

News

What's on today....

Cultural programme: Kendriya Kanchi Kanchar Mela will hold a cultural programme to mark the 7th birth anniversary of Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai. Venue: Mela premises at 37/A Segunbagicha. Time: 4:30 pm.

Seminar: A seminar on 'Grassroots Mass Organisation versus Fundamentalism: Brahmanbaria Perspective. Venue: Sufi Kamal auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5:00 pm.

ICCSA seminar: The 18th seminar of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICCSA) will be held. Venue: Library hall of centre, House No 32E, Road 17A, Banani. Time: 5:00 pm.

Seminar: Cyber College of Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Java — the Programming Language of the Future.' Venue: College premises, House No 38/1, Rd No 6 (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Discussion: ADAB and Proshika will hold a discussion on 'The Continuing Relevance of Gandhi's Ideas for Social Action in South Asia.' Chief guest: Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 1:00 pm.

Seminar: Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences (CARSS) will hold a seminar on 'Life and Works of S M Imamuddin (1924-98).' Venue: Lecture Theatre, Room No 401, Dhaka University.

..... and tomorrow

Prize-giving ceremony: The prize giving ceremony of children's art competition dedicated to the Independence Day will be held. Organiser: Serov Academy of Fine Arts. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre in Dhaka. Time: 5:30 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershows accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely over the regions of Sylhet in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 38.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 23.2 degree Celsius at Rangamati and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:18 pm and rises on Monday at 5:42 am.

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

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | | Humidity in percentage |
|-------------|------------------------|------|---------|------------------------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | |
| Dhaka | 35.0 | 26.2 | 70 | 57 |
| Chittagong | 32.0 | 24.0 | 73 | 77 |
| Rajshahi | 38.8 | 25.7 | 75 | 28 |
| Khulna | 36.2 | 26.0 | 76 | 60 |
| Barisal | 34.6 | 25.0 | 73 | 79 |
| Sylhet | 32.5 | 23.5 | 87 | 79 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.8 | 24.8 | 77 | — |

HERE and THERE

JU

By JU Correspondent
Historian and social scientist Rajmohan Gandhi said that nations of the sub-continent must come forward spontaneously for the sake of establishing peace in the region.

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Revenge and Reconciliation: Understanding South Asian History' organised by Dept of International Relations of Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof Abdul Bayes, Prof Tajul Islam, Treasurer Prof Shariff, Enamul Kabir, deans of faculties and directors and a number of teachers were present at the seminar.

Prof Bayes addressed the seminar after the speech of Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

A number of teachers and students took part in the question-answer session where the existing political tension of this region was discussed.

BILS

A five-day long seminar on 'Leadership Development in Trade Union' began last morning at BIAM in the city under the auspices of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies — BILS/LO-FTF Project, says a press release.

Project Manager Hans Kasten Andersen inaugurated the seminar. A total of 16 participants nominated by National Trade Union Federations are attending the seminar. The

seminar will be concluded on April 12.

BASF

The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) was held yesterday at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium, says a press release.

The new 11-member executive committee (2000-2001) was elected at the meeting.

Rokhsana Khandakar of Khan Foundation was elected as the Chairperson, Sultan Md Razzak of FCHD the vice-chairperson and Md Imranul Haq Chowdhury of Uddipan the Treasurer.

Other members of the committee elected are Md Abdul Hakim, Shahidul Alam Sacchu, Mizanur Rahman, Shaheen Akhter Dolly, Fakir Abdul Jabbar, Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Kazi Shamsul Alam and Ehsanur Rahman.

Rotary Club of Uttara

On the occasion of the 'World Health Day-2000' a blood donation programme was held at Amir Complex, Uttara on Friday by the Rotary Club of Uttara in collaboration with the Innerwheel Club of Uttara, Innerwheel Club of Ramna, Rotaract Club of Uttara and Rotaract Club of Uttara.

The presidents and other members of these clubs were present on the occasion.

Dhaka Rotary Club and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society extended valuable support in making the programme a success.

'Certain quarters indulged in misleading propaganda against govt'

SYLHET, Apr 8: Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said here today that certain quarters being envious of the government's development efforts, were indulged in misleading propaganda against it (government), report BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a function in connection with opening of a newly constructed bhaban of Mugalgaon Government Primary School cum flood shelter centre under sadar thana.

The speaker pointed out that the present government has worked a lot than any other governments in the past. It would not be possible to foil the development efforts of the government through misleading propaganda, he added.

Chowdhury strongly pleaded for the expansion of education facilities to improve the rate of literacy. In this connection he referred to various programmes taken by the government including launching a revolution to free the country from the curse of illiteracy.

Presided over by the chairman of the school managing committee, Badruzzaman, the function was addressed among others, by organising secretary of the US branch of the Awami League, Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, district AL Education and Cultural Secretary, Advocate Misbah Uddin Siraj and former up chairman Haji Jamshed Ali.

Jubo Dal leader arrested in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Apr 8: A Jubo Dal leader was arrested from Battala in the town Friday night for creating riots in the town in 1996, reports UNB.

Police said Uzzal Sarkar, General Secretary of district Juba Dal was arrested. He was earlier granted bail in six other cases.

District BNP blamed police for intentionally harassing their leaders and workers and said there were many cases against the leaders and workers of ruling Awami League but none was being arrested.

BNP has chalked out a three-day programme, including protest meeting and demonstration to protest the arrest.

Jubo Union stages sit-in demonstration

RAJBARI, Apr 8: The local unit of Jubo Union today staged a 3-hour sit-in demonstration in front of the Sadar Hospital demanding upgrading of the hospital and solution of its health care problems, reports UNB.

Upgrading the 50-bed hospital into a 100-bed one and appointment of adequate doctors and nurses were among the main demands.

Comrade Abdul Kalam Azad, Barun Chakraborty, Shahadat Hossain, Altaf Mahmood, Advocate Liakat Ali and Principal Manjur Ali were among others took part in the sit-in demonstration from 11 am to 2 pm.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Civil Surgeon.

New organisation floated

A students welfare foundation of Duptara Central Corporation High School, Araihazar, Narayanganj was launched recently under the auspices of its former students and the local social leaders, reports BSS.

Former students and residents of the area have been invited to join the organisation as members in three categories — life, donor and general.

Intending persons are requested to contact the school authorities or Hafizur Rahman at 25/A DIT Road, Rajbari. Phone: 416736, 418154 and 933598.

Humayun Zahir's death anniversary observed

The 7th death anniversary of Humayun Zahir, former Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Ltd was observed yesterday at Janata Insurance Company Ltd Head Office, 125 Motijheel C/A with due religious fervour, says a press release.

A milad mahfil was held at 11.00 am there to commemorate the death anniversary. Md Jainul Abedin, Managing Director, Mohd Rashed Ali, EVP & Company Secretary Fazlul Haque Khan, EVP (Accounts), family members of late Humayun Zahir, senior executives, branch managers of Dhaka city, officers and staff of the company were present.

Chittagong Khulna and Bogra Zonal Offices of JIC also organised milad mahfil on the occasion.

Humayun Zahir was the Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Ltd. Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) and District Governor of Lion's Club International. He was the founder of Dhaka Mahila College at Dhannondi.

Humayun Zahir was assassinated in front of his Dhannondi residence on April 8, 1993.



Rotary International has taken up an arsenic mitigation project in Manikganj thana in collaboration with UNICEF. Four Rotary clubs have donated US \$50,000 and UNICEF US \$34,000 for the project which involves community members (seen above) in choosing implementing and maintaining alternate sources of safe drinking water.

Land allotted for establishing technological village: Nooruddin

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Science and Technology Minister Noor Uddin Khan today said that the government was firmly committed to the promotion of science and technology for which various steps for research and infrastructural development have been taken in private and public sectors, reports BSS.

The Minister said, the government has introduced a ten-year Bangabandhu Fellowship for the students of PhD on technological research. Forty acres of land has been allotted for the establishment of Technological Village at Mahakhal in Dhaka

in addition to setting up of a Technological Park on 264 acres of land at Talibabad, General Noor Uddin said.

The minister assured all out cooperation of the government in opening Computer Science Department at Chittagong University.

Presided over by the Director of RCMPS Prof Jamil Nazrul Islam, the function was addressed, among others, by former minister Dr Moyeen Khan MP, Vice-Chancellor of CU Prof Abdul Mannan and pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf.

About 100 scientists and researchers have been participating in the three-day conference. Eighteen key-note papers will be presented by experts.

Ramsagar Dighi to be beautified for tourists

DINAJPUR, Apr 8: Forest and Environment Minister Sveda Sajeda Chowdhury has said the 'Ramsagar Dighi' will be beautified for attracting the domestic and foreign tourists, reports BSS.

"The historic Ramsagar is not only the heritage of Dinajpur but also a rare national property of the country," he said while inaugurating the 'Ramsagar Park Development Project' and Bird-Forest Project for developing it as a tourist spot.

She said that saplings of different trees would be planted on the bank of Ramsagar. The forest minister also released different species of animals and birds including deer in the Ramsagar area making it more attractive.

Local Forest Department has constructed the two-story rest house at a cost of taka 35 lakh. The department is also constructing its boundary wall, roads, repairing cafeteria and setting up tube well at a cost of taka 1 crore 82 lakh. The department has also taken two more projects, titled 'Ramsagar Park Development Project' and Bird-Forest Project for developing it as a tourist spot.

Local MP Bharati Sarkar, president of District Awami League Amjad Hossain, Awami League leader Abdur Rahim and Chief Conservator of Forest Mohammad Golam Habib were present.

The peace process has been at an impasse ever since, raising fears of a return to sectarian violence.

Adams' speech, however,

stressed that the key was to get the autonomous Northern Irish administration to work again.

Mandelson, meanwhile, insisted on Saturday that the future of the peace process depended largely on the IRA.

"Only the IRA can create that confidence by making their intentions clear. An unmistakable signal of their peaceful intentions would be worth a lot more than a one-off gesture of token decommissioning," he said.

But Adams stressed there was only so much he could do head of Sinn Fein.

"We will continue to do our best but if a British Government, with all of its military fire-power and muscle, could not get an IRA surrender in 30 years of war, then unionist leaders or British ministers cannot expect a Sinn Fein leadership to do it for them."

He added: "It is not too late to save the Good Friday Agreement."

Sinn Fein has always insisted it does not control the IRA, which they say has its own, separate leadership.

Polish envoy falls to his death at Turkish hospital

ANKARA, April 8: Poland's ambassador to Ankara, Miroslaw Palasz, fell to his death early Saturday from the window of a hospital where he was under treatment, the Anatolia news agency reported, says AFP.

Palasz died immediately after falling from the ninth floor of the Bayindir medical centre at 3:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) and landing on the roof of the hospital's emergency service entrance, the report said.

Anatolia news agency quoted anonymous diplomats as saying Palasz was under great stress because of his wife's serious health problems and because of pressure at work.

The NTV news channel suggested the ambassador had been suffering from depression after learning that his wife had intestinal cancer.

State of emergency declared in Bolivia

LA PAZ, April 8: The Bolivian government declared a state of emergency Saturday amid continuing unrest in the central city of Cochabamba and a new protest by members of a police unit in La Paz, reports AFP.

The 90-day state of emergency, which gives President Hugo Banzer special powers to deal with the crisis, may be rescinded when "law and order are reestablished," Information Minister Ronald MacLean said.

"Father of Tunisian Independence" laid to rest

MONASTIR, Tunisia, April 8: The former president of Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba, was buried in his family's mausoleum in his home town of Monastir, south of Tunis, at 4:00 p.m. local time (2100 GMT) Saturday, reports AFP.

World leaders and thousands of mourners gathered in the coastal town to pay their last respects to Tunisia's first leader after independence.

Bourguiba died Thursday aged 96.

Leading cardiologists of the country including Brig (Rtd) Prof Abdul Malik, Prof R K Khondoker, Prof S R Khan and Prof K M H S Sirajul Haque attended the camp. About 150 patients with various ailments were examined and were given necessary treatments. The visiting physicians attended the camp to raise funds for Faridpur Branch as well as to render special treatment for the poor patients.

A seminar was also held last evening at the Faridpur Medical College auditorium.

The illegal occupiers as well as the importers don't pay any revenue for unloading commodities at the jetties.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police sources said the private jetties have become safe dens of smuggling. The traffickers in connivance with the jetties' owners are carrying out the smuggling of various goods into the country per year through sea routes.

Several attempts of the port authorities to evict the illegal occupiers and recover the land have been failed as the owners of the jetties have robust links with the government high officials since long.

A section of influential people set up 53 jetties occupying some 311 acres of lands, which had gone into the gorge of the Karnaphuli from Jetty number I to Halderchar.

These jetties are being used for unloading goods from big ships, reports BSS.