

President opens Mymensingh Cultural Festival

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for spreading indigenous culture and ensuring a healthy cultural atmosphere in the country with a view to projecting the glorious and traditional cultural heritage to the new generation, reports BSS.

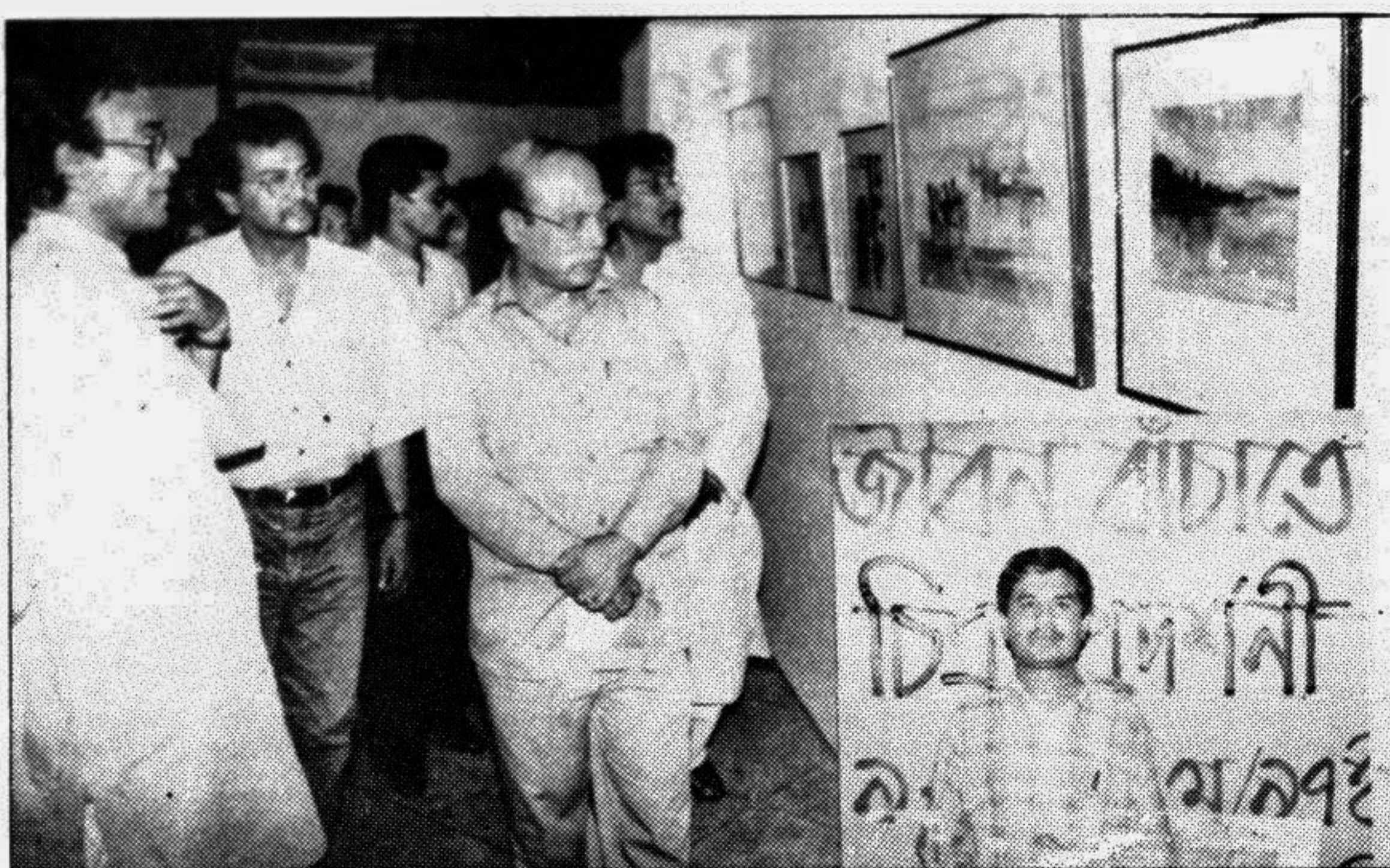
He was inaugurating a week-long Greater Mymensingh Cultural Festival 1404 in the city yesterday. Executive president of Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum Mahmud Sajjad presided over the inaugural session. It was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah and Executive Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan.

tion revolution, no one can isolate one's mind and outlook from the outside world.

The President said the purpose of cultural agreements among nations was to enrich the cultural stage through mutual exchange of ideas.

"It is our duty to evaluate how far the life-styles of other countries are acceptable to us in view of our own social tolerance and values," he said, adding that coordinated efforts should be initiated to project our national culture to the new generation.

Justice Shahabuddin said culture is a visible concept and its manifestation is distinctly clear in our individual and social life. "Influence of culture can't be erased from the tradition and mental make-up willfully," he said adding, "Entity of a nation's ideas and thoughts is expressed through its cultural activities."



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury (2nd R) inaugurated a week-long painting show at the Indian Cultural Centre in the city on Friday. The show has been organised to collect fund for the treatment cost of a young writer, Sheikh Kabirul Islam (inset) who is suffering from cancer.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, and Comilla during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Rajshahi division during the period.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 38.2 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 20.9 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 6:33 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures 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	26.3	78	77
Chittagong	33.1	25.8	73	76
Rajshahi	38.2	26.2	73	33
Khulna	39.2	26.6	78	82
Barisal	33.0	25.6	81	89



S S Nizamuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, Ansar-VDP Unnayan Bank, presenting a crest of the bank to Home Minister Rafiqul Islam at the opening of the 18th branch of Ansar-VDP Unnayan Bank at Gazipur May 8. Brig Md Enayet Hossain, Director General of Ansar and VDP was also present.

Painting show opens

A week-long painting exhibition began at the Indian Cultural Centre in the city Friday with a view to collecting fund for the treatment cost of Sheikh Kabirul Islam, a noted young writer and editor who has been suffering from cancer for long, says a press release.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the show, while the opening was addressed, among others, by noted dramatist Prof Momtazuddin Ahmed, artist Syed Jahangir and convener of the painting show organising committee Sheikh Afzal, Lecturer, Dhaka University Fine Arts Institute, Saimum Reza, a student of the Fine Arts Institute, conducted the function.

Seventy-five artists, including many renowned artists of the country, are participating in the exhibition. The paintings will be sold at about one-third of the usual price in the exhibition, which will remain open for visitors and buyers from 10 am to 8 pm till May 15, the release added.

Meeting adjourned

A meeting of the central co-ordination committee of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and three federations of newspaper industry was held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, reports BSS.

Convener of the co-ordination committee Fazle Imam presided over the meeting, a press release said.

The meeting was adjourned till 4 pm today.

Workshop for women journalists begins today

A five-day workshop on 'newspaper management for women journalists' begins in the city from today, said a press release, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) and Bangladesh Press Institute (PIB), the workshop will be participated by 16 women journalists and newspaper managers from India, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh.

Reputed senior journalists from IIT of India and Bangladesh will conduct the workshop.

Information Secretary Quazi Rakibuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the function at 9 am today at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

4 dacoits held in Demra Thana area

Detective police arrested four dacoits including the ring leader from Muradpur area under Demra Thana early yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Police recovered one 9mm revolver from their possession. The arrested dacoits are: Ring leader Malek alias Manik, Salam alias Sohel, Rafiqul alias Rahman and Mohammad Siraj.

Police said the arrested persons are the members of an organised gang of inter-district dacoits involved in robbery in and outside the capital for long. A case was registered with the Demra Thana in this connection.

Maid allegedly commits suicide

By DMC Correspondent

A teenage maid allegedly committed suicide at Zigatola in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police said, Roushan Ara, 15, poured kerosene on her body and set herself on fire at about 3 pm. She was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where she died at about 6 pm.

Roushan Ara who hailed from Brahmanbaria was working in the house of one Harunur-Rashid.

The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be known immediately. However, police suspected that the maid committed suicide as the family members reportedly threatened to send her back home after finding out about her affair with a young man working in another flat of the building.

The body was sent to the DMCH for autopsy, police said.

Hosne Ara Shahed awarded

Noted litterateur Hosne Ara Shahed has been awarded the Qamar Mush-tari Smriti Puraskar '96 (Qamar Mush-tari Memorial Award), says a press release.

Syed Ali Ahsan Foundation presented the award at a function held at the seminar room of the Darul Ihsan University on Friday. Poet Jahanara Arzoo presided.

SC Bar Assoc for increase in number of judges

The Supreme Court Bar Association sought increase in the number of judges in both lower and higher levels of the judiciary for speedy disposal of cases, reports UNB.

The plea was made by a delegation led by its president Barrister Nazmul Huda in a meeting with Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru at his office yesterday.

During the discussion, they highlighted the problem of

tremendous backlog of cases pending before various courts of the country.

The lawyers requested the minister to build an overbridge between the old High Court and new High Court buildings for smooth movement.

The minister assured them of due consideration in this regard. Regarding updating the penal code and service code he said steps were being taken to update the penal code within next two years.

The delegation appreciated different government initiatives regarding comprehensive reforms in the legal sector, with particular reference to the establishment of judicial administration training institute (JATI), Law Commission, proposed Human Rights Commission, Gramteen Court and Metropolitan Court of Sessions, said a handout.

Acid thrown on housewife

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife suffered burns to her face and other parts of the body as her husband allegedly threw acid on her during a domestic quarrel at Lalbagh in the old part of the city early yesterday morning.

Dulari Begum, 20, second wife of Abdul Alim of Amligola under Lalbagh thana, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) soon after the incident at about 7 am, hospital sources said.

According to the police, Alim, a rickshaw-puller, abetted by his first wife Sufia Begum, threw acid on Dulari following a family feud. Lalbagh police arrested 30-year-old Alim and 25-year-old Sufia from Shahidnagar in the afternoon.

Police said Sufia bought the acid in a bottle in the morning and gave it to Alim. As Dulari was leaving for work at a nearby bangle manufacturing factory, Alim suddenly started an altercation with her and then threw acid on her.

Dulari's sister Nasrin Akhter filed a case with Lalbagh thana, under Women and Children Repression Act of 1995, in connection with the incident, police added.

Call to adopt code to combat women trafficking in SAARC states

An anti-trafficking organisation has called for adopting a special code to combat women and children trafficking in SAARC countries, reports UNB.

The call was made at a press conference on Friday at the office of the Association for Community Development (ACD), a Rajshahi-based NGO working on trafficking issues, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

ACD director Salima Sarwar, stating her organisation's stand at the conference, called for considering the matter in the forthcoming SAARC ministerial conference, scheduled to be held in Male May 12-14.



Participants at a poster competition organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in observance of the World Population Day at the premises of the Institute of Fine Arts, DU on Friday.

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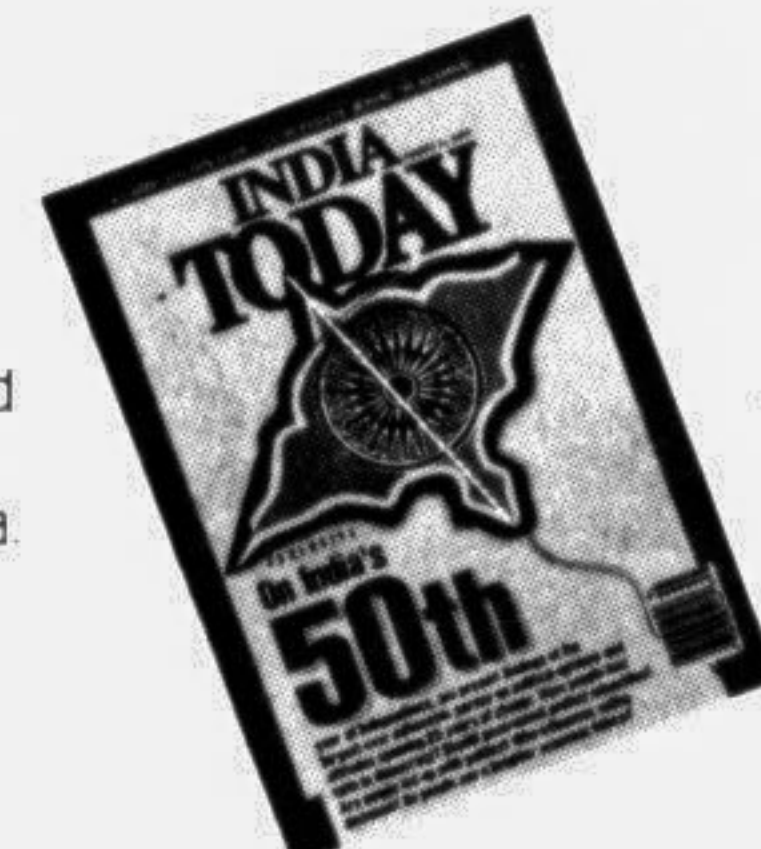


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