

'Cancel work order for secondary textbooks'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association (BBPSA) yesterday formed a human chain in front of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) demanding cancellation of work order for secondary level textbooks.

The association leaders alleged that among the 370 listed publishing houses, the board gave 92 percent of the work to

43 houses, while the rest got only eight percent of the work.

Earlier at a press conference on Friday, the association leaders brought allegation against the board pointing anomalies in the work order for publishing 1.60 crore books.

As part of its agitation programme, the BBPSA already submitted a memorandum to the NCTB chairman demanding cancellation of the work order.

DHAKA
TODAY

Film festival

As part of French-German Film Festival 2003, four films will be screened. The films titled 'Karnaval' directed by Thomas Vincent (1999) and 'Comme Un Aimant' directed by Kamel Saleh Akhenaton (2000) will be screened at Alliance Francaise at 10.30am and 7.00pm, while the films 'Der Krieger und die Kaiserin' directed by Tom Tykwer (2001) and 'Black Box BRD' directed by Andres Veiel (2000) will be screened at Goethe Institut at 3.00pm and 7.00pm.

Mehdi Utsab

The inaugural ceremony of Ivy Mehdi Utsab, organised by Adroit Media, will be held. Venue: Eastern Plaza, Hatirjheel. Time: 11.00am. It will continue for three days.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Mouchak Jewellers Binodan Dhara Eid Fashion Competition will be held with State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Kha, Kakrail. Time: 6.30pm.

Punjabi exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of Punjabi designed by fashion designer Nahid Nazia and organised by Bangalee will be held. It will be followed by a fashion show. Venue: Muldhara International Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.30am. The exhibition will remain open till Nov 22 from 10.00am to 10.00pm daily.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a meeting to commemorate the fourth death anniversary of poet Begum Sufia Kamal. Venue: Parishad office, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

Lecture

A lecture on the 'Role of Imams in religion-based modern education', organised by Darul Ihsan University, will be held. It will be followed by an iftar. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Presentation

A presentation on 'Quality education: A holistic model for faculty scholarship', organised jointly by Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and East West University, will be held. Venue: IUB campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

A discussion on the 'Responsibility of political parties and civil society in protecting democracy and constitution', organised by Jatiya Sweekhasebok Party, will be held. Venue: 7/10/A, Block-D, Lalmoni. Time: 4.00pm.

Roundtable

A roundtable on the 'Regional Symposium 2003 on the disabled', organised by National foundation of organisations working with the disabled, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of the Islami Banking Branch of the City Bank Ltd will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Ismail Mansion, Motijheel. Time: 10.00am.

Unesco roundtable

A roundtable on 'Philosophy and the media', organised by the philosophy department of Jahangirnagar University, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.



Chairman of Adcomm Ltd. Geetara Safiya Choudhury, middle, opened an exhibition of exotic sarees designed by Kamrun Nahar, left, at the La Galerie in Banani yesterday. Design consultant of Proshika Fabrics Shahana Ahmed, right, was present as special guest. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily till November 24.

922 NGOs get FNB membership

BSS, Dhaka

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) has so far approved membership of 922 non-government organisations.

At a meeting on Monday, the national executive board of the FNB approved the membership of 350 NGOs operating in 50 districts.

Earlier, 572 NGOs got the membership of the FNB, said a press release.

Presided over by FNB Chairman Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, the meeting discussed training facilities for smaller organisations, inclusion of NGOs in government committees on khas land at district and upazila levels and food situation in northern districts.

The meeting also formed an advocacy group to facilitate interaction and coordination with the government and the donor community for matters related to the NGO sector.

Members of the group are Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury (BRAC), Rasheda K Choudhury (CAMPE), Kamaluddin Akbar (RDRS), Abul Haseeb Khan (RIC) and Syeda Rizwana Hasan (BELA).

One gets life for killing boy in Pabna

BSS, Rajshahi

The divisional speedy trial tribunal here yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for killing a nine-year-old boy.

The boy, Nur Islam Alias Biku, was killed at Char Sujanagar village under Pabna district about two years ago.

The convict, Mojai Kha Alias Amjad, 25, son of Nazimuddin, was also fined Tk 10,000. He will have to suffer six more months of rigorous imprisonment if he fails to pay.

He went into hiding soon after the incident.

Two other accused -- Rakib Kha, 22, and Bakkar Kha 24, -- were acquitted.

Judge AFM Aminul Islam pronounced the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

According to the prosecution, the accused called Biku, son of Rajib Ali, out of his house at about 3.00 in the afternoon on May 4, 2000. Then they took him to an unknown place.

His body was recovered from the nearby flood control embankment the next morning.

The victim's father filed a case with Sujangar thana on May 7, 2000, accus-

ing three persons.

Special Public Prosecutor Keta Uddin appeared for the state while advocates Shah Jahan Mondal and Monwara Begum defended the accused.

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Gates Foundation gives \$ 10m to Unicef

UNB, Dhaka

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated 10 million US dollar to Unicef to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) that causes death of an estimated 230,000 mothers and babies worldwide a year.

The gift is an extension of the 26 million dollar the Gates Foundation gave in 1999, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Death anniversary



Today is the 32nd death anniversary of Shaheed Lt. Abu Moyerin Mohammed Ashfaqur Samad, Bir Uttam, says a press release.

He embraced martyrdom in a battle with the Pakistani forces in Kurigram during the War of Liberation.

A milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his younger brother, Iftiqaq Aziz Ulfat, at House # 42, Road # 4, Sector # 3, Uttara after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

AT Foyez Uddin Ahmed



The fourth death anniversary of AT Foyez Uddin Ahmed, a drama artist and sports organiser, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was also a general manager of the BTMC and the BSCIC.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 63 Agamahis Lane after Asr prayers.

Abdul Aziz



The 24th death anniversary of Abdul Aziz, a former district magistrate and IGR, will be observed today, says a press release.

His qulkhwani will be held at 'Rima', 10 Eskaton Garden (Opposite Ladies Club) after Asr prayers on Friday.

Doa mahfil will be held in Dhaka and at his village home at Narayanpur, Brahmanbaria.