

PM opens National Youth Day

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said yesterday her government would prepare the youths as a 'development brigade' through necessary training.

"It would not be possible to attain national progress without involving the youths in the production and development activities," Khaleda Zia said while inaugurating the National Youth Day at the Osmay Memorial Hall Auditorium.

"The members of the youth community have to come forward to build the country. They have to go ahead overcoming all obstacles and hindrances," she added.

The inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Youth and Sports M. Fazlur Rahman, Secretary in Charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Abu M. Solaiman Chowdhury, Director General of the Department of Youth Development S.M. Waliur Rahman and successful self-employed worker Taslima Akhtar and successful youth organiser G.M. Rabbani.

The prime minister gave away awards among 16 youths for their valuable contribution in setting up examples in self-employment

projects. The awardees are Jamal Hossain Khan, Momtaz, Asmaul Hosna, M. Abdul Halim, Rabeya Khatun, AKM Delwar Hossain, Kazi Abdus Samad, Nazma Ahmed, M. Wahid Sikander, Shaheen Sultana, Bilkis Akhtar, M Ismail Golder, ABM Delwar Hossain, Nazma Chowdhury, Jharna Chakma and Abdul Hannan.

The work of setting up youth training centres in 46 districts would be completed by June next year while the setting up of youth centres in 18 other districts was under process, she added.

Guiding UK team in city

A six-member delegation of Girl Guiding UK is now on a visit to Bangladesh under Guiding Overseas Linked with Development (GOLD) project, says a press release.

During their stay, the members of the delegation will take part in a three-week programme with the guides and rangers of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association on computer database, life skills, cultural exchange and development of guide.

They will also participate in three workshops in Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong.



A child sits on a tank at the Military Hardware Display in Old Airport area in Dhaka on Tuesday. The exhibition was jointly organised by the army, navy and air force on the occasion of Victory Day.

Online health check-up to be launched today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Internet-based computerised health check-up system, popularly known as Computer Meridian Diagnostic (CMD), will be launched in Dhaka today.

The Bangladesh Softlink Online Private Limited has signed an agreement with the Singapore-based Byram International Limited, distributor of CMD, to introduce the technology in the country.

According to the distributor, the system is capable to diagnose any illness and report on 12 main organs of a human body such as heart, lungs, kidney, liver, gallbladder, stomach, digestive system and pancreas within 20 seconds.

"The CMD technology is invented by more than six hundred scientists and physicians along with researchers and analysts from China, Japan and Germany," said German scientist Professor Dr Uwe Meffert at a press conference in

Dhaka yesterday. The technology will be introduced at Gulshan and Banani on Friday. It will cost Tk 1250 for health check-up of one person.

Marketing Director Amardip Singh of Byram International and Chairman Rafiqul Amin and Managing Director Saleh Z. Rahman of Softlink were also present at the press conference.

DU admission tests rescheduled

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday rescheduled the dates for admission tests for first year honours classes under 2003-04 academic session.

The schedule was revised at a meeting of the Deans' Committee with Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

Under the revised schedule, admission tests for first year honours classes will now begin on January 16 instead of January 2.

Admission tests of Umo unit will be held on January 16, Gha unit on January 30, Ga unit on January 23, Kha unit on January 27 and Ka unit on February 13.

Distribution and submission of forms under different units will continue till December 28.

However, there will be no distribution and submission of forms on December 22 due to unavoidable circumstances, said a DU press release.

Military Hardware Display closed today

Military Hardware Display organised jointly by Army, Navy and Air Force at Old Airport area will remain closed today, due to unavoidable circumstances, says an ISPR press release.

The display will be kept open for the members of the public as usual from 9am to 5pm from December 19 to December 22.

One slaughtered at Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants slaughtered a youth near Chun Kutia Girls High School in Keraniganj on Tuesday night.

On information, police recovered the body of the unidentified youth aged about 17 at around 10.00am yesterday and sent it to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said they are yet to identify the killers and unearth the cause behind the killing till last night.

Investigation Officer of the case Sub-Inspector Jasimuddin filed a case with Keraniganj Police Station in this regard.

Cadet College Club executives

Zaglur Rahman Khan and Maj (ret.d.) Khandker Badrul Hasan have been elected president and secretary general of the Cadet College Club Limited, says a press release.

The election to the executive committee of the club was held at its first annual general meeting in the city recently.

Other office-bearers are Maj (ret.d.) M Taneem Hasan - vice-president; Brig. Gen. (ret.d.) Faruque Ashfaq - joint secretary general; M Farhad Hussain - treasurer; and Brig. Gen. (ret.d.) M Saifuddin, Rashed Choudhury, Shaifur Rahman, Maj (ret.d.) Imroze Ahmed, Farooq Mohd (Shravan), Dr Munir Ahmed, Mirza A S Arif, Rafiul Islam, Zinnat-un Nahar, and Ashraf Hussain - members.

The election was conducted by the Election Commission headed by Maj Gen (ret.d.) Fazlur Rahman.

Earlier, Zaglur Rahman Khan presided over the AGM while Khandker Badrul Hasan presented the annual report-2003 and audited accounts of the club.

A cultural programme and Eid reunion were also held.

Commission on transboundary rivers proposed at IUCN meet

BSS, Colombo

India cannot go ahead with its river-linking mega project ignoring Bangladesh's right to water of transboundary rivers.

This was stated on the concluding day of the Asian Regional Conservation Forum yesterday, organised by the IUCN-The World Conservation Union in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

Responding to the assertion of former Indian minister and Chairman of Task Force on Inter-linking of Rivers Dr Suresh Prabhu that India would not violate any international law on sharing of waters, Bangladesh delegation member and CARDMA President Hasna Moudud said what right India has to transfer water of international rivers

from its natural system.

Dr Suresh Prabhu in his address highlighted water scarcity in the South Indian region and described the necessity of river-linking project to transfer water from the Brahmaputra to augment the water flow in Tamil Nadu.

Taking the floor, Hasna Moudud said an international organisation like IUCN should not be used as a platform for India's propagation of withdrawing water from transboundary rivers that would cause ecological disaster and human dislocation.

She further said India cannot unilaterally withdraw water from the Brahmaputra to augment the water flow in Tamil Nadu at the cost of Bangladesh.

She proposed setting up a water

management commission on three major river systems -- the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna -- with representatives from co-riparian India, Nepal, Bhutan and China.

Setting up such a commission is necessary to determine transboundary water sharing in a just and equitable basis, Hasna Moudud said.

She said sharing of water of transboundary rivers should be addressed to ensure water rights and protect the eco-system of lower riparian countries.

River-dependant eco-systems and river basin protection, including drainage, are important issues and those should be taken into consideration for a sound regional cooperation, she added.

BUET admission test today

BSS, Dhaka

The admission test of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be held today.

This year admission forms were distributed in two units. The unit

'Ka' included the departments of engineering and 'Kha' unit included the Department of Architecture and the Urban and Regional Planning Department. The combined forms of 'Ka' and 'Kha' units were also distributed. A total number of 4088 forms were sold of which 3921 were

submitted and 3774 students were selected to sit for the admission test.

A total of 2642 students under 'Ka' unit, 15 under 'Kha' unit and 1117 under the combined unit will appear in the admission test.

The admission test of 'Ka' unit will be held from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. The 'Kha' unit students' admission test will be held in two sections, one from 9.00 am to 11.00 am and the another from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. The combined unit students have to appear in the examination in the both sections.

The seat plan will be available at the main gate of BUET. The result of the admission test will be published on January 3.



Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions till 6pm today.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met office said adding night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 15.5 degree at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:36am 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	23.2	19.2	86	73
Chittagong	23.5	19.6	65	78
Rajshahi	26.8	18.4	90	75
Khulna	21.0	17.5	98	94
Barisal	19.6	17.4	94	98
Sylhet	23.0	18.6	90	90
Cox's Bazar	28.0	21.0	75	91

AL leader shot dead at Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An Awami League (AL) leader was shot dead by an armed gang at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj yesterday.

A gang of four to five sprayed bullets on Haji Kafiluddin, 60, when he was gossiping in a tea-stall in front of his market at Shanarpar at 7.30pm, said locals.

The assailants shot in his head and chest from a close distance.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

Kafiluddin was an executive member of Siddhirganj Union unit of AL and former AL president of Ward No 1.

"BNP cadres Haji Malek, Alam, Taiyeb Ali and Tofazzal killed my father as a sequel of previous enmity," claimed Faruq, victim's eldest son.



Film festival

The inaugural ceremony of the 8th International Short and Independent Film Festival Dhaka-2003 will be held with eminent academicians Sarder Fazul Karim as chief guest. Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Hayao Miyazaki Retrospective

Under Hayao Miyazaki Retrospective programme, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three animation films of Hayao Miyazaki. These are 'Kiki's Delivery Service', 'Princess Mononoke' and 'Spirited Away'. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Bhagban' and an American film titled 'Just Married'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Kerat conference

The 13th International Kerat conference, organised by the International Quran Recitation Association (IQRA), will be held with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. IQRA President Moulana Quari Muhammad Yusuf will preside. Quari from Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, UAE and Bangladesh will take part in it. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 3.00pm.

Workshop

The inaugural session of the national workshop on 'Legal Aid in Bangladesh', organised by the law ministry in collaboration with CIDA, will be held. Venue: LGED Bhaban auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Computer Meridian Diagnostics (CMD), an Internet-based most advanced computerised online health check-up system, will be held with CMD Scientist Prof Dr Uwe Meffert as guest speaker. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 11.00am.

RA meeting

The first meeting of Research Adda (RA), initiated by East West University,

will be held with Professor Muzaffer Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: University campus, Mohakhali. Time: 3.00pm.

NDF council

The council session of National Doctors Forum (NDF) will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.45am.

Discussion

A discussion on 'HIV/AIDS and Human Rights', organised by Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum, will be held. Venue: Ramna Chinese Restaurant, Ramna Park. Time: 3.00pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Follow-up meet

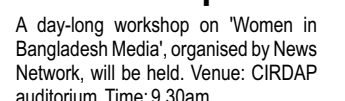
The Centre for Development Communications organises a follow-up meeting for the journalists who took part in a workshop on Child Rights a few months ago. Venue: British Council. Time: 10.30am.

Media workshop

A day-long workshop on 'Women in Bangladesh Media', organised by News Network, will be held. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Lions meet

The monthly meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka South will be held. Venue: Mohanagar Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.



Photography exhibition

Alliance Francaise organises a photography exhibition titled 'Intimate diaries of twin nationalities' by Anwar Hossain. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

The exhibition will remain open till December 31 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily except on Saturday from 5.00pm to 8.00pm only.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'The Odd Couple' and 'American Wedding'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Obituary



Members of the club expressed condolence at his untimely death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. They also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

M Lutfar Rahman, founder member of Cadet College Club Ltd., died at the Combined Military Hospital, Bogra, on December 15 at the age of 51, says a press release.



President of the Cadet College Club Limited Zaglur Rahman Khan (centre) speaks at the club's annual general meeting held in the city recently. On his left is Secretary General Maj (ret.d.) Khandker Badrul Hasan and on his right is Vice-President Maj (ret.d.) M Taneem Hasan.



The Communist Party of Bangladesh stages a demonstration in front of the Agarani Bank headquarters in Dhaka yesterday protesting appointment of a foreign consultancy firm to run the Agrani Bank management.