

METROPOLITAN

The Daily Star

Ban on polybags to create jobs in jute sector: Siraj

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Environment and Forests Shahjahan Siraj yesterday said that the ban on the use of polythene bags would help create job opportunities in the environment as well as protect environment.

"Only 4,000 employees may lose their jobs due to the ban, but we are committed to rehabilitating them," he said at a mass rally at the Paitan Maidan, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Directorate of Environment organised the rally to raise awareness.

2 more phones to receive complaints

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has introduced two more phones in its monitoring cell to receive complaints from the subscribers of the capital city and to keep telephones fault free, a BTTB press release said yesterday.

The subscribers who will not get proper response from the nearby camps, would make their complaints directly to the duty officers of the monitoring cell to 9354017 and 9354018 number side by side the previous numbers of 9339191 and 8322972 to activate their telephones.

The cell will now remain open for business from 8 am to 8 pm instead of 8 am to 4 pm everyday.



Sanglap Natya Goshithi staged a drama at TSC road island on the Dhaka University campus yesterday as part of the Victory Festival-2001 organised by the Sammiti Sangskritik Jote.

Democracy Festival begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A two-day 'Chittagong Democracy Festival-2001' organised by the Democracy Watch began at the CJKS gymnasium yesterday morning.

Inaugurating the festival, Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said, "We have developed a bad culture where the 'winner' in a parliamentary election takes all ignoring the opposition completely while the 'loser' deems everything lost."

"But in democracy, peaceful co-existence of both the winner and the loser is a must with mutual respect for each other. Although this is a rare sight in our context, but we should practice it," he remarked.

The minister said difference of opinion is a must in democracy and we should have a unity in diversity. Democracy also envisages maintenance of good relations with the neighbours.

Amir Khasru said, "Information sharing with the people is very important for good governance. People have the right to know the activities of every ministry as well as of the government."

"Nothing is classified, while

good governance in the real sense is concerned. People must be informed so that they can feel the strength and weakness of the government", he added.

"We need as many eyes as possible for watching the progress of democracy till it gets an institutional shape," he added.

Pointing towards global economic scenario and Bangladesh's future after 2005, Amir Khasru regretted that there is no one in his ministry who understands the World Trade Organisation properly.

"I'm sorry to say this but to honest this is the sorry state of my own ministry. We need at least a dozen of expertise right now," the minister said.

The opening session of the festival was presided over by the Executive Director of Democracy Watch Taleya Rahman.

The function was addressed, among others, by Julianne Iftene, charge de affairs of Australian High Commission, former ambassador and BNP leader Dr. A F M Yousuf, Professor Youssif Sharif Ahmed Khan of Chittagong University and Shamsun Nahar Paron, executive director of Ghasful, a NGO based in Chittagong.

Robbers looted cash and fixed deposit bonds from the office of the Mimi Chocolate Limited at Tejgaon industrial area in the city yesterday.

Sources said a gang of four miscreants entered the Mimi Chocolate Limited at 255, Tejgaon industrial area at about 4 am. They looted cash worth Tk. 1.35 lakh and fixed deposit bonds of Tk. 10 lakh from the office.

In her welcome speech, Taleya Rahman said a festival on democracy is not like others which are arranged to make money. "We are here to sell the idea of democracy."

A lively debate, opening of a 'Mukta Manch' where any one can speak, cultural function, quiz programme and exhibition were also held on the first day.

Today's programmes feature a seminar on 'Chittagong Port Private Terminal Issue', screening of film and documentary and cultural functions.

Dacoity at Mimi Chocolate office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The classes of Rajshahi University will resume tomorrow after a 17-day winter vacation on the occasion of Shab-e-Qadr, Shaheed Intellectual Day, Victory Day, Eid-ul-Fitr and Christmas Day, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehul at house No. 693, road No. 12, Baitul Aman Housing Society at Shyamoli.

Chehul of Hasina Faruque, a former teacher of Shahid Anwar and Polytechnic High School and wife of Dr ASM Humayun Faruque, will be held after Asr prayers today at her 100 Manipuri Para residence, says a press release.

First convocation of East West University Jan 2

UNB, Dhaka

The first convocation of East West University, one of the pioneer and leader among the private universities, will be held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium on January 2.

President AQM Badruddoz Chowdhury, also the Chancellor of the University, will be present in the ceremony as chief guest while Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk as special guest, an EWU press release said.

A total of 96 students, both from under-graduate and MBA programmes, will take part in the convocation.

The University is now accommodating more than 1,500 students in various disciplines with around 80 faculty members.

Currently, it offers four-year bachelor degrees in Business Administration, Economics, Computer Science and Engineering, Communication and Information Technology and English.

A meeting in memory of late Fakhruddin Ahmed, a former foreign secretary, will be held. Former President Shahabuddin Ahmad will attend the meeting. Venue: BRAC centre. Time: 10.15am.

Drawing competition

Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela has organised a drawing competition for the children to mark the birth anniversaries of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, poet Jasimuddin and Dr Abdul Al-Muti.

Venue: Kachi-Kanchar Mela premises. Time: 9.00am.

Cultural function

Nazrul Academy will hold a discussion and a cultural function to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Nazrul Bhawan, Mughbazar. Time: 4.30pm.

IDEB council

Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will hold a Council of its Representatives with Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association. Time: 3.00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal will hold a discussion part of the victory Day programmes. LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be present as chief guest. Venue: Bhasani Auditorium.

Time: 3.00pm.

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RU CORRESPONDENT

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Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and the lowest 8.5 degree at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.20 pm and rises on Saturday at 6.41am.

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

City/Town Temperature in Celsius

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 27.0 13.8 61 52

Chittagong 26.8 15.0 61 60

Rajshahi 26.2 12.2 74 74

Khulna 28.0 12.4 78 76

Barisal 27.5 10.8 87 88

Sylhet 28.5 15.5 78 78

Cox's Bazar 27.7 16.4 70 77

Temperature in Celsius

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 27.0 11.7 59 59

Chittagong 26.0 10.0 59 59

Rajshahi 25.0 10.0 59 59

Khulna 24.0 10.0 59 59

Barisal 23.0 10.0 59 59

Sylhet 22.0 10.0 59 59

Cox's Bazar 21.0 10.0 59 59

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