

DHAKA
TODAY**NSU convocation**

The seventh convocation of North South University (NSU) will be held with President Iajuddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 10.30am.

Symposium

The inaugural session of a two-day symposium on Poverty and Population, organised by the population science department of Dhaka University in cooperation with the UNFPA, will be held with Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 10.30am.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Older House Rules'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Seminar

A national seminar on clinical contraception, HIV/AIDS and RTI/STI case management, organised by Directorate General of Health Services, will be held. Venue: Lagoon Conventional Centre, Rifles Square, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Lecture

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a lecture on 'Savings as an instrument of social progress' to be delivered by Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, vice-chancellor of East-West University, as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room of the society, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) will hold a memorial meeting in observance of the 40th death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. Venue: BILIA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm.

JSD discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal organises a discussion commemorating the 13th death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon. Venue: Shaheed Colonel

Taher auditorium, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1.30pm.

JP meeting

A presidium meeting of Jatiya Party will be held with Party Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju in the chair. Venue: 7/10/A, Block-D, Lalmatia. Time: 5.30pm.

Moitree discussion

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree will hold a discussion to mark its 23rd founding anniversary. Venue: Central office of the party, 8/1 Nilkhet. Time: 5.00pm.

DHAKA
TOMORROW**Spanish film session**

In association with the Alliance Francaise, Zahir Raihan Film Society organises a contemporary Spanish film session. Two films titled 'Butterfly' (1999) by Jose Luis Cuerda and 'Mad Love' (2001) by Vicente Aranda. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Seven brides for seven brothers'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama

Theatre Art Unit will stage a drama titled 'Trinopome Shalmonjori' based on Anton Chekhov's famous drama 'The Cherry Orchard'. The drama has been directed by Kamaluddin Nilu. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Economic growth and poverty reduction in Bangladesh', organised jointly by the government, Jica and Asian Development Bank, will be held with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10.00am.



Visitors at a four-day international architectural building materials exhibition that began at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh delegation takes part in CMAG

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh delegation took active part in the meeting prior to Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the Nigerian capital of Abuja yesterday, according to a message received in the city.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, who is heading the Bangladesh delegation to CHOGM, participated in the meeting of the eight-member Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) which deliberated on the political situation in member countries.

In the meeting, chaired by the prime minister of Samoa, the group deliberated on the developments in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

The meeting finalised its report to the Heads of Government who will decide, among others, whether to continue the suspension of Pakistan and Zimbabwe from the Councils of Commonwealth.

The Bangladesh delegation also took part in the meeting of the Ministerial Group on Small States

(MGSS) which discussed particular issues concerning the political and economic developments in small states. Foreign Secretary Shamsheer M Chowdhury led the delegation to the MGSS.

The foreign minister also had bilateral meetings with his Indian and Sri Lankan counterparts yesterday.

Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha called on Morshed Khan at his hotel suite. During their exclusive meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed the issues before the CHOGM.

They also discussed bilateral as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Tyrone Fernando also called on the Bangladesh foreign minister to discuss Commonwealth and other issues of mutual concern.

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan also attended a cultural evening of Commonwealth Peoples' Forum organised by the Commonwealth Foundation. A Bangladeshi cultural troupe enthralled the audience with their colourful dance.

Architectural building materials exhibition

A four-day international architectural building materials exhibition began at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The Institute of Architects Bangladesh has organised the show as part of ARCASIA Forum-12.

Architect Mazharul Islam inaugurated the exhibition featuring building materials from home and abroad.

Companies from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia are taking part in the show.

A total of 27 firms, including Otobi, Partex, Navana, Berger, Asian Paints, Mirpur Ceramic, Macdonald Steel Building, Brothers Furnitures, Zamil Glass and Mitsubishi Chemicals, have set up 35 stalls. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.

Cookbook features tasty selections

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

No matter you are a middle-aged person or a youngster, you must have a taste for food of your own. Don't worry even if you are totally ignorant on how to prepare them since now you have an easier way to get your desired foods.

It is not the genie of Aladin to supply you the foods but the cookbook 'Mojarad Ranna' by Keka Ferdousi, a culinary expert. The book contains 350 recipes for the connoisseur of foods.

Simply following the instructions in the book will enable you to savour your desired delicacies, whether it is 'chicken in lemon sauce' or 'honey delight'.

"I opt to teach people how to serve better foods without it being expensive," said Keka at the publication ceremony of the book at Liberation War Museum auditorium on Thursday.

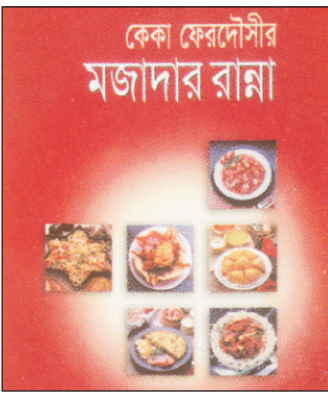
She believes that presentation is vital for any type of food. "Bad presentation can lessen the taste of any food," she added.

The gorgeous but inexpensive way of presenting food that Keka arranged at the publication ceremony substantiates her view.

The designed earthen pots, banana leaves and even the salad served in a flower vase with flowers made of carrot, garlic and leaves made of lettuce and long beans will definitely soothe anyone's eyes.

Keka strongly believes that while cooking, one should keep in mind the nutritional aspects of food. "Food loses its nutritional value when overcooked or over fried," she said.

"Cooking is considered an art throughout the world," said author Ali Imam while speaking as chief guest.



Actor Afzal Hossain said if cooking is an art then Keka has acquired it at an early age and added professionalism to it.

Publisher Munirul Haque, author Rabeya Khatun, media personality Mohammed Jahangir and journalist Anisul Haque also spoke.

Navy chief leaves for Kuwait

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba left for Kuwait yesterday on a four-day official visit.

The navy chief will call on Kuwaiti defence minister, foreign minister, chief of the Naval Force and senior military officials and discuss matters of mutual interests, said an ISPR release.

He will also visit some naval ships of the Kuwait Navy and visit the Bangladesh Armed Forces personnel deployed in Kuwait under a bilateral agreement.

1,550 more arrested, 11 firearms seized

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,550 people, including five identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered 11 firearms, 11 other weapons and 25 bullets. Ten cases were filed against 12 people under the Arms Act, said a press release of police

headquarters.

In Narayanganj, two alleged criminals were arrested along with a firearm and fake notes at Sastapur Westpara in Fatulla thana on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Ali Ahmed and arrested Arif Hossain and Faisal, and recovered a revolver, one bullet and four counterfeit notes -- one 500-taka note and three 100-taka notes -- from their possession.

**Birth anniversary of Ouderland today**

Today is the 86th birth anniversary of WAS Ouderland, who actively took part in the War of Liberation, says a press release.

Ouderland was the only foreigner who was awarded Bir Pratik for his contribution to the liberation war.

Born in 1917 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Ouderland worked as CEO of Bata company during the liberation war.

Ouderland remained in Bangladesh till 1978 and was transferred to Australia thereafter. He later settled in Australia and died on May 18, 2001 after prolonged ailment at the age of 84.

JU alumni reunion

Reunion of the 10th batch of students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held on the university campus on December 25, says a press release.