

What's on today....

Meeting: Neophytes will hold a meeting to bid farewell to the 20th century and welcome the 21st. Venue: School premises at House No 43, Rd No 1, Dhanmondi, R/A. Time: 3:00 pm.

Poetry reading session: Poetry magazine Kabikantha will hold a poetry reading session to welcome the new millennium. Venue: Kabikantha office at 62 Purana Paltan. Time: After 11:00.

Seminar: Al Quds Committee Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Liberation of Al Quds and duties of the Muslim Ummah'. Venue: CIRDA auditorium, Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Rd. Time: 10:00 am.

Film show: Three movies *Ma femme est formidable* (My wife is wonderful), *Le Seme element* (The fifth element) and *Gabbah* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Demonstration: Sammito Sanskritik Jote (SSJ) will stage a demonstration to protest the activities of anti-liberation forces centering the renaming of different residential halls of Sylhet Shahjalal University of Science and Technology. SSJ will also bring out a procession. Venue: TSC of DU. Time: 3:00 pm.

JPC EGM: An extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) will be held. Venue: JPC auditorium. Time: 2:00 pm.

Exhibition: Altamira begins an exclusive Eid and Millennium Collection Exhibition of sarees and salwar kameez designed by Mridul and Moni. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury's *Tamaka Pata O Dhunipan* will be held. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm.

DAB discussion: Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will hold a discussion meeting on 'Role of Professionals in Present Political Situation'. Venue: Eskaton Ladies Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

Exhibition: *Karui*, a fashion house, will begin a 4-day long exhibition of its Eid collection designed by Kawser Mahmud. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium, House no 20, Road no 27 (Old), Dhanmondi, R/A.

..... and tomorrow

Millennium prayer: March For Millennium will hold a "Millennium Prayer". Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 12:01 am.

Prayer: Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold a special prayer to mark the new millennium. Venue: Dhaka International Bouddha Bihar. Time: 5:00 am.

Competition: The prize distribution ceremony of the Kendri Kanchi Kanchar Mela's painting and recitation competition for children, organised to mark Zainul Abedin and Jasimuddin's birth anniversaries, will be held. Venue: 37/A, Segun Bagicha. Time: 9:30 am.

Rally: Anti-terrorism Peace Movement will hold a rally. Venue: Ramna Batumi. Time: 10:00 am.

Dress exposition: The inaugural session of a dress exposition by Karna Subarna will be held. Venue: DRUK gallery, House no 58, RD 15/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:00 pm.

DRU Ifar: Dhaka Reporters Unity will hold an Ifar party. Venue: DRU premises at 8/4A Topkhana Rd, Segun Bagicha.

Art exhibition: Amateur art students of Benuka Lalitika Academy has organised an art exhibition titled 'Welcome Millennium Art Exhibition'. Chief guest: TV artist Alfar Hossain. Venue: House-40B, Road-11, Dhanmondi. Time: 10 am to 8 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Prevailing dry weather will continue over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight fall in night temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 27.4 degree Celsius at Sitakunda and Cox's Bazar, and the lowest 8.3 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.22 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.41 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	25.3	11.0
Chittagong	27.2	14.5
Rajshahi	18.5	12.6
Khulna	25.6	12.5
Barisal	25.5	11.0
Sylhet	25.9	12.6
Cox's Bazar	27.4	15.0

HERE and THERE

ICAB Council

Abul Khair Chowdhury, a founder council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), has been elected ICAB President for the year 2000, reports UNB.

The election was held at a meeting of the ICAB Council here on Wednesday. Mohammad Alamgir, M Nurul Haque and ASM Nayeem were also elected Vice Presidents for the same year.

Abul Khair Chowdhury, an FCA, had earlier served as ICAB Vice President for six times and also served in the first council of ICAB (1972-76) and consecutive terms since 1989, said a press release yesterday.

Discussion on Prof Razzaq

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting recalled the contributions of Prof Abdul Razzaq to the improvement of education in the country.

The International Relations Department of Jahangirnagar University organised the discussion in memory of Prof Abdul Razzaq on Tuesday.

Renowned educationist Prof Sadrul Karim took part in the discussion as chief guest.

Prof Ataur Rahman Khan presented an essay on Prof Abdul Razzaq and read out excerpts from Prof Razzaq's write-up.

JCD discussion meeting

By DU Correspondent

BNP-backed student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a discussion meeting and an Ifar party at the Shamsunnahar Hall of the Dhaka University.

AKM Mosharraf Hossain MP addressed the programme as chief guest while Ziauddin Ahmed Murad was present as special guest.

Presided over by Halima Khanom Lusi, the hall unit president, the programme was

addressed, among others, by Munshi Bazul Basit Anju, ABM Mosharraf Hossain, Manir Hossain, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Mostafizul Islam Mamun, Shamsuzzaman Mehedi and Rehana Akhter Ranu.

The programme was organised by the Shamsunnahar Hall unit of JCD.

Anti-terrorism movement from Jan 1

By DU Correspondent

A coalition of professionals, socio-cultural, non-governmental and human rights organisations announced plans yesterday to launch an 'Anti-terrorism Peace Movement' on Jan. 1, 2000 at the Ramna Batumi.

After the launch, the movement will march through the streets and take an oath at the Central Shaheed Minar to foster peace and fight terrorism, 'the obstacle to human rights'.

Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, the movement's convener, said the newspapers' fight against terrorism inspired them to form their organisation.

'It has been planned to spread the movement in all the districts, thanas and localities shortly to generate mass-opinion against the terrorism,' the statement said.

The statement also stated terrorist activities and patronising terrorists is a crime, which should not be given any political colour. In order to curb crime, the law should be allowed to act.

According to the statement, vigilantes, corruption, superstition, illiteracy and fascism create the different types of terrorism that grip society. Intolerable political and social unrest is hindering the development of Bangladesh, it added.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Mahbubul Alam, Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Syed Ahmed, Abdus Salam Talukder, Shamul Huda, Abul Kalam Azad and Abu Abdullah, among others, also addressed the programme.



Krishok Sramik Janata League brought out a procession in the city yesterday to protest the attack by BCL activists on its convention earlier this week. — Star photo

Businessman robbed of Tk 8 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of swindlers robbed a businessman of Tk 8 lakh while he was travelling in a Narsingdi-bound bus on his way home yesterday.

In another incident, two people were beaten up after being caught red-handed while they were trying to snatch the purse of a woman at Dayaganj under Sutrapur police station.

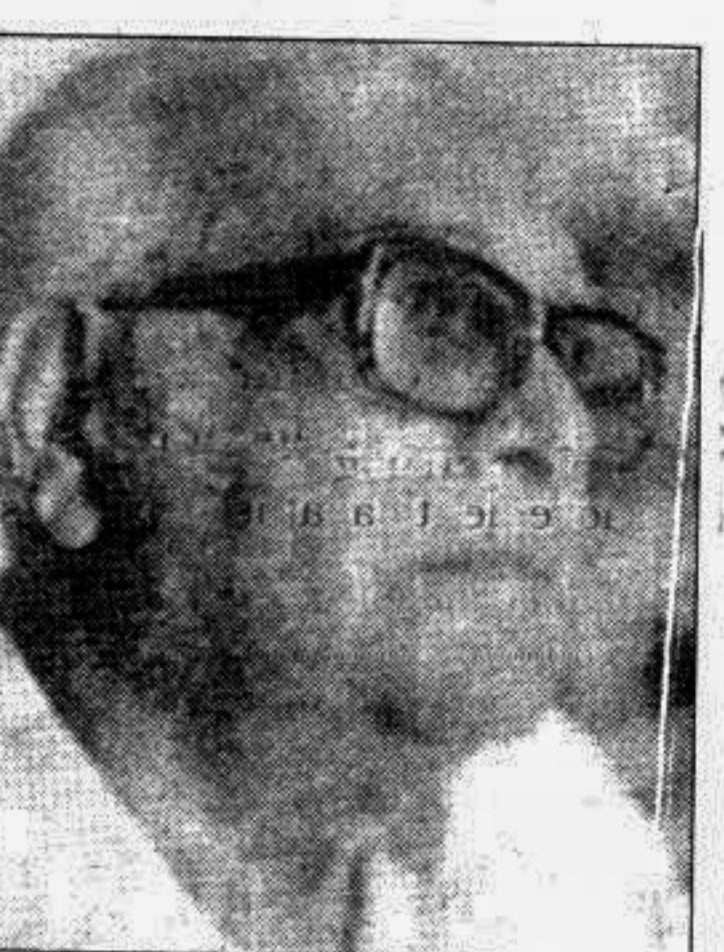
The businessman was identified as Abdur Rab, 54, of Narsingdi district. He was robbed by some people who were travelling with him. They mixed intoxicants with his iftar items. After having his iftar, the businessman became unconscious, hospital sources said quoting the victim's family members.

Rab had come to Islampur to collect the money yesterday morning, and was returning home with it in the afternoon, hospital sources said.

The victim was later taken to his family by fellow passengers in an unconscious state and later brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In the other incident, two people were beaten up by the mob after they allegedly tried to mug a woman.

The accused were identified as Babu, 20 and Selim, 25, police said, adding that they were sent to DMCH with severe injuries.



Kalim Sharafi honoured

Eminent Tagore Song exponent Kalim Sharafi has been awarded Sheltch Award this year, says a press release.

The awards, instituted by Sheltch (Pvt) Ltd, comprises Tk 25,000 and a crest.

The award will be handed over to the winner at a simple ceremony in January.

New OCAB executives

Farid Hossain of AP and Nadeem Qadir of AFP have been elected president and general secretary of Overseas Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (OCAB), reports UNB.

The election to OCAB Executive Committee for the year 2000 was held at Jatiya Press Club during its Annual General meeting Wednesday.

The other elected office-bearers are Mukhlesur Rahman Chowdhury (The Island, Sri Lanka/The Japan Times) — Vice president, Enamul Hoque (Radiance Views Weekly, India) — Treasurer and Sukumar Sarkar (Sangbad Pratidin, Calcutta) — Joint Secretary.

The members are Hassan Shahriar (Newsweek, USA), Sayed Kamaluddin (Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong), Pan Xiaozhu (Xinhua news agency), Pradip Kumar Chakraborty (Press Trust of India), Muzaffar Hussain Manik (Arab News, Saudi Arabia), and Matru Rahman Chowdhury (VOA).

M Tajul Islam, Abdul Khaleque Bhuiyan and Mustafizul Rahman conducted the elections as Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners respectively.

Death anniversary

A milad mahfil will be held today to mark the first death anniversary of educationist and nutritionist Prof Syeda Halima Rahman at her residence at 339 Jafrabad, Shankar, West Dhanmondi, says a press release.

Former principal of Kabi Nazrul College, Home Economics College, and Narayan Girls' College, Prof Halima is the author of many books including *Khadya O Pushti*, *Khadya O Pathya* and *Bipak O Pushtibhyan*.

She died on December 30 in 1998.

Speakers at global workshop Include environment issue in political agenda

The two-day global workshop of environmental journalists ended in the city yesterday with a call to incorporate environmental issues in the political agenda to combat the ecological degradation, reports BSS.

About 100 environmental journalists and experts from across the world shared their views on various crucial issues of environment and conservation.

The participants identified the challenges and discussed media strategies to protect the environment in the new millennium.

Speaking at the concluding session, Weekly Holiday's chief editor AZM Enayeturrahman Khan underlined the ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP, to incorporate the environment issue in their 'political doctrine'.

The workshop underlined the importance of democracy and public participation as it discussed the critical issues of sustainable development, conflicts and balances between environment and economy, and ecology and development.

'It (workshop) has underlined the need for an approach to 'think globally and act locally', Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB), told the concluding session.

He added that the media should intensify the campaign for protecting the environment at national and global levels.

Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFJE) and Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association

(CEJA) collaborated with the FEJB in arranging the workshop. Participants from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China, the Philippines, Jordan, Fiji, Canada, Germany, IUCN, UNDP, UNICEF, WWF and World Bank attended the workshop.

Dr Mahfuzul Haque, programme co-ordinator of the government's Sustainable Environment and Programme (SEMP), said one of the major problems facing developing countries is that the West wants them to compromise their development to contain pollution.

'For us economic development is a necessity,' Dr Haque said explaining conflicts of development and ecology and the idea of sustainable development with minimum intervention on the nature.

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) chief Rasheda K Chowdhury chaired the morning session yesterday.

Chairman of Asian Forum of Environmental Journalist (AFJE) Dharmar Wickremaratne, Laissa Taga and Nina Raulele of Fiji, Abdur Rauf of WWF, Qingzi Sang of China, Elizabeth Roxas of the Philippines, Thomas Vaser of Germany, Umer Afridi of Pakistan, Nava Thakuria of India, Dinesh Weerakkody of Sri Lanka, Cameron Kennedy of Canada and Dhatri Prasad Subedi of Nepal, Ahmed Nure Alam, Gazur Rahman, Nurul Huda and Bakhtiar Rana of FEJB look part in the discussion.

Chief Editor of Financial Express Rezauddin Ahmed, National Press Club President Khondokar Monirul Alam also spoke at the concluding session.

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Govt taken to task for not rehabilitating sex workers

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday accused the government of failing to live up to its pledges to rehabilitate sex workers from two of the country's oldest brothels in Tan Bazar and Nimtoli.

The accusation was made following the release of a survey conducted by Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC), a non-government organisation (NGO).

The speakers said that the government had evicted the sex workers in the name of rehabilitation and had virtually forced them to the streets.

About 77.28 per cent of the opinion that the sex workers should continue with their profession while 36.69 per cent were against it.

A total of 405 people participated in the survey conducted on the eviction of Tanbazar and its rehabilitation process.

The release of the survey results was followed by a discussion, which was attended among others by Dr. Ahmed Kamal of Department of History of Dhaka University, Dr. Helaluddin Khan Arefin, Chairman of Anthropology of Dhaka University, Sipra Bose, Gender advisor of CARE Bangladesh, Shireen Haque and Kamrul Hassan Manju, Executive Director of MMC. Quazi Moushumi Hossain presented the key note paper.

The speakers said these ill-fated sex workers following their eviction from Tan Bazar and Nimtoli brothels had again began their operation in limited forms and now their main clients were police, night guards and security guards of different office buildings and residences.

A random survey showed that the number of floating prostitutes in the capital had increased to more than double during the last one and half month, speakers said. This is mainly the result of the abrupt eviction at the two centres, they said.

The MMC in a recommendation urged the government to undertake a realistic approach to resolve the sex worker issue. It also suggested introduction of compulsory sex education in school, compulsory medical test for clients of brothels.

About 6,000 sex workers and their several hundred dependents were evicted from two city slums by the government in July. There are 16 government recognised brothels in the country.

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Army pack awaits shuffle

From page 1

Meanwhile, several officers have been listed for promotion to the rank of Major General. Their promotions will be given by the Defence Minister, who is also the Prime Minister. The promotion cases to the rank of Major General have been pending for some months but are now expected to be disposed of shortly.

The actual number of brigadiers who will be given promotion to the senior rank of major general will among other criteria be determined by the number of vacant positions.

The post of BDR, DG and Military Secretary to the President would require fresh appointments immediately.

For more than a year now, Brigadier Nazrul Islam has been in charge of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, usually a major general's job. Brigadier Nazrul Islam is tipped to be promoted to the rank of major general, the sources said.

The proposed promotion list includes Brigadier Rafiqul Islam who has been in charge of the Prime Minister's Security for more than three years and is Commander of the elite Special Security Force (SSF). He is the first officer from the erstwhile Rakhi Bahini who is being considered for promotion to the rank of major general.

Two other officers from Rakhi Bahini who are tipped for promotion are Brigadier Sadeque, Commander of the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) and Brigadier Shah Muhammad Muhiuddin, Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles.

Some other officers who may be promoted shortly are: Brig. Rezaul Haider, Brig. Kamrul Huda, Brig. Abdul Matin, Brig. Ekramul, Haq, Brig. Fazle-Elahi

Brig. Muniruzzaman, Brig. Farooq Ashraf, Brig. Abdul Manian Miah, Brig. Jalaluddin Siddique, Brig. S M Iqbal Hussain and Brig. Muhammad Ali.

In September, Anwar Hossain, a senior major general, was removed from the post of GOC, Bogra and his services were put under the foreign ministry for appointment as ambassador to Morocco a few days back.

When contacted, Tejgaon police said they usually deploy a petrol team there during tender bidding, but it is not possible to keep a team there permanently due to shortage of manpower.

Earlier, 70 to 80 contractors would participate in bidding and get work orders for PWD projects under its Agargaon office.

But when the 2.5 crore taka work for the trade fair was floated last month, about 2400 contractors participated in the bidding as the gang leaders Zulu and Prakash were behind the bars. Out of them, about 80 have got work orders, PWD sources said. Participation by more bidders increased government's revenue this time, they added.

Tenders for work involving Tk 7 to 8 crore are floated from the Agargaon PWD office every year and extortionists realise Tk 20 to 30 lakh from the contractors, they said.

mobilitise public support against the opposition alliance, she said that Prof. Golam Azam was known to the people for his anti-liberation role in 1971 while General Ershad had chaired the Pakistani military tribunal that tried Bangalee officers for supporting the nation's war of independence. Sheikh Hasina criticised BNP chief Khaleda Zia for forging alliance with persons with such backgrounds.

She, however, did not say anything about her Awami League's alliance with Golam Azam's Jamaat-e-Islami and Ershad's Jatiya Party in the early nineties.

Referring to the opposition's 'mindless political programmes including hartals in the month of holy Ramadan', Sheikh Hasina urged the party workers to resist it. She told the meeting that her government continued to enjoy the confidence of the people.