



A policeman yesterday passes his time reading book while the other looks on as Amar Ekushey Book Fair is yet to get momentum at the Bangla Academy premises.

Move to strengthen local govt

National Union Parishad Forum formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government Initiative (LGI), a programme funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has formed National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) with a view to intensifying the local government activities at the grassroots level.

The LGI has also formed 20 district union parishad forums under the NUPF across the country.

"The objective of the forum is to create a national network of the elected local government representatives," LGI chief Dr. William J Cartier said this while he was

addressing a press conference in the city prior to the inauguration of two-day conference of NUPF.

"The election of NUPF was held democratically and we hope to expand our initiative at all the districts of Bangladesh by next year," Dr. William added.

Gene V. George, director of the USAID Bangladesh mission inaugurated the two-day conference.

The NUPF President Golam Sarwar told the press conference that the activities of the Union Parishad was being hampered severely due to political interference.

"The UP chairmen cannot exercise their power properly as they are

controlled by the politicians," Sarwar said.

He also blamed bureaucratic tangle as one of the main obstacles to the proper functioning of the UP chairmen.

UP chairmen who were present at the conference spoke against the gram sarkar in an unified voice. A large number of UP chairmen from across the country attended the conference.

Dr. Zarina Rahman Khan, deputy chief of the ARD and other officials were also present.

2 touchstone statues worth Tk 95 lakh seized

BSS, Gobindaganj

Two more precious touchstone statues worth about Tk 95 lakh were seized yesterday morning from Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts.

A special patrol party from the Joypurhat 5 Rifle Battalion of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized the statues before being smuggled out to India, official sources said.

Acting on a tip off, the BDR party in a pre-dawn swoop seized a precious touchstone statue -- 18 inches by 12 inches in size and weighing of 25 kgs -- worth about Tk 25 lakh from the Kamdia Bazar under Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha district.

The same team seized another 70 kg touchstone status of Radha Binodini -- 19 inches by 19 inches in size -- worth about Tk 70 lakh from the bank of a pond in village Boli

under Kalai upazila of Joypurhat district.

Commanding Officer Ltd Col. A R M Zoaherul Islam of Joypurhat 5 Rifle Battalion said the seized touchstones statues would be sent to the National Museum in Dhaka soon along with other touchstone statues worth about Tk 25 crore seized by his jawans since May last year from the bordering areas.

'Justice Debesh was a pioneer in all HR, democratic movements'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday said late Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya was a pioneer in all human rights and democratic movements of the country.

They said he was also the initiator of all agitation to uphold the rights of the minority people.

The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad to commemorate the death of late Debesh Bhattacharya in the city.

Parishad leader and Supreme Court Bar Association Vice-President Subrata Chowdhury said the late justice played a crucial role in language movement, liberation war and anti-autocratic movements.

He was out and out a human rights and democratic activist, said Samik League General Secretary Roy Ramesh Chandra.

Former vice-chancellor of National University Durga Das Bhattacharya said Justice Debesh was a source of strength for the distressed people.

He disseminated the ideals of amity and non-violence, said Pranab Barua of Bouddha Krishti Prochar Sangha.

Parishad presidium member Lolit Mohan Nath said Justice Debesh was democratic and non-sectarian.

Late Debesh Bhattacharya was a humanist, said Prof Ajoy Roy.

"Though my father was averse to publicity, people's respect and love

shown to him after his death went beyond our expectations," said Debdarshi Bhattacharya, younger son of late Justice Debesh.

Justice K M Sobhan, Deblina Roy and Debapriyo Bhattacharya, the daughter and elder son of late Debesh, Parishad General Secretary Nim Chandra Bhoumik, and C R Sarker of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad attended the meeting chaired by Chitta Ranjan Dutta, one of the three co-chairmen of the parishad.

Girl murdered after rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Masuma Akhter Tina aged about 16 of Khalkutia village under Morrelganj upazila in Bagerhat district was murdered after rape.

Her body was recovered from a bush near her house on Sunday.

Masuma eloped with her fiance on February 4 as her father Shamsur Rahman refused to get his daughter married with Russel, 20, police said.

Shamsur Rahman filed an FIR with Morrelganj thana at noon on the day his daughter eloped with Russel.

Circumstantial evidences prove that she was killed after gangrape, Morrelganj thana OC said. Russel is absconding.

Witness attacked at Bagerhat court compound

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A gang allegedly belonging to the ruling BNP assaulted a prosecution witness in a local union parishad (UP) chairman murder case at Bagerhat court compound on Saturday as he refused back down from testifying.

The seven some attacked Fakir Mujibur Rahman, a witness in the Awami League leader and Bainhat UP Chairman Sardar Habibur Rahman murder case, with iron rods and sticks when he went to the court in the afternoon to deliver his statement.

Seriously injured Mujib, son of Ismail Fakir of Kumail village in Rampal upazila, was admitted to Barisal Sadar Hospital.

According to a FIR (first information report) lodged with Bagerhat Sadar Police Station, Mujib alleged that some armed BNP cadres tried to abduct him from the court premises and beat him up as the kidnap bid was foiled.

Police said the miscreants were accused in the murder case.

BRAC, Afghan govt sign MOU on health

Ministry of Health of Afghanistan and BRAC Afghanistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Kabul for the health project in Badghis province on February 8, says a press release.

Health Minister Dr Sohelia Siddiq, and Jalaluddin Ahmed, Country Head, BRAC Afghanistan signed the MOU.

Senior officials of the ministry and BRAC Afghanistan were present.

The three-year project will cost 1.5 million US dollar and will strengthen the local health system including managing of three government district hospitals and five basic health centres, 115 health posts and 10 mobile clinics.

BRAC also signed a three-year 1.8 million US dollar health project recently with the ministry of health and USAID and started implementing the basic health services in Paghman district under Kabul province. Afghan government also awarded BRAC Afghanistan the responsibility of managing health systems in Balk (Mazar-E-Sharif) province, which is one of the largest provinces in Afghanistan. This project includes managing of 1 provincial hospital with 200 beds, 16 district hospitals, 31 basic health centres and 950 health posts. The project costs 9.0 million US dollar.



Injured GM Iqbal Hasan, Nature Correspondent of the Bangla daily Janakantha, at his residence at Alaiapur under Natore Sadar thana. He was beaten mercilessly allegedly by the ruling BNP gunmen yesterday.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Film Archives anniversary

To mark the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh Film Archives, founded at the demand of the film societies of the country, 20 active and like-minded film societies have organised a day-long programme. A discussion session will be followed by the screening of a Sri Lankan film titled 'The Wind Bird'. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Matir Moina

Spectra Group organises a complementary show of international award-winning film Matir Moina in honour of local and foreign dignitaries living in Dhaka. Venue Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan 1. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'He loves Me, He loves Me Not'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Science Festival

The inaugural ceremony of the Third Science Festival and 15th General Knowledge Competition, organised by the Notre Dame Science Club, will be held. Venue: Notre Dame College auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

Dissemination seminar

The Women and Children First (UK) has organised a dissemination seminar on 'Baseline survey findings on prenatal health in three rural communities of Bangladesh'. Venue: Birdem auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Rotary Ramna

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held, with Dr Mohammad Ahsan, a nuclear engineer, as guest speaker. He will give a talk on 'Plasma technology for Bangladesh.' Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

ADD discussion

Action on Disability and Development (ADD) organises a discussion and cultural function to mark the inauguration of its activities in the metropolitan city with Mayor Sadeque Hossain

Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 4.00pm.

Civic rally

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a civic rally demanding immediate ban on the killing of migratory birds in the country. Venue: Battala at Shahbagh Crossing, (In front of National Museum). Time: 11.00am.

IUBAT seminar

The International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will hold a seminar on 'Canadian Trends for Hospital and Clinic Nurses' with National Professor M R Khan as chief guest. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm.

City AL meeting

An extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Publication ceremony

Development Communication Network organises the publication ceremony of a paper on NGO affairs titled 'Third Sector' with BRAC Chairperson Abed Hossain Khan as chief guest. Venue: BRAC Centre, Hm, Mohakhali. Time: 3.00pm.

T O M O R R O W

The Society for Welfare of the Schizophrenic will hold a discussion on how to treat the patient of this disease. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 12.00 noon.

Convocation

The Convocation of East West University will be held with President Iajuddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 11.00am.

Education exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day Australian Education Exhibition, organised jointly by the Australian Trade Commission, Australian High Commission and IDP Education Australia, will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: From 10.30am to 5.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Tina: What's Love Got To With It'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Results of DU BBA admission test published

Results of the admission test for first year BBA Programme (Ga-unit) of business studies faculty of Dhaka University under 2003-2004 academic session were published yesterday, says a press release of the university.

The list of 642 primarily selected candidates and 60 others who are in the waiting list is given below.

List of Provisionally Selected Candidates (Merit Posi. Column Wise)																								Waiting list
ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL	ROLL
51479	53148	55594	56049	52893	62245	58839	57344	58978	56289	61262	57681	59453	47552	55943	46590	58890	49378	53933	66865	68285	50898			
58345	40543	50316	51084	54784	60882	53347	50322	61465	51304	58807	57038	55524	51662	53435	47830	52182	48076	51845	63949	60335	57681			
58856	58044	51956	57623	56920	54295	62997	62474	69698	61130	50759	51891	60347	51363	57915	57248	52448	58745	58972	53945	57314	53360			
51115	50139	58770	66225	52939	55978	54175	67680	60707	54852	57547	61429	58145	53054	50150	75027	59839	58076	61240	65438	56294	57020			
52905	54238	50529	63187	57879	56836	54348	50462	51305	55600	60633	65623	56337	56607	65787	53078	57350	65136	61941	58142	59586	50890			
56472	57178	50673	61894	56282	53887	53731	57703	54992	49385	56142	63462	58267	59534	68468	59545	54425	50823	55587	58957	67766	63353			
56074	58959	62012	55710	53042	58511	60118	56055	52021	54150	59054	53462	61054	56146	52045	53952	54425	53729	65166	58878	69883	58068			
62481	57600	56566	60058	67978	67029	58653	53253	68064	54118	69323	61951	64011	64978	61803	59748	70758	53341	52858	57920	51712	58886			
57874	60614	55336	63335	65211	57095	62747	54441	58429	57545	58206	53962	61867	56139	66651	55478	49179	53729	65166	58878	69883	58068			
54483	61816	66700	50319	63661	60962	56716	59119	57891	55295	55514	56011	68506	53708	60377	61104	57424	38958	50866	60498	65737	52483			
56412	53149	59004	63207	54165	61572	56618	59825	56540	56754	66399	53162	52224	53150	61541	58508	51211	61057	65580	50446	63552	58152			
55295	58517	63924	63360	63207	54865	52413	55475	59674	50286	62310	57278	55928	68105	58498	67344	63121	58167	52727	55630	62311	63081			
66922	60961	61438	54234	60684	56407	63609	51804	54171	56664	51910	52358	50134	70733	50032	61956	58507	53085	61998	67447	61556	59194			
51582	59132	58045	59498	58805	67481	52666	62114	57141	58312	54912	58865	50834	55080	62810	50599	50467	50695	54240	50034	53871	62735			
56320	60859	56988	54223	57362	62085	63319	60478	68148	61759	66876	61638	57457	56783	58398	61177	54643	59437	50182	60396	55848	59315			
49391	55446	57003	64226	60588	55892	52850	56204	52571	59463	60530	58486	65665	63245	59286	61253	56542	56778	55513						
54384	52298	70323	60584	53965	62013	57316	56916	56676	55296	63807	57949	51382	56702	56408	63685	59268	51007	68954						
58908	56152	58150	51230	67443	67039	55331	56372	51245	48469	59519	49796	56572	50305	62352	54374	57654	62467	67258						
56007	57673	64709	56381	70327	54775	56775	61055	68673	61817	52766	62395	60485	52594	51391	58669	53018	51844	55015						
50699	54091	51775	65751	59340	53558	55157	60487	54255	53998	62524	50299	68801	58981	54677	61789	51040	50211	63166						
57877	63730	64054	58864	53335	55280	64127	67509	58985	55593	66209	54611	63235	54858	60326	62907	64478	58793	53105						
58283	57843	53368	50979	55589	54767	60772	58508	64032	57062	62700	51761	57308	62846	54251	51355	63201	54169	61681						
62890	53540	56557	50580	52088	58038	52907	63690	59928	63308	60799	70476	64603	54217	50893	64604	52012	56272	58170						
55077	60397	53713	59471	61444	65677	57664	60090	58607	57994	50963	50818	57503	57151	66014	53592	65399	55284	56371						
62569	65040	64714	54389	66879	62586	53145	57663	55720	60228	56189	55411	62452	52440	60989	53016	64407	58793	53105						
57145	54944	54632	60514	65621	57878	58593	57081	52335	65512	54050	58852	51828	57892	55960	63172	51838	53906	60482						
57749	60837	56443	54432	51090	57028	63306	54142	54589	59364	56837	63203	56742	60683	57123	55441	51776	57123	50918						
65752	55934	52915	53963	64301	55628	65666	55649	56498	54610	67853	64477	54393	63509	65426	53167	68063	58311	67488						
53162	61075	63334	58971	50276	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105	50105						
53798	58866	56071	56684	51130	57325	58434	53324	50583	58720	51471	61074	60806	61317	51562	59611	50881	54378	52547						
57193	58051	53129	53632	67340	56653	53681	61755	58749	61995	59704	61074	60473	56878	53309	57515	51713	54744	56637						
58808	52613	58346	59051	55708	62482	62593	65012	57478	50789	59788	52661	64289	62363	51008	68164	51329	64541	65830						
54284	60906	52131	58132	68471	60317	69546	58402	63655	65339	52792	55587	55684	58188	51133	52703	55997	53090	57982						

Former Betar official dead

BSS, Dhaka

Alhaj M Mamun, a veteran freedom fighter and a retired director, Monitoring Services of Bangladesh Betar, died of a heart attack at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Sunday night at the age of 63.

Mamun is survived by his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relations, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried with full state honour at Shaheed Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur yesterday evening.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at Baitul Nur Jame Masjid at Elephant Road after Asr prayers.

His quikhwani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at his 215 Elephant Road residence.

Relations, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the quikhwani.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the death of Mamun.

In a condolence message, Khaleda Zia prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

She also conveyed her deep sympathy to members of the bereaved family.