



PHOTO: STAR

Children take part in a painting competition on the Shilpakala Academy premises in the city yesterday. The academy organised the event to mark the birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman.

BCL reunion tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of the former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League (AL), will be held at Paltan Maidan in the city tomorrow.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will attend the function as chief guest.

Former BCL presidents and general secretaries will deliver speeches at the reunion highlighting the glorious role of the party in different national movements.

An extended meeting of the BCL will be held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh on January 26.

Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the meeting. The deliberations of the meeting would help formulate future course of action to oust the coalition government.

This was stated at a press conference at the central office of the BCL at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

In a written statement, BCL President Liaqat Sikder said many leaders and activists of the party have been arrested and harassed under the Speedy Trial Act.

BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu said the alliance government has been killing their workers and supporters across the country since it came to power.

"We demanded trial of the killers but the BNP-Jamaat government did not pay any heed to our demands," he added.

BCL leaders Marufa Akhter Popy, Rafiqul Islam, Baloram Podder, Sahajada Mohiddin, Saifuzzaman Shekhor, Khan Moinal Islam Mostaque, HM Dulal and Morsheduzzaman Selim were present at the press conference.

Customs official killed in road accident in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One customs official was killed when his private car was knocked and smashed by an inter-city train at Ispahani Rail Gate area under Pahartoli Police Station in the port city on Thursday night.

The victim A K M Amir Hossain Khan, 45, was an appraiser of Bangladesh Customs working in Dhaka and a freedom fighter. Sources said Amir Hossain was returning to his residence at Debpar area from Halishahar Customs Training Academy where he was undergoing a training at around 9.00pm.

Being in a hurry to attend a social function, he tried to pass the rail crossing avoiding the signal bar when Chittagong-bound Paharika Express from Sylhet knocked and smashed the car.

Critically injured Amir Hossain was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the on duty doctors declared him dead.

Amir Hossain, who hailed from Begumganj of Noakhali district, left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile, Chittagong city and north district command leaders of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad, in a joint statement yesterday evening, expressed deep shock at the death of Amir Hossain and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

RU authorities refute allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities yesterday refuted the allegation that the administration was biased towards the Islamic Chhatra Shibir.

A press release, signed by Prof Shah M Habibur Rahman, an administrator of RU Public Relations Office, said the allegation had been made to tarnish the image of the university.

"In a recent interview with the Dainik Dinkal, the vice-chancellor expressed his support for nationalist politics," he added.

He said the authorities tried their best to check the violence that erupted on the campus on January 13 and closed the university as per the recommendations of the syndicate to help restore peace.

He also expressed the determination of the authorities to take action against the perpetrators behind the violence after receiving the probe report.

Earlier, RU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal alleged that the VC and his administration were biased to shibir.

At a press conference on Thursday, the JCD leaders said the violence occurred on the campus due to their partial attitude.

They also alleged that some officials and shibir cadres were engaged in black marketing of admission forms.

Rotary offers to build population tower

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Rotary International President Jonathan B Majiyagbe called on Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka at his residence in the city yesterday.

The RI president discussed the humanitarian and social welfare services rendered by the Rotary Clubs in Bangladesh, said a press release.

During the meeting, Rotary District-3280, the Bangladesh chapter of the Rotary International, offered to take over the park near Sonargaon Hotel for its development and maintenance.

The proposal includes construction of a population tower in the park to monitor the growth of the country's population every second.

On the second day of his tour, Majiyagbe visited a number of Rotary projects in Dhaka. He visited a free clinic, Acid Survivors' Foundation and distributed warm clothes to women and children at a slum in Banani.

He also held a breakfast meeting with the Rotary leaders.

Rotary District-3780 Governor Mir Anisuzzaman and Governor-elect for 2004-05 AKM Shamsudin were present.



PHOTO: STAR

With Eid-ul-Azha round the corner, home-bound passengers flock to Kamapur Railway Station for advance tickets.

Forum of Energy Reporters executives

UNB, Dhaka

The biennial general meeting of the Forum for Energy Reporters, Bangladesh (FERB) was held at the National Press Club yesterday with its Chairman Badiul Alam in the chair.

Deputy General Manager of Petrobangla Kazi Gofran Ahmed announced the names of new Board of Directors of FERB elected unopposed for 2004-05, said a press release.

The newly elected office-bearers are: Badiul Alam - chairman, Arun Karmakar - vice-chairman, Mollah Amzad Hossain - executive director, Sagar Sarwar - director (training and research), M Abdullah - director (development and finance), Mahmud Hafiz - director (data bank), Shahnaz Begum - director (cultural affairs and welfare), and Zahid Newaz Khan and Sabuj Yunus - members.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country in the early morning. Met office said, predicting that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest of 12.0 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:39pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

The 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	25.4	17.8	73	64
Chittagong	28.7	16.5	80	67
Rajshahi	23.8	15.3	84	96
Khulna	27.5	18.2	98	78
Barisal	27.0	15.8	90	84
Sylhet	26.2	15.4	56	59
Cox's Bazar	28.6	18.5	74	75

DHAKA TODAY

Musical evening
Moureen Rahman, a multiple award winning Bangladeshi singer from Australia, will present modern Bengali and Hindi songs. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium of National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 6.30pm.

CD launch
Bengal Foundation organises the launching ceremony of a CD titled 'Unio Sonar Paira' by Mustafa Zaman Abbasi. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House-275/F, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Straw Dogs'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama
As part of a week-long drama festival organised by Dhaka Theatre Mancha, Dhaka Theatre will stage a drama titled 'Banapangshul'. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.

Orientation ceremony
Independent University, Bangladesh organises an orientation ceremony for the students of Spring semester. Venue: University campus, Baridhara. Time: 10.00am.

Founding anniversary
The 2nd founding anniversary of Daffodil International University will be held. Venue: University campus, Shukrabad. Time: 11.00am.

Publication ceremony
Bangladesh Orthoniti Samity organises the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Making of a Nation Bangladesh: An Economist's Tale' by Prof Nurul Islam. Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 3.00pm.

FBCCI seminar
A seminar on 'Financing Infrastructure Projects', organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, will be held with its President Abdul Awal Mintoo in the chair. Venue: FBCCI conference room. Time: 11.00am.

CSYO meeting
The opening session of a two-day meeting of Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation (CSYO) will be held. Venue: CSYO office, Kalabagan. Time: 11.00am.

Rotary North West
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1.30pm.

Rally
Gonotantik Biplobi Jote will hold a rally to press for its 18-point demand. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 3.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Premiere show
The premiere show of the film titled 'Lalon' directed by Tanvir Mokammel will be held. Venue: Balaka Cinema Hall. Time: 6.30pm.

CD launch
Bengal Foundation organises the launching ceremony of a CD titled 'Tomar Surer Dhara' (Tagore song) by Sumita Saha. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House-275/F, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Dangerous Liaisons'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama
As part of a week-long drama festival organised by Dhaka Theatre Mancha, Natyachakra will stage a drama titled 'Bhaddarnok'. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.

Cultural function
Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi organises a reception and cultural function to mark its 27th founding anniversary. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

1.5 billion-year-old meteorite crater found

AFP, Helsinki

A crater from a meteorite that collided with earth some 1.5 billion years ago has been discovered in Finland by two amateur geologists, Finnish scientists said.

The discovery is nine kilometres in diameter, but the original crater must have been much larger, because only the floor is left, since the rest of the crater bowl has eroded away, said Lauri Pesonen, a professor of geophysics at Helsinki University who verified the find.

According to calculations, the crater must have been between 20 and 25 kilometres wide following the impact, he added.

Two local amateur scientists, Satu Hietala and Jarmo Moilanen,

came across the crater last fall when they found shatter cones in stones in the area.

Shatter cones, which are typical feature found in stones in meteorite craters, are formed in the rock when the energy from the impact passes through it.

Since the surrounding rock formation is about 1.8 billion years old, Pesonen said the meteorite was likely to have collided with the earth later than that, probably around 1.5 billion years ago.

The crater, partly covered by a lake, is located some 175 kilometres north of Helsinki.

So far, 11 meteorite impacts have been found in Finland, and some 180 worldwide, Pesonen said Thursday.



Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark its 18th founding anniversary.