

## Developing Asia journalism awards

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), based in Tokyo, is sponsoring a series of Developing Asia Journalism Awards to acknowledge the contribution of Asian and Pacific print journalists who cover development trends and their impact on the people and the countries of the region, says a press release.

The purpose of the awards is to recognise the efforts made by Asian and Pacific print journalists from developing countries who provide high-quality and balanced coverage of the real issues affecting growth and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The awards will focus on excel-

lence in journalistic reporting in six strategic areas of ADB's long term strategic framework.

Stories written in the local languages can be accepted if they are accompanied by an English translation prepared by the entrants or their newspapers.

The winners will be selected by a distinguished panel of independent judges comprising practicing journalists and academic experts in the field of communications.

Details of the awards and the application form are provided in the ADBI website: <http://www.adbi.org/journalismawards.html>.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Pakhi baran

A colourful programme has been organised in connection with the inaugural ceremony of 3rd Bangladesh Midwinter Water Fowl Census 2004 and Pakhi (Bird) Baran festival with Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Mirpur Ceramic's premises, Mirpur-12. Time: 9.00am.

### Painting exhibition

The opening ceremony of a solo exhibition of paintings by Shamsul Alam Azad titled 'Mind of Nature' will be held. Venue: Gallery Chitrag, Dhanmondi. Time: The exhibition will continue till January 4.

### British film

Under its annual film event, British Council will screen three recent British films and introduce contemporary filmmakers to the audience. The films are: 'The Emperor's new clothes', 'Bloody Sunday' and 'Happy Now'. Venue: British Council Auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 10.00am, 3.00pm and 6.00pm.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Australian film titled 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' and a Denmark film titled 'Babette's Feast'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

### Drama

Palakar will present a drama titled 'Project Hundred Plus'. Venue: Palakar Studio, 46 Dilu Road. Time: 11.00am and 6.30pm.

### Lecture

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a lecture on 'Civil Military relationship and the role of the defence services in disaster management and peace-keeping' with Major General (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim as guest speaker. Venue: Seminar room of the society, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 4.00pm.

### Reception

Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad will host a reception for the students who made brilliant results in SSC and HSC examinations held under Sylhet Education Board in 2003. It will be followed by a cultural function. Venue: Rajuk auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

### Conference

The annual conference of Bangladesh

Law Association will be held with Speaker Mohammad Jamir Uddin Sircar as chief guest. Venue: Kazi Motaar Hossain Bhaban of Dhaka University. Time: 9.00am.

### Meeting

An opinion sharing meeting, organised by Janudyog- an environmental organisation, will be held with noted economist Prof Muzaffar Ahmed as moderator. Venue: TSC cafeteria of Dhaka University. Time: 10.30am.

### AGM

The annual general meeting and Dhaka branch council election of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) will be held. Venue: ICMA Bhaban, Nilkhet. Time: 10.00am.

### Rally

A grand rally of Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association will be held with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 3.00pm.

### Blood donation

A voluntary blood donation camp, organised jointly by Leo Club of Dhaka Faridabad and Dhaka Youth Circle Welfare Organisation, will be held. Venue: 73/1 S K Das Road, Gandaria. Time: 10.00am.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### British film

Under its annual film event, British Council will screen two recent British films titled 'Croupier' and 'Bloody Sunday'. Venue: British Council Auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 3.00pm and 6.00pm.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a French comedy film titled 'Le Diner de Cons'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Discussion

A discussion on the 'Independence of Bangladesh and contemporary thoughts', organised by Jatiyatabadi Peshajbee Parishad, will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Christian youths sing carols at a church at Kakrail in the city yesterday to celebrate the Christmas Day.

## Residents resist move to withdraw BRTC service

### Threaten indefinite strike in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Agitated people have resisted the move to withdraw BRTC buses operating in Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Gowainghat upazilas of the district.

Several thousand people stood on the way and put up a barricade when some officials of BRTC tried to send the buses back to the capital from the temporary depot at Jaintapur upazila headquarters on Wednesday morning.

The agitated people also threatened to enforce an indefinite strike in the region if any further step was taken to withdraw the service.

In an official order issued on December 18, Director (Administration & Operation) of BRTC Azhar Ali Talukder gave an instruction to withdraw four double-deckers and four buses from the temporary depot and send those to the capital immediately.

Protesting the move, people of three upazilas held a rally at Battala with former Upazila Chairman Sirajuddin Ahmed, Convenor of the 17 Parganas Salish Samannaya Committee, in the chair.

Chairmen of union parishes and leaders of political parties spoke at the rally conducted by Upazila BNP Secretary Abdul Maik Manik.

The speakers said the BRTC service was introduced in the region in September and the number of buses was later raised at the instruction of the finance minister.

But an influential group being pressed by the transport owners and workers started conspiracy to stop the BRTC service, they said, adding that any such move would be resisted at any cost.

They also threatened to enforce an indefinite strike if the buses are withdrawn. Supply of tea, stone, sand, coal and minerals from this region would also be cut off, they announced.

On the other hand, the transport owners and workers associations in the city have long been demanding immediate withdrawal of the BRTC service in their three upazilas.

They also threatened to launch a strike in Sylhet and Chittagong divisions on January 5 to press their 20-point demand, including the

closure of BRTC service.

The people of three upazilas continued to boycott private buses and minibuses the Sylhet-Jaintapur, Sylhet-Kanaighat and Sylhet-Gowainghat roads protesting the activities of the transport operators and workers who once forced the BRTC to suspend its BRTC service on Sylhet-Tamabil Highway.

The Brihattar Jainta Samannaya Samity, a forum of the people of 17 parganas of three upazilas, also expressed solidarity with the people's demand.

The BRTC service on four routes from Sylhet Railway Station was first introduced on September 10. But the district administration stopped the service on Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Route within next seven days in the face of pressure from transport owners and workers association.

Since then, the people of three upazilas have been agitating against the transport owners and workers.

However, the service resumed on November 17 at the intervention of the finance minister.

## Moyeen elected vice-chair of OIC body on science

UNB, Dhaka

Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan was elected vice-chairperson of the OIC Standing Committee on Science and Technological Cooperation (Comstech) in Islamabad yesterday.

The minister is leading the Bangladesh delegation at its 11th General Assembly, which began yesterday.

The inaugural session was presided over by Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, who is also the chairperson of the Comstech.

In his speech, General Musharraf asked the member states to take initiative to restructure the organisation and to contribute generously to it for overall development of science and technology in OIC member countries.

Earlier, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Shamim Ahmed and senior officials of the Pakistan government received the minister at the Islamabad International Airport on his arrival there, said a PID hand-out.

## Hooligans kill one, set fire to shop in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hooligans killed a person and set fire to a shop after looting the goods in separate incidents in the district early yesterday.

The body of one Hossain Ahmad, 44, was found beside a rail track at Jamijuri of Gachhbaria under Chandonais upazila after some miscreants picked him up from his house at around 4.00am.

Police suspected the killing was a sequel to a dispute over money transaction with one Delwar Hossain.

In the other incident, a gang of hoodlums attacked the shop of one Abdul Mannan Sawdagor at Pomra under Rangunia thana at around 2.00am.

They set fire to the shop after looting the goods.

## Ex-policeman killed in road accident

UNB, Kushtia

A retired police official was killed in a road accident at Customs crossing here on Kushtia-Jhenidah highway on Wednesday.

The victim was identified as former ASI Abdul Zabbar, 50, of Moshan area in Mirpur upazila of the district.

Witnesses said Zabbar was seriously injured when a bus knocked his motorbike. He died at Kushtia General Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited the Catholic Mission Church at Baniarchar in Gopalganj yesterday to exchange greetings with the members of Christian community on the occasion of Christmas Day.

## 'Stop portraying women as commodity in films, advertisements'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop demanded an end to portrayal of women in mass media as a 'commodity'.

They said obscenity and vulgarity are the main components of the current films where women are being presented in an indecent way.

Portrayal of women in movies and advertisements as a commodity has marked a rise in recent years, contributing to degradation of social values and increasing criminal activities, said the speakers.

The workshop on 'The Image of Women in Media' was organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at a city hotel on Wednesday.

Presided over by UNFPA

Representative Suneeta Mukherjee, it was attended by Wasim Zaman, director of UNFPA, Nepal, Abdur Razzak, film star and goodwill ambassador of UNFPA, and Suvash Dutta, a noted filmmaker.

"During our era, we have presented women in attires acceptable to society, but costumes of the heroines now are absolutely unacceptable," said Suvash Dutta.

Razzak said it is the responsibility of all to protect the film industry from degradation.

Two keynote papers -- one by Advocate Salma Ali of BNWLA on 'Status of Women in Bangladesh' and another by Anupam Hayat on 'Protection of Women in Media' -- were presented at the workshop.

Representatives from film industry, advertising firms and print and electronic media took part in the discussion.

## Dhaka Club executives

Geeteera Safiya Chowdhury, managing director of ADCOMM Ltd, has been reelected president of Dhaka Club Limited for 2004, says a press release.

A 10-member executive committee has also been elected by the life and permanent members of the club.

The members are Jahangir Shah Badsha, Firoz N Khan, Ruhul Amin Babul, Nawzia Islam (Rasha), Lutfe Najib Khan (Rumy), Waliur Rahman, Md Zahed Huda, Tulu Kalmullah, Syed Sheikhul Arefeen and Khairul Majid Mahmud.

The election and the annual general meeting of the club were held on December 24.

## BFUJ biennial council begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The two-day biennial council and election of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will begin at the Jatiya Press Club in the city tomorrow.

Former chief advisor of the caretaker government Justice Latifur Rahman will attend the inaugural session at 10.00am as chief guest and Information Minister Tariqul Islam will attend as special guest.



PHOTO: PID

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury visits a stall after inaugurating the National Flower Exhibition at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city on Wednesday.