

## Folk Drama Festival opens today

A 10-day long Folk Drama Festival-2000, the first of its kind in the country, will begin at Mohanagar Natya Mancha in the city's Gulistan today, reports BSS.

Mohakal Natya Sampraday, a theatre group, is organising the festival.

Food Minister Amir Hossain Anu will inaugurate the festival. Syed Shamsul Haque, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Syed Salahuddin Zaki, Liakat Ali

LuckV and Golam Quddus will be present as discussants at the opening ceremony.

Dashrath Das and his troupe will perform a special drum beating show at the inaugural function. An open air folk songs programme and a Folk Fair will also be arranged at the festival venue.

A total of nine theatre groups, including one from India, are participating at the festival.



Prof. Nilima Ibrahim speaking at a function marking the golden jubilee of weekly Begum at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the city yesterday. - Star photo

## Begum played key role in changing social dynamics

Leading women activists and writers at a discussion in the city yesterday opined that weekly Begum played a promising role in changing social dynamics through a silent revolution, reports BSS.

The readers of the weekly organised the function marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the weekly at Shishu Academy auditorium here. Editor of Begum Noorjahan Begum, journalist Obaidul Hoque, Prof. Nilima Ibrahim, Prof. Mustafa Noor Ul Islam, Ms Rizia Rahman, writer Jharna Das, Parakavastha, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Journalist Baby Mondul read out a message of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which lauded the pioneering role of the weekly for ensuring the rights of the women.

Begum honoured its long time contributors by offering them crests and flowers. Ms Majeda Khatun, Hosna Banu Khanam, Rabeza Khatun, Ja-

hanara Arju, Selina Doza Ponna, Anowara Begum, Razia Majid Khatun, Saïda Khanam, Tahmina Banu and Montaj Khanam received crests from Begum editor.

Journalist Obaidul Hoque said publication of the weekly Begum was a courageous step considering the orthodox mindset of our society during initial stage of the paper. It (Begum) created room for bold expressions of Bengali women, he observed.

Prof. Nilima Ibrahim said Begum never concentrated on the urban readers only and it always reflected the joys and pains of village women who used to live in the farthest corner of the country. My maiden encounter with the paper started when I used to live with my spouse at Barisal, she said. She said that it was constant inspiration of journalist Nasiruddin that enlightened many writers.

## One falls from building, dies

By Staff Correspondent.

One person was killed after he fell down from an under-construction building at Aziz Palli under Cantonment thana in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Malek, 30.

Witnesses said Malek fell down from the third floor of the building at about 4pm.

He died soon after he was rushed to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Body of the victim was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A UD case has been filed with Cantonment police in this connection.

## Charity cycle ride by British police official

A British police official, Phil Buckley, begins a charity cycle ride 'Biking in Bangladesh' in Sylhet division on Nov 5 to raise funds for 'Schools Under the Sky' in Sylhet, reports UNB.

Mike Johnson, the head of Immigration and Consular Section at the British High Commission, received the police constable Phil Buckley at the British High Commission on Monday.

Members of the British High Commission and British community in Dhaka warmly welcomed the cyclist for his four-day expedition that will cover about 150 miles in Sylhet, Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts.

Phil Buckley, a community police constable at Oldham Police Station under Greater Manchester police in the United Kingdom, is raising money for the Sylhet-based The Khasdobar Project which runs the 'Schools Under the Sky'.

## 110th Birth Anniversary



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