

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

Prachyanat will stage a drama titled 'kainya' directed by Azad Abul Kalam. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Australia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held, with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6.30pm.

Discussion

A discussion on 'The 32nd year of the victory and the deprived Bangalee', organised by Aamra Mujib Sena, will be held with Awami League Presidium Member K M Shafiqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 4.00pm.

Certificate award ceremony

The certificate award ceremony of a training course on amateur radio operation will be held, organised by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication. Venue: BETS Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.30pm.

Poetry evening

The Kabitalap of Khulna organises a poetry reading session where 31 poets will take part. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.45pm.

Kite procession

Dhakabasi will take out a colourful kite procession to mark the Shakraim (last day of Poush). Venue: From Saint Lee Kindergarten premises, adjacent to Dhakeswari Baralmath. Time: 10.20am.

Lecture

The Department of Geography & Environment, Dhaka University, organises a lecture on 'India's inter-basin water transfer plan: environmental implications for Bangladesh' by Professor KB Sajjadur Rasheed. Venue: Geography department of DU. Time: 12.30pm.

Discussion on Safta

The Economic Reporters' Forum organises a discussion on 'Safta: recent development and Bangladesh', with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

Save The Humanity, a voluntary organisation, will hold a discussion on 'The role of public representatives in making the society free from violence'. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Food ministry gives 2.13 acres for extension of Azimpur graveyard

UNB, Dhaka

The Food Ministry yesterday handed over 2.13 acres of land to Dhaka City Corporation for the extension of the Azimpur graveyard.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receives the document of land for expansion of the Azimpur graveyard from Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman at a simple ceremony at the International Conference Centre yesterday.

The land adjacent to the Azimpur graveyard now houses a transport workshop of the Food Department.

Naik Alamgir killing PBCP claims responsibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party claimed responsibility for the killing of Naik Alamgir Hossain of Ansar battalion.

Naik Alamgir was attached with Kalkalia camp of Joint forces. He was murdered on Monday at Ujalpur under Bagerhat Sadar upazila.

Ten people have been shown arrested in the murder case filed with Bagerhat Sadar thana with Sub-Inspector Shafiqul Islam as complainant.

According to SI Shafiq, Naik Alamgir had an illicit relation with a student of Kafurpura Madrassah of Ujalpur. He was with the girl for about four hours at her father's residence on the day of murder.

motive behind the murder, Bagerhat Police Super Mesbahuddin said.

70 lakh people suffering from asthma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy lakh people in the country have been suffering from various degrees of asthma, according to a research study.

Uddin Ahmed and Dr zakia Mahfuza Khan and Nowazesh Ali Khan were present at the press conference held at the National Press Club.

Over 1300 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,322 people including two identified criminals, during their country-wide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

itis or inflammation of skin, swelling of tissue on both sides of the nose and its reddening, nasal flow and deviated nasal sputum or DNS.

According to the study, asthma affects the airways in the lungs. During an episode or attack of asthma, the lining of the airways becomes swollen (inflamed), the airways produce thick mucus and the muscles around the airways tighten and make the airways narrower.

Dander (or flakes) from the skin, hair or feathers of pets such as dogs, cats, birds and small rodents, cockroaches, pollens from grass and trees, smoke from cigarettes, scented products such as hair spray and cosmetics, automobile fumes and air pollution are major allergens that trigger asthma, the study pointed out.

Dr Hasan said sneezing, running nose, cough, itching, irritation of nose and sore in the eye are primary symptoms of asthma.

He said sneezing is responsible for allergy in 87 per cent of the cases, running nose 78 per cent and cough 61 per cent.

Dr Hasan also said that many foods and food preservatives also act as common allergens.

Protein used in synthesis of some vaccines, aspirin, penicillin, gelatine used in synthesis of

capsules and sulphur in many drugs also triggers allergy or even lead to asthma, the study revealed.

"Organic dust and some charged suspended particles in the air are also major allergens causing asthma," said Dr Hasan.

In the city's Hajaribagh area, it was found that about 40 per cent population of the locality suffer from respiratory problems largely due to sulphur dioxide in the air.

Dr Hasan also presented findings of another research on arsenic contamination and suggested some remedies to check arsenic poisoning and contamination.

Conducted by the AAERSCI, the study found that plants like water hyacinth, leafy vegetable like kalmilata and some ferns substantially absorb arsenic from water.

The study also showed that spirulina, euglena and some sea weeds having high concentration of some vitamins act as antioxidants and may prevent arsenic poisoning in human body.

Skin specialists Dr Monir

Integrate our kids into mainstream of society

Sex workers renew demand at annual conference

UNB, Dhaka

Sex workers of Daulatdia brothel, seeking to turn around the social hatred towards them, came up with an 11-point demand at a conference to integrate their kids into the mainstream of society by ensuring education for them.

"If our children get education and better jobs, the number of sex workers will gradually decline. Now there is a need for setting up a safe home for our adolescent children so that they can grow up in a safe and violence-free environment," she said.

Mohila Mukti Samity (MMS), an organisation of local sex workers, organised the conference on Tuesday with support from Save the Children, Australia (SCA) on the Daulatdia brothel premises, nearly 100 kilometres off capital Dhaka.

In a research paper, "Our Lives in Brothel", placed at the conference two minors -- Pinky and Sajan -- narrated their experiences. The research was conducted to focus on how sex workers' children grow up in warehouses.

"We are socially hated and neglected, and still we cannot exercise our religious rituals in public," MMS convenor Perveen, also a sex worker of the country's oldest and largest brothel, told the conference.

The children grow up as anti-social elements in brothels. While the girls follow in the footsteps of their mothers, the boys become hooligans and start taking drug at an early age.

Parveen said once they were not allowed to bury or cremate the bodies of sex workers and their bodies used to be thrown into river. But now things have changed as they have been able to realise their rights to funeral and some of children are going to school thanks to some non-government organisations for their tremendous role in

According to MMS leaders, there are now 408 children of 18 years old in Daulatdia brothel. Of them, 193 are boys and 215 girls.

In her address of welcome, Perveen urged the conscious section of the society to come up for the rehabilitation of some 1350 sex workers and their children.

To provide health support to the children and ensure their wellbeing, SCA and Karmajibi Kalyan Sangstha (KKS) are working for the last four years in addition to other NGOs and Department of Social Service of the government.

"We are providing technical support to the sex workers and education to their children so that they could become self-reliant and return to a normal life," SCA Project Coordinator Farooque Ahmed said.

Farooque said some 35 girls, who do not want to follow in the footsteps of their mothers, are now living in their safe home.

"I won't take up this socially hated profession. I want to read and work for the brothel children," Anisa, a resident of the safe home, said.

Anisa, who was brought there by her sister, is now preparing to sit for the SSC examination from Daulatdia Model High School.

Like Anisa, Pinky and Sumi also hate the profession and dream of bringing change in their own lives as well other neglected children.

Expressing their solidarity with the sex workers, the government officials and NGO workers who attended the conference gave them assurance to do everything possible to meet their demands.

UNO Gautam Aich Sarkar attended the conference as chief guest. Chaired by MMS president Morzina Begum, the conference was attended, among others, by executive director of KKS Fakir Abdul Zabbar and SCA Country Director Sultan Mahmud.



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a review meeting on Artha Rin Adalat Act, 2003, jointly organised by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and Bangladesh Bank at the Biam auditorium in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY Dry weather with cloudy sky likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur in north-western part and river basins while light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it forecast.

Highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 08.0 degree at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:32pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature In Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)