



PHOTO: STAR

Eid shopping goes on in full swing along the footpaths between Baitul Mukarram Mosque and GPO, left, and imitation jewellery is in high demand by young women, right, at New Market in Dhaka yesterday.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'City Lights' directed by Charlie Chaplin. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 6.15pm.

Christian conference

The annual national conference 2003 of Bangladesh Christian Association will be held with chief advisor of former caretaker government Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Church Community Centre, Tejgaon. Time: 9.00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association organises a discussion on 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day and Shaheed Zia'. It will be followed by an iftar. Venue: Lecture Gallery of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College, Eskaton. Time: 3.30pm.

Seminar

On the occasion of the Holy Al-Quds Day, a seminar on 'Intifada and new challenges', organised by Al-Quds Committee Bangladesh, will be held with Prof S M A Faiz, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Tophkana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Ramadan discussion

A discussion on the 'Role of Ramadan in peace and development', organised by Shahidbagh Nagorik Committee, will be held. Venue: Hotel Shaibal. Time: 4.00pm.

Handing over ceremony

The handing over ceremony of mementoes from the families of Birshreshtha Matur Rahman, Shaheed Altaf Mahmud and director of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra to Liberation War Museum will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

CRP bazar

The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) will hold a sale of plants, handicrafts, clothing and other items. Sale proceeds will be utilised for its inmates. Venue: Section-14, Mirpur. Time: 10.00am to 4.00pm.

DHAKA
T O M O R R O W

Mehedi festival

The inaugural ceremony of Mehedi Festival 2003, organised by Ligon Herbal, will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Bengal Shilpaloya, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am. The festival will continue till November 24 from 10.00am to 3.30pm daily.

Workshop

The inaugural session of a two-day workshop on 'Micro-Finance and Technical Support', organised jointly by Pali Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and IFAD, will be held. Venue: PKSF Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9.00am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of a book titled 'Bangladesh-Past and Present' authored by Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Discussion

Performing Art Centre organises a discussion and cultural function to mark the birth anniversary of Rezauddin Stalin. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on the 'Outbreak of bronchiolitis- a disease of children and our responsibility' will be held. Venue: BICH auditorium of Dhaka Shishu Hospital. Time: 11.30am.

Anomalies, corruption rule Nalitabari health complex

Says TIB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A report of the Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) found serious irregularities, corruption and mismanagement at Nalitabari Upazila Health Complex in Sherpur district.

It said the pregnant women have to pay money for treatment while giving birth at the health complex. And general patients become victims of neglect by the doctors as they remain busy with their private practice.

The TIB released the research report at the Nalitabari Nagorik Committee office before the journalists, public representatives, and district and upazila health authorities yesterday, said a press release.

The report said the doctors care

little for the patients unless they pay money. They examine only the well-off patients, ignoring the poor patients.

The staffs of the hospital take money to test urine though it was supposed to be free of cost, it said. The outdoors of the complex is dirty and full of bad smell.

Patients are also forced to pay for minor operation while there is no operation theatre for major surgery.

Even it is not difficult to get a fake medical certificate by paying money. It is also alleged that the unscrupulous officials and staffs sell the hospital's medicines. Besides, the supply of medicine to the health complex is not adequate.

The report said there are many brokers in and around the health

complex and they persuade the patients to go to the private clinics. A large number of medical representatives also visit the complex regularly.

The research was conducted at the end of last year in the form of group discussion and the researchers posing as patients also collected information.

M A Hakim Hira, president of the Nagorik Committee, presided over the report publication ceremony.

AZM Zohurul Islam, civil surgeon of Sherpur, Nazmul Hassan Khan, upazila nirbahi officer, Habibullah Siddique, health officer, Ekram Hossain, programme officer of TIB, and officials of non-government organisations were present.



Tributes paid to poet Sufia Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday paid rich tributes to poet Sufia Kamal on the occasion of her fourth death anniversary.

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad organised a meeting at its office to mark the occasion.

Discussants at the meeting recalled the contribution of poet Sufia Kamal to Bengali literature.

They urged the government to include her writings in the textbook of schools and colleges.

The discussants also called for naming a city road after the name of the poet.

Presided over by parishad President Hena Das, the discussion was also addressed by noted author Prof Mostafa Nurul Islam, Prof Selina Bahar Zaman, Selina Hossain, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Advocate Salma Ali and Ayesha Khanom of the parishad.

Sammilito Nari Samaj also held a discussion in observance of the day.

Speakers at the meeting said all women should follow the path of Sufia Kamal in order to prosper in life by removing all impediments.

Presided over by Hazera Sultana, the meeting was addressed by Shirin Akhter, Rokeya Rafiq Baby and Sufia Sheuli.

Ain O Salish Kendra also organised a meeting in observance the fourth death anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal.

Maleka Begum discussed political life of the poet and urged everybody to follow her life.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of the kendra, presided over the meeting.

'Media enjoys freedom, but not mediamen'

BSS, Dhaka

The media by and large is enjoying freedom, but the scenario is different for the working journalists of different dailies and electronic media, speakers at a roundtable said here yesterday.

They said the journalists in print and electronic media have little freedom to project what they perceive and experience from incidents as the owner-editors determine the ultimate fate of the stories.

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) have nothing to do with the rights of the journalists because of the division within the forums, they said adding that basically business tycoons were holding the control of the entire media and reaping benefit out of it.

The Philosophy Department of

Jahangirnagar University organised the roundtable on 'Philosophy and Media' at the Jatiya Press Club marking the UNESCO Philosophy Day 2003. The department had a 15-day programme for the occasion.

Eminent columnist and intellectual Farhad Mazhar, Editor of the New Age Enayetullah Khan, Prof. Abdul Matin of Dhaka University, Prof. AFM Obaidur Rahman of Jahangirnagar University, spoke on the occasion. Chairman of the Philosophy Department of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Golam Dastagir presented the keynote paper in the roundtable.

"We see media in Bangladesh is absolutely free, but on the other hand we see a daunting picture that the journalists are not free at all," Dr. Dastagir said in his keynote paper. He also observed that the entire media

was gripped by the influence of party politics and by the tycoons.

Enayetullah Khan echoed the teacher and said the journalism had experienced its glory during mid sixties to mid seventies. But over the years, things have been changed because of the division among journalists and unwanted influence on newspapers.

Khan said the press freedom that has developed over a period of at least 100 years has been destroyed during US invasion in Iraq. The 'embedded' journalists had nothing to offer than writing stories about the success of the occupation forces, he said.

Farhad Mazhar said that the objective journalism was a controversial issue as no report could be objective because of many reasons. The things, a reader should expect from a journalist is that he or she should project the maximum truth.

Death anniversary



Mohammad Ali, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held on the South Point School and College premises at House # 3/A, Road # 22, Gulshan # 1, at 3.00pm tomorrow.

Mozammel Hossain



A milad mahfil and qurankhwani will be held at Baitus Mozammel Jame Mosque, Hossain Nagar, Savar-EPZ Link Road, after Asr prayers.

Zebun Nisa Jahangir



A doa mahfil and iftar will be held at Nayatola Darus-Salam Orphanage, Madhubagh, Bara Moghbazar.

Case under speedy trial act Durrani gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka has granted bail to Shamshul Haque Durrani, editor of the daily Nowroj, accused in a case filed under Law and Order (Disruption) Speedy Trial Act.

Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas granted the bail on Wednesday upon a bond of Tk 10,000 with two guarantors.

The bail was granted as the accused is an old man and a life member of the National Press Club, the court said.

Durrani along with his lawyer Syed Shah Alam appeared before the court and prayed for bail. The prosecution opposed the petition for bail.

After hearing both the sides, the court granted the bail petition.

Kamrangirchar police filed the case against Durrani on November 9 on charge of filing a false case against three young men.

Durrani filed the case against Ripon and his friends -- Omar Faruq and Wahid alias Murad -- under the Speedy Trial Act on October 30 accusing them of extorting money from him and vandalising his house at Rasulpur in Kamrangirchar.

But the case proved false, fabricated and concocted during the investigation by Kamrangirchar police who submitted a final report of the case.

The court also issued an order to release Faruq and Murad from the jail.

On October 30, Durrani, his brother Idris, and staff reporter of Nowroj Kamal Chowdhury along with some locals beat up Ripon and handed over his friends -- Faruq and Murad -- to police branding them as extortionists.

Critically injured Ripon was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died on November

1. The victim's relatives said Durrani first beat Ripon's nephew when his bicycle hit Durrani on Kamrangirchar embankment. Hearing the news, Ripon and his two friends went to the spot immediately.

Following an altercation with the three, Durrani called his brother Idris and some others from nearby area and started beating Ripon and his friends, they said.

Meanwhile, a division bench of the High Court on November 17 directed Durrani, an accused in the Ripon murder case, to surrender before the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka within December 7 when he appeared before it for anticipatory bail.

The court also directed police not to arrest or harass him during the period.

Three witnesses -- Murad, Omar Faruk and Tipu -- gave judicial statements to the metropolitan magistrate yesterday.

518 prisoners to be freed

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to release 518 under-trial prisoners on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr and the Victory Day from different jails.

The government hoped that the freed prisoners would live in society as ideal citizens and try to contribute to the socio-economic development, said an official handout yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Three convicts -- Nasir Uddin, Gaffar alias Ladda and Shafiqur Rahman -- are taken away by police after a court in Dhaka sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for life in the former additional postmaster general Mohammad Sikander Ali murder case yesterday.