

Condolence meeting on BAU VC held

Speakers at a meeting in Mymensingh yesterday condoled the death of Prof Dr Muhammad Hussain...

Tofail to attend AI-Quds meeting

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed left the city for Morocco yesterday to attend the first meeting of the Bayt Al-Mal Al-Quds...

The meeting will be held in Rabat on Monday to be opened by the King of Morocco.

The specific aim of the meeting is to find out ways and means to collect funds for the implementation of projects in education, housing, tourism...

The agency was formed in 1998 to mobilise material and financial resources from OIC member states, organisations and individuals with a view to safeguarding AI-Quds City and protecting the Palestinian rights there.

Bangladesh as one of 16 members of the AI-Quds Committee, the permanent committee on Jerusalem, has been pursuing for withdrawal of Israelis from all occupied territories for creating a Palestine homeland since 70s.

The minister during his visit will have bilateral talks with the king of Morocco and other ministers of OIC countries attending the meeting.

Morgue with modern facilities should be set up

Magistrates should prepare the inquest reports of the unnatural death incidents, experts observed at the second day of a seminar on 'Role of Professionals in Upholding Human Rights' in the city yesterday.

To ensure autopsy of dead bodies promptly and timely morgues with modern facilities should be set up at every thana of Bangladesh for the sake of justice. Besides, post of judicial medical official should be created at thana level, speakers said.

The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT). Dr Ekramul Haq, the medical director of BRCT, read out the key-note paper in the seminar.

Professor AKM Shamsul Islam, head of the Department of Forensic Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, noted advocate Serazul Islam and thirty professionals from Mymensingh, Kushtia and Sarisapur took part in the discussion on the key note paper.



Young artistes presenting songs of spring at a function organised by Jatiya Bosanta Utsab Udjapan Parishad at the Bakultala of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University in the city yesterday. -Star photo

Unequal science & tech status hampering dev efforts in LDCs

Nooruddin inaugurates nat'l seminar at BIAM

Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Nooruddin Khan yesterday laid emphasis on developing skilled manpower based on science and technology for living with pride and dignity in the competitive world, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a three-day national seminar on 'Meeting Science and Technology Challenges for the 21st Century: WCS Imperatives for Bangladesh' at the BIAM auditorium in the city, the minister said country's natural resources and ecosystem are facing severe challenges by the high density of population.

The huge burden of population must be turned into resources through strengthening country's infrastructure of science and technology, the minister said adding research and development (R&D) personnel and gross domestic expenditure on R&D in the country are not adequate in comparison to those in the neighbouring countries.

The minister quoted the World Science Report 1998 of UNESCO as saying that the number of R&D personnel in terms of scientists and engineers in Bangladesh is only 20 against 10 lakh people while it is 145 in India, 193 in Sri Lanka and 521 in Iran.

Referring to the fact that only 20 per cent people possess 86 per cent of global wealth, the

minister said the unequal status of science and technology situation around the world was also seriously hampering the development endeavours of the Third World countries, especially Bangladesh.

The minister said 38.4 per cent scientific research activities are going on in North America, 35.8 per cent in West Europe and 19 per cent in Japan and newly industrialised countries (NICs), according to the US based scientific citation index Database. People of the poor countries are still languishing for food and shelter at a time when science has reached to the peak of development, he added.

Referring to the challenges of globalisation and scientific development, the minister said appropriate application of biotechnology, renewable energy, satellite and environment friendly technology would help bring about positive socio-economic changes and development in the country.

He said the Third World countries are facing challenges on many issues, especially biodiversity and Intellectual Property Rights after the formation of WTO. He, therefore, emphasised for cooperative approach between R&D institutions and industrial sector for surviving in the competition at the national, regional and international levels.

BUET won't prolong its sessions

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) yesterday decided not to prolong its sessions despite political programmes and strikes, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of teachers with Vice Chancellor Prof Nooruddin Ahmed in the face of widespread speculation on the campus about extension of sessions beyond schedule because of opposition programmes.

"We have asked the students to prepare themselves for the examinations in time," a BUET teacher said.

He added that the BUET authorities were trying to cut session jams, affecting academic activities of the university.

The vice-chancellor also requested the course teachers and general students to cover the course in time even going for extra classes.

Joyal Hazari demands removal of DG, Bangla Academy

FENI, Feb 12: Joyal Hazari, MP of the ruling party from Feni, today blamed the Director General of Bangla Academy as 'coward and a reactionary element' and demanded his removal, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at his residence this (Saturday) evening Hazari threatened to file case against the DG, Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, and launch movement against him for banning 'Badhoner Bichar Chai,' a book written by him, to the Ekushey Grantho Mela 2000.

In an outburst of anger Hazari said he will break the law, if necessary, and in doing so he will not hesitate even if he is expelled from the Awami League. "But, my book 'Badhoner Bichar Chai,' must have a place in the mela."

He claimed demand of his book has increased following the ban for which he drew lot of satisfaction at that.

Attack on BNP procession condemned

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 12: BNP and its front organisations today strongly condemned Friday's attack on their procession in the town, reports UNB.

The district leaders of BNP and its front organisations in a statement blamed ruling party terrorists for the attack on their procession that left 15 people injured, five of them with bullet.

The leaders said the one-point oust government movement can't be stopped by resorting to repression and oppression. The downfall of the government under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia has become inevitable, the statement added.

They also called upon all to join tomorrow's all-party rally at Paltan Maidan and the mass procession in Dhaka.

Members of JS body on Energy to visit Malaysian oil co

By Staff Correspondent: The members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy Ministry Friday left for Malaysia on a week-long visit.

Sources said, the committee members will visit Petronas, the Malaysian national oil company, and will be briefed on 'Petronas' monitoring of Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

The team includes Imran Ahmed, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Captain Tajuddin, Zillul Hakim, Mukhtar Hakim and others.

The committee is scheduled to visit some power plants. The members will also meet the Malaysian Energy Minister. Members are expected to return on February 19.

Folk art, crafts fair begins at Sonargaon

By Staff Correspondent

The month long Silver Jubilee celebration of Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation's Folk Art, Crafts Fair and Folk Festival 2000 began at Sonargaon in Narayanganj yesterday.

The festival organised by the Bangladesh Folk and Crafts Foundation at its premises was opened by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria as the chief guest.

The programmes of the month-long festival include craft fair, rural games, folk songs, seminar, drama, discussion, paala gan, story telling and many other programmes depicting our culture.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria in his inaugural speech said the country is experiencing reawakening in sports and cultural area after the present government assumed power in 1996. He cited the examples of Bangladesh's success and achievements in sports during the period of present government.

The special guest of the function Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader said that the government has already approved a Taka 65 cr project of miniature Bangladesh called Rupashi Bangla at Sonargaon Lokshilpa Jadugarh. The whole of Bangladesh will be presented in a vast land of one hundred fifty bigha.

He said as part of this quite a big project titled Industrial Village Project will be inaugurated within next fifteen days.

The inaugural function was chaired by the acting secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Sayed Abdur Rob.

As many as one hundred and thirty five stalls of traditional arts and crafts dress, bamboo, cane works have been set up in the fair. The fair will remain open for the members of the public everyday from 10 am to 6 pm. The fair has been organised at an estimated budget of Taka 10 lakh. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a cultural function presented by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The fair will conclude on March 12.

City AL meeting today

A special extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held at the party's central office today at 5 pm, reports BSS.

Party lawmakers from the city, ward commissioners as well as presidents and general secretaries of thana, ward and union committees and all members of the city Awami League have been asked to attend the meeting on time.

Another extended meeting of the unit will be held on February 19 at 5 pm at the party's central office.

Withdrawal of Public Safety bill demanded

Terming the Public Safety Bill as an anti-labour move of the government, Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation (BRTLWF) demanded its immediate withdrawal, reports UNB.

"Maximum 8 years' imprisonment for transport workers as provided in PSB without protection to them will harm the transport workers," said Shimul Biswas, president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation's northern region committee.

He said they have submitted recommendations to the government to check extortion of tolls from transport vehicles but the government did not take any action.

Meanwhile, leaders of divisional branches of the Federation in a joint statement termed the PSB as anti-people.

Signatories to the statement are Shamsur Rahman, Shimul Biswas, Mujibur Rahman, Sadiqur Rahman Hiru, Mossad- dem Hossain, Abus Salam, Sri Bhaban Ghosh, Abdur Rahim Box Dudu and Kazi Motaher Hossain.

Salam's death anniversary

The 23rd anniversary of the death of renowned journalist Abus Salam will be observed today, reports UNB.

The family members of the late editor of The Bangladesh Observer have organised a 'Mila Mahfil' after 'Magreb' prayers at House 67/A, Road-32 (old), Dhanmondhi.

Valentine's Day spl lunch & dinner at Sheraton Hotel

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel will celebrate the universal day of love popularly known as 'Valentine's Day' on Monday, says a press release.

A romantic international theme buffet lunch and buffet dinner with hearty surprises will be featured at the Bithika Restaurant.

At the elegant Vintage Restaurant a romantic Valentine's Day set dinner menu will be hosted while guests will be welcomed with a glass of wine on the house. Female guests will receive a traditional welcome with roses.

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