

Metropolitan

APSU to help foreign observers monitor polls

All-Party Student Unity (APSU) on Monday assured the government of its fullest cooperation to foreign observers who will be overseeing the country's ensuing parliamentary polls, reports UNB.

The assurance came when a five-member APSU delegation called on Presidential Adviser on Foreign Affairs Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office.

The APSU leaders told the Adviser that the Prague-based International Union of Students (IUS) would send a two-member election observer team to Bangladesh, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The delegation included Fazul Haq Milon, Joint Convener, JCD, Shah Alam, Acting President, BCL, Shaif Ahmed,

General Secretary, BCL (NS), Nasseruddoula, General Secretary, Chhatra Union and Kamal Hossain, General Secretary, Jatya Chhatra League.

Meanwhile, 28 observers from four SAARC countries confirmed that they would be monitoring Bangladesh's fifth parliamentary polls, the spokesman said.

The team of 28 eminent jurists and humanists will include former Chief Justice of India Justice P N Bhagwati, former Judge of Pakistan Supreme Court Justice Dorab Patel, Judge of Supreme Court of Nepal Justice B N Upadhyaya and former Judge of Supreme Court of Sri Lanka Justice J F A Doha.

Coordinated by the Colombo based International Centre for Ethnic Studies, the four SAARC countries India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal will send a 7-member team each.

"Observers will be free to choose places they will visit to watch polls", the spokesman said.

He said the Commonwealth Secretariat is also likely to send a 20-member team to oversee the February 27 polls.

Besides, observers' groups from the Washington based National Democratic Institute (NDI), the European Parliament and the Japanese Diet (Law-making body) are expected to visit Bangladesh to monitor the election.



Members of Bangladesh Madrasah Chhatra Andolon holding a rally in front of Secretariat in city on Monday, demanding a rise in its quota of students for admission in Islamic University. —Star photo

Biman schedule to hinder trade: MCCI

By Staff Correspondent

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has sent a telegram to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, seeking his intervention to increase the number of Biman flights in commercially important routes in the country.

A press release issued by the MCCI President Syed Manzur Elahi in Dhaka on Monday said Bangladesh Biman's new flight schedule for its domestic routes has been posing serious problems for the country's trade and industry.

The Biman has curtailed its domestic services significantly following grounding of its ATP aircrafts. Even commercially important routes like Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Jessore have not been spared. Flights from Dhaka to Chittagong have been reduced to 10 per week as against 25 flights previously. Similarly, flights from Dhaka to Jessore have been reduced to 7 against the previous flights of 14 per week. Both these two routes are very important to the business community including those needed to travel to Chittagong Export Processing Zone.

Ekushey programme Shahnama of Ferdousi discussed

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangla Academy held a discussion on Shahnama of Ferdousi translated by Moniruddin Yusuf as part of its 'Ekushey programme series' at the Academy premises on Monday.

Litterateurs Rashid Haider and Al-Mujahid spoke.

On Monday evening Hasan Arif recited poems and Dadul Ahmed and Firda, Ahmed presented Tagore songs.

Meanwhile, 'Sammilita Sanskritik Jote' Monday staged dramas, and presented recitation and mass songs on the fourth day of its 12-day Ekushey programme at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Today's programme: two books 'Science and Philosophy' and 'Kazi Nazrul Islam: A New Anthology' will be discussed at the Bangla Academy premises at 4.30 pm.

'Sammilita Sanskritik Jote' will continue its Ekushey programme at the Central Shaheed Minar from 4 pm.

TV Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening
- 5.20 News in Bengali
- 5.30 Cartoon Film: Abbot and Costello
- 5.55 Shikhhangon: Educational programme
- 6.20 Notun Digmata: Science Programme
- 7.05 Nazrul songs
- 8.00 News in Bengali
- 8.30 Sampratik: Current affairs programme
- 8.45 Drama Serial: Aoyomoy
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Mini Series: The Last Outlaw
- 11.30 News
- 11.40 Closing

Annual general meeting of DUJ begins today

The 16th annual general meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalists will begin at the National Press Club at 10 am today, reports BSS.

Philosopher and educationist Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf will attend the inaugural session as the chief guest.

The working session of the meeting will begin at 3 pm. The General Secretary, the Treasurer and Unit Chiefs will submit their reports. A cultural function will be held in the evening.

On February 13 the working session will begin at 10 am. In this session discussion will be held on reports of the General Secretary and the Treasurer of the DUJ. In the evening a cultural function will be held on February 14.

Ophthalmology employees join Suhrawardy strike

By Staff Correspondent

The 3rd and 4th class employees of the National Institutes of Cardiology and Ophthalmology will start a two-hour token strike from today (Tuesday) demanding removal of the Project Director of Suhrawardy Hospital.

The employees of Suhrawardy Hospital are in strike since 4th of this month on the same demand. The Institutes of Cardiology and Ophthalmology are situated in the Suhrawardy Hospital Complex.

A meeting of the Suhrawardy Hospital Employees Action Committee on Monday decided to continue their programme

Shab-e-Meraj today

The Holy Shab-e-Meraj marking the ascension of the Prophet (SM) to the heavens will be observed tonight with due religious fervour, reports BSS.

On this glorious night in 620 A.D., the Prophet was blessed with the sacred "deedar" the benign providence.

As in the rest of the Islamic world, devotees throughout the country will engage themselves in nightlong prayers seeking divine blessings.

Waz mahfils, congregations and visits to the graveyards of the near and dear ones for offering فاتحہ are the other features of the holy night.

The Islamic Foundation on this occasion has arranged a grand Waz Mahfil at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque today after the Maghreb prayer.

Under the auspices of Haqqani Anjuman, a discussion on the significance of Holy Meraj, Fateha and Urs-e-Kul (special prayer) will be held at the Shahbaz Mosque, near the mazar of three national leaders on Wednesday at 9 am.

PROGRAMME

Rotary meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Seminar on solar energy

A one-day seminar on "role of solar energy and fuel situation in Bangladesh" will be held today at 9 am at the auditorium of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR). Jointly organised by BCSIR, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Renewable Energy Research Centre and BCC Foundation, the seminar will be inaugurated by Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Education Adviser to the President as chief guest while Alamgir M.A. Kabir, Adviser to the President on Social Welfare, Women's Affairs, Youth and Sports will be present on the occasion as special guest.

Journalists training

The training course for journalists, arranged by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights will start today (Tuesday) morning at the National Scout Bhawan auditorium.

Justice Ruhul Islam, Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council, will be the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony, says a press release.

Dhaka exports 2.51 cr jute bags since war

Bangladesh has so far exported 2.51 crore pieces of jute bags to various countries of the Middle East (ME) since October last, reports UNB.

Negotiations for exporting another 2.5 crore pieces are at the final stage, according to an Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) press release issued Monday to clarify the country's performance in jute bag export to the ME.

Plea to allow gas to brickfield on industrial rate

Bangladesh Brick Manufacturing Owners' Association (BBMOA) has thanked the caretaker government for reintroducing gas to brickfields, reports BSS.

The neighbouring country had so far received export orders for only one crore pieces of jute bags, the Bureau said.

The Association in a resolution adopted at a meeting Thursday stated that during the last few years, the brick industry was thrown into disarray and crisis because of arbitrary decisions of the past autocratic government with drawing gas facilities from brickfields imposing arbitrary rate on excise duty and selling security deposit in cash. These decisions caused immense suffering and loss to the owners of the gas-fed brickfields, the resolution added.

Besides maintaining close contact with local exporters, the government has asked Bangladesh missions in the middle-eastern countries to keep a close watch on trade opportunities there, the press release added.

The association urged the government to declare the brick manufacturing as an industry and allow gas to brickfields on industrial rate.

44 Bangladeshis arrive today

Forty-four Bangladeshis, who crossed over to Iran from Iraq in the wake of the outbreak of the Gulf war, will reach Dhaka today (Tuesday), from Tehran, reports BSS.

Foreign Office sources said these Bangladeshis would reach Dhaka by a PIA flight this morning from Karachi.

Meanwhile, the sources said that Foreign Ministry was in constant touch with Bangladesh embassies in the Gulf countries and reports from there said all Bangladeshis in the region including the troops in the Saudi Arabia were safe and sound.

Family planning workshop begins

A three-day annual project development workshop -1991 of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh began at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Auditorium at Gazipur on Monday, reports UNB.

Presidential Advisor of the ministries of Social Welfare, Women Affairs and Youth and Sports and President of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh Alamgir MA Kabir inaugurated the workshop.

Presided over by Azizul Haque Chowdhury, Vice President, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), the inaugural session was also addressed by Kazi Arisur Rahman Honorary Secretary General, FPAB and Mukarram H. Chowdhury, Director General, FPAB.

Plea to lift ban on book

Country's four leading journalists in a statement Monday demanded lifting of ban on a book of poet Minar Monsur, reports UNB.

The book "El Abaruddha Manchitra" was banned by the toppled Ershad government in April, 1983.

The signatories of the statement are: Reazuddin Ahmed, Amanullah Kabir, Altaf Mahmud and Shajahan Mian.

DU inter-hall cultural competition ends

A three-day inter-hall cultural competition of Dhaka University concluded at the TSC auditorium Monday, reports UNB.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) arranged the festival which began on Saturday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Moniruzzaman Miah distributed prizes among the winners of the cultural competition Monday evening.

Sharif's letter to Shahabuddin OIC role for peace in Gulf needed

Mr. Islam Nabi, Pakistani Minister for Production and special envoy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, called on the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) should play its role for peaceful resolution of the Gulf war.

During the meeting the envoy handed over a letter of the Pakistan Prime Minister to the Acting President explaining as to why Pakistan looked into the current Gulf war as a matter of great tragedy, an official source said.

The Acting President reiterated Bangladesh's stand on the Gulf issue and said it did not support the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Both the people of Kuwait and Iraq are dear to us, he added.

Justice Shahabuddin praised the initiative of Pakistan to help resolve the Gulf crisis and said it would be better to put in united efforts by all concerned to end the war.

Presidential Adviser for Foreign Affairs Fakhruddin Ahmed, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan, Member of Pakistan National Assembly Malik Allah Yar Khan and Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Kemal were present.

Govt urged to revise policy on Gulf

Eighteen prominent personalities Sunday urged the government to revise 'wrong policy' on the Gulf issue and pursue the prescribed principles of non-alignment, reports UNB.

Criticising the bent-knee foreign policy of the Ershad regime, the statement said it had sent Bangladeshi troops to fight against Iraq, without taking into account people's opinion.

In a joint statement, they also called upon the people to voice their strong protest against 'imperialist conspiracy' for preventing a possible World War III.

The signatories to the statement have convened a meeting at Dhaka University Teachers-Student Centre (TSC) today (Tuesday) at 4 pm to formulate programmes of protest.

The statement said the bombardment by the US and Allied forces on the innocent people of Iraq and destruction of ecological balance, natural resources and ancient monuments have opened up a dark chapter in the history of mankind.

The signatories included Prof KAM Saaduddin, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Sardar Fazul Karim, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Dr Rangalal Sen, Ahsanul Haq, Habibur Rahman Chowdhury and Md. Mostafa Chowdhury.

Dateline Chittagong

Peshajibi Sangsad formed

CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: Sammilita Peshajibi Sangsad formed its 41-member Organising Committee at a conference of professionals here Saturday, a Sangsad press release said, reports BSS.

Jamaat call to shun mud-slinging

CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: Local Jamaat 'E-Islami leaders Sunday urged political parties to shun terrorism and mud-slinging against one another during election campaign, a Jamaat press release said, reports BSS.

The conference held at local zila parishad hall, with Sangsad Convener, Advocate Badrul Alam presiding, also approved the constitution of the Sangsad.

Addressing a public meeting at Dewanhat here they said terrorism and politics of weapons would not bring any good for any party rather such activities would foil the march to democracy.

The organising committee is: President, Advocate Badrul Alam; General Secretary, Principal Muhammad Taher; Treasurer, M. Abul Kashem; five Vice-Presidents, two Assistant General Secretaries, and one Publicity Secretary, one Office Secretary and 29 members of the Executive Committee.

The meeting held with the North Pathantolli Jamaat 'Nazem' Mr. Khairul Islam in the chair was addressed by Chittagong-8 constituency Jamaat candidate Maulana Abu Taher Khan Pathan, M. Nurul Amin and Mustafa Kamal Chowdhury.

Jute cuttings gutted

Another report says: Fire damaged a stock of jute cuttings at Hakkani Paper and Board Factory opposite of Kalurghat bridge here Sunday afternoon, fire service sources said.

4 injured by short circuit

By Staff Correspondent

Four persons were injured when a short circuit occurred from the electric generator in Baitul Hossain building at 27 Motijheel Commercial area, on Sunday.

The injured persons are an electrician, a generator operator, a helper and a manager of the building.

The fire was brought down with the help of the fire extinguisher of the building.

Arms recovered

Meanwhile, Patiya police recovered two fire arms along with four ammunition and fifty kg of electric wire and arrested two persons early Sunday, district police said.

The fire arms, both country made guns, were recovered after they were abandoned at a

Weather

Night temperature may increase

By Staff Correspondent

Weather will remain dry over Bangladesh during the next 24 hours. Night temperature fell by one degree Celsius at few places last night (Monday) and may rise by one to two degrees at many places tonight (Tuesday).

The lowest temperature at Dhaka was 17 degrees Celsius while the country's lowest was 12.4 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

Sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5.52 pm and rises on tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6.35 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Outlook for another five days: No change. Temperature and humidity of important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature (in Celsius)		Humidity (in pc)	
	Maximum	Minimum	9am	6pm
Dhaka	28.6	17	68	48
Chittagong	27.5	16.5	83	82
Khulna	30.2	16.4	85	51
Cox's Bazar	28.6	17	78	80
Sylhet	27.1	17	80	61
Rangpur	27.6	14.4	86	67
Rajshahi	29.6	12.4	80	65

Minimum temperature if some international cities:

Karachi:	14 Degree Celsius	Calcutta:	18 Degree Celsius
Delhi:	16 Degree Celsius	Singapore:	24 Degree Celsius
Beijing:	-04 Degree Celsius		

Nilufa's new record

Sports Reporter

The 19th national athletics championships got underway at the Army Stadium with Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) bagging two of the four gold medals up for grabs on the opening day. Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Ansars shared the other two.

The day's only new record came in the women's long jump with Nilufa Yasmin of BJMC crasing Najma Haider Rafeza's three-year-old mark of 5.51 with a leap of 5.54 metres.

Lance Naik M Mujibur Rahman of Army won the first gold of the four-day, 34-event meet by clocking 3min 58.6 seconds for the men's 1500 metres. L/Nk. Md GM Azharul, also of the Army, got the silver while Bangladesh Air Force's L AC Wahab Bashir got the bronze.

Shafali Rani Dey of Bangladesh Ansars won the women's 800m gold with a time of 2min 22.9 secs, followed by Sumita Goswami of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) and former champion Sharmila Ray of BJMC settled for the bronze.

Nellie Jemine of BJMC won the women's shot put with a throw of 11.82 metres, well below the existing national mark of 12.03 m set last year by Pulina Chowdhury. Asma Yasmin of Bangladesh Customs got the silver with 10.76m, while the record holder Pulina Chowdhury of Bangladesh Railway could only manage a throw of 9.76 metres for the bronze.

BJMC's second gold medal came when Nilufa Yasmin cleared 5.54 metres in the women's long jump, setting a new national record that eclipsed Najma Haider Rafeza's 1988 mark of 5.51 metres.

Nilufa's teammate Jemine got the silver with a jump of 5.37m, while Proza Begum of BTMC got the bronze with 5.32m.

Three hundred and fifty five athletes, including 138 women, from 17 teams are taking part in the meet, which was inaugurated by Presidential Adviser for Youth and Sports Alamgir MA Kabir in the afternoon.

The country's ace middle-distance runner Subedar Mushtaque Ahmed and Shamima Satar Mimun were given the honour of lighting the games torch. Milzar Hossain of BJMC and Rokeya Begum of Customs Club took the oath on behalf of the participants.

Details of the first day's events will be published tomorrow owing to space constraints.



BJMC's Nilufa Yasmin bettered the women's long jump record on the opening day of the 19th national athletics championships at the Army Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Biman 99 for 2

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman were comfortably poised at close of play on the first day of their two-day Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium, having made 99 for two wickets in reply to Rupal Bank's 195 all out in 75 overs.

failed to get going, falling for just two. Sumon was batting on 33 and Bulbul was yet to get off the mark. Biman have another 55 overs to get the remaining 97 runs for victory.

Dulu, 64, and Babu, 53, were the main scorers for winless Rupal Bank whose other batsmen failed to come good with the exceptions of Nadim and Prince who with 12 each were the only others to reach double figures.

ABAHANI-TARUN

In another match, Surjo Tarun, after restricting reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra to 209 all out, had made 47 for the loss of two wickets in 14 overs at the Dhaka Stadium.

Aminul Islam Bulbul was the pick of the Biman bowlers bagging four wickets for 28 runs while Enamul Haq Mont got two for 44 and Dulu, Bachchu and skipper Shanu picked up one each.

Abahani were pulled out of deep trouble by a brilliant effort from their skipper Rafiqul Alam who, coming in at number eight, made a punishing 82 with the help of eight fours to rescue his side which was tottering on 59 for the loss of six wickets.

Biman's in-form opener Jahangir continued his excellent showing this season by scoring 54 while his partner Tariqzaman Munir again

Rafiq, who was the last man out, added 111 vital runs for the seventh wicket with Nadir Shah who was run out for a well-made 51. The only other Abahani batsman to reach double figures was Javed Omar Golla who made 17.