

Khalid's 'festival of creativeness' inaugurated

A solo exhibition of paintings by sculptor Sved Abdullah Khalid, of 'Aparajeyo Bangla' fame, began at Gallery 21, Dhanmondi, in the city yesterday, reports BSS.



Poet Sufia Kamal inaugurated a solo painting exhibition by Sved Abdullah Khalid at Gallery 21 in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Khalid, better known as a sculptor, is also an exception, artist, who demonstrates a 'festival of creativeness' through his works. Most of the paintings on display at the show are on 'flowers' and their production style proves the craftsmanship of the artist as well as fulfills the inner meaning of the title he chose for the exhibition.

In her speech Poet Sufia Kamal paid rich tributes to Khalid for his creative pursuit. She said, 'After the death of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when the nation was about to forget the glory of our Liberation War, it was Abdullah Khalid who rekindled the ideals and spirit of liberation through 'Aparajeyo Bangla', which will remain as an integral part of our national history and heritage.'

Flying eye hospital Orbis arrives in city

The flying eye hospital 'Orbis' arrived in the city yesterday for a three-week stay in Bangladesh, reports BSS. This is the fifth visit of Orbis to Bangladesh at the invitation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh (OSB). Earlier, it visited Dhaka in 1985, 1989, 1991 and 1996.

Final selection of patients for operation at Orbis will be completed today and operation will begin on February 16, OSB sources said.

Housed in a superior DC-10 aircraft with all modern operation facilities, this is mainly a teaching and training hospital, the local hosts said. Around 400 eye surgeons and students, anaesthetists, biomedical technicians and nursing staff will take part in the operations in the aircraft and different local hospitals under the programme this year.

The local hospitals are National Institute of Ophthalmology, OSB Eye Hospital at Mirpur, Islamia Eye Hospital at Farmgate, Eye Departments at Bangabandhu Medical University, Dhaka Medical College and Diabetic Hospital.



Dr Mohamed Latheef, Education Minister and Ibrahim Hussain Zaki MP, Tourism Minister of Maldives, visited East West University on Feb 10. Dr Farashuddin, VC of the university is seen with the ministers.

Exhibition on traditions of respect opens

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs and David Walker, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh inaugurated a British Council exhibition, Traditions of Respect yesterday at the British Council Library, says a press release.

Quader said that the people of the East, share the pride of inheritance of many of the glories and glories in the fields of arts and architecture which influenced the western thoughts and perception.

This exhibition traces the history of relations between Britain and the Islamic world and offers an appreciation of the many ways in which different aspects of Islamic culture have enhanced Western, and especially British cultural life. This exhibition is sponsored by the British Airways and is open to all from 10 am to 6 pm daily from tomorrow to March 3 except on Fridays.

Maldivian ministers visit East West University

Dr Mohamed Latheef, Education Minister and Ibrahim Hussain Zaki MP, Tourism Minister of the Republic of Maldives visited East West University on Feb 10. It was an exploratory visit for identifying possible higher seat of learning for the Maldivian students, says a press release.

The two ministers held a meeting with Dr Farashuddin, Vice-Chancellor of the university. He explained the various academic aspects including curricula, teaching, library and laboratory arrangements. The visitors were greatly impressed by the academic standards and the physical facilities.



The publication ceremony of a book of Syed Jahangir's paintings was held at the seminar room of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'Shahid Minar' to be built at Bangla Town in London

Authorities of Tower Hamlets, East London, UK have agreed to allow the Bangladeshi community leaders there to build a 'Shahid Minar' at London Bangla Town, said a press release yesterday.

Community leaders and the local councillor came to an agreement to set up a new trust fund for the proposed Shahid Minar and form a new committee for the purpose. They also agreed to establish Surma Town adjacent to Bangla Town in the Tower Hamlets area, the release added.

The decisions were taken at a meeting held at the Bangladesh Welfare Association House at Bangla Town on January 18, which was attended by Denise Jones, Labour Councillor and chairman of Arts, Leisure and Sports Committee, and Bangladeshi community leaders, including Jill Hoque, chairman of Brick Lane Mosque, Ataur Rahman, president of Awami League London, Shofiqur Rahman Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Welfare Association and representatives of 40 different Bangladeshi cultural and political organisations.

DU exams postponed

Dhaka University authorities yesterday postponed 3rd year BSc honours examinations (course number 306, 307 and 308) of Geology Department due to unavoidable circumstances, university press release said, reports BSS. Fresh schedule of the postponed examinations will be announced later.

Housewife commits suicide

A middle-aged housewife allegedly committed suicide in her house at Rayerbazar under Dhanmondi thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said Maya Rani, 35, wife of Paresh Chandra, committed suicide by hanging herself from a beam supporting a tin-shed of the house.

The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be known immediately. Police suspected a family feud forced the housewife to commit suicide.

Meanwhile, police sent Maya's body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana in connection with the incident.

BSTI finds faulty filling stations in Khulna

KHULNA, Feb 12: Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) has detected a number of filling stations in the city which are selling fuel oil in reduced quantity and asked the owners to correct their dispensing units, reports UNB.

A team of the institute's Khulna unit, receiving allegations against the filling stations, paid a surprise visit to seven stations from Baikali to Badamtala of the city and found seven dispensing units of four stations faulty.

BSTI sources said the units are delivering 175 ml to highest 600ml in each 20 litres of fuel. According to Weight and Measurement Ordinance and regulations 1982, in each 20 litres of fuel, the highest level of tolerance is 60ml.

The team asked the owners to correct the dispensing units immediately and re-check the new machines by the concerned men of BSTI.

Envoy calls on PM Canada likely to aid in CHT's development

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Nicholas Etheridge called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

The high commissioner congratulated Sheikh Hasina for successful signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord. This accord will help establish peace not only in Bangladesh but in the region as a whole, he said.

The Prime Minister listed various steps being taken to rehabilitate the erstwhile members of the Shantibahini. She said that massive development plans immediate, short, medium and long-term are being taken up for the overall development of the hill region.

The high commissioner assured the Prime Minister that his country would do whatever possible for the development of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

He said that the Canadian Minister for International Co-operation would visit Bangladesh in the first week of April this year.

Ban on trade union activities in BB protested

Employees of different organisations brought out a procession in Motijheel Commercial Area yesterday protesting the ban on trade union activities in Bangladesh Bank (BB).

Employees of the Water Development Board (WDB) and Power Development Board (PDB) jointly came out in a procession at around 11.30 am. They were joined by employees of Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, DESA, BADC, BIWTC, BPDCL, Titas Gas, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka City Corporation as well as hotel employees and hawkers, says a press release.

The procession terminated at the main entrance of the BB after marching through various roads in Dilkusha and Motijheel commercial areas.

Speakers at a rally preceding the procession urged the government to lift the ban on trade union activities in BB.

The rally was addressed by Abul Kashem Chowdhury, General Secretary of WDB National Employees Union and Zafurul Hasan, General Secretary of National Electricity Employees Union, the press release said.

Training programme on indigenous technologies opens

A 10-day training programme, aimed at generating self-employment using indigenous technologies, was inaugurated at the Teachers' Lounge of Dhaka University Curzon Hall yesterday, reports UNB.

Adviser to the former Caretaker Government Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique inaugurated the programme. Main objective of the programme is to train students and unemployed youths to set up mini production units using indigenous technologies and raw materials for manufacturing essential consumer articles, and their marketing.

Some 100 students and unemployed youths are taking part in the programme.



Salahuddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, presiding over the first meeting of the National Population Formulation Committee at the conference room of the ministry yesterday. — PID photo

Weather Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions during the 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

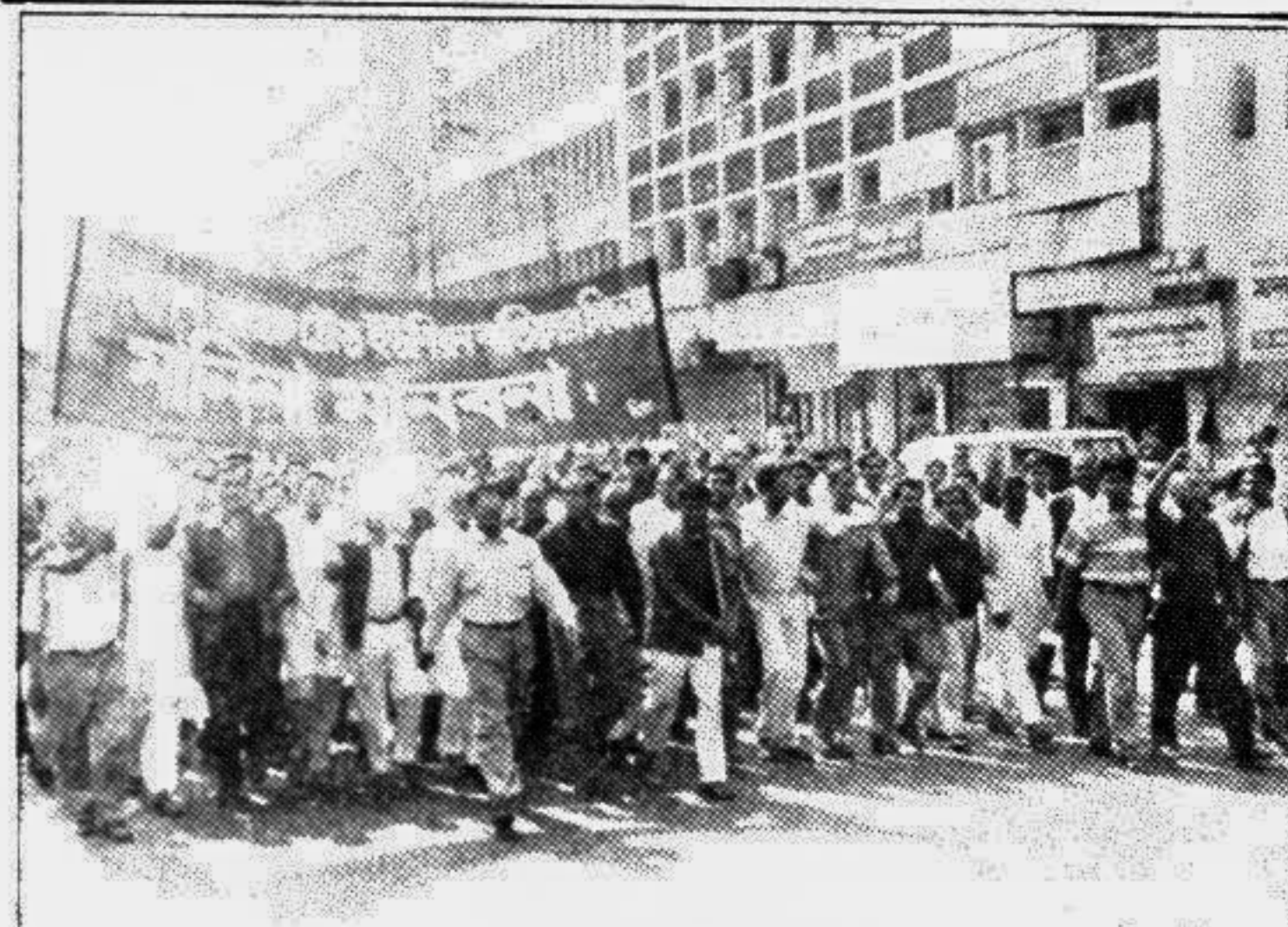
Weather may remain mainly dry over Rajshahi division during the period, Met Office said. Slight rise in night temperature is expected over the country.

Country's highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and the lowest 9.6 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 5.52 pm and rises on Saturday at 6.32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Mor, Eve). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Different labour organisations brought out a procession, protesting the ban on trade union activities at Bangladesh Bank, in city's Motijheel area yesterday.

Commemorative stamp

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp valued at Tk 2 denomination on February 15 marking the golden jubilee of East Bengal Regiment of Bangladesh army, reports UNB.

A first day cover valued at Tk 6 will also be issued and a special cancellor will be used on the occasion.

The stamp and first day cover will be sold from all head post offices including four GPOs in the country, said an official handout.

Biswa Ijtima Special train for Akheri Munajat

Bangladesh Railway will operate five special trains on February 16 to facilitate the devotees to attend the 'Akheri Munajat' of Biswa Ijtima, the second largest congregation of the world Muslims, at Tongi, reports BSS.

The trains named 'Munajat special' will leave Dhaka for Tongi on the day at 9, 9.20, 10, 10.20 and 10.50 am respectively.

Draft National Population Policy to be formulated within 3 months

The draft national population policy will be formulated within the next three months, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at the first meeting of National Population Drafting Committee held in the city yesterday. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf was in the chair.

The meeting also decided to form three sub-committees on population policy formulation, identifying methods of formulation of the policy and organising and managing the process.

The sub-committees will submit their respective reports within one month. The meeting decided that maximum care would be taken while formulating the policy so that it does not conflict with any other national policy.

Urgency of Ganges barrage stressed

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday stressed the urgency of constructing the proposed Ganges barrage for optimum use of water following the Indo-Bangladesh Ganges Water Treaty, reports UNB.

The standing committee of the Water Resources Ministry in a meeting held at Sangsad Bhaban with Abdul Momen in the chair, also suggested construction of flood protection embankment in haor areas to protect boro crops.

The meeting reviewed the water development projects in the country's south-western region.

It also discussed problems relating to use of underground water in six greater districts.

Nat'l convention of Krishak Sangram Parishad today

By Staff Correspondent Krishak O Khetmajur Sangram Parishad, a political organisation of the farmers and farm labourers, will organise its national convention in the city today, says a press release.

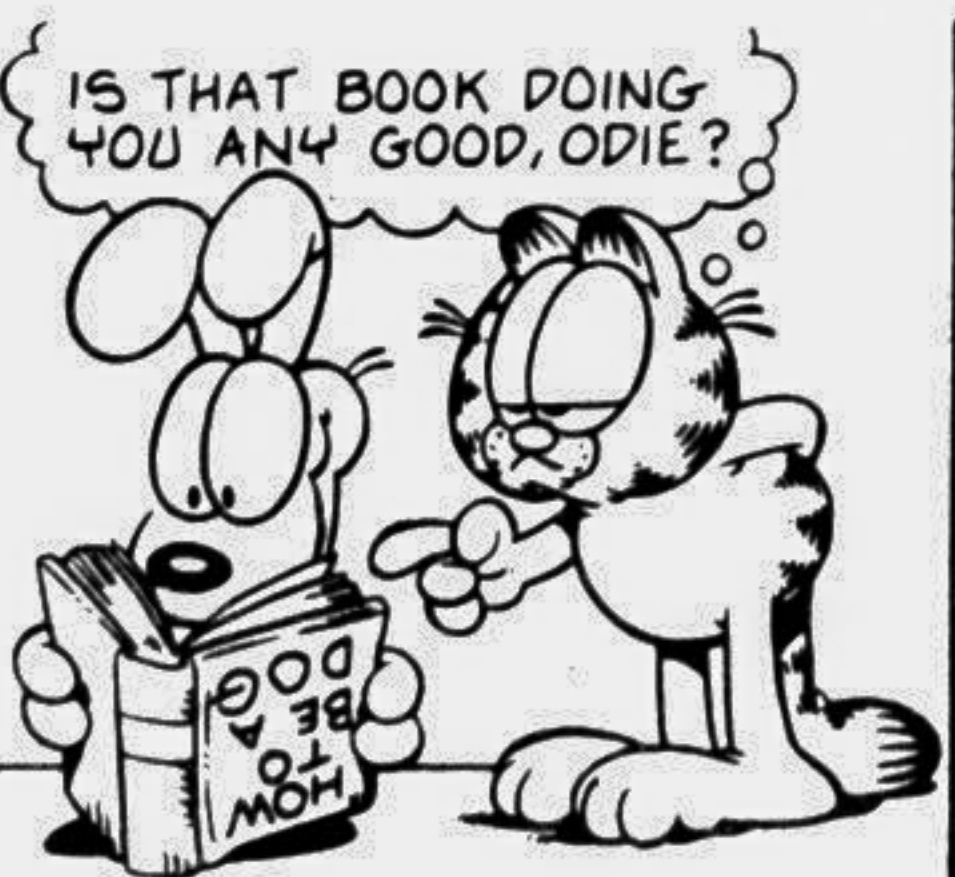
The convention will be held at the Dhaka Zilla Krira Samity auditorium. The activist of the party will discuss the country's rural economy, specially problems and prospect of agriculture. It will also design a strategy for the party's next programmes.

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE Verbatim Text of Cross Examinations of 50th Prosecution Witness

Continued from yesterday Following are the excerpts from cross-examination of PW-50 Police Superintendent (ret'd) Nurul Islam by Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for Lt Col (ret'd) Sayed Farooqur Rahman in the Bangabandhu murder case. Q: You told the IO that you had x-ray on your leg. A: Yes, I told him and x-ray was done. Q: As a police officer you told of having x-ray on right leg. A: I did not tell him that. Q: How many cattle Abdul Aziz used to herd at the house of occurrence? A: I don't have any idea about that. Q: Did you have your personal diary during the time of occurrence? A: Yes. Q: Did you take leave when you went for treatment from thana? A: No, I did not feel the necessity of taking leave. Q: Then you did not take leave. A: I submitted the leave of application after three months of my treatment. Q: Did your concerned authorities at that time inquire about you? A: No. Q: How many police were in Bangabandhu's house under you as police guards? A: At the time of occurrence 12 personnel, including me, were on duty in that house. Q: How many sentry posts were there? A: Seven. Q: There were seven police men in seven posts. A: No, four police men were in four posts while three army guards were in another three. Q: Where were the other police guards? A: Inspector used to supervise them and sub-inspector and havilder used to check their duties. Q: Where were those three during the time of occurrence? A: They were not in my room, but were on duty at that house. Q: What the other sepoys were doing? A: They were also on duty in that house. Q: Three army men were in three sentry posts, where were the other army guards? A: Other army guards were in the shed, located on the south-east side, outside the residence. Q: Did you go to that shed? A: No, I never visited that shed. Q: Did you take training at Sardah? A: Yes. Q: Do you understand crawling and hip position? A: I know about crawling, but don't understand the hip position. Q: After going to thana, did you describe the cause of your injury to the duty officer? A: Yes. Q: You told the IO that Sheikh Kamal coming down from the upstairs shouted 'army and police brothers come along with me'. A: I didn't tell him any such words. Q: Did four of you officers had any arms? A: There were no arms with me and the inspector, but sub-inspector had a sten-gun. Q: Was there any arms in the reception room? A: No, I didn't see. Q: Did you give the order to your force loudly? A: I gave order loudly, so that all force could hear that. Q: Did you see outsider army personnel at that time? A: No, but I heard sound of firing from outside. Q: You were in the front side of the house during the entire time of the incident. A: I was in the drawing room and in the front verandah. Q: During the time of the incident the plaintiff of this case was with you. A: Plaintiff Muihtul Islam was with me till about 6:15 am from the beginning of the incident. Q: As per your statement the first group of army consisting five to six members came to that house first and the next group comprising 20 to 25 came after that. A: Yes. Q: After how many minutes the second arrived after the arrival of the first group. A: Within couple of minutes. Q: No other military personnel came after that. A: As long as I was there, no other came there. Q: Police force were taken out from that house after the incident. A: Yes. Q: When army came, the army and police guards of that house got together. A: No, after being disarmed the police guards were lined up with the civilians, but nothing was done with the army guards. Q: Besides the house guards, there were different types of arms with the inhabitants of that house? A: I didn't see. Q: Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal coming down with arms and armed the SB men and called upon the police and army guards so that enemies could be resisted. A: This is not true. Q: Many arms and ammunition used during the time of occurrence were found later in that house. A: I don't have any idea. Q: When you gave the order of firing, two groups of army were moving ahead towards the house from two sides. A: Yes, two groups of army, were crawling towards the house. Q: You did not seek justice, as you were not injured and fled away from that house. A: It is not true that I did not seek justice and I did not flee away and became injured in the house of occurrence. Q: You have given false statement as tutored by the prosecution. A: It is not true. Following are the excerpts of cross-examination of PW-50 Police Superintendent (ret'd) Nurul Islam by T M Akbar, defence counsel for Lt Col (ret'd) Muihtuddin: Q: There was a police security office in that house on the day of occurrence. A: I had an office on the ground floor of that house. Q: Was there any telephone in that office? A: No, in case of necessity I used to use the telephone at the reception room. Q: Did you contact your SP during the time of the incident? A: No. Q: You went to the thana at 9 am. Did you phone the thana before that? A: No, because the telephone was out of order. Q: Was the telephone out of order, when Bangabandhu came downstairs? A: No, at that time it was not out of order. Q: There was chief security officer of Bangabandhu named Muihtuddin. A: Yes. Q: There were number of security officers under him. A: Yes. Q: Did you need to coordinate with them while performing duties? A: No. Q: Did you try to know where Muihtuddin and other security officers were on the night of occurrence? A: No. —UNB Further texts of cross examination will be published as and when received.

Garfield®

by Jim Davis



Tom and Jerry

