



Left, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain and Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed chat at the Mega Reunion of Dhaka University Alumni Association on the Gymnasium ground of the university yesterday while Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon looks on. Right, two alumnae feel nostalgic as they met after a long time.



PHOTO: STAR

Luminaries gather at DU mega reunion

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) yesterday celebrated a mega reunion to mark its 58th founding anniversary on the Gymnasium ground of the university with the participation of thousands of alumni, many of whom are the prides of the nation.

The mega reunion virtually turned into a colourful gathering of eminent scholars, prominent politicians, intellectuals, bureaucrats and other distinguished personalities who went back to their student life seeing their springtime friends.

Leaving aside the differences of opinion and ideology, many politicians, intellectuals and others sat together to have a chat and reminisce about their old days.

They included Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, AL Organising Secretary Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed, DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, former DUVC Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, former DU VC Prof Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury, University

Grants Commission Chairman Prof Dr Md Asaduzzaman, Bangladesh Bank Governor Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Justice Mostafa Kamal, Justice Badrul Haque, DUAA President Sayed Manjur Elahi, Secretary General Rakibuddin Ahmed, Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, AL leader Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Advisor ASM Abdur Rob, The Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dainik Amar Desh Advisory Editor Ataus Samad, BDNEWS Chief Correspondent Zahid Newaz Khan Jewel, singer Ferdousi Rahman and first woman teacher of Dhaka College Prof Rowshan Ara Rahman.

The oldest alumnus, Prof Mohammad Ishaq, 96, who completed his honours in Bangla literature in 1935, formally inaugurated the daylong programme in the morning.

After the hoisting of national and DUAA flags, the alumni rendered songs.

A discussion was also held where the alumni, involved in different national movements from 1952 to 1971, spoke of their experiences.

In the afternoon, Close Up 1 trio Nolak Babu, Razib and Beauty performed several popular songs.

EuroKids launched in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

EuroKids, the first international pre-school in Bangladesh, was launched at the city's Gulshan yesterday, aiming to meet the growing educational demands of the children.

The vision of EuroKids is to input knowledge and an acute understanding of values of students through a voyage of self-discovery and learning aided by nature and technology, the speakers said at the inaugural ceremony. The EuroKids in Dhaka will offer education that can make the children 'global citizens', they added.

"As children stay home until they are six years old, they find it difficult to cope with the environment of a school. After completing pre-school education, children will be comfortable at any school as they will be familiar with the atmosphere," said Dilruba Begum, director, Administration, EuroKids.

Editor of the daily Jugantar Abed Khan, who attended the ceremony as a special guest, appreciated the venture and said the kids should be taught patriotism and be motivated to work for the country.

Children aged between one year and eight months and seven years will be eligible to enrol at the pre-school.

The medium of education will be English and the school is located at house-14, road-126, Gulshan-1.

The school has a gymnasium and facilities for extra curricular activities.

EuroKids exists in 29 different countries in the world including India, the school authorities said.

Admission will start in March this year and sessions will start on May 15. The number of total seats is 190 and the ratio of teacher and students will be 1:10. Admission fee will be Tk 40,000 while the monthly tuition fee will be Tk 8,000 for each student.

Dharmendra Gadam, counselor of Indian High Commission, Bikalpa Dhara President Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and members of board of directors of EuroKids Mahi B Chowdhury, Ashfaq Huque and Nahid Nawrin Jahan were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

HUNDREDS PROTEST CTG GARMENT FIRE Demand fair investigation, compensation to workers

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Hundreds of garment workers and rights activists brought out black flag procession in the city yesterday in protest against the negligence of the authorities that led to the death of a large number of workers in a Chittagong garments factory fire.

A devastating fire at the KTS Textile Ltd at Kalurghat BSCIC industrial area in the port city killed 54 workers and injured over 100 others on Thursday night.

Demanding proper probe and trial of the persons responsible for the disaster, they demanded Tk 5 lakh compensation to the families of each dead worker and Tk 3 lakh for each injured worker.

The activists also criticised the government for not paying attention to the workers of the country's main export earning sector.

"The government has three ministries and laws to safeguard the rights of the workers. But none of the ministry carry out their duties for the workers and take steps to prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents," said Shahidullah Chowdhury, acting president of the Bangladesh Garments Sramik Trade Union Kendra, at a protest rally at Muktagong.

He demanded a fair investigation into the fire incident and punishment of the culprits responsible for the death of a huge number of workers.

Abul Hasan, city committee president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, at a protest rally demanded steps to force the garments factory owners to arrange safety measures in the factories and implement labour laws to protect the rights of the workers.

The Karmojibi Nari, a rights group, demanded steps so that every factory keeps their entrances open during working hours.

Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akhter said a total of 338 workers died in fire incidents in the last 15 years mainly because of the negligence of the owners.

Ain O Salish Kendro expressed its solidarity with the demand of the garments workers at the rally.

Addressing a rally, Moshrefa Misu of the Garments Sramik Oikya Forum blamed the owners for not paying due compensation to the workers.

In separate press releases, Jatiya Sramik League, Samajtantrik Sramik Front and Bangladesh Students' Union demanded probe into the incident and compensation to the families of the workers killed or injured.



PHOTO: STAR

Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktagong in the city yesterday protesting deaths of 54 workers in a devastating fire at KTS Textile in Chittagong.

Housewife strangled, another takes her life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Two housewives met unnatural deaths in Jessore in the last two days.

They are Nurjahan Begum, 40, second wife of Gohar Ali of Isamati village under Abhoynagar upazila and the other is Rony Khatun, 23, wife of Nazrul Islam of Shankarpur area in Jessore town.

In one incident, Gohar Ali strangled his wife Nurjahan over a family dispute on Thursday night. Their son Miton, a madrassa student, came home on Friday morning only to find his mother's body lying on the floor. His father Gohar fled away.

In the second case, it is learned that Nazrul Islam used to torture his wife Rony, daughter of Azibar Rahman of Upashahar truck terminal area, for dowry since they got married a few years ago. Her poor father could not fulfil the demand of Nazrul.

On Thursday night, Nazrul again beat up Rony to realise his demand. Being helpless, she took poison. Neighbours rushed her to Jessore General Hospital where she died on Friday morning.

Bear attacks youth in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

One person received critical injuries while two others narrowly escaped when a bear attacked them at Tripurachhara forest in Bhusanchhara union in Barkol upazila of the district on Thursday afternoon.

Injured Sunentu Bikash Chakma, 30, brought to the general hospital in Rangamati district headquarters yesterday, is now fighting for life. The bear pawed his throat, nose, face, both arms and chest. Hospital sources said he needs plastic surgery to recover the earlier face.

Sources said Sunentu and two of his cousins went to deep forests to collect reeds at around 2:00pm. A bear suddenly swooped on them. Two of his companions managed to run away but Sunentu could not.

About an hour later, his companions rescued him with serious injuries and brought to local upazila hospital at night from where he was shifted to the general hospital in Rangamati town.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Dinajpur, Rangpur and Mymensingh during the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 16.7 degrees at Chuadanga.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 6:23am tomorrow.

The 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	34.4	23.0	79	38
Chittagong	30.6	21.0	93	85
Rajshahi	35.2	18.8	72	27
Khulna	35.2	22.5	91	44
Barisal	34.6	22.5	88	50
Sylhet	30.0	21.5	87	60
Cox's Bazar	30.8	21.0	89	83

4 killed in Tangail road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people were killed and 22 others were injured, three of them critically, in a road accident on Tangail-Jamuna Bridge extension road in the district yesterday afternoon.

Police said the accident took place as the driver of a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Gaibandha lost control over the steering and it fell into a roadside ditch at around 4:30pm.

Four people died on the spot while 22 others were injured.

On information, local people and highway police rushed to the spot and sent the injured people to Tangail General Hospital.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately. Police sent the bodies to morgue for autopsy.

JCD, Shibir clash at Bangla College, 10 injured

UNB, Dhaka

At least 10 students were injured in a clash between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Mirpur Bangla College in the city yesterday, witnesses said.

The clash erupted at about 11:30am when some JCD activists swooped on the Shibir men who were distributing visiting cards to the guardians and the admission seekers who came to the college to sit for the admission test.

Later, Mirpur police brought the situation under control.

The JCD supporters claimed that the Shibir activists were trying to persuade the admission seekers to contact their college unit president for admission.

The injured Shibir activists were admitted to Kalyanpur Al-Fahad Hospital.

8 BCL activists hurt in clashes with JCD in Jessore college

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Eight activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in clashes with their counterparts of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus of Jessore City College yesterday.

The injured are Azizul Islam, Billal Hossain, Wahidul Islam, Faisal Khan, MK Iqbal, Mosharaf Hossain, Rashedul Islam and Abdur Rahim Rony.

Of them, three have been admitted to Jessore General Hospital.

Sources said the clash occurred when the BCL activists brought out a procession welcoming the students who came to take part in the admission test of National University in the morning.

JCD activists led by Ashrafal Alam Chhaku attacked the procession.

Hearing the news, BCL leaders from the Govt MM College went to the City College in a procession which was also attacked by the JCD activists.

Obituary

BSS, Rajbari

Kazi Enamul Kabir Badal, district correspondent of the daily Shakti, died of a cardiac arrest at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 68.

He left behind his wife, two sons and five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Badal began his career as a reporter of Kushtia-based daily Bangladesh Barta. He was also a popular footballer in the district.

SEVERAL EQUIPMENT GO OUT OF ORDER BSD starts long march today to protest India's dam construction

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Novo Theatre remains closed since Feb 14

operated by 'Goto Optical Manufacturing Company', a Japanese company.

The Goto Company had informed the ministry three months ago about its servicing and other requirements.

But the director of the Novo Theatre did not respond in time, resulting in the damage of machinery and system.

According to technical sources, over 100 batteries of the theatre were damaged and if the batteries are not replaced, the show could not be resumed.

Six months ago, the operating company had informed the Public Works Department (PWD), who maintains UPS and IPS system, about the problems, but the PWD did not take any step in this regard.

When contacted, Mohammad Montaz, technical officer of the 'Goto Optical Manufacturer Company', acknowledged the disaster in the Novo Theatre and shutdown of its services.

He, however, said that they had been trying to resume the operation soon.

Talking to the BDNEWS, Md Golam Shafiuddin, a senior assistant secretary to the science and ICT ministry, acknowledged the problems and shutdown of the theatre.

He said the theatre had been facing financial crisis as the tenure of the project has expired and the funds have been spent.

GANGES BARRAGE Call to dredge southern rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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Ganges Barrage can be an alternative to protect the environment of the country from the bad effects of Farakka Barrage only when it would be completed after dredging the southern rivers and within the specific budget, said Dr Ainun Nishat while presenting the keynote paper.

Prof Nazrul Islam said constructing a barrage to solve the problems created by another is not a right step.

"An environment-friendly river management and removal of the Farakka Barrage with the consent of India can solve the problem," he added.

Bapa Vice-president Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Prof MM Akash, Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, Prof Asif Nazrul, Engineer Kaderuzzaman and Advocate Abed Reza also spoke.

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BSD starts long march today to protest India's dam construction

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) starts a Long March today from the capital towards Kurigram to register public anger against what it called Indian conspiracy of constructing a "garland of dams" to turn Bangladesh into a desert.

The Long March will end on March 1 in Kurigram.

Addressing a press conference at the party office yesterday, BSD Convener Khaleduzzaman accused the Indian government of conspiring to make Bangladesh a desert through construction of dams and barrages on international rivers.

He alleged that the country's southwestern region have fallen victim of desertification by Farakka.

"Now India's inter-river linking project, dam at Tipaimukh in the upstream of Surma-Kushira and Gazal Doba dam in the upstream of Teesta will turn the entire country into desert," he said.

The BSD convener censured the Bangladesh government for maintaining silence in the face of such a dangerous situation, saying "indifference, lack of farsightedness and weak-kneed foreign policy of the previous rulers damaged the country's interest."

"We must find out a remedy for our existence," he asserted.

Khaleduzzaman said some 30 rivulets of the Padma had dried up due to Farakka Barrage only. Saline water from the sea has already entered 280 kilometres inside the southwestern region.

The salinity in Khulna region has increased by 1800 percent, he said, adding that 19 districts were affected by salinity causing loss of paddy production worth Tk 2300 crore in those districts.

Khaleduzzaman said 'Sundari' trees in the Sundarbans have been attacked by 'agamora' (top dying) disease in an epidemic form while the ground water level fell permanently by four feet. Besides, nearly six crore people were affected by arsenic-contaminated disease, he added.

The BSD leader called for taking immediate steps at international and regional level against the Indian moves.

On fuel and fertiliser crisis, he alleged that corruption, politicisation and irresponsible attitude of the BNP-Jamaat government had caused the crisis.

On March 2, BSD will march towards the energy ministry demanding to resolve the crisis of electricity, fertiliser and diesel.

Young man jailed for giving death threats

UNB, Chapainawabganj

The Speedy Trial Tribunal here sentenced a young man to two years' imprisonment for giving death threats to some people after identifying himself as a JMB activist.

The court also fined the convict, Mirm Sufian, Tk 1,000.

According to the prosecution, Sufian, son of Mohsin Ali of Pathanpara area of the town, issued death threats to several local journalists, the OC of Sadar Police Station and several businessmen through voice SMS of mobile phone on December 11 last year identifying himself as a member of suicide squad of militant outfit JMB.

Police arrested Sufian from his house on December 16 and a case was filed against him after he confessed to sending SMS.

Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Syed Kutub handed down the verdict.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit will hold a seminar on 'Acceptance or Rejection: New Immigration Policies of Developed Countries'. Venue: Lecture Theatre, DU. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEP) organises a discussion to mark the Ekhushey and International Mother Language Day. Venue: IDEP, Kakrail. Time: 5:30pm.

Inaugural ceremony
The inaugural ceremony of an Education Software Development Project of

Independent University, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. Time: 9:30am.

Education Fair
The inaugural ceremony of a two-day Australian Education Exhibition under the auspices of Australian High Commission and IDP will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

Rotary meet
The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.



Participants of a six-week Special Education Training Workshop organised jointly by the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University, and Institute of Education for Childhood Development pose for photograph at the certificate award ceremony at the IER auditorium in the city yesterday.