

DHAKA
T O D A Y**Film show**

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'SWAT' and 'Legally Blonde-2'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/A Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

French film show

The Alliance Francaise will screen 'Resources Humaines' directed by Laurent Cantet. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Drama

Women in Small Enterprises (WISE) will stage a drama titled 'Protisaran' to raise fund for the organisation. Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 7.00pm.

Musical evening

TAN, a socio-cultural organisation comprising students of Dhaka University, Buet and Salimullah Medical College, organises a musical evening. Venue: Teachers Students Centre. Time: 6.00pm.

Art competition

An art competition for the children, organised by Bangabandhu Shishu Academy to mark the homecoming day of Bangabandhu, will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.00pm.

Pitha utsav

Muldhara International Centre for Writers, Journalists and Artists organises a daylong Pitha utsav that includes children painting competition, recitation of poem and cultural function. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.00am.

Meenabazar

Women's Voluntary Association organises international meenabazar-2004. Venue: Gulshan Shishu Park (Behind Wonderland). Time: 11.00am.

Education week

The inaugural ceremony of National Education Week-2004 will be held with Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial

Auditorium. Time: 9.15am.

Founding anniversary

The 14th founding anniversary of International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology will be held. Venue: Dhanmondi campus of the university. Time: 3.00pm.

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of International Book Fair 2004 will be held with State Minister for Education A N M Ehsanul Haque as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 8.00pm.

Open day

Greenfield International School organises a daylong programme marking the occasion of its Open Day. Venue: House-7, Road-32, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Old Students Association of West End High School will be held. Venue: School premises. Time: 5.00pm.

Training course

The inauguration of a training course on 'Research methods for business and social sciences: The art of survey research', organised by East West University, will be held. Venue: University campus, Mohakhali. Time: 9.30am.

Convention

The National Convention of Apex Club of Bangladesh will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5.00pm

Rally

A rally of Jatiya Chhatradhara will be held with eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Eden Complex, Arambagh. Time: 10.00am.

Conference

The World Ashke-e-Rasul (SM) conference, organised by Dewanbag Sharif, will be held. Venue: Babe Rahmat, Arambagh. Time: After Fazr prayers.

Killing of journalist Manik Saha condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social, political, cultural and journalists' organisations and ministers yesterday strongly condemned the killing of journalist Manik Chandra Saha at Khulna town.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperative Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement expressed grave concern over the killing of the newsman. Manik Saha died in a bomb explosion near the Khulna Press Club yesterday noon.

The minister called for immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the killers.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam has strongly condemned the killing of journalist Manik Saha and asked the law enforcing agencies to bring the culprits to book.

In a statement, Tariqul con- doled the death of the eminent journalist and asked the police to take all-out measures to arrest the killers.

Former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury also condemned the killing and expressed his grave concern.

He demanded immediate arrest of and punishment to those responsible for the killing.

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demonstrated in

the city and held a protest rally where the leaders called for immediate arrest of the killers.

In a joint statement, DUJ President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury demanded resignation of the home minister as what they said he has failed to ensure security of the people.

The DUJ and the BFUJ will hold a protest rally in Dhaka on January 19.

The Commonwealth Journalists' Association (CJA) has expressed deep shock at the killing of journalist Manik Saha in a bomb attack.

In separate statements, CJA Global President Hassan Shahriar and CJA Bangladesh chapter President Farid Hossain said the heinous attack not only killed a brave and honest journalist, but also threatened freedom of press.

They demanded that the attackers be arrested immediately and punished.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) demonstrated and held a rally at Muktangan in the city.

The killing has once again proved that no one has security of life in the country, the CPB leaders said.

Bangladesh Crime Reporters

Association, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum, Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Comilla Sangbadik Union, Kushtia Reporters Unity and Barisal Reporters Unity have condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest of and punishment to the killers.

The socio-political organisations who have protested the killing are Workers Party, Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, Mass-line Media Centre, National Awami Party, Left Democratic Front, Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oiyka Parishad.

Thirteen non-government organisations in a joint statement also condemned the killing. They are Ain O Salish Kendro, Sammilito Nari Samaj, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Odhikar, Nari Progoti Sangha, Karmagibi Nari and Bela.

Our CU correspondent adds: the journalist community of Chittagong has strongly condemned the killing of Manik Saha.

They said the killing of the journalist is nothing but a consequence of the repression on journalists round the year.

The journalists who are working in the southwestern region of the country, including Khulna district, are not safe at all and being repressed by the criminals regularly, they said.

The attack and repression on the journalists have increased at an alarming rate in that region since the present government took over and Manik Saha is the latest victim of crimes, they added.

The journalists community will hold a protest rally and procession at the local press club at 11.00am on Saturday.

In a joint statement, the journalist leaders also demanded immediate arrest of the culprits responsible for the killing.

The signatories to the statement are BFUJ leader Arun Das Gupta, AZM Haider, Nirmal Das and Omar Kaiser, Chittagong Press Club leaders Abu Sufian and Kalim Sarwer, CUJ leaders Mustaq Ahmed and Shahid-Ul-Alam, and Chittagong Reporters Council leaders Osman Gani Monsur and Moazzamel Haq.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet adds: the journalist community in Sylhet took out a mourning procession in Sylhet yesterday to condole the death of journalist Manik Saha.

The procession started from the Press Club and ended at the Court point area of the city.

A brief rally was also held where Club president Iqbal Siddiquee, secretary Liaquat Shah Faridi and vice presidents Bashiruddin and Al-Azad spoke.

7050 bottles of phensidyl seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CID police seized 7,050 bottles of phensidyl and arrested two drug peddlers in separate incidents in the city on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of CID police raided a covered van at Motijheel Colony at around 10.15pm and seized 5,000 bottles of phensidyl from a hidden pocket of the vehicle.

Police also arrested Tokon Miah and Mohammad Mohsin in this connection.

This gang had been involved in peddling drugs in three vans for long.

The gang used to bring phensidyl to Dhaka from India through Comilla, police said.

In another incident, the CID police raided the lake area near the Road-32 (Old) of Dhanmondi and arrested one Al-Amin, 30.

According to his statement, police later arrested his accomplice Arif Ahmed alias Faruq alias Dada Faruq from Road-5, Dhanmondi.

Police later raided the House-17, Road-9, Block Kha of Pisciculture Housing Society and seized 750 bottles of phensidyl.

They also seized 1,300 bottles of phensidyl at House-20/1, Road-5, Dhanmondi.

Mohammadpur-Motijheel Route 'More bus services to create traffic chaos'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of three bus companies have urged the government not to give permission to introduce new services on Mohammadpur-Motijheel Route without proper assessment of the situation.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club on Wednesday, they said if permission is given to any new bus service, it would create unhealthy competition and acute traffic jam on this route.

Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury,

managing partner of Rajdhani Express and vice-president of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity, said a bus company is trying to introduce a new service on this route illegally without any route permit.

He also called for formulation of a comprehensive transport policy which will be acceptable to all.

Azam Khan Munna, managing director of Megacity Bus Company Ltd, and Rashedin Khan Selim, managing director of ATCL were also present at the press conference.



Members of Grihayan O Samaj Kalyan Parishad distribute warm clothes among the destitute at Trimohoni in the city yesterday.



The Victoria University of Melbourne organised a seminar on 'Impact of Recent Security Measures on International Supply Chains' at its Dhaka Study Centre recently. From left are Dr Shams Rahman, director of Logistics Management Industry Programme, Institute of Transport Studies, Aftab-ul-Islam, president of American Chamber of Commerce, and G M Chowdhury, advisor of MBA programme.

Tk 5 lakh donated to Diabetic Assoc

Abu Naser Mainuddin, a resident of Dilkusha, has donated Tk 5 lakh to the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh to sponsor a bed at Birdem Hospital in the city recently, says a press release.

Poor patients can use this bed free of charge.

The bed has been sponsored in the name of his mother late Zaheda Hafizuddin who was a registered patient of the hospital.

Obituary

Sifatan Begum, mother of Major Murad, died of old-age complications at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on January 6 at the age of 62, says a press release.

She is survived by two sons, three daughters and a number of grandchildren.

She was buried at her home village at Gopinathpur in Gopalganj.

Death anniversary

Today is the 89th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah, a founder of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Wreaths will be placed at his graveyard at Begum Bazaar and a milad mahfil will also be held there in the morning.

Syed Nurul Alam



The 10th death anniversary of Syed Nurul Alam, a social worker and industrialist, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was the founder of Imperial Group, one of the leading developer and business conglomerate.

A doa mahfil will be held at his Khulshi hilltop residence, Imperial Hill, in Chittagong to mark the day.