

PM inaugurates exhibition on Tagore and the British press

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said poet Rabindranath Tagore inspired everyone in the world along with his own countrymen to dedicate themselves in work and knowledge, and to the path of human welfare, reports UNB.

"Rabindranath, in his literature, didn't confine himself to his country and time or characters only, rather extended himself in the wide perimeter of world humanity," she said inaugurating a four-day exhibition on "Rabindranath Tagore and the British Press" at the National Museum Auditorium yesterday.

News reports on Tagore, published in the British Press from 1912-1941, are on display on the ground floor of the National Museum with some rare pictures and paintings of the Nobel Laureate poet.

Bangladesh National Museum, Bangla Academy and The Tagore Centre-UK organised the exhibition in an attempt to faithfully reflect the changing moods of the British public as captured by the British print media of Tagore's time.

The purpose of exhibiting some of the lesser known aspects of Tagore's life and work is to focus attention on the specific dimension of his relationship with the world.

The Prime Minister said the extraordinary talent of Rabindranath was reflected in all branches of arts, specially in literature, poetry, short story, novels and even in paintings. A universal philosophy was reflected in his creations.

Tagore overcame the shortcomings of limitations of time and placed himself as one of the best personalities of the world through his unparalleled philosophy, thoughts, humanity and wisdom, she said.

The Prime Minister said Rabindranath, composer of the national anthem of Bangladesh, is a pride of the nation. The song 'Amar Sonar Bangla' and 'Tomay Bhatobashi' was an inspiration for the freedom fighters during the 1971 Liberation War.

She also said that the government is taking steps to further develop the places bearing the memories of Rabindranath Tagore and mentioned that Kacharibari at Shahajadpur is being maintained properly.

Hasina said every year "Rabindra Jayanti" is celebrated at Shilaidaha Rabindra Kuthibari and added that the government is also taking measures to develop the Kuthibari with library, documentation centre, open stage and an improved infrastructure.

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Adoption of 'Labour Code' demanded

Labour Court Bar Association has demanded adoption of the proposed 'Labour Code' with some amendments in the light of the suggestions made by the 'Labour Code Review Committee,' reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel, General Secretary of Labour Court Bar Association advocate Syed Azadul Haq said the proposed labour code could solve a number of existing problems of the labour court.

He said that since the implementation of the proposed labour code may be delayed, the government should go for passing of the three acts with some amendments to solve the existing problems. The three acts are: The Employment of Labour (SO) Act, 1965, Industrial Relations Ordinance, 1969 and Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

Haq also said that the government had constituted a National Labour Commission in 1992 to update the labour laws. The commission, headed by a retired High Court judge, submitted its report to the government in 1994 with useful recommendations, he added.

Girl fasts for 48 hours to raise funds

A 14-year-old Bangladeshi girl living in St Mary's Park, London, has raised nearly 300 pounds for the flood victims by fasting for 48 hours, reports UNB.

Sabrina Qadir, student of King Edward VI Grammar School, was so touched by television coverage of the devastating floods that she embarked on two days' fast to raise funds, according to a report received in the city yesterday.

She asked her friends from school to dig into their pockets and contribute to help the flood victims. Her father, an orthopaedic surgeon at Louth County Hospital, also encouraged his colleagues to donate for flood victims.

The money was given to Oxfam Bangladesh to help the flood affected people with water purification tablets and packets of rehydration solution for diarrhoea victims.

Sabrina who received a certificate for the two-day fast, was only allowed to drink water.

Injured AL leader dies at DMCH

COMILLA, Dec 19: An Awami League leader of Nangalkot thana, who sustained injuries in a clash between the activists of ruling party and BNP on December 15, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital this morning, reports APB.

Farid Mia, 35, son of one Ismail Mia of village Haripur in Nangalkot thana, was admitted to DMCH following the clash, which also left 15 others injured.

Meanwhile, local AL and its front organisations held protest rallies and brought out processions. They also damaged several vehicles.

Munshiganj-Bikrampur Samity observes founding anniversary

The 50th founding anniversary of Munshiganj-Bikrampur Samity was observed with much enthusiasm yesterday at the Osmani Memorial auditorium.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting was held. City Mayor Mohammad Hanif attended the meeting as chief guest.

Former commerce and information minister M Shamsul Islam, MP, former attorney general Barrister K S Nabi and senior vice president of the association Ahsan Habib Khan were present as special guests.

The discussion meeting was followed by a cultural function.

Five get Nataraj Awards

By Staff Correspondent. Five drama personalities received the Nataraj '98 awards at the Guide House auditorium in the city on December 16, says a press release.

The theatre organisation, Nataraj, announced the awards on the occasion of its fifth founding anniversary.

The recipients are Nani Gopal Das, Ranen Kishari, Abdul Gafur Sarathi, Syed Hasan Imam and Rani Sarkar.

Educationist Dr Anisuzzaman attended the award distribution ceremony while Laila Hasan and Naim Hasan Suja spoke on the occasion.



Obituary

Md Monir Ahmed, a freedom fighter and businessman, died of a heart attack on Friday morning, says a press release.

Monir Ahmed, who hailed from Wasekpur village under Begumganj thana in Noakhali, was 50.

He left behind his wife, three daughters, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death. His *qukhutani* will be held at his new DOHS residence tomorrow.

Sen spends a busy day in city



Nobel laureate Amartya Sen yesterday visited St Gregory's High School, his *alma mater*, and the Baldha Garden, reminiscing about his childhood. From top left downwards: 1. Offering wreaths at the memorial to the martyred teachers and students who laid their lives during the Liberation War. 2. Exchanging greetings with fellow Gregorians, shaking hands with Brigadier Badrul Munir. 3. Father J S Peixotto, CSC, the Headmaster of the St Gregory's High School presenting a *Nakshi Kantha* to the former student. 4. Gregorians listening to Amartya Sen reminiscing. 5. (Bottom right) Youngest Gregorian Ripsom Anthony Rozario expressing his joy at the privilege of receiving the famous Gregorian. At Baldha garden from top right downwards: 1. Planting a Rajashok sapling at Baldha Garden. Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Choudhury (on his left) lending a helping hand. 2. City Mayor Mohammad Hanif presenting a crest. 3. Being presented with an address of welcome engraved on a copper plate on behalf of the city dwellers.

— Star photos by A K M Mohsin



Nataraj, a theatre group, celebrated its fifth anniversary recently. Dr Anisuzzaman inaugurated the programme by lighting a lamp at the Guide House auditorium.



Young students performing at the Annual Cultural Programme and Proclamation Day of Bangladesh International School (BIS) held recently.

Cotton mill gutted

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Dec 19: A cotton mill at Saded Ali Market in Adamjee Nagar under Siddhirganj thana was gutted in a fire that started at around 2:45 am today.

Police suspected that the fire was originated from an electrical short circuit.

The loss caused by the fire is estimated at around Tk one lakh.

A case was lodged with the Siddhirganj thana in this connection.

Roundtable on promoting economic growth

A roundtable on 'Promoting Accelerated Growth Through More Effective Participation by Bangladesh in the International Economy' will be at LCEID Bhaban at 2 pm tomorrow, reports UNB.

United States Information Service (USIS) and Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) have jointly organised the discussion.

BIMST-EC meet delegates call on Samad Azad

The heads of the delegates attending the ongoing BIMST-EC meeting called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at Hotel Sheraton, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on mutual interests, particularly on sector-wise cooperation proposed under BIMST-EC.

The heads of the delegations also visited Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi and BIMST-EC fair at Baridhara.

BAI street drama festival held

Kishan Theatre of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute (BAI) arranged a 'Street Drama Festival' on the occasion of the Victory Day at the Institute auditorium, says a press release.

Noted playwright and drama personality Mamunur Rashid attended the function as chief guest and Prof M Q Zaman, Principal, BAI and Md Khorshed Alam, former president of Kishan Theatre were present as special guests. Md Anwar Hossain, president of Kishan Theatre presided over the function.

Call to The Bar Ceremony today

The Call to The Bar Ceremony will be held today at 2:30 pm at the Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton in the city, reports UNB.

Chief Justice A T M Afzal will attend the ceremony organised by Bangladesh Bar Council as the chief guest, says a press release.

Justice Ismail Mahomed, the Chief Justice of South Africa will be present as guest of honour while Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Amir-ul Islam will preside over the session.