

What's on today....

Literary evening : The Commonwealth Writers prize, Eurasia Region in collaboration with the British Council has organised a literary evening with writers. Venue : British Council auditorium. Time : 3 pm.

Musical Concert : Expatria. Dhaka's vocal octet, will perform at the concert. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time : 7:30 pm.

Cultural programme: A cultural programme and a reception will be held in observance of International Students' Day. The High Commission of India has arranged the programme to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Bangladeshi artists who have studied in India will perform at the programme. Venue : Indian Cultural Centre auditorium, 754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time : 6 pm.

Poetry recital: Swanan has arranged a poetry recital session. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University campus. Time : 6:30 pm.

Workshop: A 7-day workshop on 'stage direction' will begin. Organiser: Centre for Asian Theatre. Haukur J Gunnarsson, Artistic Director, Haalogaland Theatre, Norway, will conduct the workshop. Venue : Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi.

Workshop : A workshop on 'Implementation of Child Rights Convention of the United Nations and its Article No. 23' will be held. Organiser: National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD). Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium, Shere Bangla Nagar. Time : 9:30 am.

Discussion : A discussion meeting on Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni will be held to mark his 59th birth anniversary. Organiser: Bangladesh Awami Jubo League. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time : 3 pm.

Workshop : Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) has organised a workshop on 'National water management plan'. Venue : LGED Conference Room, Agargaon. Time : 2:30 pm.

Seminar : A day-long national seminar on 'Flood 1998 and Management of Floods in Future' will be held. Organisers: Core Study Group, Committee on Study on Floods & Water Management and National Committee for Relief & Rehabilitation. Venue : TSC, Dhaka University campus. Time : 9:30 am.

Discussion meet: Ataur Rahman Khan Jatiya Smriti Sangsad has organised a discussion meeting in observance of the seventh death anniversary of the national leader. Venue : National Press Club auditorium. Time : 3:30 pm.

BELA discussion : Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) has organised a discussion meeting to mark the first death anniversary of its founder Dr Mohiuddin Farooque. Venue : BIAM auditorium, 63 New Eskaton. Time : 4 pm.

Memorial lecture : The Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh will hold Asir Memorial Lecture. Venue : Sonargaon Hotel Ballroom. Time : 9 am. The lecture will be followed by the inaugural ceremony of the 6th International Surgical Congress and SSC meeting.

VHSS workshop: A 2-day workshop on 'AIDS and Media', organised by the Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), will begin. Venue: National Press Club. Time : 4 pm.

Reception : Cultural section of the Chinese Embassy will accord a reception to the winners of the art competition for children organised by Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre. Venue: Embassy Hall.

Launching of Fellowship programme: Newly introduced Fellowship Programme of the Partners in Population and Development will be formally launched through presentation of fellowship award letters to the first batch of trainees. Venue : NIPSOM auditorium, Institute of Public Health Compound, Mohakhali. Time : 3:30 pm.

Rotary club meet : The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka New City will be held. Venue : Vintage Restaurant. Time : 5:45 pm.

Rotary club meet : The weekly and annual meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue : Sonargaon Hotel. Time : 5:30 pm.

Rotary club meet : The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue : Dhaka Club. Time : 5:30 pm.

HERE and THERE

Workshop on solid waste management

A day-long workshop on 'Solid Waste Management and Administrative & Financial Reform of Dhaka City Corporation' was held at the Nagar Bhaban conference room of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday, a press release.

It was jointly organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) and DCC with support from the Urban Management Programme (UMP) of the United Nations.

The Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Md Hanif was the chief guest.

DCC officials, representatives from related government agencies and departments, NGOs, Civil Society Groups, academics, researchers and development partners participated.

Papers were presented on Solid Waste Management by Dr N M Kazi and Mr Mujibur Rahman of BCAS while Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury and Prof Nazrul Islam of CUS spoke on financial and administrative reform of DCC respectively. The workshop was chaired by Dr Saleemul Huq, executive di-

rector of BCAS and Rashidul Alam, chief executive officer of DCC.

Instt of Childhood Education

A meeting of the ex-trainees of the Institute of Childhood Education (ICE) was held on the institute premises on Sunday, says a press release.

During the last two years, the institute has conducted short training for more than 300 teachers from 50 K G schools.

The meeting had a discussion on textbook and home task given in K G schools.

The principals (ex-trainees) present also discussed the need of the Child Centered Activities Based Education through entertainment initiated by ICE. To change the attitude of parents and some of the conservative teachers, a 17-member committee headed by Dr K M Sirajul Islam, Rector, ICE was formed. The committee is expected to explore the possibilities of social mobilisation through a national conference.

It was also decided that ICE will start a six-month-long Diploma in Early Childhood Education from February 2.



Dr Khan Sarwar Murshid speaking at the on-going reminiscence session at Shilpakala Academy yesterday, organised to mark the 50 years of fine art movement in Bangladesh. — Star photo



President Shahabuddin Ahmed giving away the Sword of Honour to the best all-round Flight Cadet at the Graduation Parade of the Bangladesh Air Force Academy in Jessore yesterday. — ISPR photo

30,300 more adult literacy centres to be set up

The government will set up an additional 30,300 adult literacy centres which will benefit nearly nine lakh people in 91 thanas of 50 district of the country, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinnatunnesa Talukder while inaugurating an orientation course at the LGED auditorium in the city yesterday.

She said the government has initiated a massive programme throughout the country to eradicate illiteracy from society. Magura district has already been declared free of illiteracy, she said adding, mass awareness against illiteracy has also been created.

Prof Zinnatunnesa said the government was actively considering post-literacy programmes for adults and asked the NGOs to properly conduct the adult education centres.

Director General of the Department of Non-Formal Education Khandoker Shahidul Islam was also present.

Rule of law must for promotion of business: Holzman

US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman yesterday emphasised the need for establishment of rule of law in society for promotion of business and prosperity of the nation, reports BSS.

"Rule of law and respect for individual rights are in the best interest of business because they form the necessary bedrock for long term growth and development in any economy," Holzman said while addressing a meeting of American Chamber (AmCham) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at a city hotel yesterday.

Chaired by president of AmCham Forest E Cookson, the meeting was also addressed by Abdul Awal Mintoo, president of Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Holzman observed that human rights and business environment are very closely linked as "protection of human rights and a climate for doing business go together."

3 killed in city road accidents

By Staff Correspondent. Three persons were killed in two road accidents in the city yesterday.

A rickshawpuller was killed on the spot when a bus hit his vehicle at Kalyanpur yesterday morning. Police identified the victim as Abdur Rashid Lablu, aged 35.

Police seized the bus but the driver, however, managed to escape.

In another accident, two teenagers were run over by a speeding truck at Teigaon. Both youths died on the spot.

When contacted last night, Teigaon police said the victims were yet to be identified.

All the bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

4 hill bodies submit memo

BANDARBAN, Dec 7: Four hill organisations today submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding formation of a judicial inquiry committee to probe the October 30 incidents, reports UNB.

In their memorandum, the organisations — PCJSS, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Pahari Gano Parishad and Hill Women's Federation — said four people were killed, 18 people abducted, three women raped by the gunmen of Murong tribal.

Tubewells donated for flood victims

Dacca Caterers Ltd, a London-based company donated 50 tubewells for post-flood rehabilitation programme of BRAC. M Tariqul Islam of the company handed over a cheque of equivalent amount of Aminul Alam, Deputy Executive Director of BRAC, in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The tubewells will be installed at the poor households and a few mosques and schools in some selected villages of Jamalpur district, which was one of the worst affected areas during the recent floods.

Regional confce on landmine begins today at Rajendrapur

Security experts of six countries, including Bangladesh, meet in a two-day conference at Rajendrapur seeking to forge a regional campaign against anti-personnel landmine that kills or maims some 24,000 people every year worldwide, reports BSS.

The Centre for Defence Studies (CDS) at the King's College in London and Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS) are jointly organising the 'South Asia Regional Meeting on Anti-personnel Landmine and Security in South Asia' that begins today.

Some 18 participants from four SAARC countries — Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka — as well as Canada and UK will be taking part in the conference. BISS Director General Brig (ret) Shahedul Anam Khan told a press conference at the BISS yesterday evening.

The objective of the meeting is to explore a regional perspective on the issue of anti-personnel landmines and discuss alternatives to it, said Dr Chris Smith, CDS Director of North South Defence and Security Programme.

He said: 'The landmine issue has become a major item of international agenda, it's primarily an humanitarian issue... we want South Asian security experts to become a part of the process of universalisation of the campaign.'

A coordinator of the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC) Peter Herby said 2,000 people either gets killed or injured by landmines every month in the world.

He named Angola, Mozambique, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Central American states, Congo and Rwanda among the countries severely affected by landmines.

By the end of 1997, he said, some 123 states have signed the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, commonly known as Ottawa Treaty.

Herby said every mine-affected countries have joined the treaty, but regretted that major producing countries still remained outside the treaty. He named USA, Russia and China who are not yet ready to join the campaign.

A retired British Army General, Sir Hugh Beach, said: 'We're not here to convince, but to initiate dialogue on the importance of universalisation of the crusade against anti-personnel landmines.'

Dr Chris Smith informed that the two-day meeting aims at ascertaining how South Asia reacts to the concern of the international community about the issue.

Bangladesh is the first country in the region to sign the Ottawa Treaty, he said.

Replying a query, the CDS expressed concern about the use of landmines by India and Pakistan.



A scene from 'Ekti Shironamhin Natok', a production of Space and Acting Research Centre. Written and directed by Ashish Khandaker, the play will be staged at Gallery 21 cafe theatre at 7 pm today and tomorrow.



Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, speaking at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Girl Guides Association on the occasion of National Youth Day '98 on Friday.

FEMA to observe Pabna by-polls

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) will observe the by-election to Pabna-2 constituency on December 10, says a press release.

FEMA's Pabna district committee unit has already selected some non-partisan volunteers and they were given necessary training. FEMA plans to deploy 81 stationary observers in 81 polling stations set up for the polling in Pabna-2 constituency. Each of the 2 thanas and 15 unions will have coordinator and couriers to assist the stationary observers. The monitoring operation will be reinforced by 20 members mobile team from the National Committee and the district committee.

In addition, FEMA will deploy two observers in the control room and result consolidation centre located at the offices of the Assistant Returning Officers at Bera, Sujannagar and the Returning Officer at Pabna.

FEMA acting chairperson Abul Ahsan, secretary general Feroz M Hassan, Dr Shawkat Ara, Advocate Salma Ali, Towfiq Aziz Khan & Executive Director Tarikul Ghani will be present on behalf of the National Committee.

15 shops gutted in fire

From Our Correspondent. COX'S BAZAR, Dec 7: Some 15 shops were gutted in a fire at Natan Bazar in Maheshkhali island this morning. The loss of property in the fire was estimated at about Tk 60 lakh.

Police said the fire started at about 5 am from an oven in a nearby house and soon engulfed the area. It took two hours to bring the situation under control.

Five grocery shops, four rickshaw garages and six welding workshops were gutted in the fire.

Obituary

Mesbah Uddin Mahmud of Gafargaoon died of cardiac arrest in the city yesterday. He was 67, says a press release.

A former government official, Mesbah left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque today after Zohr prayers. He will be buried at Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard. His qulshuani will be held on Thursday at 6/C/2, Engineers' Quarters, Arambagh.

'Hartal becomes ineffective due to excessive use'

CHITTAGONG, Dec 7: Chief adviser of the former caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman today denounced the excessive use of hartal and walkout from parliament, saying misuse of these political weapons has made them 'ineffective', reports BSS.

"The government is not above criticism... but these democratic means have lost their effectiveness due to their massive use to oppose the government," he said while inaugurating the 10-day long traditional Muktiuddher 'Bijoy Mela' (Victory Fair) at M A Aziz Stadium here.

Justice Rahman said no government is always right even if it is a 'wise government' and therefore its criticism is needed for the sake of democracy.

"But the government and the opposition must agree on basic issues for the interest of the country," he added.

Thousands of people witnessed the ceremony as Justice Rahman opened the fair by releasing balloons and pigeons amidst full-throated slogans of the Liberation War 'Joy Bangla'.

Mayor of Chittagong Alhaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury hoisted the national flag. Daughter of the first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed Advocate Shimin Hossain Rimi ignited the Victory Flame, installed at the function venue.

The members of the martyred families, disabled freedom fighters and independence war veterans were among those who joined the colourful ceremony.

Begum Mustafa Ali dead

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Syed Mustafa Ali died in a hospital in Paris on Sunday night. She was 77.

Begum Ali had been suffering from bronchitis and was flown to Paris on Friday for treatment. Her mortal remains will arrive on Thursday, accompanied by her son Syed Moazzem Ali, Bangladesh Ambassador to France.

Begum Mustafa Ali was the mother of late SM Ali, founder-editor of The Daily Star and recipient of Swadhinata Padak, 1995, and Prof Fauzia Ally, Principal, Chittagong Women's College.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Fazal Mosque at Mohammadpur.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard the same day.



LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman speaking at the annual conference of Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'People of Tripura inspired FFs during War of Liberation'

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam said cooperation of the people of the Indian state of Tripura greatly inspired the freedom fighters during the country's Liberation War, reports APB.

The minister was addressing a reception organised for the cultural team 'Padma-Gumti' of Tripura at the Public Library Auditorium yesterday.

He said the people of Tripura not only provided moral support to the freedom fighters, but were also very much hospitable to the refugees from Bangladesh in 1971.

Rafiqul Islam said, linguistic and cultural affinities between the peoples of Tripura and Bangladesh are deep-rooted in history.

This bond between the two peoples deepened during Bangladesh's War of Independence, the minister said and expressed the hope that the cultural ties would be strengthened in the days to come.

State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader also spoke on the occasion as special guest.

Chairman of 'Padma-Gumti, Bangladesh' and noted educationist Prof Anisuzzaman presided over the function.

Reciprocating the sentiment, Tripura 'Padma-Gumti' Chairman Anil Bhattacharya hoped that the visit of his team would help promote cultural exchanges between the two neighbouring countries.



Members of 'Padma-Gumti', a cultural group from Tripura, performing at a function at the Central Public Library auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

BOU DCA results announced

Results of first semester of Diploma in Computer Application (DCA), 981 term, under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) have been announced. The examinees have been requested to collect their results from examination centres or Regional Resources Centres (RRCs), says a press release.

DU History Alumni Assoc confce on Mar 5

The third conference of the Dhaka University History Department Alumni Association will be held on March 5 at Iskaton Ladies Club, says a press release.

Former students of the History Department who would like to attend the conference are requested to contact the Department Office (Phone: 9661900-59 Extension 4330) by January 7.

New science fiction series on BTV

By Staff Correspondent

Prepare yourself for watching earth's bleak future on BTV. From today BTV starts airing a new science fiction series — Earth: Final Conflict — on weekly basis at 9 pm.

CiTech Vision Ltd, the Bangladesh Representative of Warner Brothers, is arranging the serial which was originally written by Gene Roddenberry, the legendary creator of Star Trek series. The series, which is still being aired in the USA, has been dubbed in Bangla.

Viewers may expect to see thrilling story line set in future times on earth and spectacular special effects in this series.

According to the plot of the series, an advanced alien race would visit the earth and would

apparently extend friendly gestures and cooperation with human beings. But slowly, the true nature and intention of the aliens unfold to the humans and the conflict between the two races begin.

Starred by Kevin Kilner, Lisa Howard, Richard Chevolleau, David Hembel and others, the TV series would portray an earth which would be dominated by an alien race. It is produced by Stephen Roloff under Warner Brothers' banner.

Managing Director of CiTech Vision Ltd Shabbir Chowdhury said at a press preview that Warner Brothers has made 88 episodes of the series. "If it is a hit in Bangladesh, we plan to air all the series," he said.



Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department East Zone Tender Notice

Tender Notice No CE/E-48/98/W(II)

Sealed tenders are invited for the following work from the enlisted 'C' class contractor of Bangladesh Railway having requisite experience.

Gp No.	Name of work	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
1.	In Laksham-Chandpur section rebuilding of Bridge No C/13, C/24, C/25, C/26, C/27 & C/34 as per approved plan.	(Taka in lac) 36.00 lacs	2% of the quoted price.
1.	Contractors those who successfully completed Railway Bridge (Re-Building) work costing at least Tk 15.00 lacs, in a single contract agreement will be eligible to participate in the tender on production of such certificate.		
2.	Tender documents will be sold from the offices of the Chief Engineer/East, Bangladesh Railway Chittagong, Divisional Commissioner/Chittagong, Divisional Engineer/1/Bangladesh Railway/Chittagong on cash payment of Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) during office hour up to 22-12-1998.		
3.	Tender documents are to be dropped in the tender box set-apart for the purpose in the aforesaid offices at 12:00 Noon on 23-12-1998 and the same will be opened publicly at 12:30 PM on the same date.		
4.	Experience certificate should be issued by an Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer mentioning his telephone number and full name.		
5.	Railway Administration reserves the right to accept the tender in whole or in part thereof and to reject the tender without assigning any reason what-so-ever.		

Rail/B/172
DFP-25497-2/12
G-2758

Dated: 26/11/1998
Chief Engineer/East
Bangladesh Railway
Chittagong.