

What's on today....

Cultural programme: Anindya, a cultural organisation, has organised an evening of Tagore songs. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.
Memorial lecture: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, has organised 'Abdul Jabbar Khan Memorial Lecture and Gold Medal Award ceremony' as part of its National Council 2000. Venue: IDEB premises, 160/A Kakrail. Time: 4:30 pm.
Seminar: A seminar on 'Women of the South' Asian Diaspora: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Arranged Marriage and Ginu Kamani's Jungle Girl will be held. Rebecca Haque of the Department of English will present keynote paper on the topic while Dr Razia Khan Amin and Dr Ferdous Azim will take part in the discussion. Organiser: Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities (CARH). Venue: Lecture Theatre (Room No 434) of Dhaka University. Time: 4:00 pm

..... and tomorrow

Scouts General Meeting: The National Council of Bangladesh Scouts will hold its 27th general meeting. President and Chief Scout Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the meeting. Venue: National Scout Bhavan, Kakrail. Time: 10 am.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB.
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office predicted.
Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Hatiya and the lowest of 9.0 degree Celsius at Sri-mongal.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5.58 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.26 am.
Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:
City/Town Temperature Humidity in percentage
in Celsius Min Morning Evening
Dhaka 27.7 13.8 52 43
Chittagong 30.5 16.0 57 51
Rajshahi 27.3 11.2 93 62
Khulna 28.5 14.4 68 51
Barisal 28.5 14.0 75 60
Sylhet 28.4 12.0 65 41
Cox's Bazar 30.1 18.6 62 61

HERE and THERE

DUJ DU Political Science Dept Ex-students Assoc
Dhaka Union of Journalists has observed Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day with due respect, reports UNB.
A discussion meeting on the significance of the day was held at Jatiya Press Club with DUJ president Altaf Mahmood in the chair.
The participants in the discussion described the International Mother Language Day as the symbol of pride of the Bengali nation in the county of nations.
Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Molla Jalal, Khan Mohammad, Salek, Sukumer Sarkar, Khandker, Mojahidul Haq, Ashok Sinha, Mujahid Ansari, Bhanu Ranjan Chakraborty, Khandker Anisur Rahman and Abdul Zail Bhuayan took part in the discussion.

Truck strike begins in Ctg port
CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port remained suspended as the Port Truck Owners Association enforced a 36-hour strike at the port from 8 pm tonight, port and association sources said.
Port Truck Owners Association withdrew all its trucks from port at 8 pm tonight protesting use of own trucks by a private cement company Confidence Cement Ltd.
The trucks were used to carry clinkers from a ship imported by the company, port sources said.
The association demanded its trucks be used in carrying clinkers of the same private company instead of its own trucks.
The association threatened truck strike in greater Chittagong for indefinite period if its demand was not met immediately.
Port sources said cargo handling works in the ships related with direct delivery from the port by trucks, remained suspended from 8 pm in addition to delivery from port sheds.

BADC workshop
Participants in a workshop have stressed the revival of water regulations in the light of the National Water Policy to ensure proper use of irrigation machinery and irrigated water for agriculture purposes, reports BSS.
They referred to the ongoing projects of the irrigation wing in the agriculture sector and called for launching new projects immediately in other deserving areas under the small irrigation programmes of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), a BADC press release said yesterday.
Organised by the BADC, the workshop on 'Small Irrigation Programmes of BADC' was held in the auditorium of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) on February 20.
BADC Chairman MA Quader inaugurated the workshop. Member Director (Irrigation) Ashabuddin Mahmood was in the chair. Deputy Chief Engineer of BADC Abdul Kashed Mia read out the key-note paper.
The participants in their recommendations said the organisational set-up of the BADC's irrigation wing should be expanded to district and thana levels in view of the different realities.

Country's lone taxidermist dead
The lone taxidermist of the country and an officer of Natural History Department in the National Museum, Khondoker Ali Ahad died yesterday at his residence at the age of 42, reports BSS.
All had been suffering from brain cancer for the last seven months and was treated at home and abroad. He left behind his wife and a son, a press release said.
He was the lone expert on taxidermy in the country and got higher training abroad on this subject.

TV: Showcause
jection of the Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Khaleda Zia on 'the Ekushey night, people were talking about it.
'We gave her (Khaleda Zia) as much coverage as she deserved as an opposition leader. There is no question that the government suffer a loss of image.'
Despite frantic efforts, BTV officials could not be contacted yesterday for their comments.
Meanwhile, the notice recipients plan to give replies today, denying the allegation of negligence.

5-day show of 'Muktir Kotha' begins
A five-day long show of 'Muktir Kotha', a documentary on the struggle and suffering of people in 1971, directed by Faruque and Catherine Masud, began at Shawkat Osman Auditorium in the Public Library yesterday, says a press release.
Show times are 3, 5, and 7 pm. Admission tickets of Tk 20 are available on the Public Library premises as well as La Bamba (Dhanmondi), La Dolce Vita (Banani), and Pathak Samabesh (Aziz Market).

Nikunja murder
From page 1
Nikunja Bihari Nath, a Joint Secretary to the Local Government Ministry, was stabbed to death by a group of thugs near Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on January 11 while returning to his Azampur residence from Kamalapur railway station after Eid holidays.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seen among others at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday to mark the Amar Ekushey & International Mother Language Day (top), and artistes rendering songs followed by the discussion. — Star photo



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia along with other leaders of her party paying tributes to the martyrs of the language movement at the Central Shaheed Minar after midnight Sunday night. — Star photo



Disabled freedom fighters paying tributes to the language martyrs at the Shaheed Minar. — Star photo



Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. — Star photo



Members of Projonmo '71 placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. — Star photo

Youngone co fined

From page 1
missioner in a report said the team found a stock of 18.51 156 yards of cloth worth 42,02,364 US dollars against 74,92,304 yards worth 1,70,03,084 dollars, resulting in a shortfall of 56,41,148 yards. The price of the 'missing goods stands at 1,28,00,720 dollars.
A preliminary assessment in February 1998 showed that the company evaded Tk 42 crore taxes by 'illegally taking out the missing cloth'.
Later, a joint committee comprising customs officials and representatives of the company was formed to examine the allegation after the company officials termed the figures inflated.
The committee finally detected evasion of Tk 35 crore taxes.
The Commissioner, Ali Ahmed, in his order also said that under the bonded facility, the company either sold those goods without bringing the money in the country.
Talking to The Daily Star last night, Deputy Director of the company AKM Shamsuddin said that they had not received any order from the customs authorities.
'However, if we receive any order, we will appeal against such penalty,' he said.
He claimed that the company was not involved in any illegal business and that the whole thing was due to negligence of customs officials.

Clinton

From page 1
and accommodation 'in case of overnight stay' in the Bangladesh capital.
Some top officials in Dhaka, seeking anonymity, said that a night stopover in Delhi before coming to Dhaka would 'undermine the image' of Bangladesh and that US officials preparing Clinton's itinerary should be duly informed of this.

Ekushey: World peace

From page 1
languages and former President of the Republic of Iceland, underlined the importance of this day in the preservation of linguistic diversity and hoped that all languages would be treated as equal in this world.
Felix Marti, Chairperson, Advisory Committee for linguistic pluralism and multilingual education, also made a short statement advocating the importance of preservation of all languages as the right of humankind.
To give an idea of the rich culture of Bangladesh, the embassy in consultation with the UNESCO, arranged a short cultural programme at the launching ceremony.
Bangladesh artists in Paris presented four patriotic Bangla songs that are normally sung on the occasion of Ekushey February. These are Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Rangano, Moder Moder Asha, Salam Salam Hajar Salam and Joy Bangla Banglar Joy. Sayeeda Rahman, Partha Pratim Majumdar, Reeta Arham, Ferdousi Jena, Rahim Khan, Suresh Manna and Anuvab Barua participated in the cultural programme. The capacity crowd at the UNESCO auditorium showed their appreciation of these inspirational Bangla songs with thunderous applause.
A video presentation was made by the director of the language division in the UNESCO about the detailed programme that they have undertaken to preserve various mother language of the world.
He hoped that at the ceremony next year they would be able to make a visual presentation about the richness of the diversity of language spoken in the world today.
The closing address of the ceremony was given by Colin Power, Deputy Director General of UNESCO, who also emphasised the need to respect linguistic diversity.
AP adds: Tributes were paid to the martyrs of the historic language movement on the occasion of the immortal Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day at a function in New Delhi on Monday.
Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Mustafa Faruque Mohammed, former Indian foreign secretary Muchkund Dubey and editor of National Book Trust, India, spoke at the function organised jointly by Bangladesh High Commission and Impressario, India, a socio-cultural organisation.
In his speech Muchkund Dubey recalled the intensity of emotion of the Bangalees in Bangladesh on Ekushey February.

Jamai' Farooq

From page 1
legal action to ensure equal dispensation of justice, said leaders of the citizens' committee.
The committee also demanded arrest of the political leaders who were financially benefitted from Shikdar and gave him scopes to commit heinous crimes.
Shikdar disclose names of all his beneficiaries during interrogation by a high powered probe headed by Masudul Haq, a director of NSI.
The probe body identified 79 people including some political leaders of the ruling party and the opposition as beneficiaries of Ershad Shikdar who are yet to be brought to book.
Some of the beneficiaries serving in the police department and some others holding high positions in the ruling party are still conspiring in favour of Shikdar so that he returns to Shik Ghat to recapture his lost domain, said leaders of the citizens' committee.
They have demanded immediate arrest of the remaining armed cadres now at large and recovery of Ershad's illegal arms without any further delay.

Maj Gen JK Das

From page 1
as Rafiqul Islam in a report in The Daily Star on February 21, which contained details of the major reshuffle in the Army on Sunday.
The report said that five area commanders have been changed in the Army reshuffle. But taking the case of Major General Anwar Hossain, the number of area commanders changed is six, out of a total of seven.
Meanwhile, High Commissioner to the Maldives Major General Harun Ahmed Chowdhury Bir Uttam, who has come back, is yet to get a fresh posting. He still has around eight months of service in the Army.

Siddique's writ

From page 12
Judge, Dhaka.
Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for Quader Siddique while Deputy Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the government.
If Siddique does not prefer to appeal against the verdict, the Law Ministry's scrutiny committee will proceed with the investigation, legal experts said.

Mannan Bhuiyan urges people Make BNP programmes of Feb 24, 28 a success

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged the people to make the agitation programme of February 24 and country wide hartal of February 28 a success.
BNP will observe demonstration day on Thursday demanding release of their arrested leaders and activists, cancellation of Public Safety Act (PSA), and withdrawal of 'false cases' against its leaders and activists.
The main opposition has called for a country wide hartal on Monday demanding resignation of Awami League government and cancellation of PSA.
Mannan Bhuiyan also urged leaders and activists at all level to hold agitation rally and bring out procession on Thursday at thanas, districts and metropolitan cities.
Meanwhile, city BNP will organise a rally at the Pallan Maidan at 3:30 pm Thursday. The rally will be followed by a procession.
City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP urged people from all strata of the society and leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations to attend the rally to intensify their movement for one-point demand.

Tributes to martyrs

From page 1
at the Central Shaheed Minar at 12.30 am.
Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, ministers, political leaders and diplomats then placed wreaths.
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Sahata Zahrah led the diplomats and foreign nationals who went to the Shaheed Minar.
Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Prof. RIM Aminur Rashid, Convenor of the Ekushey Uddjan Committee received the distinguished guests at the Minar.
Soon after the security ring was withdrawn, various professional, socio-cultural, political and student organisations and thousands of people in processions from different parts of the city then converged there, singing in chorus the famous song 'Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Rangano Ekushey February, Ami ki Bhulite Pari' and the process continued.
The organisations that paid homage to the language martyrs by placing wreaths included Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Left Democratic Front, Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Workers Party of Bangladesh, National Awami Party, Communist Kendra, Gano Forum, Samik

Hasina

From page 1
Language Day is yet another achievement', she said while describing her government's role in bringing about international recognition of the nation's sacrifice for its mother tongue, Bangla.
'It's a pride for the whole nation that 188 countries across the world will now continue observing the 21st February. Ekush (the 21st) is an occasion mixed with sorrow and joy. It is also a matter of great achievement for the nation,' the PM said paying tributes to the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement.
Addressing the meeting as the chief guest, Hasina also reiterated that an international centre for research on mother language would be set up in Dhaka. 'We want to ensure dignity of each and every language across the world.'
Turning to her government's vision for a prosperous Bangladesh by the year 2020, the Prime Minister called upon all to sink differences and work hard to free the country from poverty and illiteracy. 'All our plans aim at turning Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country before we celebrate 50 years of national independence in 2021... I am sure we can achieve the target through united efforts.'

FF's appeal to PM

Khondker Asaduzzaman, a valiant freedom fighter, is now suffering from acute kidney ailments. Both of his kidneys are not working properly, says a press release.
A resident of Joypurhat, Asaduzzaman is now undergoing treatment at BIRDEM hospital in Dhaka.
He needs at least one kidney transplant immediately, doctors said. But he cannot afford it.
The freedom fighter has appealed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for financial assistance and all possible help.
Chaired by Foreign Minister Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, the meeting was also addressed by other top AL leaders including Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman, Water Resources Minister Abul Razzak, Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Principal Quamruzzaman and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury.