

DHAKA TODAY

Art & Craft show

The inauguration of an art and craft show, organised by Shilpangan in association with the craft department of the Institute of Fine Art of Dhaka University, will be held. Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm. The show will remain open till December 26 from 10.00am to 9.00pm daily.

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.

Movie show

Alliance Francaise will screen a French movie titled 'Le Huitieme jour' directed by Jaco Van Dormael. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony of the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University will be held with Vice Chancellor Professor S M A Faiz as chief guest. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Silver jubilee

In celebration of its silver jubilee, Bishwasahitya Kendra organises a day-long get-together which includes rally and cultural function. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra premises, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 9.00am.

Tagore evening

Baitalik organises an evening of Tagore song titled 'Se Ki Bholo Jai' with eminent singer Kalim Sharafi as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium of the National Museum. Time: 6.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Muktijuddha and Ashuganj' written by Principal Shahjahan Ali Shaju, will be held. Venue: BIRDEM Hospital auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

Launching ceremony

Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity organises the launching ceremony of a book titled 'Contribution of India in the War of Liberation of Bangladesh' authored by Salam Azad. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Topkhana road. Time: 4.00pm.

Cultural function

Save the Youth Forum will hold discussion, prize distribution and cultural function to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum. Time: 4.45pm.

Council session

The council session of Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 3.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on the 'Role of Jamuna Bridge in the socio-economic development of North Bengal', organised by Uttarbanga Janakalyan Samity, will be held. Venue: Auditorium of the Institute of Engineers, Ramna. Time: 9.30am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of the first ever classical instrumental album named 'Bodhu Biday' by a Bangladeshi violinist Nusrat Mumtaz Ruposhi, will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: etc store, Gulshan South Avenue. Time: 6.30pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Losing Isaiah'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'Plight of Migrant Workers', organised by Remains Business and Professional Forum (RBPF), will be held with State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Qamrul Islam as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 2.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Updates on modern poultry management', organised jointly by the American Soybean Association and the Monthly Poultry Mela, will be held. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha conference hall, Kakrail. Time: 5.00pm.



Participants at a discussion marking the Victory Day at the Mahanagar Natya Mancha yesterday. The Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal organised the event.

Saarc Summit to take place in time: Thapa

BSS, Dhaka

Nepalese Prime Minister and Chairperson of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Surya Bahadur Thapa said here yesterday that the 12th summit of the regional forum would certainly be held in Islamabad next month.

"There is no doubt that the Saarc summit will take place in due time," he said replying to a question from media people after about an hour-long talk with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the afternoon.

The 12th summit of the Saarc is scheduled for January 4-6 in the Pakistan capital of Islamabad.

The Nepalese prime minister, who arrived here on Wednesday on a three-day visit as incumbent chairperson of the Saarc, said he discussed with the Bangladesh prime minister the Saarc, South Asia Free Trade Agreement (Safat) and also bilateral issues like trade and commerce.

In her reaction to media on the talks, Khaleda Zia said "The discussion was very well."

She hoped that the Saarc would

be stronger in future.

She said Thapa's visit to Bangladesh would enhance bilateral trade and commerce and consolidate friendship between the two South Asian countries.

The talks were followed by a luncheon hosted by Khaleda in honour of the Nepalese prime minister.

Thapa signed the visitor's book at the prime minister's office and had a photo session with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia after the talks. He is scheduled to leave Dhaka for the Maldives today.

'Number of HIV positives increasing in Bangladesh'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mass media could play a vital role in raising awareness among every section of the society about prevention of HIV/AIDS and protection of the rights of HIV positives, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Though Bangladesh is a low

prevalence country for HIV/AIDS, the number of HIV positives is increasing every year, the speakers noted.

The Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum (BMSF) organised the discussion on 'HIV/AIDS and Human Rights' at a restaurant in Dhaka.

The participants said that although condoms can prevent infection, the rate of its usage is still low, which is one of the main reasons behind the spread of the disease.

Evaristo Marowa, country coordinator of UNAIDS, underscored the active role of media and other organisations to disseminate information about AIDS and the rights of the HIV positives.

According to the official figure, there are a total of 363 HIV positives in the country at present and 115 of them were identified this year.

However, the unofficial statistics put the number of HIV positives at 20,000.

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, president of Dhaka Union of Journalists, was present as special guest while Khairuzzaman Kamal, executive director of BMSF, presided.

Journalist Saleem Samad, Faruq Quazi, MA Sabur of Department for International Development and Advocate Dilruba Akhter of Bangladesh Bar Council also spoke.



Dr Everisto Marowa, country representative of UNAIDS in Bangladesh, speaks as chief guest at a discussion on 'HIV and Human Rights' in Dhaka yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said forecasting slight fall in night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 13.0 degree at Ishwardi.

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	23.0	19.5	87	85
Chittagong	25.7	19.0	73	70
Rajshahi	24.8	14.7	84	80
Khulna	20.5	18.0	98	96
Barisal	22.0	17.7	95	98
Sylhet	25.5	16.4	85	85
Cox's Bazar	31.0	21.0	86	80

Charge sheet against Dipu Chy accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A court on Wednesday accepted the charges pressed in the Taraj murder case against Sajedul Islam Chowdhury alias Dipu Chowdhury, son of former state minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, and 22 others.

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shafique Anwar accepted the charges on Monday after scrutinising the case diary and other relevant documents.

The court also ordered sending the case to the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka, for trial.

The other accused in the case include Shahin, Zahiruddin alias Zahir, Aleya, Sohail, Aminul Haq, Kanon Hassan, Monir, Gopal Krishna Biswas, Mokerram Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Sourav Das, Sheikh Jahangir, Syed Shihab, Hiru alias Kala Hiru, Kayyum, Mofiz, Rafiq, Milon, Abul Kalam, Alam and Khorsheed Rana.

GrameenPhone holds SMS contest

GrameenPhone Ltd recently held a 'SMS contest' to promote text message as an alternative communication medium among young people, particularly the students of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), says a press release.

A 'Fastest Finger' SMS sending contest was held at the AIUB auditorium. The participants were given attractive prizes including Easy Pre-Paid and Easy Gold subscriptions for sending the fastest SMS.

Mehboob Chowdhury, Director, Sales and Marketing, Syed Yamin Bakht, General Manager, Information, Mahboob Hossain, additional general manager, Distribution, and Intekhab Mahmud, additional general manager, marketing of GrameenPhone, were present on the occasion.



GrameenPhone Ltd recently held a 'SMS contest' recently to promote text message as an alternative communication medium among the youths. Photo shows Mehboob Chowdhury, director, sales and marketing, handing over a prize to a winner at the auditorium of American International University-Bangladesh.

Social Welfare Ministry Irregularities found in different projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee has raised allegations of irregularities and financial anomalies in different organisations and projects under the social welfare ministry.

The committee found irregularities in several projects under the social welfare department including the rehabilitation of sex workers and the purchase of equipment for BIRDEM hospital.

Mozammel Haque, a member of the committee, raised allegation that section of officials at BIRDEM hospital are trying to purchase a CT Scan machine at a cost of Tk 2,86,00,000. But its market price is only Tk 1.10 crore, he added.

Mozammel Haque said the DAB cardiac centre, which was built at cost of Tk 60 crore instead of Tk 27 crore, is also not operative.

Another member of the committee said the social welfare department

has not returned six vehicles to the transport pool on completion of its several projects.

Social welfare ministry is using one vehicle while officials of the social welfare department are using the others, he added.

The committee also alleged that the fund which the previous government provided to rehabilitate the sex workers of Narayanganj was not properly utilised.

After the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Wednesday, Chairman of the committee Abdul Hye told newsmen "We want to probe the allegations raised at the meeting. We have formed a sub-committee to investigate the allegations. We are also not satisfied with the ministry's reply."

Presided over by the chairman, the meeting was attended by committee members and officials concerned.

Death anniversary



Today is the 19th death anniversary of poet Abdul Quadir, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his youngest daughter at Flat No. G5, Green Homes, Green Road, after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Fatema Khanam



The first death anniversary of Fatema Khanam, a social worker and wife of late Nurul Islam, will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil and doa will be held at her residence at House #41, Flat No. # C-4 & C-5, Road # 5, Dhanmondi after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Chehlum



Chehlum of MA Jalil, former director of physical education, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, will be held today, says a press release.

A qarankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her residence at House #41, Flat No. # C-4 & C-5, Road # 5, Dhanmondi after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the chehlum.