

Metropolitan

What's on today . . .

Workshop: The Association for Computer Professionals, Bangladesh (ACP) will organise a workshop on 'Live Demonstration on Internet and Communication'. Time: 3 pm. Venue: ICMA auditorium, Nilkhet.

Exhibition: A 12-day long special exhibition of selected paintings of Shahabuddin marking Amar Ekushey will begin. Venue: Shilpakala Academy Art Gallery. Time: 4 pm.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the exhibition organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Jatiya Kabita Parishad: Discussion, recitation of poems will be organised by the parishad. Venue: Road-island near TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 6 pm.

Bulbul Lalitkala Academy: The academy will hold a programme on patriotic songs and dances on the occasion of Amar Ekushey. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club at Bailey Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Greater Khulna Samity: A meeting of the executive committee of the samity will be held. Venue: Office of the samity at Mirpur Section-2. Time: 4:30 pm.

Discussion on Ekushey: The Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) will hold a discussion. Venue: Auditorium of the BCSIR. Time: 11 am. Guest speaker: Sontosh Gupta, Assistant Editor of the Dainik Sangbad.



Prof M Shamsul Haque (first from left), treasurer, Dhaka University, and Donald M. Bishop, director, United States Information Service (USIS), signing an agreement under which USIS donated a 1,300 volume collection of American Studies books to the university library. Ms. Nancy J. Powell, Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury (3rd from left), Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University and Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed, pro-vice chancellor, Dhaka University also seen in the picture. — USIS photo



Artists of the Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote performing at a function on Amar Ekushey at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

In and around the book fair

By Staff Correspondent

Youngmen and women were still giving final touches to many of their stalls while most others were bustling with music or poetry recitations at the Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela (book fair), 1997. Although the crowd was thin on the opening day of the month-long event, the ambience of the mela spread everywhere — beginning from the TSC crossing up to Doel Chatter.

On the pavement near TSC, some old-book shops were set up where one could get anything from Anisur Rahman Swapan's Rabindra Pratice in Persian to How to Grow Chandra Mallika by an unknown author. Chat-pati stalls on wheels, fresh lobster-head fries and tea stalls did brisk business nearby. The most interesting part of the authorised stalls was probably their innovative names although some claimed that many were in breach of the code of conduct set by the Bangla Academy. The eleven-point code of conduct had clearly asked all to maintain decency

in keeping names or their stalls and to refrain from playing, foreign music.

One eating place called itself "Ean Tun Khai Jaan" which instantly sounds Chinese but in local Noakhali dialect the meaning roughly stands, "eat something here." "Khabo Khabo Dunia Khabo" (eat, eat the world) says another. Just adjacent to that another eating house calls itself "Fu Dia Khai" roughly meaning "eat the hot stuff after blowing through it," a Bibi Russel look alike was having her Shish Kebab inside the shop.

Stalls selling as bizarre merchandise as English Lice Killing Soap, large posters depicting popular Hindi film stars, Hindi film cassettes and so on were in abundance. One stall, "False Lover" was lying empty and dark. Only a handful number of book shops could be found on the main road, Ripon, a Dhaka University, Masters final student of the Management Department ventured into the book business with a small

stall called "Nil Akash" (Blue Sky). "We have paid Tk 2,000 as rent for a month for the stall and deposited Tk 1,000 as caution money. This is my first business," said Ripon. He said that among the new books released on the occasion of the Amar Ekushey, he was selling Humayun Ahmed's Tandrabilash and Man Chuey Jai of Em-dadul Haq Milan.

Inside the premises of the Bangla Academy, buyers mingled amid sober looking book-shops. Famous publishing houses set up their stalls displaying the top hard and paper backs. Although dusty, the Academy area is a worthwhile development. Amnesty International Bangladesh had their stalls set up there besides famous names of Puthigar and the Bangla Academy. The famous pond of Bangla Academy which looked like a rubbish dump, was surrounded by ropes obscuring the visitors vision from it.

Disabled freedom fighters team meets President

A 17-member delegation of the disabled freedom fighters and shaheed freedom fighters families called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The members of the delegation, led by the commander of disabled freedom fighters' unit, Mohammad Mattur Rahman BP, apprised the President of their various problems, including family maintenance, medical treatment and housing.

The delegation stated that about 4,000 shaheed families are yet to be rehabilitated even after 25 years of independence of Bangladesh.

They also requested the President to take positive steps to increase their monthly allowance, which is being provided by the government to 10,956 disabled freedom fighters.

The delegation opined that the activities of Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust should be streamlined and the trust should be made accountable.

Four-tier local govt infrastructure under consideration

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said the government is actively considering to build up a four-tier local government infrastructure, reports UNB.

Talking to a high-level Danish delegation at his ministry yesterday, the minister said local government election will be held as soon as possible after the passage of a bill prepared on the basis of a report of the Local Government Commission.

This measure is aimed at establishing real representatives in local government administration through direct vote, intensify economic activities of the rural people, ensure development and strengthen democratic process.

Praising the government initiative in establishing a local government structure, the delegation assured the minister of all possible Danish cooperation in developing rural infrastructure in Bangladesh.

'Zoha Day' observed at RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 19: 'Zoha Day', the 28th death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Shamsuz-zuha was observed at Rajshahi University today.

Black flags were hoisted atop buildings, wreaths were placed at Zoha's mazar and at Zoha Memorial Plaque by Vice Chancellor Prof M Abdul Kheleque, Rajshahi University Teachers Associations, Officers Association, and various other political and cultural organisations in the morning.

A discussion meeting on 'life and works of Dr Zoha' was held at Juberi Guest House under the aegis of RU Teachers Association with its president Prof M Shahidul Islam in the Chair. The speakers recalled Dr Zoha's glorious role as a teacher and proctor of the university and urged all concerned to follow his ideals.

Prof Aminul Islam Beg, Prof Abbas Ali, Prof S M Abu Bakar, Fayekuzzaman, among others, took part in the discussion.

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Addresses of Branch Office

House No 91, Block E, Road No 13/C, Banani, Dhaka.

It is hereby requested that all concerned may communicate to the above address for any information required, any complaint of financial claim against the recruiting agency may contact with the officers & staffs of above branch office & the following head office and the subject matter of the complaint may be submitted to the Director General, Bureau of Manpower Employment & Training Centre, Dhaka.

Name of the Agency: Paradise International.

Name of the Proprietor:

Mohd. Shahbuddin

Licence No 268

Address: 6, DIT Avenue (Sabbir Court)

Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.

S-121

Measures to control traffic, public movement on Ekushey

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken up measures to control all types of vehicular and public movement to facilitate the observance of 'Amar Ekushey' in a proper and disciplined manner from 6 pm on February 20 to 2 pm on February 21, reports BSS.

The measures have been taken in consultation with the Dhaka University authorities.

Under the arrangements, the residents of the Nazimuddin road, Babupura road and College road areas will go to the Azimpur graveyard through Dewan Bazar road, Mymensingh road, TSC crossing, Nilkhet road, New Market crossing, Pilkhana road and New Market Gate No 1.

The residents of Abdul Gani road, Tophkhana road and Park Avenue will go to the Azimpur graveyard through Doel crossing, Mymensingh road, TSC crossing, Nilkhet-New Market crossing, Pilkhana road and the Gate No 1.

The residents of Lalbagh, Azimpur, Plassey, and Chawk Bazar areas will go to the graveyard through Azimpur road, New Market crossing, Pilkhana

road and by the side of New Market, Gate No 1. Residents of Bakshibazar road, Chawk Bazar, Urdu road and Dhakeshwari areas will go to the graveyard through Azimpur road, New Market crossing, Pilkhana road and New Market Gate No 1.

The residents of Engineering University and Dhaka Medical College areas will go to the graveyard through Doel crossing, Mymensingh road, Nilkhet-New Market crossing, Pilkhana road and alongside the New Market Gate No 1.

The people who will go to the Central Shaheed Minar from Azimpur graveyard will use the main gate on the southern side

100 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 100 people on various charges from different parts of the city in last 24 hours till 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

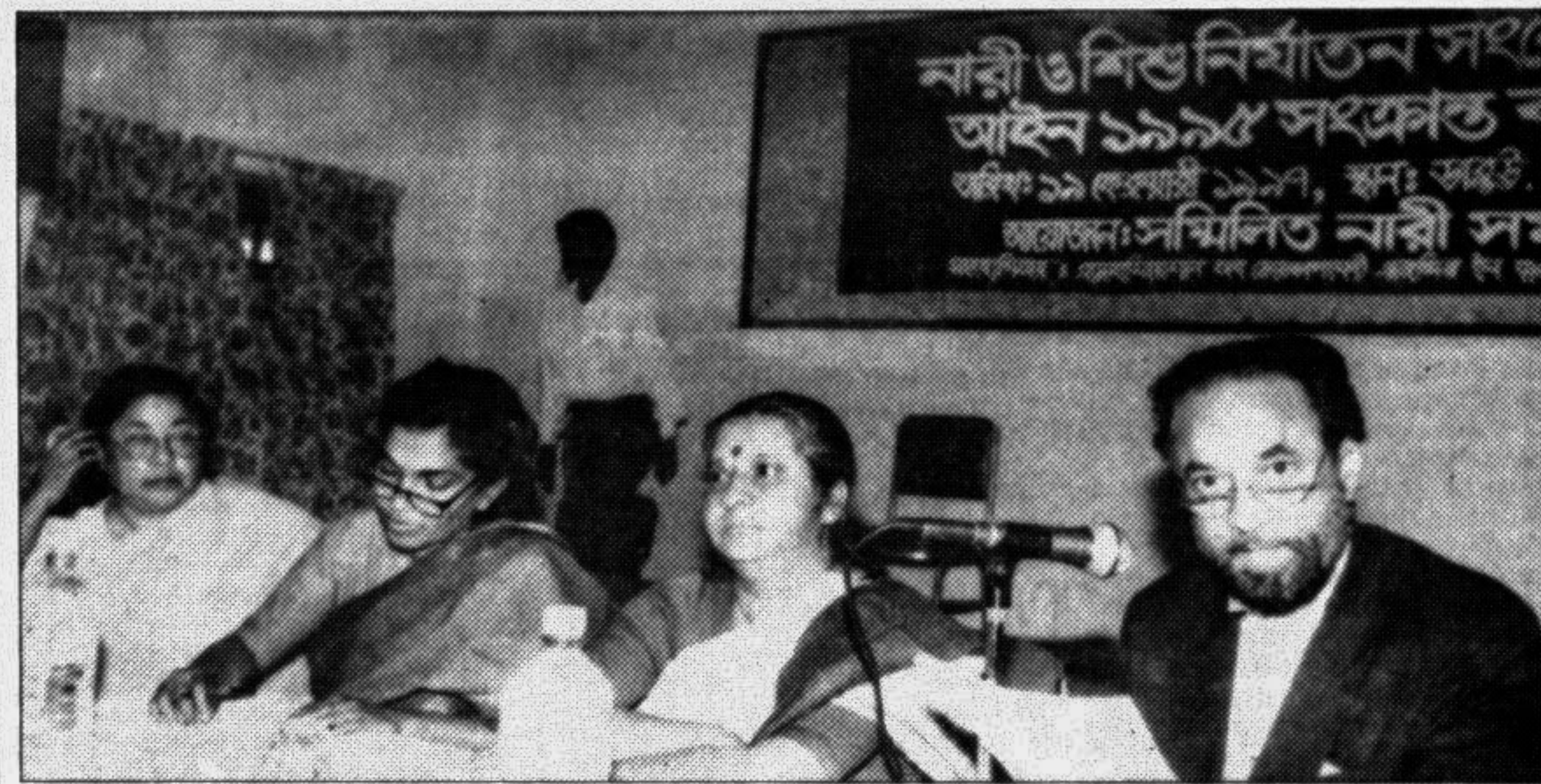
Of them, 18 were wanted criminals and 34 others were held on charges of murder, dacoity, snatching, extortion and terrorist acts.

and pass through Azimpur road, army recruiting centre, Plassey crossing and Fular road, Of Bakshibazar, Chawk Bazar, Urdu road, Dhakeshwari road, Batipura and Nazimuddin road.

The people who will go to the Shaheed Minar directly not going to the Azimpur graveyard will use the Puratan Railway Hospital road, Plassey crossing, the road in front of S M Hall and Fular road.

The residents of Abdul Gani road, Tophkhana road and Park Avenue areas who will go to the Central Shaheed Minar directly will use the Puratan High Court road, Doel crossing, Mymensingh road, TSC crossing and Fular road. The students and residents of Rokeya Hall, Shamsunnahar Hall and Dhaka University Arts Building who will go to the Shaheed Minar directly will use the Fular road.

All sorts of traffic movement on the above mentioned roads and roads in front of the Central Shaheed Minar would remain suspended from 6 pm on February 20 to 2 pm on February 21.



Barrister Amirul Islam speaking at a workshop on Women and Child Repression Amendment Law 1995 organised by the Sammilita Nari Samaj at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on page 1) — Star photo



The Mahanagar Khudra Babyoshayee Samity brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting eviction of hawkers from footpaths. — Star photo

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We regret the incorrect ad. appeared in the Daily Star on February 19, 1997 on the above space. However, what appears today at the same space is the correct one.