

DHAKA TODAY

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the annual art exhibition of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University marking the 89th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Institute premises. Time: 9.00am. The exhibition will remain open till January 4 from 10.00am to 7.00pm daily.

Children's film festival

Zahir Raihan Film Society, in collaboration with the Russian Cultural Centre, will screen three children's films titled 'The Snow Maiden', 'The Snow Queen' and 'Aladdin's Magic Lamp'. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'Delicatessen'. Venue: Society auditorium. 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Meet

Federation of Indian Export Organisations, in association with the High Commission of India, organises a buyer-seller meet. Venue: Hotel Sarina, Banani. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

A discussion on 'Challenging gender discrimination in public employment', organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), will be held. Venue: 141/1 Segun Bagicha. Time: 11.00am.

Panel discussion

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies will hold a panel discussion on 'Higher education: Implications for the future.' Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

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Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'La Grande Bouffe'. Venue: Society auditorium. 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Cultural programme

The High Commission of India organises a cultural programme by the visiting troupe from Tripura. Venue: Plot No-2, UN Road, Baridhara. Time: 7.00pm.

Computer fair

The inaugural ceremony of the computer fair CityIT 2003 will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 11.00am.

Workshop

Population Council organises a workshop on 'Savings scheme for factory workers.' Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 2.00pm.

AGM

The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will be held with its Chairman Major Khosru Z.A Khan in the chair. Venue: Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College auditorium.

# Myanmar eager to take back citizens from Bangladesh

## Envoy presents credentials to president

UNB, Dhaka

The Myanmar government is eager to take back its citizens from the refugee camps in Bangladesh as early as possible.

Newly appointed ambassador of Myanmar U Thane Myint said this while he was presenting his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the ambassador, President Iajuddin pointed out the matter of repatriation of rest of the Myanmar refugees and hoped that the Myanmar government would "understand the urgency" of the situation.

"There exists excellent bilateral relation between Bangladesh and Myanmar," he said.

Referring to the recent visit of the Chairman, SPDC, and Prime Minister of Myanmar to

Bangladesh and of Bangladesh Prime Minister to Yangon, president said both the visits had further consolidated the friendly relations between the two countries. He stressed the need for increasing volume of trade and more cooperation in the field of education and hoped that the proposed road-link between Bangladesh and Myanmar would ensure a better cooperation.

The newly appointed envoy, U Thane Myint, expressed his satisfaction at the existing friendly bilateral relations and hoped that the friendly ties existing between the two countries, particularly economic cooperation, would be diversified in future.

Earlier, on his arrival at Bangabhaban, the ambassador was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment.



PHOTO: PID  
Newly appointed Ambassador of Myanmar U Thane Myint presents his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

# 'Provide rehabilitative jobs to eliminate child labour'

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday underscored the need for providing rehabilitative as well as preventive services to eliminate the worst form of child labour from.

"Only reform of penal codes and their implementation without alternative jobs would rather violate rights of the children instead of eliminating child labour", they said. The seminar on "Identifying Issues Of Advocacy Regarding Child Labour" was organised by Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP) in cooperation with "Save the Children Sweden-Denmark".

The seminar was held at the Women Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium. Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum Chairperson Dr. Hamidul Haq was present as chief guest with SEEP Chairperson Nargis Jahan Banu in the chair. SEEP Executive Director

Fazlul Haq Chowdhury and Nari Moitri Executive Director Shahana Akhter Dolly took part in the discussion. SEEP's Project Coordinator Shahinara Jesmin presented the keynote paper.

The speakers suggested enactment of a comprehensive law covering all worst forms of child labour in both formal and informal sectors and ratification of ILO convention no. 138 to fix minimum age of 18 years, especially for engaging any one in the worst forms of labour.

They also suggested enforcement of labour laws to control child labour both in formal and informal sectors, reformation of penal codes and strict implementation of birth registration system. The speakers unveiled a pitiable picture of the state of child labour, wherein children are engaged in various hazardous occupations like domestic helps, street vendors, brick breakers, rag pickers in bidi factories and as caterers in hotels

and restaurants.

"The children are frequently denied their remuneration, engaged in work for interminable hours and confined in unhygienic, unsafe and unhealthy conditions, resulting in respiratory diseases and physical disabilities," they said. Even in frequent occasions, children become subjected to physical and mental tortures, sexual abuse and trafficking, they added.

Dr. Hamidul Haq suggested that to cope with this curse of child labour a model of "learning and earning" should be introduced so that measures could be taken in conformity to the pragmatic socio-economic conditions of the country to stop child labour.

Nargis Jahan Banu called for a united and integrated thrust by all government and non-government organisations working in the sector for formulating correct approach and strategies to eliminate child

labour in true perspectives.

The seminar was followed by a question-answer session where a number of representatives from various organisations working for protection of child rights took part.

# Outlaw held, motorbike seized in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces seized a motorbike belonging to a leader of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) from Rangpur union of Dumuria upazila on Saturday evening.

The motorbike (Khulna-Metro-Ha-11-0049) belonging to Shailen Bairagi, a most wanted terrorist of the area, was recovered from the house of one Pushpak Halder.

Shailen Bairagi has been absconding since the beginning of the ongoing special combing operation by joint forces. He is an accused in 17 murder and other criminal cases.

Pushpak Halder managed to escape when his house was searched by the joint forces.

But another BCP ringleader Kalipada Mallick, 40, a member of Rangpur union parishad, was arrested, police said.



# Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and may remain nearly a elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 11.0 degree at Chuadanga.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:21pm today and rises at 6:40am 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	20.2	16.6	89	87
Chittagong	27.0	15.8	62	54
Rajshahi	21.4	13.5	94	87
Khulna	17.0	13.7	92	--
Barisal	18.0	14.0	89	--
Sylhet	18.1	13.5	95	95
Cox's Bazar	29.0	16.8	52	60



# Balid executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr M Mostafizur Rahman and Syed Atiar Rahman have been elected president and secretary general of Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists (Balid) for 2004-05, says a press release.

The 17-member executive committee was formed at the annual general meeting of the association on Friday.

Other office-bearers are Dr Md Hanif Uddin, Md Anwarul Islam and Abu Md Hannan Mia -- vice-chairmen; Md Farhadul Islam -- joint secretary general; Anamika Biswas -- organising secretary; Md Nizamul Islam -- treasurer; Manzurul Haq Khan -- research and development secretary; and KM Hasan Imam - publication secretary.

And the members are Dr Mirza Rezaul Islam, Khan Md Amiruzzaman, Md Zafar Iqbal, Mohiuddin Md Fareq, Rokhsanara Begum, Sarkar Selina Rahman and Sazid Anwar.

# Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of Ziaul Haque, a language movement veteran, will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute have been arranged at the residence of his eldest son at Ramgati, Laxmipur.

# Khandekar Bazle Murshed



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Khandekar Bazle Murshed, former deputy general manager of Jiban Bima Corporation, says a press

release.

Bazle Murshed worked for Jiban Bima for more than 30 years and retired in 1992. He died of a cardiac arrest in 1993 and is survived by two sons.

His family members will distribute winter clothes among the destitute on the occasion.

# Bomb explodes at shop in Khulna: Salesman injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A powerful bomb exploded injuring a person seriously at a stationery shop in Khulna town on Saturday night.

The victim Siddiqur Rahman, 38, a salesman of Sajal General Store at 75, Mosta Gausul Huq Road, was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

According to eye witnesses, the bomb went off at 9.15pm with a big bang creating panic in the entire area where a newspaper office, two

colleges, four pathological laboratories, private chambers of three eminent physicians and Bureau of District Anti-Corruption Office is situated.

According to DC Mahbub Hakim, the bomb went off when it was pressed against some hard thing due to careless handling of commodities in the shop.

Shop owner Sheikh Faruque Alam was absent when the explosion occurred.

Another salesman Bablu has been taken into custody for interrogation in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR  
Students of Siddhirganj Rebati Mohan Pilot School and College took out a colourful procession in the city yesterday welcoming Education Fair 2004.