

8th Dhaka Book Fair from January 1

BSS, Dhaka

The 8th Dhaka Book Fair begins in the city on January 1 bringing together the leading publishing houses from home and abroad to sell and exhibit their books before the readers.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the 15-day fair to be held at National Parade Ground at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar with the slogan "books for building healthy society".

A good number of publishing houses from home and abroad will participate in the fair organised by Jatiya Grantha Kendra (National Book Centre).

The fair will remain open from 2 pm to 8 pm during working days while from 11 am to 8:30 pm during holidays, a press release said.

The Dhaka international book fair, which is being organised

regularly since 1995, has already earned reputation and became popular among the writers and millions of readers of the country.

The Cultural Affairs Ministry has taken elaborate programmes to make the fair a success.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman will lead a colourful rally to be brought out from Central Library premises at Shahbagh at 9 am on December 30. Writers, publishers, librarians and students will join the rally.

The state minister will also brief the journalists about the fair at a press conference on December 31.

Different programmes will also be arranged at the fair premises, including recitation of poems, music concerts, debates, seminars and discussions.

Sub-editors' Council team calls on President

BSS, Dhaka

A five-member delegation of the Sub-Editors' Council led by its president Mir Mostafiz Ahmed, called on President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The members of the delegation apprised the President of their professional hazards, and said that sub-editors needed specialised training for further developing their standard of editing.

Appreciating professional responsibilities of sub-editors, the President said that news editing was a specialised job, which needs higher training both theoretical and practical. He, however, mentioned that training facilities of the working journalists were on the increase in the country. He said the trend should be integrated and diversified for the development of the profession.

The members of the delegation include Md Abdus Salam, Shahana Sheuli, Afaz Uddin Biplob and Ashrafuzz Islam.

Obituary

Nurul Hossain Bhaduri, an industrialist, died at his residence yesterday at the age of 72, says a press release.

He left behind his two sons, one daughter and a number of grandchildren.

He was buried at the Dhaka Nawab family graveyard at Begum Bazar.

Founder-director of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, Bhaduri was vice-chairman of Bangladesh Oil Mills Owners Association, Disinvested Industries Owners Association and Bangladesh Jute Association.

His khukhwan will be held tomorrow after Ast prayers at Bhaduri Tower, 1/B Paribagh, Dhaka.

Khaleda Sarker

Abdul Khaleda Sarker, a freedom fighter and official of the Health Ministry, died at BIRDEM hospital in the city Sunday evening at the age of 52.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at the Zihadatal staff quarters and he was buried at the Azimpur graveyard.

Son of late Mohammad Ali Sarker, Abdul Khaleda left behind his wife, two daughters and three sons.

Abdul Khaleda hailed from Gali Char village under Daudkandi thana in Comilla.



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PHOTO PID



Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong division today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said adding night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius.

Country's highest temperature 27.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majidjee Court and Shimongoland the lowest 9.5 degree at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18 pm and rises on Wednesday at 6:39 am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity in the divisional headquarters yesterday:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage		Last EPS DPS AGM (Tk) (%)
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	26.7	12.6	65	61	
Chittagong	27.0	15.0	75	78	
Rajshahi	26.2	13.2	78	69	
Khulna	25.2	13.0	89	80	
Barisal	25.2	11.4	96	92	
Sylhet	26.7	11.1	58	70	
Cox's Bazar	27.0	17.6	81	78	

'Save coastal belt from pollution'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable discussion called for steps to protect the coastal belt from pollution and natural and man-made disasters.

They also suggested launching afforestation programmes to make the coastal belt green and taking action to stop activities causing environmental hazards.

The suggestion came up at the regional roundtable on 'Activities in the Coastal Region of Chittagong/Cox's Bazar' held at the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCC) auditorium in the port city on Sunday.

Programme Development Office (PDO) of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the Ministry of Water resource jointly organised the day-long event in association with the Coastal Desh Jute Association.

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Son of late Mohammad Ali Sarker, Abdul Khaleda left behind his wife, two daughters and three sons.

Abdul Khaleda hailed from Gali Char village under Daudkandi thana in Comilla.

The speakers also pointed out that many NGO projects for developing the coastal area could not be implemented for lack of coordination.

It is high time steps were taken to put the coastal people in better position in social, economic, cultural perspectives, they added.

The speakers emphasised the need for involving local people in the coastal development projects.

"Formulate integrated policies for the maintenance of the coastal belts so that the resource harvesting could be optimised in a sustainable way."

The speakers also listed the problems facing the people of the coastal area -- widespread poverty, limited livelihood opportunities and poor economic markets -- saying that these are putting increasing pressure on coastal bioreources.

In addition, highly unequal social structures, continuous threat of cyclones, ongoing process of land erosion, poor regulation for land distribution and resettlement, threatened coastal ecosystems, pollution and natural resources degradation, poor access to new infrastructure and technologies, salinity intrusion and poor water and resource management are adding to the vulnerability of the coastal people.

The participants said the NGOs should work together to ensure a better life for those living in the coastal areas. The inhabitants of the coastal areas account for nearly 20 per cent people of the country.

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