

What's on today . . .

Ananya Eid Fashion Award: The prize awarding ceremony of the Ananya Eid Fashion Competition-2000 will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: Hotel Abokash, 83/88, Mohakhali. Time: 3 pm.

Dialogue: British Council Dhaka has organised a day-long dialogue titled 'Citizens-Experts Interface on Human Rights' to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by United Nations. An exhibition of human rights material from United Kingdom entitled 'Human Rights Towards the Next Millennium' will also run in parallel to the dialogue sessions. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Chameli House, 17, Tophkhana Road. Time: 10 am.

Film show: Muktir Katha, a documentary by Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud, will be screened. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 5:30 pm.

Certificate award ceremony: The British Council has organised a programme to present certificates to school children who took the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) Young Leaders Examinations in October. Venue: British Council auditorium, 5, Fuller Road. Time: 3:30 pm.

Clinical meet: Z H Sikdar Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a clinical meeting on 'Peri-operative Myocardial Ischaemia'. Speaker: Dr Kuldeep CKK, MBBSS, MS, MCh, Cardiac Surgeon. Venue: Centre's conference hall, Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Bar Council discussion: Bangladesh Bar Council has organised a discussion to mark the 51st anniversary of Universal Human Rights Declaration. Chief guest: Justice Latifur Rahman. Keynote paper: Barrister Amirul Islam. Venue: Bar Council auditorium.

Discussion meet: Bangladesh Nazam-e-Islam Party has organised a discussion meeting followed by a Iftar mahfil. Venue: Zafar Restaurant, Sabir Tower, 3/4-A, Purana Paltan. Time: 3 pm.

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Seminar: A seminar on policy research 'A Review of Administrative Reforms with Women's Development Implications' will be held. Organiser: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in assistance with PLAGE Project. Venue: Conference room of Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), 63, New Eskaton. Time: 9:30 am.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 29.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and the lowest 14.4 degrees at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.12 pm and rises on Sunday at 6.31 am.

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

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Environmental pocket book published Need for raising awareness about environmental laws stressed

Syed Marghub Murshed, Secretary, Ministry of Environment on Thursday emphasised the need for raising awareness among the people about environmental laws, procedures and guidelines to help improve the ecology of the country, reports BSS.

Shah Tariquzzaman and IUCN National Committee Chairman Mahfuz Ullah spoke at the function. CAMPE Director Rasheda K Chowdhury presided.

Marghub Murshed commended the publication of these two books both in Bangla and English for wider dissemination and campaign.

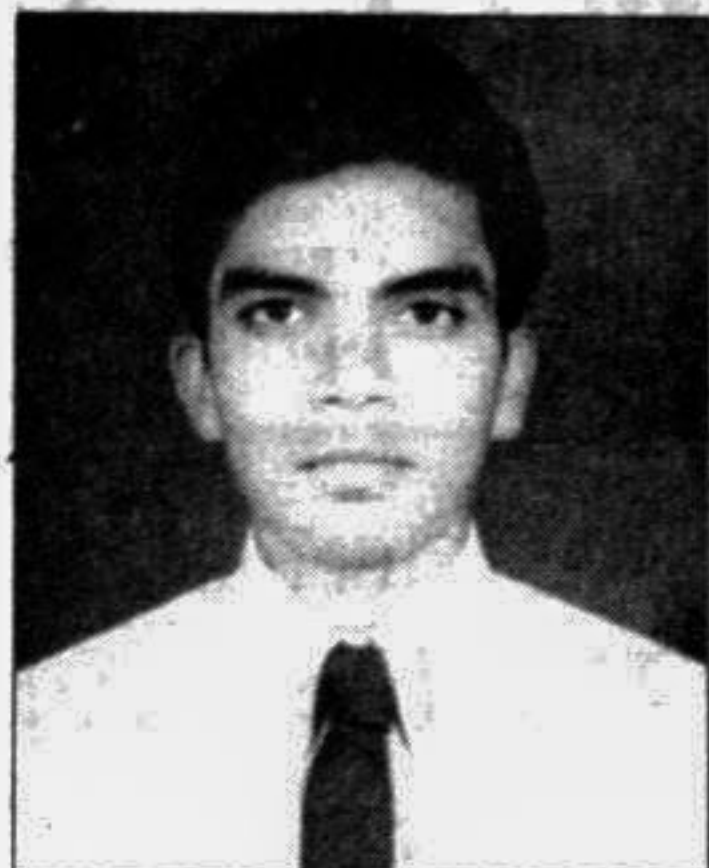
A R Khan expressed the hope that it would help enforce the existing laws and rules more effectively and DOE wanted more publicity of these two books.

Quamrul Chowdhury said there were some mistakes and printing errors. But, he said, the books have a populist approach and will be used widely by the practitioners as well as people.

Shehab Ahmed said the books would help the working journalists in discharging their professional responsibilities, especially in making environmental reports and stories.

Dr Mahfuz underscored the need for following both the rules and procedures by the public sector agencies as well as private organisations to better manage the ecological balance.

Congratulations



ABM Shahadat Hossain (Shahin) stood first class first in the BSc (Hons) Course Final examination of the Mathematics Department of Dhaka University of the year 1997 held in April this year, says a press release.

His father is a Deputy General Manager (DGM) of Agrani Bank and mother is a housewife. He is the eldest of his father's three sons. Earlier, he passed the SSC examination securing Star Marks with letters in all subjects from Motiheel Model High School in the city and the HSC with Star Marks from Dhaka College.

Report on ATDP

Working capital loans allowed banks to achieve their lending targets by focusing on short term lending rather than providing investment capital for expansion of existing agribusinesses or setting up of new businesses.

Focusing on technology component, the report said ATDP did not give enough attention to assess the market potential of products and services. "It focused too much on technological aspects of agribusiness promotion," the report said.

"Although ATDP claims that it has identified 26 technologies for national programmes, practically none of these technologies except Urea Super Granule (USG) has gone under a national programme," the USAID report commented.

The ATDP also played a key role in setting up of the Agribusiness Development Organisation of Bangladesh (ADOB), a forum of 20 major actors in the agriculture sector.

Convenor of ADOB Fakhru Islam Munshi, former deputy minister for finance, is highly impressed by the success of ATDP.

According to him, the project brought a revolutionary change in the agriculture sector. "In the past, agriculture was for subsistence. Now, it is an industry. This change has been brought about by the ATDP", Munshi said talking to The Daily Star.

ATDP has eight field offices in Kapasia, Rangpur, Jessore, Chittagong, Sherpur, Sylhet, Rajshahi, and Barisal.

Former rivals

Clinton on Thursday for criticising Russia's war in Chechnya, bluntly reminding Clinton that Russia remains a nuclear power.

"It seems Mr Clinton has forgotten Russia is a great power that possesses a nuclear arsenal," Yeltsin said at a meeting with Chinese legislative chairman Li Peng.

"I want to tell President Clinton that he alone cannot dictate how the world should live, work and play. It is us who will dictate."

Clinton did not soften his criticism of the Russian offensive, which has produced large numbers of civilian casualties and driven more than 240,000 people out of Chechnya.

"I don't agree with what's going on there, and I think I have an obligation to say so," Clinton told reporters in Washington. But he also sought to avoid deepening the confrontation, saying "let's not talk about what the leaders are saying and all these words of criticism."

The joint statement issued today said Chinese-Russian cooperation was not aimed at third countries but was intended to protect their "vital national interests."

Despite their budding cooperation against perceived US global dominance, China and Russia both depend heavily on their economic ties with the United States.

During Yeltsin's visit, the two countries signed three accords defining the countries' 4,250-kilometer border and joint use of disputed islands.



Domestic Workers' Association brought out a procession wearing black mask in observance of the World Human Rights Day in the city yesterday.

Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad discussion 'Unity must to protect secular, liberal democracy'

Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek yesterday urged all pro-liberation and progressive forces to be united against the unholy alliance of the reactionary forces to continue the secular and liberal democratic practice in the country, reports BSS.

"We may have differences in our political and economic agenda, but for the sake of country's independence and public welfare, we must be united," he called upon all political forces, those who believe in the spirit of the War of Liberation.

Dr Malek was speaking at a discussion at the National Press Club organised by the Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad in observance of the Victory Day.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, founding adviser of the parishad Dr A M S Arefin Siddique, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Abul Kalam Azad and Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Haroon Habib also took part in the discussion.

President of the parishad Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan was in the chair while general secretary Rezaul Karim Khan conducted the discussion.

Dr Malek termed the victory in 1971 as the most successful achievement of our national history and put Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the top of the three million courageous freedom fighters who liberated the country by sacrificing their lives under his dynamic leadership.

He described the 'unity of autocrats and razzakars' as nothing new in national politics as he said, "They are always together and capture state power through killing and conspiracy snatching people's mandate."

Praising Bangabandhu as a youthful character, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said the Dhaka University Senate proved its courage by adopting a condolence motion in its session on November 4 of 1975, just after killing of Bangabandhu and three national leaders, when the autocratic

regime tried to gag the people's voice. Dr Arefin Siddique said the Pakistani occupation forces violated all sorts of human rights and committed crime against humanity and crime against peace by killing millions of innocent Bangalis in 1971.

Abul Kalam Azad said the nation this year celebrated another victory in the month of victory of the country as UNESCO recognised our Language Martyrs Day by adopting a resolution to observe the February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

Haroon Habib observed the recent polarisation in the opposition as an 'oblique look' to our War of Liberation.

He urged all to resist the defeated forces and cautioned that no one should feel self-satisfied as the anti-independence elements, autocrats and religious political fanatics were out to destabilise the country being patronised by certain domestic and international quarters.



Ms Martini Bilano, Representative Director of Save the Children distributing prizes among the winners of a children painting competition at Gallery Tone on the occasion of World Children Day yesterday. Kanok Champa Chakma and noted painter Samorjit Roy also seen.

ISPR

From page 12 government. This consideration came up because of his recent year-long training in Pakistan and his commissioning from Pakistan Military Academy in 1971. All these combined, it was considered that he was a good choice to take up the assignment.

Some hinted about his posting in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) at Bandarban. Brigadier/Colonels belonging to the Corps of Infantry in most cases are given assignment as Brigade Commander in the CHT. It is not unusual. It rather adds to one's qualifications for the next rank.

The training exercise he was involved in at the Chittagong Cantonment was a routine exercise without involvement of soldiers. He was used to undergo such exercise many a times throughout his service career over the last twenty-nine years. Such exercises are made tight-scheduled so that the participants are groomed to take quick decisions. The question of over-stress and class with others, contributing to his death, is irrelevant.

It has been mentioned in some dailies that his elder brother Brigadier Faruque Ashfaq is the Defence Attache in China. In fact, Brigadier Faruque Ashfaq is not the Defence Attache in China but he has gone there for higher training in the Chinese National Defence University.

Brigadier Shabbab Ashfaq was a promising and a beloved officer of the Army. He brought laurels to his country by his service home and abroad.

Bangladesh Army Headquarters earnestly requests that all concerned should refrain from publishing speculative stories about the tragic incidence.

Y2K

From page 1 Bangladesh Computer Council Dr Abdus Sobhan, leaves Dhaka today to check the condition of system and microchips of some important installations in Khulna region.

During the two-day visit, the experts will 'recheck' Mongla Port, Khulna Newsprint Mills and others installations. The authorities already declared the installations as accommodating to the Y2K. We'll recheck," said Dr Abdus Sobhan.

The team will visit Zia Fertiliser Factory, Ashuganj Power Station, Urea Fertiliser Factory and Ghorasal Power Station on December 16 and 17. It will also verify the condition of Chittagong Port and other important installations.

Meanwhile, the Y2K Emergency Centre at the National Y2K Coordination office continued its activities even on the weekly holiday yesterday. The Centre will remain open until the apprehended 'disastrous day' for high-tech sector is over.

Udichi murder

From page 1 Metropolitan Magistrate's court, Dhaka, soon after arrest, admitted their link with the killings.

In their statement, they mentioned that former minister and BNP Vice Chairman Tariqul Islam was the 'mastermind' of the Udichi bomb incident. Siraj and Nurunnabi both claimed themselves as BNP activists, but BNP denied the claim.

Ten people were killed and more than 200 others injured in two powerful explosions at a Udichi cultural function on the Jessor Town Hall premises in the early hours on March 7 this year.

Renewed pledge to establish HR World Human Rights Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

World Human Rights Day was observed in the city and elsewhere in the country with renewed pledge to establish human rights in the country yesterday.

Different socio-cultural and voluntary organisations observed the day through bringing out processions and holding rallies, discussion meeting.

The day was observed to mark the 51st anniversary of declaration of World Human Rights.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) organised a discussion on this occasion. The discussion held at Karitas auditorium with Kazi Abdur Rezzak, president of National Executive Committee of BHRC in the chair.

The meeting was addressed among others by Barrister Mairul Hossain, Chairman of the Ittefaq Group of publications, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, ex-president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, Naïma Haider Chowdhury, Assistant Attorney General and Razaul Karim Chowdhury.

Aman Ullah Khan, Chairman of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) presented the key note paper.

Speakers at the discussion expressed concern over violation of human rights all over the world.

Speakers urged to establish rule of law to establish human rights everywhere.

They also called upon journalists and lawyers to come forward to establish human rights in the country.

Earlier, activists of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) brought out a colourful procession in the city.

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOOWD) yesterday brought out a procession of disabled to mark the day.

About 30 disabled children took part in the rally carrying banner read 'We want law to protect rights of the disabled.'

Domestic Workers Association, Bangladesh (DWAB) brought out a silent procession in the city on the occasion of the World Human Rights Day.

The members of DWAB wearing mask marched on different city thoroughfares protesting repression on domestic workers.

Leaders of Jatiya Garments Sramik Jote (JGSJ) in a statement yesterday said about 15 lakh garments workers have long been deprived of human rights.

Shahidul Islam and Zainal Abedin, president and general secretary, respectively of JGSJ urged the government to take effective measures to safeguard the rights of garments workers.

Meanwhile, speakers at a discussion urged to put an end to human rights violation in all sectors and demanded evaluation of United Nation's charter of human rights.

They were taking part in a discussion on 'Human Rights are Universal' organised on the occasion of International Human Rights Day by Amnesty International Bangladesh at its office.

Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Hafiz Imam Inam, Shadab Yasir Chnu and Golam Mostofa among others took part in the discussion. Anwar Sadat Khan, treasurer of the association was in the chair.

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnyer Parishad, Bangladesh, Ganotantrik Ainjibi Samity, Bangladesh Law Association, Bangladesh Bar Council also held various programmes in observance of the day.

Anniversary of Raju Ahmed's death today

The 27th death anniversary of the noted television, radio, cinema actor, and an artist of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra Raju Ahmed will be observed today, says a press release.

In observance of the death anniversary in the city 'Raju Ahmed Smriti Sangsad', 'Aradhana Sangeet Bidayala', 'Greater Kushtia Samity', 'Bodhan' - a socio cultural organisation and also in Kushtia, 'Nupur Natayam Goshiti', 'Raju Ahmed Smriti Sangsad' (Kushtia branch) and other socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes of feeding the poor, milad mahfil and discussion meeting.

Besides, on the occasion a discussion meeting, special drama, cultural function under the auspices of 'Raju Naty' will also be held in the city today.

A milad mahfil has also been arranged today in the residence of the younger brother of the late artist Rashidul Haq, chairman, Bangladesh Handloom Board and vice-chairman, Officers Club, Dhaka.

Labour Court Bar Assoc polls held

The annual general meeting of the Executive Committee for the year 2000 and election of the Labour Court Bar Association was held on Thursday at the office of the association at the Sram Bhaban in the city, says a press release.

Advocate Nirmolendu Dhar and Advocate Mohammed Nasar Ahmed were elected president and general secretary of the fifteen member Executive Committee.

Other elected office-bearers are: Vice-presidents - Abdus Sattar Zamadar, Abul Kalam Farid Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary - Aminul Haque, finance secretary - Md Ibrahim Bhuiya, library secretary - Mahbubul Haq Siddiqui and organising secretary - Mohammad Belayet Hossain.

Mohammed Khalilur Rahman, a senior advocate conducted the election.

Memorial meeting on Hakim Bhai on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

A meeting was held at the 'Hakim Chaitar' of Dhaka University campus yesterday afternoon to recall the memory of Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Hakim, a popular tea vendor on the campus.

Abdul Hakim, popularly known as Hakim Bhai on the campus, died of cardiac arrest at his village in Banakata under Dohar Thana on December 4.

Organised by the former and present students of DU, the meeting was attended by teachers, students, leaders of different student organisations and officials and employees of the university.

Presided over by DU Senate member Afzal Hossain the meeting paid rich tribute to Hakim Bhai for his leading, a simple life.

Among others, Dr Saidur Rahman, Habibur Rahman Zinnah, Masud Karim, Sheikh Mofizur Rahman former student leader Mohammad Hossain, Mosharrar Hossain, Akramul Haq, JCD leader Manir Hossain and journalists Jahidur Rahman and Mir Masrur Zaman Rani.

Abu Hena Abdul Aowl recited a self-composed poem in memory of Hakim Bhai at the meeting. A milad mahfil was also arranged munajat was offered seeking eternal peace for the departed soul.

BNP procession

From page 1

However, the party has decided not to bring out torch procession due to the Holy Ramadan.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations will be held at 11 am today at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be in the chair.

BNP's joint secretaries general, presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations of the central and city committees, joint convenors of city BNP, presidents and general secretaries or convenors and joint convenors of thana committees will attend the meeting.



The 6th Dhaka Book Fair failed to pull much crowds this year. Despite yesterday being a holiday, the fair wore a deserted look. But some tiny-tots were seen much enthusiastically sifting through books for their favourite ones.



A saree exhibition was held at the Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium in the city yesterday. Obaidul Quader, Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs visiting a stall there.