

Valentine's Day in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Different organisations including posh hotels, restaurants and clubs have taken elaborate programmes to celebrate the Valentine's Day amid funfare and festivity in Chittagong today.

City's Meridian restaurant has organised a 'love-letter writing competition' on the occasion.

General manager of the restaurant George Costa said, "We have received several hundreds of love letters written on the letter pads supplied by us to the participants."

"Most of the letters are very interesting and full of emotions with the message of love for all," said George. Prizes will be given away today.

The prize giving ceremony will be held at the Investors' Club at Chittagong Export Processing Zone. An evening of band music

has also been arranged on the occasion.

Another hotel at Agrabad Commercial Area has also taken up programmes for the Valentine's Day.

Some local band groups will perform at a concert at a community centre near Love Lane area.

Meanwhile, prices of flowers in the city's flower shops have gone up on the eve of the Valentine's Day.

"We have received huge orders to supply bouquets and flower sticks on the day of celebration," said Md Harun, a salesman of a flower shop. "Our sale is quite satisfactory". Other flower-sellers also echoed the same sentiment.

Due to heavy demand, one piece of rose was being sold at Tk 5 against its earlier price of Tk 2 or 3 while one bouquet at Tk 100 against the usual price of Tk 60.

Special steamer service for Eid-ul-Azha

BSS, Dhaka

Some special steamers will be put into service ahead of the holy Eid-ul-Azha to ensure safe and comfortable journey for the home-bound passengers.

The steamers will ply some important routes apart from its normal schedule, a Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) press release said yesterday.

According to new schedule, a steamer will leave Dhaka for Hularhat at 5 pm on February 20. It will stop over in Chandpur and Barisal. Another steamer will leave Guptachara at 1.30 pm for Kumira with a stopover at Maitdanga and another will make a return journey on the route starting from Kumira at 3 pm.

On February 21, a Barisal-bound steamer will leave Dhaka at 5 pm with a stopover in Chandpur. Another steamer will leave Chittagong at 8 pm for Sandwip, and from Sandwip, a steamer will set sail for Chittagong at 3 pm.

On the same day, a steamer will ply Guptachara-Kumira route at 1.30 pm via Maitdanga while another steamer will make return journey on the route, from Kumira at 3 pm.

On February 22, two special steamers will run between Guptachara and Kumira via

Maitdanga. One will leave Guptachara at 1.30 pm while another will leave Kumira at 3 pm.

On February 23, two steamers will ply the Guptachara-Kumira route maintaining the previous day's schedule.

From March 1, the steamers will leave Barisal at 5 pm for the capital with a stopover in Chandpur.

In addition to the special steamer service, ferries will make extra trips at Aricha and Mawa ghats.

Pourasava polls peaceful: FEMA

BSS, Dhaka

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) yesterday said elections in 15 pourasavas held on Tuesday were peaceful, well-administered and largely attended.

The security measures taken under the leadership of the magistrates to prevent any untoward incident in and around polling stations were more than sufficient, a press release of the organisation said.

It also said the supply of election materials to polling stations was also adequate.



BNP and its front organisations brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday in commemoration of those who were killed in a shoot-out at the Malibagh crossing last year.

Help set up more Bangladeshi garment factories

PM urges Moroccan govt

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday sought cooperation from the Moroccan government to set up more Bangladeshi garment factories in Morocco.

She also invited more Moroccan investment in investment-friendly Bangladesh.

The prime minister was talking to Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Seghrouchi who called on her at her office and handed over a letter from Moroccan Prime Minister Abderrahmane Yousoufi.

In his letter, the Moroccan Prime Minister invited Khaleda Zia to visit his country.

Accepting the invitation, she said the date would be fixed through diplomatic channels of the two countries.

Khaleda invited both Moroccan King Mohammed VI and Prime Minister Yousoufi through the ambassador to visit Bangladesh.

desh.

Ambassador Seghrouchi told Khaleda that there were a good number of draft agreements on bilateral cooperation, which could be signed during her official visit to Morocco.

The ambassador also informed her that some Bangladeshi entrepreneurs had set up garment industries in Morocco and could supply RMG quickly to the European market as Europe is close to Morocco.

The prime minister requested the Moroccan government to import more jute goods, tea and leather, pharmaceutical and ceramic products from Bangladesh.

Praising the good quality of Bangladeshi ceramic products, the envoy said Morocco is importing those. Besides, an initiative has been taken to use Bangladeshi ceramic goods in Moroccan embassies in different countries.

He laid emphasis on processing of green tea in Bangladesh as

such kind of tea is widely consumed in Morocco apart from black tea, which is also imported from here.

Exchange of visits at trade chamber level between the two countries to expand and strengthen the trade ties was also discussed in the meeting.

In this respect, the Moroccan diplomat said they would invite the Bangladesh Commerce Minister to visit Morocco along with a business delegation.

The prime minister and the ambassador expressed satisfaction over the existing warm relations between the two countries and hoped to further consolidate the relationship.

The envoy mentioned that Bangladesh and Morocco express identical views in various regional and international issues.

Additional Foreign Secretary Anwarul Alam was present at the meeting.

Foil conspiracy of anti-liberation forces: Zillur

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the countrymen to forge unity with a fresh vow to foil the conspiracy of the anti-liberation forces.

"The fanatical Razakars tried to destroy Bangalee culture time and again, and now they are hatching conspiracy to undermine our independence," he said at a discussion in the city.

Bangladesh Awami Lawyers Association arranged the discussion at the auditorium of Dhaka Lawyers' Association to mark the International Mother Language Day.

Chaired by Adv Sahara Khatun, the meeting was also addressed by Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Adv Abdul Hamid, former Law Minister Adv Md Matin Khasru, Adv Rahmat Ali, Adv Shudhansu Shekhar Halder and Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan.

Zillur Rahman alleged that those who do not believe in the spirit of liberation war and Eku-shey February are now in state power. "All achievements of Bangalee nation from language movement to liberation war are now being foiled," he added.



Death anniversary of Bhola Miah today

The 5th death anniversary of Alhaj Reazuddin Ahmed (Bhola Miah), former deputy speaker and minister, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a *quran khwani* and *munajat* will be held at his graveyard and a *milad mahfil* at his daughter's residence.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

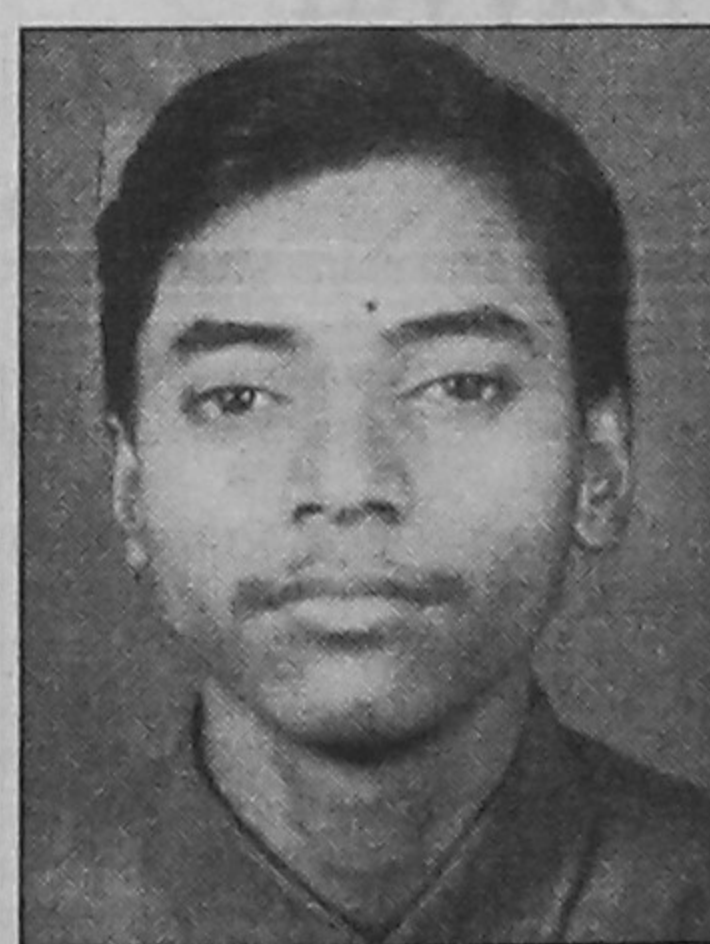
M Sajed Karim, Secretary of the Rural Electrification Board (REB), died of a cardiac arrest on Tuesday midnight. He was 54.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

M Sajed Karim began his career as Assistant Executive Officer of Bangladesh Trading Corporation and joined the REB as Deputy Director in 1978.

His *namaj-e-janaza* was held at REB head office premises. REB Chairman Ziaul Islam Chowdhury and other REB officers and employees attended it.

His *qul khwani* will be held at his Kalyanpur residence after Asr prayers on Friday.



Asaf-ud-Dowla Reza

The 19th death anniversary of Asaf-ud-Dowla Reza, a noted journalist and social worker, will be observed today.

Different organisations will commemorate his death anniversary with elaborate programmes, including discussion and *milad mahfil*.

A discussion and *milad mahfil* will be held in the city under the auspices of Motijheel Colony Night School while similar programmes will also be held at his village home at Chandaikona and Sherpur.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will air special programmes on Asaf-ud-Dowla.

A *milad mahfil* will be held at the residence of the late journalist at House No. 36, Road No-5, block-E, Banasri after Asr prayers.

Directive to take steps to meet growing demand for electricity

BSS, Dhaka

The newly-appointed Chairman of Power Development Board (PDB) S A Moyeed yesterday directed the officials to take appropriate measures to meet the growing demand for electricity during the summer.

"Significant amount of power can be saved by disconnecting the illegal connections, and that will help reduce load-shedding to a great extent," he told the high officials after taking over as the new chairman of PDB at WAPDA Bhaban.

Giving directives to intensify the revenue collection drive, the new PDB chairman said he would take necessary steps to make the board self-reliant. He stressed the need for team-work for timely execution of board's activities.

He said the PDB's production and distribution sector should be made cost-effective and profitable by implementing strategic business unit concept.

The PDB chairman said steps would also be taken for human resources development.

DHAKA TODAY

DCCI meeting

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries will hold a meeting with a high level Iranian Business Delegation led by Deputy Minister of Commerce Khosro Taj. Venue: DCCI Auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Lecture session

A lecture session on 'Challenges and Prospects of Developing IT Industry in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) will be held. Venue: BISS Auditorium. Time: 10.30am.

Publication ceremony

A publication ceremony of a book on contemporary poetry authored by Hare Krishna Sarker will be held. Venue: North South University Campus.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Uttarabanga Janakalyan Samity will be held. Venue: 54, Dilkusha C/A. Time: 4.30pm.

Cultural function

On the occasion of Valentine's Day, Bishwa Bhalobasa Dibas Ujjapan

Parishad will hold a cultural function. Venue: In front of TSC premises, Dhaka University. Time: 3.00pm.

Swajan Samabesh

Swajan Samabesh of daily Jugantar will hold a cultural evening on the occasion of Valentine's Day. Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 5.00pm.

Charity concert

A charity concert will be held to raise fund for Palash, a cancer patient and a student of APTECH. Venue: Dhanmondi Women's Complex.

Cultural Evening

Dhaka Shahi Club will hold a cultural evening to mark the Valentine's Day. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Public Library. Time: 4.00pm.

IBA Seminar

The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) will hold a seminar on 'Brand Protection and Counterfeit Products' with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: IBA Auditorium, Dhaka University.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6pm today.

Slight fall in night temperature is expected over the country. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest of 14.4 degree at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.53 pm today and rises at 6:32 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.4	20.0	70	48
Chittagong	33.4	18.8	75	67
Rajshahi	27.6	17.2	66	56
Khulna	28.5	19.5	77	64
Barisal	28.5	18.5	83	54
Sylhet	30.4	17.0	69	58
Cox's Bazar	31.8	19.5	58	66

BCL strike disrupts academic activities at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities of Dhaka University were disrupted yesterday due to strike called by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in all educational institutions across the country.

BCL student wing of the Awami League, called the strike protesting the 'distortion' of history in school textbooks by BNP-led four-party alliance government.

Classes and examinations were suspended while administrative activities continued partially.

Although Central and Science Libraries remained open, attendance of the students was thin.

Sources said no untoward incident was reported on the campus during the strike.

Earlier, BCL brought out a pro-

cession and held a rally at the foot of the Aparajito Bangla in support of the strike.

Addressing the rally, BCL leaders accused the government of distorting the history of the country's Liberation War.

They said the government has committed a heinous crime against the young learners by changing the real history of the Bengali nation.

The BCL leaders urged the student community to unite against the evil motives of the government.

Presided over by Beg Shahin Jahan, the rally was addressed by Balam Poddar, Shahabuddin Farazi, Sujit Roy Nandi, Liakot Sikder, Nazrul Islam Babu, Rafiqul Islam Kotwal and Mainul Islam Mostaque.



Unitrend Limited, a leading advertising agency, honoured ten of its employees who have completed 10 years of service in this agency at a ceremony in the city recently.



Moazzem Hossain, Chairman of the governing body, National Bank Public School and College, presents a crest to Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk at the annual prize giving ceremony of the institution at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the city recently.

Exciting news!!!

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