

What's on today

Seminar on modelling: A seminar on 'Modelling Art: The Context of Bangladesh' will be held under the auspices of the Perspective Media Services. Renowned model Bibi Russell will present the keynote paper and Sayeed Ahmed will preside. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 5:00 pm.

Training course on bio-tech: A two-week training course on advanced bio-technology will begin. Organiser: Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) in collaboration with Third World Academy of Science. Venue: IFST seminar room, BCSIR. Time: 10:00 am. Chief guest: State Minister of Science and Technology, Prof M A Mannan.

Dhaka Film Festival: German film *Deutschstunde* (German Lesson) will be screened. The Rainbow Film Society has organised the festival. Venue: Goethe-Institut (23, Dhanmondi, Road-2). Time: 5:00 pm.

FPAB: The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) will hold its annual general meeting (AGM) and elections to the national executive committee. Venue: Shaheed Maitiuddin Auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

JASAS: An emergency meeting of the Jatiyatobadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) will be held. Time: 4:00 pm. Venue: BNP central office.

Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal: An emergency meeting will be held. Time: 6:00 pm. Venue: BNP central office.

. . . . and tomorrow

Discussion: The Sanket Sangskritik Gosthi, a cultural troupe, has organised a discussion and cultural function in memory of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman. Venue: National Museum auditorium (children's). Time: 4:00 pm.

Christmas celebrated in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Holy Christmas was celebrated in the port city and elsewhere in the district with traditional enthusiasm and due solemnity, reports BSS.

Members of the Christian community celebrated the day through day-long programmes which included singing of carols in different churches, exchange of greetings, pleasantries, distribution of Christmas cakes and decoration of Christmas trees.

The churches of Saing Mary's Bethlehem at Jamal Khan Road and old churches at KC Dey Road, Patharghat and Chandgaon were also illuminated on the occasion.

The Christian villages wore a festive look and merriment and enthusiasm generated since midnight last night with the ringing of bell from the churches. Special prayers were offered in all churches seeking peace and prosperity of the nation and as well as global peace.

Local dailies published articles highlighting the significance of the day, while Radio Bangladesh, Chittagong put up a lyrical drama titled "Multidatar Jammati" tonight under the auspices of Youngman Christian Association.

In Narayanganj, the holy Christmas was celebrated there by the Christian community with jubilation and merriment.

Male, female and children of the Christian community attired in new dresses of their best joined a large congregation at St Paul Church at Chashara and praised the Lord Jesus Christ in their prayer.

The church was decorated with colourful crib and Christmas carol was played during the prayer.

A similar congregation was held at Charargop Baptist Church in the morning.

The community members exchanged greetings with each other saying merry Christmas.

57 held in city

Police rounded up 57 people yesterday on various charges from different parts of the city. UNB reports quoting a DMP press release.

Among the arrested seven were wanted criminals, one for dacoity, three under the Special Power Act and four for stealing.

Police also picked up five people from Mirpur and Donia area in the city for their alleged involvement in hijacking. The accused were produced before court.

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C L E

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Dhaka. (Opposite petrol pump)

The city we live in

Star Report



Some years ago the then government prided itself for having introduced a national drug policy (NDP) that was reportedly acclaimed the world over. Hundreds of familiar medicines and brands were banned either because of their harmful effects or lack of any true medicinal worth. Action followed against those not abiding by the guidelines laid down in the NDP. Yet, despite all efforts of the authorities to streamline the health services, a vast multitude of the gullible public still remains vulnerable to the sales pitches of unscrupulous quacks like these who ply their self-patented panaceas right under the nose of the authorities in various parts of the capital as elsewhere across this land. Calling themselves Hakim, Kabiraj, Ayurved and what not, these self-styled medicine men peddle sundry prescriptions, potions and exotic elixirs to the illiterate passersby. The language these quacks use to promote their wares often ranges from the risque to the ridiculous. Many a parent waiting with grown up children at a busy bus terminal or launch ghat, or a brother accompanying a sister, are subjected to no little embarrassment by the vivid, vulgar descriptions of maladies and their symptoms which are ceaselessly blaring over roadside loudspeakers. A rare herb, a divine cure discovered in a dream, or the oil or extract from an unlucky animal or two are touted as sure shot remedies for any and every possible illness afflicting a human being. And business by no means is dull. The upshot, however, is that such proliferating malpractice can often lead to tragic consequences for the desperate chap who digs into his pockets to buy a vial for himself or his loved one.

Our cameras focus here on (A) a busy gathering in front of one roadside kabiraji stall near the busy Gulistan area in the city centre; (B) a veteran mixing his famous formula at Sadarghat area and (C) a medicinal herbs specialist at Farmgate area. — Star photographs by A K M Mohsin.

Govt decision hailed

Boalia Union Parishad Bastabayan Parishad hailed the recent government decision for inclusion of Boalia, Bakhar-kathi, Tabirkathi and Imam-kathi mouzas with Bakerganj thana of Barisal district, for administrative and communication conveniences, reports BSS.

The Boalia Union Parishad Bastabayan Parishad representatives said that the government decision followed the order of the High Court Division given in 1992.

Four prostitutes were arrested from Hotel Court View, three from Hotel Attihee, and one from Hotel Safura.

Opposition MPs urged to come back to Parliament

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz yesterday said that the solution of present political problem could be achieved only by dialogue, reports BSS.

He called upon the members of the Opposition to come back to Parliament saying that no solution would be achieved by resigning from Parliament.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a public meeting at the Sreepur Degree College ground on the occasion of laying foundation of the new administrative building of the college. The building will be constructed at a cost of Tk 25.50 lakh and will be completed by the June 1995.

According to the Deputy Commissioner Gazipur the meeting was addressed, among others, by senior vice chairman of BNP and member of the standing committee Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui as special guest, principal of the college Kazi Anwarul Islam, Mashuri Rahman Khan Titu, Sirajul Islam and Abdul

Akbar. The law minister called upon the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to continue the politics of development and production in the country.

The law minister earlier laid the foundation stone of three storied administration building of Sreepur Degree College and offered munajat.

Students urged to build themselves worthy citizens

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday called upon the students to build up themselves as worthy citizens of the country by devoting to studies, reports BSS.

He was addressing a rally of students at Masumina Khanam Secondary Girls' School premises in Bhola Saturday.

State Minister for Irrigation and Water Development Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan and Prof Feroza Begum also spoke on the occasion.

Describing the students as the future of the nation, the minister said present government had been making relentless efforts to establish the student community as an effective human resource.

Referring to the highest allocation in the budget in the education sector the minister said the government has given top priority on educating the total population.

Akbar said the programmes of free education up to class ten for the girl students and the compulsory primary education were being implemented for the development of the women community.

Foundation of Pubail-Joydevpur Road laid

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan yesterday said the government is giving more emphasis on development of modern communication system all over the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Pubail-Joydevpur Road at the Nilerpara High School premises in Gazipur. He also laid the foundation stones of three bridges on the road.

Presided over by Md Harunur Rashid the function was also addressed by the BNP president of the local municipality area, Halimuzzaman Nani Joydevpur thana BNP president Dr Shahabuddin and Pubail Union Parishad chairman Azizur Rahman Sharish.

The road will establish direct connection between Tongi and Gazipur and reduce distance by 18 kms between the two places.

The estimated cost for construction of the 8.4-km road and the bridges will be Taka 2.5 crore.

Earlier, the state minister laid the foundation stone of the Shaheed Rawshan Ali Road in Gazipur.

Call to observe 'Hatred Day' on Dec 29

By Staff Correspondent

Seventeen teachers of Dhaka University in a joint statement yesterday called upon the pro-liberation socio-cultural and political organisations to observe the 'National Hatred Day' on December 29.

The Ekatturer Thakat Dal Nirmul Committee has been observing December 29, the day Jamaat-e-Islam announced Golam Azam its Ameer three years ago, as the National Hatred Day against the war criminals since 1991.

The teachers also extended support to the programmes of the Nirmul Committee on the day.

The signatories to the statement include Dr Md Hossain Mansur, Prof Shahadat Ali, Dr Arefin Siddique, Dr Syed Humayun Akhter, Khandakar Mustahidur Rahman and Ajay Roy.

The Motijheel thana unit of the Nirmul Committee yesterday held a workers' meeting to prepare for the 'Hatred Day'.

Chhatra Shibir expresses solidarity with Chechen Muslim

Islamic Chhatra Shibir expressed solidarity with the Chechen Muslims fighting the Russian military aggression to protect their independence and sought international action to stop it, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday afternoon, ICS leaders called upon the Muslim countries to take united action to save the Chechens and their independence.

They made an appeal to all OIC countries for severing diplomatic relations with Russia and imposing economic blockade on it.

"It's an established fact that Chechnya is an independent republic and all countries and the UN must recognise it," said Rafiqul Islam Khan, president of the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

He castigated the UN Secretary General for his observation that the fighting, now spreading along the Caucasus range, between the Chechens and Russians is an internal affair of Russia.

Condemning the Russian military operation, killing the Chechen Muslims and destroying the breakaway republic, the Shibir leader said Moscow would have to pay dearly for it.

"Russia will have to vacate Chechnya in the long run as it had to quit Afghanistan in a humiliating way," he said.

Shibir's central vice-president Hamidur Rahman Azad and Sheikh Qamrul Alam and city unit president Enamul Haque also addressed the rally. The rally was followed by a procession which paraded the city streets.

Sangskritik Jote pleads to end political impasse

The Sammiliti Sangskritik Jote yesterday urged the Government and the Opposition to avert the path of confrontation and end the political impasse through negotiation, reports UNB.

"The scope for resolving the political crisis through negotiation has not yet exhausted," said the jote in a statement with a strong plea for an amicable solution of the eight-month-long political deadlock.

The combine of cultural activists said the differences on modalities of ensuring free and fair elections and institutionalising democracy had pushed the country into a grave crisis and deadlock.

STAR NETWORK TV

Monday 26th December
(All programmes in local time)

BBC

9:00am BBC World Service News

9:25am The Money Programme 10:00 BBC

World Service News 10:25 Food and Drink 11:00 BBC World Service News 11:25 The Money Programme 12:00 BBC World Service News 12:30 World Review

94 1:00 BBC World Service News

1:25 Top Gear 2:00 BBC World News Headlines 2:05 Assignment

3:00 BBC World Service News 3:25 The Money Programme 4:00 BBC

World News Headlines 4:05 BBC

World News 4:25 Italy Means Business 5:00 BBC World Service News

News Hour 6:00pm BBC World News Headlines 6:05 Travel 7:00 BBC World Service News 7:00 News 7:15 BBC World Service News 8:00 BBC World Service News 8:10 World Business Report 8:25 Food and Drink 10:00 BBC World News Headlines 10:05 Horizon 11:00 BBC

World Service News 11:25 The Money Programme 12:00 BBC World Service News 12:30 BBC World Service News 1:00 BBC World Service News 1:25 The Clothes Show 2:00 BBC World News Headlines 2:05 Assignment

3:00 BBC World Service News 3:25 Top Gear 4:00 BBC World Service News 4:25 World Business Report 5:00 BBC World Service News 5:25 World Business Report 6:00 BBC World Service News 6:25 World Review 7:00 BBC World Service News 7:25 World Business Report 8:00 BBC World Service News 8:25 World Review 9:45

PLUS

6:00am Mr Roger's Neighbourhood

6:30 Sharky & George 7:00 Kidstreet 7:30 Small 8:00 G! Joe 8:30 Ciao Italia 9:00 Aerobics Oz Style 9:30 The Sullivans 10:00 Donald 11:00 Videofashion

11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 3:00 Rivera 3:30 Ciao Italia 4:00 Aerobics Oz Style 4:30 The Sullivans 5:00 Small Wonder 5:30 Robotech 6:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 6:30 Batman 7:00 Videofashion News: 'Fall For The Italians' 11:30 Aerobics Oz Style 12:00 Neighbours

1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00 The (New) Twilight Zone 12:30 MASH 1:00 Remington Steele 2:00 Videofashion News: 'Fall For The Italian' 2:30 Neighbours 3:00 Mini Series: 'Cellini: The Flying Doctors' 5:00 Richmond Hill

PRIME sports

6:00am World Pro Figure Skating

Championship 1994 From USA

8:00 Primebodies 15:30 Gillette

World Sports Special 53 9:00

Trans World Sport 10:30 Best Of

Men's Tennis in 1994 12:00 BBC

Heck The Score in... '94 1:30 Best

Of The Japanese World Series

Baseball 4:00 Primebodies 16:45

Talking Baseball 5:00 Heck The Score in... '94 6:00 The Best of The

1994 Wimming Champ 6:00 Best Of

The Golf 8:00 Watersports, World

9:00 Highlights 'The Ashes'

Australia v England 2nd Day, 2nd

Test 10:30 Best Of The Japanese