



Poet Abdul Mannan Syed speaks at the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Kingbadantir Kathakata' at the National Press Club yesterday. Seated from left are former finance minister AMA Muhit, Prof. Sardar Fazlul Karim, poet Al-Mahmud, Prof. Anisuzzaman, poet Shamsur Rahman, Mahzabin Khan and The New Age Editor Enayetullah Khan.

## Kingbadantir Kathakata launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Kingbadantir Kathakata' was held at the National Press Club yesterday.

The 'Kingbadantir Kathakata' is a memorial book on poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah.

Eminent poets and writers like Shamsur Rahman, Sardar Fazlul Karim, Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Syed Shamsul Haque, Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Mustafa Nurul Islam, Faiz Ahmed, and Santosh Gupta have contributed to this publication.

The book must be read by all Bangladeshis, said Sardar Fazlul Karim at the publication ceremony.

Poet Shamsur Rahman said, "Obaidullah was undoubtedly an

eminent poet of our country. He was a successful person and great human being."

Poet Al-Mahmud said, "Obaidullah was a modern poet. His poems and essays are of high quality. Not many writers are there in our country like him."

Prof. Anisuzzaman, Belal Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Syed, Begum Selima Rahman, Mahzabin Khan, Qayyum Chowdhury, A M A Muhit, Tridib Dostidar, Ali Ahmed, Enayet Ullah Khan and Zahidul Haque also spoke.

Edited by Belal Chowdhury and Prof. Anisuzzaman, the book contains 25 write-ups. Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury has designed the cover of the book published by the Centre of Bangladesh Culture.



Participants of the National Defence Course-2003 and Armed Forces War Course-2003 pose with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the graduation ceremony at National Defence College at Mirpur Cantonment yesterday.

## Supplement govt efforts for development

President tells Lions clubs

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the Lions clubs to supplement the government efforts for development particularly in promoting education and fighting poverty.

"The government has been doing its best to improve the socio-economic condition of the people and it has given top priority to expansion of education and alleviation of poverty," he said while he was inaugurating the 31st International Area Forum of Lion clubs at Sonargaon Hotel here.

The Lion members, he said, can supplement the government activities in such fields and thus help build a self-reliant Bangladesh.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharrar Hossain and president of the International Association of Lions Clubs Dr Tae Sup "TS" Lee

also addressed the inaugural session of the conference attended by more than 500 foreign and local delegates from 54 countries.

The president praised the humanitarian activities of the Lions clubs across the globe and noted that having 1.5 million members all over the world, the organisation has been given a "consultative status" in the United Nations in recognition of its services.

He said in Bangladesh, over 12 thousand Lion and Leo member have been working to mitigate the sufferings of the distressed people through operating programmes like eye-camps and carrying out relief and rehabilitation activities at a time of natural calamities and disasters.

"I assure you that we shall continue to extend our support in the days to come. I hope that the Lions International President and other Senior Lion leaders, during their visit to Bangladesh, will discuss with

local Lion leaders about new programmes of public interest," he said.

But he particularly urged the Lions clubs to take programmes to make the people aware about the benefit of education saying, "this will be a great service to the people and the nation since education is the backbone of a nation."

## 2 JCD activists held on abduction charges, freed

DU CORRESPONDENT

The two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) members arrested Wednesday on abduction charges were released yesterday after police interrogation.

Amzad Hossain Jewel, acting president, and Samrat, activist, of Shahidullah Hall unit JCD, were the arrestees.

A group of JCD men abducted a businessman from a commercial blood bank at Chankhar Pool a week before the Eid and demanded Tk 50,000 in ransom.

Police later raided the hall and rescued the businessman but could not arrest any abductors.

Shahidullah Hall authorities expelled Jewel from the hall.

## Housewife killed for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man killed his wife following an altercation over dowry in their house at Fulbaria in Uttara yesterday.

The victim, Rina Begum, 24, died on the spot when her husband hit her in the neck with a bathi (kitchen knife) at around 10.00am.

Later, locals caught her husband, Abu Hanif Mamun, and handed him over to the police.

Mamun claimed himself to be an electric goods trader.

Locals said Mamun, 30, was a drug addict. He often pressed his wife for bringing dowry form her father.

"The couple was quarrelling in the morning. In a fit of rage, Mamun struck his wife with the bathi in the kitchen," said Din Islam, a neighbour.

Victim's mother Taslima Begum filed a case against Mamun.

In the first information report, she said since their marriage eight years ago, Mamun and his relatives often tortured Rina for dowry. Rina's parents have also given cash and valuables worth Tk 2.5 lakh in dowry in the last eight years.

## Prisoner dies at RMCH

BSS, Rajshahi

A convicted prisoner of Rajshahi Central Jail died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Wednesday night.

The jail sources said here yesterday that the prisoner, identified as Aftab Uddin, 50, from Mallikpur village under Naogaon district, suddenly fell sick and was immediately rushed to the RMCH at about 2.30am.

He died at the RMCH after a few minutes of his admission at 3.00am, the sources said.

Aftab was given a life-term imprisonment by the Naogaon Judge Court in a murder case on November 21, 1993. He was shifted to Rajshahi Central Jail from Naogaon jail on November 24 the same year.

A case of unnatural death was recorded with Rajpara police station in this connection.

## SCF vows to resist sale of DU admission form

DU CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday vowed to resist the sale of admission forms of Dhaka University (DU) if their demand for withdrawal of increased price is not met immediately.

The price has been increased by Tk 50 per form raising it to Tk 250 this year.

The sale of admission form begins on December 8.

Addressing a rally on the campus, the SCF leaders said the price of admission forms has been increased as part of the alliance government's plan to commercialise higher education in the country.

They said students coming from middle and lower classes will be discouraged to pursue their studies at DU as a result of fee-hike.

The SCF leaders threatened to launch greater movement along with other like-minded student organisations if their demands are not met.

SCF President Khalekuzzaman Lipon, DU unit President Janardan Datta Nantu and DU unit General Secretary Abu Raihan addressed the rally.

Earlier, the SCF brought out a procession that paraded campus streets.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student chapter of opposition Awami League also expressed its solidarity with the SCF from another rally on the campus.

Earlier, Progamishil Chhatra Jote, a combined left-leaning student organisation, demonstrated for immediate withdrawal of increased price of admission forms.



Residents of North Jatrabari protest water crisis in the area (right) while Wasa supplies water by water tanker (left). But the supply is too inadequate.

## Identification of arsenic contamination Existing system not correct: JS body

Staff Correspondent

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday recommended new initiative to identify arsenic contamination in the affected areas of the country.

The parliamentary standing committee on Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry resolved that the existing system of identifying arsenic contamination is not correct.

The meeting was told that several NGOs conducted survey in 268 upazilas of 61 districts to identify arsenic since 1993.

"Primary school teachers are testing the level of arsenic in water in affected areas, but what do they know about arsenic?" asked Abdul Mannan Talukder, chairman of the committee.

He told newsmen after the meeting that some school teachers have identified some tubewells in his constituency as arsenic-affected. But it was not the right way as they tested water only to mix some medicines," he added.

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, however made no comment about the meeting.

The parliamentary body also

formed a sub-committee to probe alleged irregularities and corruption in public health and engineering department during past Awami League government.

Presided over by Abdul Mannan Talukder at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the meeting was attended by committee members and officials concerned.

## Sangbadik Kalyan Fund invites application

Bangladesh Sangbadik Kalyan Fund has invited applications for providing financial assistance to journalists, says a press release.

The prescribed forms will be available from the office of the Chairman of the fund Golam Sarwar, also the editor of the daily Jugantor, from 10.00am to 2.00pm daily.



Recipients of merit scholarship awards pose with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and other guests at the award ceremony at the East West University auditorium in the city yesterday. The university organised the event.



## Dry weather to continue

UNB, Dhaka

Prevailing dry weather will continue over the country and light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during morning till 6pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 11.6 degree at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:27 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       | 27.5                   | 16.6 | 67                     | 65      |
| Chittagong  | 28.5                   | 16.4 | 71                     | 58      |
| Rajshahi    | 26.2                   | 12.5 | 89                     | 82      |
| Khulna      | 28.0                   | 15.2 | 80                     | 76      |
| Barisal     | 27.5                   | 14.5 | 90                     | 90      |
| Sylhet      | 28.0                   | 15.5 | 70                     | 68      |
| Cox's Bazar | 28.6                   | 16.5 | 74                     | 78      |

## New time of US embassy student centre

UNB, Dhaka

The Student Advising Centre of the American Centre, US Embassy in Bangladesh, will follow a new time schedule from December 7.

From that period, the Advising Centre will be open to users from 10 am to 4 pm instead of 3 pm, Sunday through Wednesday, said an Embassy release.