

26th nat'l confce of BCU begins at DU tomorrow

By DU Correspondent
The three-day 26th national conference and 47th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will begin at the Dhaka University campus tomorrow.
The slogan for this year's conference is "Stop terrorism and prevent communal and discriminatory education policy".
A total of 74 representatives from different districts and universities will attend the conference. Leaders of the left leaning student organisation disclosed this at a press conference at Madhu's Canteen yesterday.
At the press conference, BCU leaders condemned both the ruling and opposition parties for creating political, social and economic deadlock and anarchy in the country.
They said that the people of the country were suffering due to wide spread terrorism, killings, rapes and acute scarcity of basic essentials like water and electricity.
The BCU leaders urged the student community to come forward to face these problems as they did earlier.
They also demanded immediate implementation of a secular, mass-oriented and scientific education policy.
Among others Hasan Hafizur Rahman Sohel, Hasan Tarique Sohel, Zahidul Islam Pintu and Atiqul Haque were present at the press conference.



Left-leaning parties brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding smooth supply of water, gas and electricity to city-dwellers. —Star photo



Islami Shashontontra Andolon brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding adequate supply of gas, water and electricity across the country. —Star photo

Outsiders attack Kohinoor Chemical Co. Ltd workers

By Staff Correspondent
A group of outsiders with arms attacked the Kohinoor Chemical Company Ltd at Tejgaon on Wednesday noon.
The company authorities in a press release alleged that the incident took place as a result of conflicts among rival groups of workers. Former president of workers union Joydol Abedin led the raid, they said.
The attackers also assaulted some workers and employees of the factory. They locked the factory gate and kept the workers hostage for several hours.
The authorities of the company informed the nearby Tejgaon thana and police with the help of local ward commissioner and Awami League leaders rescued the workers.
The company which is a sister organisation of Orion Group of Industries has lodged a case with Tejgaon thana in this regard.

C R Das Research Council honours 6 with gold medal



The six recipients of the CR Das Research Council gold medal.

Desh Bandhu C R Das Research Council in a special meeting has recently announced the award of Desh Bandhu C R Das gold medal for the year 1998 to six distinguished personalities for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields, says a press release.
The awards will be handed over to the recipients in May at a special function to be held at Hotel Sonargaon.
The recipients of the award for 1998 are Justice Maksumul Hakim (Contribution in Legal System), Major-General (Retd.) Dr Anis Waiz (Medical Science), Qamrul Islam Siddique (Urban Infrastructure Development), Alhaj Md Bazul Rahman (Chamber Leader), Sheikh Kabir Hossain (Social Service) and M A Khaleda Bhuiyan (Public Relations).

13th session of Executive Board meeting begins Noor Uddin seeks UNESCO aid to develop IT village

The 13th session of the executive board meeting of Asian Pacific Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (AFUCA) began yesterday at a city hotel, reports BSS.
Participants and observers from Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Russia, the Philippines, Malaysia and host country Bangladesh are attending the five-day meeting.
Besides, hearing the country's reports the meeting will discuss preparation for the World Conference of World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (WFCUCA) and elect office bearers of AFUCA for the term 1999-2002. The board meeting is held every two years.
Inaugurating the meeting Minister for Science and Technology Lt General (Retd.) Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan sought cooperation and assistance of UNESCO to promote science and technology in the

country to build a richer Bangladesh.
He pointed out that the aims of UNESCO are to make the countries richer and happier.
The inaugural session was also addressed by UNESCO representative in Bangladesh Dr Ansar Ali Khan, Secretary of Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO Kafiluddin Ahmed and Secretary General of National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh (NAUCB) Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, while president of AFUCA Prof. Yuji Suzuki was in the chair.
Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Kaneko was present at the inaugural session.
Referring to the importance of development of computer science and information technology (IT) Noor Uddin Khan said 47 acres of land at Mohakhali had already been given for development of an IT village and he sought UNESCO assistance in this regard.

He said that realising the necessity of scientific research and development for prosperity of the country, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had sanctioned Tk 12 crore in the last budget and this might be enhanced further in the coming budget.
Pointing to the contributions of UNESCO to increase the literacy rate of Bangladesh, he said in the last three years the literacy rate had increased to 56 per cent. He said to boost the economy of the country it was essential to make the huge population literate.
AFUCA president Prof Suzuki gave a brief historical background of UNESCO club movement to promote science, education, culture and peace and said Japan took the initiative in 1947 in the ashes of war.
He said the grassroots people were contributing their time and resources to the activities of UNESCO clubs which are working hand in hand with the respective governments in the Asian Pacific region.

DU CSU polls likely soon after a nine-yr lull

The Dhaka University authorities will soon take the initiative for holding Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) elections which have been postponed for the last nine years.
DU Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury told APB that moves for holding the polls are now being contemplated in view of a congenial atmosphere prevailing in the campus.
The students' union election of different universities are taking place one after another, and we think we can go for it on our campus too," he added. The last time DUCSU had an election was in 1990.
Without an elected DUCSU, that represents the general students, all of the extra-curricu-

lar activities in the campus remained stalled for years.
After dissolving the last DUCSU, the DU Syndicate also framed a new constitution for the students body that spelt out that only the regular and full-time students will have voting rights. The tenure of DUCSU will continue to be one year only.
When contacted for comments, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) central president Bahadur Bepari said, "The students of the University are eagerly waiting for the announcement of the schedule for fresh DUCSU polls."
Anisur Rahman, Joint Secretary of BCL, underlined the need for the DUCSU polls for enlivening the campus' cultural

and extra-curricula activities.
Anjam Masud, another student leader and cultural personality, opined that before declaring the election schedule, the authorities should ensure participation of all student bodies.
But Monir Hossain, the President of DU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) — the student wing of opposition BNP — opposed immediate holding of the DUCSU polls. He said, "There is no guarantee of a free and fair DUCSU election under the present VC."
"And the authorities must also ensure that all the outsiders will be banished from the halls as well as the campus before the DUCSU polls," he added.

Health Minister opens nutrition exhibition

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday inaugurated a three-day national nutrition exhibition with a call for creating awareness among the people about nutrition for their better health and living, reports BSS.
A total of 13 government and non-government organisations are taking part in the exhibition being held from 10 am to 6 pm daily at the science laboratory auditorium here, an official handout said.
The organisations are Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Press Information Department, National Nutrition Council, Bangladesh Home Economics Department, Institute of Food and Nutrition, Bangladesh Breast Feeding Foundation, Bangladesh Applied Nutrition Research Institute, Bangladesh Coordinated Nutrition Project of BRAC, Helen Keller International, Bangladesh Women Health Coalition and Bangladesh Health Education and Unifed BCC Unit.
After inauguration of the exhibition, the minister went round different stalls and discussed with the organisers about its significance in the country.
The inaugural function was also attended by senior officials of the ministry and departments under it.
AL to observe Sher-e-Bangla's death anniversary
Bangladesh Awami League will observe 37th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq on April 27 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.
In observance of the day the party will place wreaths at 8 am at the mazar of the late leader.
AL general secretary and minister for LGRD Zillur Rahman has requested people from all walks of life including party leaders and workers to make the programme a success.

Three artistes enthrall audience

An air of appeal was just created when melodious voice of three promising artistes enthralled a packed audience at a musical session in the city yesterday evening, reports BSS.
The majestic voice of the Trio—Dulal, Smriti and Eeti, who sang 20 songs both in Bengali and Urdu, seems to have provided warmth, solace and entertainment to the select audience at the Russian Cultural Centre.
Surbani Lalitakala Academy organised the musical session to present these three artistes to the music lovers, who had their higher degrees on music from India, organisers said.
The session started with presentation of Tagore's famous patriotic song "O Aamar Desher Maati, Tomar Bukhey Thekai Matha". The added attraction was Bristi, who conducted the whole session and also delivered a few songs to earn repeated claps of the audience.
Smriti and Eeti earned high appreciation of the audience for their spellbinding virtuosity that spoke of the melodic genre of the voice of two sisters.
"Sraboner Aci Sandhaye" sung by Smriti and "Moyna Baló Tumi Krisna-Radhey" by Eeti earned repeated applause of audience.
Dulal, who sang eight songs including a few Urdu Gazals of Ghalib Mehedi Hasan and Ghalib Maestro Jagjit Singh, kept the whole audience spellbound by his emotional voice that created a deep interest among the listeners.

Rafiq for political consensus to stop campus violence

COMILLA, Apr 24: Minister without portfolio Rafiqul Islam today called upon all to forge a political consensus to stop violence in educational institutions and give priority to flourishing of talents, reports UNB.
"The nation will not be able to achieve its cherished goal of flourishing talents and intellect even in the 21st century if stopped by terrorism," he said in the inaugural address of the Centenary celebration of Comilla Victoria College.
Rafiq also called upon the youths to refrain from adopting unfair means in the examinations.
Former students of the prestigious and renowned college organised the centenary celebration function at its premises.
Presided over by former secretary Mofazzul Karim, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by BUET teacher Dr Mohiuddin Ahmed and former Controller of Imports and Exports Mohammed Shahidullah.

Newspaper holiday April 27

All newspaper offices will remain closed on Tuesday on the occasion of holy Ashura, reports UNB.
Therefore, no newspaper will be published on Wednesday, said a Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parisad release yesterday.

Achin Pakhi to be screened at Amsterdam festival

The Beeld voor Beeld committee has selected noted filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel's short film 'The Unknown Bird (Achin Pakhi)' to be screened at the 10th Beeld voor Beeld film festival, says a press release.
The festival will be held in Amsterdam during May 26-30 next. Tanvir has also been invited to attend the festival.



Poet Shamsur Rahman, accompanied by family members, signed for donating eyes posthumously to Sandhani National Eye Bank in a simple ceremony at his residence yesterday.

Poet Shamsur Rahman signs for posthumous eye donation

By Staff Correspondent
Veteran poet Shamsur Rahman and his family members yesterday signed for posthumous eyes donation to Sandhani National Eye Bank in a simple ceremony at his residence.
The poet's wife Zohora Rahman, son Falazul Rahman and daughter-in-law Tia Rahman also donated their eyes to the Sandhani Eye Bank.
He thanked the posthumous eye donation as a fortunate and said, "After my death, a blind person will see the world through my eyes."
Sandhani president Ruhul Amin Majumdar, secretary general Dr Monirul Islam Khan, among others, were present on the occasion.
President of the organisation urged the conscious section of the society to come forward by following the example set by poet Shamsur Rahman and his family.
Before the poet, 32,181 persons signed for donating posthumously.
About 32,124 persons so far committed to donate eyes to Sandhani till its inception in 1984. Sandhani has so far collected 1,281 corneas and implanted 1,173 corneas successfully.

Grand Assembly '99 of DUAA held

By DU Correspondent
A programme titled Grand Assembly '99 of the Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA), was held at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) auditorium yesterday afternoon.
Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the university was present at the programme as the chief guest.
At the programme the speakers stressed the need for a permanent address of the organisation.

25 die of diarrhoea in Bhola

From Our Correspondent
BHOLA, Apr 24: At least 25 people died and about 3,500 were severely affected by diarrhoea, which broke out at different areas of the district recently, according to the district Civil Surgeon's office.
However, the number of the dead and those affected might be more than double, unofficial sources told The Daily Star.
During a visit at the district Sadar hospital, this correspondent found the body of a young man was lying on the floor. The deceased identified as Farook, 45.

Body of youth handed over to BDR by BSF

FENI, Apr 24: Indian BSF handed over the body of a young Bangladeshi to BDR yesterday, police said today, reports APB.
The body of Joydol Abedin, 28, of Mirakalpur village in Pashurur thana was handed over following a flag meeting at Majumdarhat on Thursday. He was the son of one Abdul Gafur.
Police and some villagers said Joydol was allegedly picked up by some Indians when he went to irrigate his paddy field near the border on Wednesday.
Some other villagers claimed that he was killed by some people in a sequel to a previous rivalry and the body was left in Indian territory. The body was buried yesterday.

Death anniversary of Partha observed

By DU Correspondent
Students of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) and pro-government student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out separate silent processions on the Dhaka University campus to mark the first death anniversary of Partha Pratim Acharya.
Partha, a student of the MCJ and a central BCL leader was gunned down during a clash between two arch rival student organisations BCL and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus.
Meanwhile, a discussion meeting was also held at the Jagannath Hall premises to commemorate the death of late Partha.
Amir Hossain Amu addressed the programme as the chief guest while Durgadas Bhattacharya addressed as special guest.
Presided over by Amal Datta, the programme was addressed, among others, by Bahadur Bepary, Ajay Kar Khokan, Sajjad Hossain, A K M Azim, Biplob Sarker and Pankaj Saha.

Awareness about breast feeding stressed

State Minister for Health and Family Planning Prof Dr M Amanullah emphasised the need for creating mass awareness about breast feeding and observed that the mass media could play a vital role in this regard, reports BSS.
He was speaking as the chief guest at a workshop on 'A Study to Identify the Risk Factors Affecting Nutritional Status of Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Institute of research for promotion of essential and reproductive health and technologies (BIRPERT) held at the ICCDRB auditorium in the city yesterday.

Former foreign secy Nazrul Islam dead

By Staff Correspondent
Former foreign secretary and BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council member Nazrul Islam died late on Friday night. He was 68.
Late Islam, who served as foreign secretary and a diplomat, had been suffering from various diseases, including cancer.
Namaj-e-Janaza of the late diplomat was held after the Zohr prayers at Gulshan mosque yesterday. BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council members M M Rezaul Karim, Reaz Rahman, BNP joint secretary general Prof M A Mannan, relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers attended the Janaza.
In a message of condolence yesterday, BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia expressed profound shock at the death of Nazrul Islam.
She said his death is an irreparable loss of the country. Begum Zia prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.
BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a separate message also expressed deep shock at the sudden death of former foreign secretary Nazrul Islam. He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Chief Justice leaves for S Africa, US

Chief Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Azal left here yesterday on a study tour to South Africa and United States, a press release of Bangladesh Supreme Court said, reports BSS.
The tour of the Chief Justice of Bangladesh is taking place under the legal and judicial capacity building project of the World Bank.
He is expected to return home on May 5, the press release added.

Priyabhshini's solo exhibition opens

The 6th solo exhibition of Priyabhshini titled "Silent Drama in Driftwood, Roots and Junk" was inaugurated at the National Museum auditorium yesterday, says a press release.
Sponsored by British American Tobacco Bangladesh, the exhibition was inaugurated by Minister for Forest and Environment Begum Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.
The exhibition displays sculpture creations of Priyabhshini using driftwood, roots and wastes from trees. This is a rare form of art, which Priyabhshini has pioneered in Bangladesh.
British American Tobacco Bangladesh supports initiatives, which helps, promotes and protects the environment of the country and has a highly successful afforestation programme. Speaking on the occasion, Begum Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, highly commended the company's contributions to the afforestation of the country and at the same time for lending their support to such forms of art in the country. She stressed that other organisations should emulate the company's example in supporting such initiatives.
The exhibition will remain open for the public from April 24-28 and May 2-5 between 10.30 am and 5 pm.



Ferdousy Priyabhshini introducing her exhibits to Begum Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Minister for Forest and Environment. Sponsored by British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Priyabhshini's 6th Solo Exhibition, titled "Silent Drama in Driftwood and Junk" was inaugurated yesterday. Also seen in the picture are Golam Mainuddin, Deputy Managing Director and Mahmudur Rahman, Head of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs of British American Tobacco Bangladesh.

BSTMPIA donates uniform for Press Club employees

Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Power Loom Industries Association (BSTMPIA) donated some 42 sets of uniform for the employees of the Jatiya Press Club at a function held at the club premises yesterday, reports BSS.
The head of the association Mohammad Shahzada Miah handed over the uniforms to the president of the club Khondker Monirul Islam while general secretary of the club Swapan Kumar Saha was present.
Committee members, among others, joint secretary Bakhtiar Rana, managing committee members Abdul Ahmed and Kazi Rawnak Hossain and vice presidents of the association Latkat Ali Bhuiyan Miah, Abdul Tahid Majumdar and other office bearers and members of the association were present on the occasion.



Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Powerloom Industries Association (BSTMPIA) yesterday presented 42 sets of uniform for the employees of Jatiya Press Club.

Int'l Dance Day to be observed April 29

Bangladesh will observe the International Dance Day on April 29 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.
To mark the day a colourful procession will be brought out in the city at 9 am starting from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises.
International Dance Council (IDC) and its Bangladesh Chapter will jointly organise the procession. Bangladesh dance centre urged all dance artistes and dance lovers of the country to join the procession.