

DHAKA

T O D A Y

Mehendi festival

On the occasion of ensuing Eid-ul-Azha, Amra Dhakabasi organises a mehendi festival and a national mehendi competition. Venue: Bhaskar Novera auditorium, National Museum. Time: 3.00pm.

CD launch

Bengal Foundation organises the launching ceremony of a CD titled 'Chiro- bandhu Chironirbhar' (Tagore songs) by Mita Haque. Venue: Bengal Shipalay, House-275/F, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film from Brazil titled 'City of God'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama

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

Discussion

Save The Youth Forum will hold a discussion on 'Child repression: Existing laws and their application'. It will be followed by prize distribution and cultural function. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Library Bhaban auditorium. Time: 3.45pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Multi-dimensional data management system using vertical compressed representation', organised by International Islamic University Chittagong, Dhaka Campus. Venue: House-23, Road-3, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

Ekushey discussion

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion on the preparation of Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela (Book Fair). Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 12.00 noon.

Zia discussion

Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad organises a discussion to mark the 68th birth anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman. Venue: National Press Club VIP Lounge. Time: 3.00pm.

Opinion sharing meet

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will hold an opinion sharing meeting with the leaders of indigenous people. Venue: House-51/A, Road-3/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Citizens' meet

Liberation War Museum organises a meeting of eminent citizens of the country. Venue: Museum auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.30pm.

Conference

The 8th national conference of Bangladesh Railway Diploma Engineers Association will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Railway Officers' Rest House, Kamalapur. Time: 10.00am.

Science workshop

British Council organises a workshop for teachers and students on Science Theatre for teaching science. Venue: West Dhanmondi School. The theatre is open to all.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at the extended meeting of the Bangladesh Chhatra League at the auditorium of Engineers' Institute in the city yesterday.

Plastic materials pose health hazards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for raising awareness about harmful effects of plastic materials on human life and environment.

They said excessive use of plastic containers for preserving foods has an adverse impact on human health.

The speakers said the chemi-

cals, that are used for making plastic, are also harmful for human body.

Besides, the recycling of plastic materials also affects the environment adversely, they added.

The seminar on 'Limit the use of plastic materials: Effects on environment and health' was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) in the city.

Former chief engineer of Dhaka WASA Quazi Mohammad Sish presented a keynote paper.

He said not only the people engaged in the production of plastic materials but also the users may be affected equally.

"So, we should minimise the use of plastic materials in our daily life as low as possible considering its negative impact on health."

Sish suggested using of more ceramic and metal containers for preserving foods instead of plastic containers.

Executive Director of Nari Pragati Sangha Rokeya Kabir said plastic containers are being produced to earn maximum profit at the cost of human life and environment.

"Like polybags, plastic also destroys the fertility of the soil," said BAPA General Secretary Abu Naser Khan.

BAPA Vice-President ASM Shahjahan said we have to stop the use of plastic materials like polybags for an environment-friendly world.

for his visa. Monir needed visa as he wanted to go abroad.

Kachua thana police recovered the body of Monir on the day and an FIR was filed on April 21, 1995. The charge sheet was submitted on January 25, 1996.



Mystic scholar Syed Ahmadul Haque, founder chairman of the Rumi Society, was accorded a civic reception at the Muslim Hall in Chittagong recently. Photo shows Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman presenting a crest to the mystic scholar at the reception ceremony.

WEATHER

T O D A Y

Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till 6.00pm today.

Mild cold wave may sweep over Rajshahi division and the regions of Srimongal, Jessore, Mymensingh, Kushtia, Tangail and Satkhira.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country in the morning. Met office said, predicting that night temperature may fall slightly.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 25.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Mymensingh and the lowest of 9.4 degree at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:41pm today and rises at 6:41am 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	23.7	15.5	66	41
Chittagong	21.4	15.5	68	62
Rajshahi	22.4	09.8	77	67
Khulna	21.0	14.0	74	69
Barisal	20.5	14.0	98	78
Sylhet	25.1	11.2	85	66
Cox's Bazar	23.0	17.5	74	74



The Expression Ltd., a leading advertising, PR and social marketing company, marked its annual kick-off for 2004 at Brac Centre in Rajendrapur recently.

Ensure security of women

President tells Rokeya Padak award ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all to make united efforts to raise the women's status by ensuring their education and economic self-reliance.

He made the call while giving away Begum Rokeya Padak-2003 at a function organised by the Women and Children Affairs Ministry at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The president noted that women are to face "unwanted situation at times at and outside home" for various socio-economic

reasons.

"The government should ensure security of the women to make the ongoing women's development programme a success," he said.

He said there is no alternative to education for ensuring overall empowerment of women alongside making them self-reliant economically.

The recipients of the awards are Begum Taiyaba Majumder and Alhaj Maleka Ashraf.

Welcoming the awardees, he said the nation would always

remember their praiseworthy initiatives and contributions to women's education and development.

Mentioning various efforts made by Begum Rokeya for women's development and their education, Dr Iajuddin said Rokeya had dreamt of a society free from discrimination between man and woman. The government is striving to materialise her dream, he added.

Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Haque and Secretary of the Ministry AM Reza-e-Rabbil also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University offer prayers during the Saraswati Puja, a Hindu religious festival, at the hall yesterday.

BSF opens fire along border in Dinajpur

BSS, Sundara, Dinajpur

Border Security Forces (BSF) of India opened three rounds of automatic gunfire along Sundara border under Sadar upazila of Dinajpur in the early hours of yesterday.

However, there were no reports of casualties, official sources said.

According to BDR sources, troops of Hamjapur BSF camp opened fire at about 1:40am yesterday about 300 yards inside India from the zero line.

The BDR was trying to know the details of the firing incident till filing of this report at 5:45pm. The BDR has put its personnel on alert along the border following the incident.

Major Asaduzzaman of BDR Dinajpur sector told BSS that they were yet to receive information about any casualties.

Meanwhile, the locals said the sound of BSF firing created a panic among the villagers. The BDR jawans of Sundara BOP rushed to the spot area soon and intensified their vigil.

The BSF might have opened fire at Indian smugglers as it happened several times there in recent months, they said.

Extortionists stab trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amob beat up one of the extortionists who stabbed a trader at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

A gang of about seven extortionists, led by Mohammad Sayem, went to the residence of Iqbal Ahmad Babul, owner of Meen Furniture, at South Jatrabari at around 11:00am and demanded Tk one lakh in toll.

As Babul refused to pay, the gang stabbed him in his head and back. He is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

When Babul raised an alarm, locals chased the gang and caught Sayem, 26. They beat him on the spot and sent to the DMCH at around 3:00pm.

However, Sayem denied that he was on the gang. He claimed that Babul's hired men beat him.

Leadership course on adult education begins

UNB, Dhaka

A weeklong regional leadership course on adult education began at the Brac Centre in Rajendrapur yesterday with the participation of 35 representatives from 19 countries.

Organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and sponsored by Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASBAE), the course has been designed to exchange cross-cultural practices on adult education in Asia Pacific region through identifying the issues for its promotion in the region.

The Bureau President Dr Usa Duongsaa, member of Board of Directors of Women's Resource Development in Indonesia Nani Zulmarani, Programme Officer Nasreen Ahmed and Executive Director of Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam are conducting the course as resource persons.

The participating countries are host Bangladesh, Australia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Samoa and Solomon Islands.

Salanga Day today

A five-day programme marking the 82nd Salanga Day begins at Salanga in Sirajganj today, says a press release.

Moulana Tarkabagish Pathagar has organised the programme to commemorate the anti-British movement that took place in Salanga in 1922. Moulana Tarkabagish spearheaded the movement.

The programmes include milad mahfil, discussion, drama and cultural functions.