.

He made the remarks when outgoing Indian High Commissioner Manilal Tripathi called on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the president hoped that the existing friendly bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India would be extended in the future.

Iajuddin stressed linkage programme of scientists of various fields between the two countries which, he hoped, would benefit both the nations.

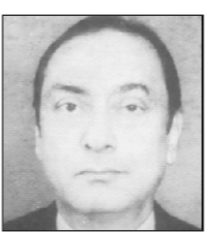
The Indian high commissioner thanked the president for his cooperation in discharging his duties. He said both the countries would continue to work together for regional peace and economic development.

High officials of the president's office and foreign ministry were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: PID
Outgoing Indian High Commissioner Manilal Tripathi called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

Death anniversary of Iqbal Ansari today



The fourth death anniversary of Iqbal Ansari Khan, a freedom fighter and eminent social worker, will be observed today, says a press release.

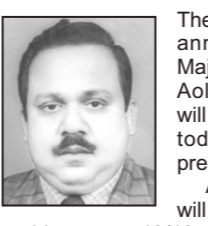
Iqbal Ansari, popularly known as Henry, was the vice-president of students' union at Jagannath College and Dhaka College. He also took part in the language movement.

A charismatic leader, he made a mark in the cultural arena as well. He played a pioneering role in establishing the Drama Circle, a theatre group.

Iqbal Ansari was also the district governor of Rotary International District 328. He authored three books -- two of which are 'The Third Eye' and 'The Babri Mosque', and the third one is a book of jokes.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Md Aolad Hossain

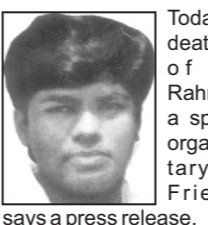


The first death anniversary of Major (retd.) Md Aolad Hossain will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 13/10 Babar Road, Block # B, Mohammadpur after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Mominur Rahman Shimul



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Mominur Rahman Shimul, a sportsman and organising secretary of Uttara Friends Club, says a press release.

He was killed by a gang of criminals as he tried to build up a mass resistance against crimes.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers.

Syed Rashidunnabi

The fourth death anniversary of Syed Rashidunnabi, former public relations officer of Bangladesh Biman, will be observed today, says a press release.

A renowned photographer, he started his career as an announcer in the then Radio Pakistan. He also received a number of awards, including 'Best Announcer' award.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

M Abul Mosab

Today is the 12th death anniversary of M Abul Mosab, ex-deputy general manager of Sonali Bank, says a press release.

A milad mahfil and doa will be held at his residence at Ananda Road, Ibrahimpur, Dhaka Cantonment, after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Obituary

Md Fazlul Haque Talukder, railway station master, Bhairabazar, died in the city on October 27 at the age of 56, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and four daughters.

He was buried at Tangail town. A milad mahfil will be held at his younger brother's residence at Pallabi today.

Donors' fund misused in the name of rural uplift

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said rural people have seen very little uplift in their areas although thousands of crores of taka were received from donors in the name of rural development since the independence.

They said most of the money were misused due to corruption and wrong planning of the authorities concerned.

The speakers called for decentralisation of administration, check-

ing of corruption and participation of local people for the development of rural areas.

They said the government should also encourage private entrepreneurs to develop human resources in rural areas.

Some speakers criticised the government for its initiative to form Gram Sarkar.

The roundtable was organised by the Rural Development and Co-operative Division to discuss its success and failures in first two years of the present government.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Manan Bhuiyan attended the roundtable as chief guest and State Minister Ziaul Haque Zia as special guest.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government has given top priority to poverty alleviation.

To achieve this objective, co-operative laws have been changed and Tk 200 crore has been allocated as soft loan for the poor, he added.

He alleged that the past government looted all the funds of this division.

Ziaul Haque expressed his dissatisfaction at the performance of the division over the years.

He said the government should investigate the misuse of the fund of this division.

He also alleged that different ministries are bringing money in the name of rural development but most of the funds are being misused.

Dhiraj Kumar Nath, former secretary of the ministry, said the government always spend money for the urban development. It never spend even one percent of its budget for rural development, he added.

Dr Salahuddin, managing director of Palli Karma Sohayok Foundation (PKSF), said the government should not encourage

project-based development. For sustainable development area-based strategy should be encouraged, he said.

Enayetullah Khan, editor of the New Age, suggested strengthening of local financial activities for the rural development.

He also called for coordination between the NGOs and the co-operative societies.

Mushfiqur Rahman, chairman of the parliamentary finance committee, said the NGOs should be encouraged to work for rural development.

Gias Kamal Chowdhury accused the main opposition of hampering the foreign investment by defaming the country abroad.

Army deployed at Dhaka, Ctg Wasa establishments

UNB, Dhaka

Army personnel have been deployed at important establishments of Dhaka and Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for maintaining normal supply of water to the city dwellers during the holy month of Ramadan.

Army personnel were deployed on Tuesday following a decision of the government, said an ISPR release.

The troops will ensure security to all deep tube-wells, pump houses and important establishments of Wasa. They will also supply water by tankers wherever necessary.

DHAKA TODAY

Inauguration
The inauguration of an export-oriented central data processing and software development centre will be held with Science, Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Orient Technologies Limited, Gulshan South Avenue. Time: 3.30pm.

Programme
The inauguration of the micro credit programme under the project 'Eradication of hazardous child labour in Bangladesh' will be held with State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman as chief guest. Venue: Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhet. Time: 11.00am.

Lecture
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a lecture on 'Science and Religion' by Prof Shamsher Ali, vice-chancellor of South-East University. Venue: Seminar room of the society, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'A Knight's Tale'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7.00pm.

Roundtable
A roundtable on the activities of water resources ministry and its future plan will be held with Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: WDB conference room, Motijheel. Time: 2.30pm.

Unveiling ceremony
The unveiling ceremony of a memorial plaque will be held to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Md Golam Mahub, a

former student of biochemistry and molecular biology department of Dhaka University, in the War of Liberation. Venue: Departmental gallery. Time: 11.00am.

Management net
The annual iftar of Management Net, an organisation of old students of management department of Dhaka University, will be held. Venue: TSC Cafeteria. Time: 4.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Roundtable
A roundtable on 'Education crisis and way to overcome', organised by Dhaka-based Habiganj Association, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Inauguration
The inauguration of the 17th exclusive mega sales and display centre of Jordana Color Cosmetics of USA will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Prince Plaza, Sobhanbagh. Time: 3.30pm.

Film show
Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'Les rivieres pourpres' directed by Mathieu Kassovitz (2000). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Movie show
Academy Film Society will screen a movie titled 'How to lose a guy in 10 days'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7.00pm.

Discussion
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will hold a discussion on the occasion of its

Current literacy rate 62.66 pc

Compulsory Primary Education Implementation Monitoring Unit survey says

UNB, Dhaka

Country's current literacy rate is 62.66 per cent and of them 65.94 per cent are men and 58.69 per cent are women, while the adult literacy rate is 54.80 per cent.

A survey conducted by Compulsory Primary Education Implementation Monitoring Unit shows that the literacy rate with informal schooling below class-I (age 7+) is 7.51 per cent, while that of class-I and above is 55.51 per cent, class-II and above is 51.08 per cent and ClassIII and above is 46.24 per cent.

The adult literacy rate (age 15+) with informal schooling below class-I is 6.93 per cent while that of class-I and above is 47.87 per cent, class-II and above is 46.97 per cent and class-III and above is 45.25 per cent.

The dropout rate in primary cycle is 37.4 per cent. The dropout in class-III is highest 13.23 per cent followed by class-IV with 10.8 per cent, class-I with 9.4 per cent, class-II with 6.9 per cent and class-V with 3.6 per cent.

The study attributes 72.85 per cent of the dropout to poverty, 5.7 per cent to early marriage, 3.50 per cent to death of guardians, 1.71 per cent to business loss and 1.48 per cent to river erosion.

About 16.64 per cent of the households with primary school going children reported that their children participate in economic activities. Of them, 23.6 per cent are of well-off families, 45.4 per cent live from hand to mouth and 31.01 per cent are poor.

In urban areas, the participation of primary school children to economic activities is 7.43 per cent while in rural areas is 18.37 per cent. The survey reveals that adults engaged in literacy programmes are

also involved in various types of economic activities. Of them, 71.89 per cent are involved in various businesses and 45.51 per cent in household works.

According to the study, average recurrent annual expenditure and capital expenditure for each primary school are Tk 4,61,820 and Tk 24,353 respectively while regular income from tuition fees and other sources and development work are Tk 60,502 and Tk 15,104 respectively, while average per student expenditure is Tk 2022.

Other per student expenditure, excluding primary schools attached to secondary schools, has reduced to Tk 1936, the study shows.

The highest per capita expenditure for student is Tk 10,627 in NGO-operated schools, followed by Tk 5102 in community schools. The lowest per capita expenditure for students registered in non-government schools is Tk 977, followed by Tk 1235 in schools under the PTI pilot project.

The teacher-student ratio is highest 1:64 in government primary schools followed by 1:56 in non-registered non-government schools.

New CU BCU body

CU CORRESPONDENT

Ahsanul Haque Nipun and Selina Sultana Sumi have been elected president and general secretary of the Chittagong University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) for next one year.

A 21-member new committee of BCU was also announced at the 20th annual council at the zila Parishad auditorium in the city recently.



PHOTO: STAR
The BDR men conducted a drive to evict hawkers from the streets in Gulistan area yesterday.