

Dhaka Day by Day

Book Fair From Today

By Ekramul Kabir

"A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embled and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life," wrote Milton.

Once again the Dhaka University campus area has captured the attention of the city people. This time not with the spine-chilling smell of gun powder but with the revelry of "Ekushe Book Fair" at the Bangla Academy premises.

Since 1972 Bangla Academy has been co-ordinating this festival in its own premises with a number of publishers and book vendors. But it was 1979 when all the publishing houses collectively started celebrating the "Ekushe Book Fair."

Now this fair has turned into a ritual of our national heritage and a sanctuary for the poets, writers and people who love our language.

This year, with the spirit of '90's mass upheaval, the Academy has concentrated to organise the fair more intensely to give it a different interpretation.

In the past couple of years, public opinion was in favour of shifting the venue away from Bangla Academy. This was because of lack of space, mismanagement and chastisable activities. But the post-liberation years have proved the Academy premises to be indispensable because the tradition of the "Book Fair" has matured up centering it.

The Dhaka University campus was also vital because of its historical past. The University has been contributing its all out effort to our language movement, national culture and literature.



Apart from the Academy grounds the arena has been expanded from TSC to Doel Circle. Stalls have been built on both sides of the avenue. Tea stalls and other miscellaneous are placed at the Suhrawardi Udayan end. Audio and few book shops have been built touching the boundary wall of the Academy. Only the publishers are permitted inside the premises. A thirty feet wide entrance has been structured to avoid the hot polio and police forces have been posted in order to run the fair smoothly.

While speaking to The Daily Star, Mohtuiddin Ahmed, Secretary of Bangla Academy, assured with optimism that the arrangements work out adequately for the people have started thinking in a different way after the capitulation of autocracy.

One of the important aspects of this year's fair is to acquaint the foreigners with Bangla literature. The time-honoured folklore from the various regions of Bangladesh will be introduced. And finally, it is the Prime Minister who will inaugurate the month-long fair.

A prominent poet Mohammad Nurul Huda was asked if the tea stalls did any molest the true concept of the Book Fair. As a member of the Administrative Committee he was positive about it. But as a literary wit he regretted that shifting the tea stalls out of the premises would mar the idol parley of the poets and intellectuals who gather together in an endless rendezvous, while interested listeners who remain mostly silent, flock around them.

MPs censure mismanagement at Osmany Memorial Hall

Some opposition parliament members Thursday censured sponsors of the star recitals of Pundit Ravi Shanker for their mismanagement at the Osmany Auditorium Wednesday evening, reports UNB.

The opposition MPs, including Shahajahan Siraj, Shamsul Huq and Md Moshur Rahman, expressed resentment over the mismanagement in seating arrangements.

They said they were invited to watch the performance of the internally acclaimed star maestro but the seats in the hall were occupied by "unwanted" persons.

"The incident is unfortunate", this reflects the mismanagement of some officials who organised the function. Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali said.

He drew the attention of the Cultural Affairs Ministry to see the matter and take necessary action.

SC Bar condole deaths of 5 lawyers

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, in a meeting Thursday, condole the death of its members - Hamsidul Haq Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Khan, Kazi Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman, M. Maifudul Islam and Mobarak Ali Durrani, reports BSS.

The meeting, presided over by the Bar Association President Dr. Rafiqur Rahman, conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

A munajat was offered seeking divine blessing for the departed souls.

Handicraft exhibition extended

The handicraft exhibition arranged by the Sena Paribar Kalyan Samity (SPKS) has been extended for two more days on public demand, an ISPR press release said here Thursday, reports BSS.

The gala exhibition will now remain open for members of the public from 10 am to 9 pm (12 noon to 2 pm recess on Friday) till February 9 at the old air port area (southern end of the runway), Tejgaon, here, the press release said.

Cooking contest

By Staff Correspondent

The Malaysian High Commission in Bangladesh will organise a cooking competition for the ladies.

The theme of the competition is 'Tastier and healthier food with palm oil.'

Ladies interested to participate in the competition have been requested to send their recipes by February 23, to 'Palm Oil Recipe Competition,' Malaysian High Commission, House No 4, Road No 118, Gulshan, Dhaka.

The first prize winner will be awarded Tk 3000 while Tk 2000 and Tk 1500 will be offered to second and third prize winners respectively.

Before a final decision is made on the winners, a cooking competition will be held at the residence of the Malaysian High Commissioner on March 4.

Qulkhwani

The qulkhwani of Dr AHM Abdur Rahman, a former member of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission, will be held today after Asr prayers at his Dhanmondi (Road No 29) residence, reports BSS.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka divisions and the regions of Kushtia, Jessore, Comilla and Sylhet when weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today (Friday), according to Met office.

Night temperature likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The highest temperature, 28.6 degree Celsius, was recorded at Cox's Bazar in the country while the lowest, 10 degree Celsius was at Dinajpur Thursday.

The temperature recorded in Dhaka Thursday was maximum 28.4 degree Celsius and minimum 15.3 degree Celsius. The percentage of humidity in Dhaka was 60 at 9 am and 71 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 4.49 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6.37 am.

Temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded Thursday at some major cities/towns were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.4	15.3	60	71
Chittagong	27.2	14.8	82	59
Rajshahi	26.3	11	77	
Khulna	27.9	12.5	91	70
Srimangal	26	11.4	83	69
Faridpur	26	13.4	80	64
Cox's Bazar	28.6	16.5	65	66
Dinajpur	24	10	88	66



Final touches to the preparations Thursday as the Ekushe Book Fair begins in the Bangla Academy premises today (Friday). —Star photo

'Consensus only way to solidify democracy'

By DU Correspondent

A political consensus is the only way to institutionalise the newly achieved democracy in the country.

This was observed by speakers at a two-day seminar on 'Institutionalisation of Democracy in Bangladesh' held at the Teacher Student Centre of the Dhaka University yesterday.

The seminar was organised by the Political Science Department of the Dhaka University with Professor Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Taukder, Deputy

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Convenor Khalekuzzaman Bhuiyan, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahingir, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharjya and Dr Harun-ur-Rashid spoke in the seminar.

The LGRD Minister in his speech said that democracy would be established in the country if we used the national Parliament for the welfare of our people.

We have to ensure freedom of the press and establish the rule of law in society, the Minister added.

Democracy can be restored if we ensure the fundamental rights of the people, the LGRD minister said. Abdus Samad Azad in his speech said that the newly achieved democracy would be destroyed if we failed to develop the political understanding that existed during the mass upsurge against the autocratic regime in 1990.

"Our first job is to find out the sources of unauthorised weapons and restore peace in the educational institutions," Samad Azad added.

He said that democracy could be established through its practice and united efforts by people in every sphere of life.

The BSD Convenor Khalekuzzaman Bhuiyan said that the BNP government, though elected, was not democratic.

The bourgeois section in the country was resisting the repeal of the Special Powers Act, the BSD leader added.

He said that the capitalistic socio-economic system in the country had to be changed and that could be a way to establish democracy.

Professor Ferdous Rahman of the Political Science Department in his keynote speech mentioned that the form of a political coalition of labour farmer and progressive middle class was now the only way to institutionalise democracy in the country.

NATAB hands over consignment of dialysis solution

The Deputy Leader of the House (Parliament) Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, said in Dhaka Thursday that the government would ensure health care facilities for all people under a broad health policy as a part of its commitment to the nation, reports BSS.

"Our health policy is guided by the need of our people and by the principle of Health for all by the year 2000" which is also the dictate of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to all its member states", Prof Chowdhury told a gathering in the morning.

As the President of the National Anti Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB) Prof Chowdhury was handing over a consignment of peritoneal dialysis solution to the government for use in the hospitals.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Kamal Ibn Yussuf received the solution at a neat

little function attended by the secretary general of the NATAB Dr Sakawat Hossain, Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the NATAB, Khairuddin Ahmed Mukul, NATAB member Dr Golam Nabi, Director of the mycobacterial diseases Prof Ahsan Ali and Head of the Nephrology Department of the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research Prof Matur Rahman.

Prof Chowdhury said in order to expand the health care facilities to the people the government had been establishing more medical colleges. Periodical refresher courses are also organised by the government for time to time for in-service medicos.

While receiving the consignment the Health Minister said that the item would benefit the kidney patients particularly the poor patients who could not afford to buy it. He thanked the NATAB for the donation.

Peritoneal dialysis solution is needed for the treatment of kidney patients.

Int'l salvation army leader due today

Staff Correspondent

International Secretary of Salvation Army, commissioner John Nelson accompanied by his wife will arrive in Dhaka on a week-long visit today (Friday).

The Salvation Army leader will visit and review the ongoing projects of the organisation during his stay. He is expected to meet senior government officials.

Ravi Shankar meets Biswas

Internationally acclaimed star maestro Pundit Ravi Shankar met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Thursday reports BSS.

President warmly shook hands with him and greeted him cordially.

Lauding the dedication and performance of Ravi Shankar, President said that he (Ravi) had earned prestige and honour for the people of the Subcontinent.

His sitar recital, President said, was acclaimed in home and abroad.

Pundit Ravi Shankar expressed his thanks to the people of Bangladesh and the government for extending him warm reception and hospitality.

President also presented him and his wife with several gifts.

Wife of Ravi Shankar Mrs Shukanya Shankar, Secretary to the President A N M Eusuf, Addl Secretary in Charge of the Cultural Ministry, Islam Uddin Malik, Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K Shrinivashan were also present.

Expansion of SOS children village discussed

The President of SOS Children Village International, Helmut Kutin, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence here Thursday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to expansion of SOS children village programmes in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Financial Manager of the SOS Children Village International, Dr O Kulteis, and National Director of the Organisation, Sheikh Niamat Ali, were present.

Chinese acrobatic team calls on Golam Hafiz

The visiting 15-member Chinese acrobatic troupe led by Litonglian met Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at his office here Thursday, reports BSS.

The Law Minister told them that the existing friendship between Bangladesh and China would be further strengthened

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People's Republic of Bangladesh Public Works Department Notice Inviting Tender

- Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are invited from Class-I E/M contractors enlisted with the PWD tenders will be received up to 12-00 Noon by the undersigned and the Executive Engineer, E/M Division -7, Workshop Division, Wood Workshop Division and tenders will be opened on 12-2-92 at 12-30 p.m on the same day in presence of the tenderers or their representatives here by any tender will be addressed to the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-VIII, Mirpur, Dhaka and the name of work and date of opening are to written on the envelope.
- Name of works : Repair/Replacing the existing damaged E.I works staff quarters and compound light under the E/M Division-VIII, Mirpur, Dhaka.
- Tender documents and schedule can be seen and purchased on cash payment on usual price (Non-refundable) from the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-7, Mechanical Workshop Division, PWD Eden Building Division, Dhaka and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours on or before 11-2-92.
- Estimated cost. Tk. 1,94,205/50, Earnest Money Tk. 3885/-
- Tenderers will have to furnish earnest money in the form of B.D.C.D/P.O etc. to be issued from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the undersigned along with each tender otherwise it will be out rightly/rejected/fixed deposit holder are exempted from earnest money to the extent of F.D amount for two groups of tenders in a day. If the amounts of earnest money in a particular work exceeds the amount of F.D then the balance excess amount is to deposited with such tender otherwise the tender will be rejected. F.D holder will have to submit F.D certificate issued by concerned E.E not later than 3 months ago.
- The undersigned reserves the sole authority to accept/reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md Aminul Hoque Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-VIII, Mirpur, Dhaka.

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Eight colleges to be turned into varsity colleges

The Education Minister, Barrister Jamruddin Sircar, Thursday night told the Jatiya Sangsad that eight colleges in

the old districts would be turned into university colleges under a government plan to cover all the 20 old districts, reports BSS.

Tk 1.25 cr okayed for construction of 9th Nuclear Medicine Centre

The government has sanctioned Tk1.25 crore for the construction of 9th Nuclear medicine Centre at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College premises in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Ministry of Health provided about one acre of land for construction of a two-storied building to house the Nuclear Medicine Centre.

The centre will be run by the Atomic Energy Commission of Bangladesh. The foundation stone of the centre was laid by Principal Md Yunus Khan State Minister for Education, on February 2.

Twelve university colleges had already been set up in 12 old districts, he said while winding up a private member's resolution to upgrade the Bangabandhu Government College as a university college in Gopalganj District (New).

The minister, however, said that the government would consider, to upgrade the Gopalganj Bangabandhu College into a university college after upgrading the remaining eight colleges in the eight old districts.

Five opposition members took part in the discussion on the resolution pleading for upgrading the Gopalganj Bangabandhu College moved by Kazi Abdur Rashid (AL).

The House rejected the private members resolution.

Another private members resolution moved by Rahmat Ali (AL) for establishment of

one government primary school in each village was also rejected by the House earlier.

Winding up the discussion on the resolution on the primary schools, the minister said the government has a plan to take two Upazilas or thanas in each district under the Compulsory Primary Education. If the present programme launched in 60 Sadar Upazilas becomes successful.

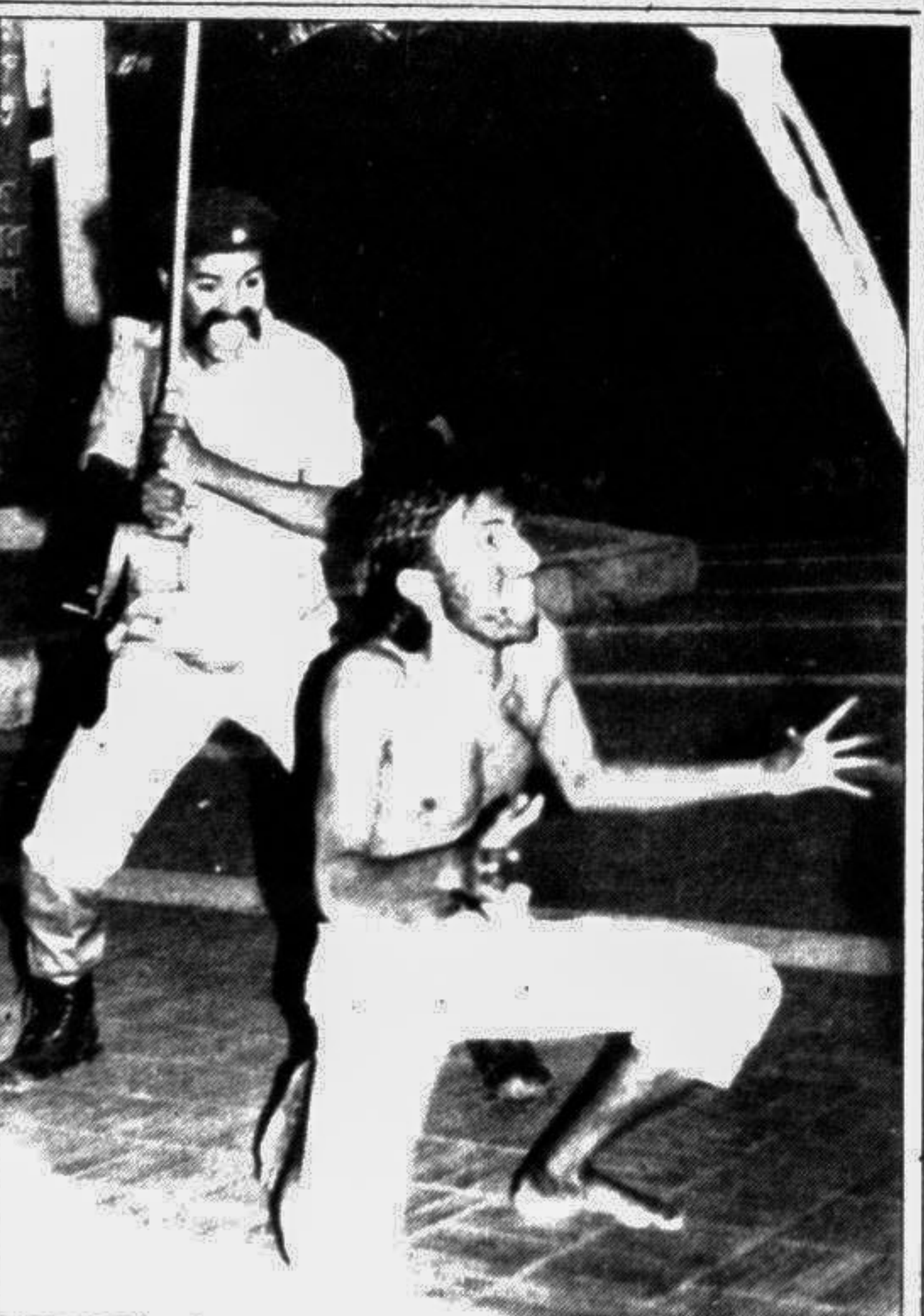
Out of over 64 thousand primary schools including maktabas, over 37 thousand schools were government run in which over four thousand posts of teachers lying vacant, the minister said adding that the government was now taking steps to fill up the vacant posts of teachers.

He said there were eight thousand private primary schools which received government grants.

The Speaker, Shaikh Razaque Ali, adjourned the House at 9.10 pm till 3 pm on February 9 (Sunday).

Friday Morning Session

- 8.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Chena Kahini
- 8.45 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
- 9.30 Film: The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.15 Moner Mukurey: Drama series Bahubrihi (Part III)
- 11.15 Popular Film programme
- 12.15 Programme summary of evening session Closing.
- Evening Session
- 3.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 3.15 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 3.20 Alaor Dishar
- 3.40 Movie of the Week
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Sports programme
- 6.45 Anu Paramanu
- 7.05 Sangeeta : Songs programme
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 The Cosby Show
- 9.00 Ittadi
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film L.A Law
- 11.30 Khabor/The News
- 11.40 Saturday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing.



A sequence of street-drama 'Kadamtala Army Camp' staged by Kheyali Natya Gosthi at the Central Shaheed Minar on Thursday. —Star photo