



Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) forms a human chain at Muktangon in the city yesterday in observance of the death anniversary of its leader Kazi Aref Ahmed.

58 more new books at Ekushey Book Fair

DU CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-eight news books were shelved at different publishing houses on the 10th day of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair yesterday. Hundreds of book-lovers came to the fair in the evening and the sale of books was quite well, said different publishers. However the crowd was less in the afternoon due to dawn-to-dusk countrywide shutdown. Some of the publishers said their sale fell down due to hartal. Faisal Kader of Prachya Biddya said the hartal has hampered their business as few people came to the fair in the afternoon. Osman Gani of Agami Prakashani said they brought five new books in the fair yesterday including 15th edition of Nari by Dr Humayun Azad. He said they had already brought 35 new books at the fair in last few days and would bring about 800 new books including some research books.



Advisory body of Ctg Samity

Md Nurul Alam, a freedom fighter and retired additional IG of police, and freedom fighter and Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Government MA Mubarak were elected chairman and member secretary of the Advisory Committee of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka recently, says a press release. Md Ayub Ali, SK Barua and Amal Kanti Nath were elected vice chairmen. Members are former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin Ahmed, election commissioner SM Monsef Ali, freedom fighter SM Yusuf, former additional secretary Abu Saleh, journalist Mahbul Alam, acting secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports Md Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, DG of prime minister secretariat AMM Nasir Uddin, former MP Diponkor Talukder, DIG of Police Dhaka Range Khoda Box Chowdhury, Dilip Das Gupta, SM Abdul Hai, Haris Ahmed Chowdhury and Abul Kashem Hyder. The Advisory Committee of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka has assumed the charge February 11.

Security service providers' assoc meets

The 15th general meeting of Bangladesh Professional Security Service Providers' Association (proposed) was held at the Head Office of Securex (Pvt) Ltd in the city recently, says a press release. The association comprises 55 renowned multilateral security service organisations. Group Captain (ret.) ATMA Quddus, president of the association and managing director of Securex Ltd., presided over the meeting. The speakers protested the implication of a few unknown and so-called security service providers in robbery as published in a section of the press. Those organisations do not have any relation with the association, they said. The association members urged the law enforcing agencies to take stern action against the so-called security service providers. They also urged the government to issue necessary licence for registration of the association and control all the security service providers through the association.

Attack on 2 students Expulsion of 2 JU JCD cadres demanded

JU CORRESPONDENT

Master's students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday extended the deadline for three more days for expulsion of two JCD cadres who beat up a fellow student and shaved head of another on Sunday. Protesting the attack on two students, the students gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the vice-chancellor on Sunday night. But the fresh deadline came after Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmad sought more time at a meeting with about 50 master's students from different departments at the VC's office at around 12:00 noon yesterday. The students threatened to enforce a tougher agitation if the authorities do not take stern action against the attackers within three days. In a statement yesterday, the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) also strongly condemned the attack and demanded immediate action against the attackers. On Sunday afternoon, the JCD cadres beat up Barin Ghose, a master's student of drama and dramatics department, for his alleged involvement in persuading a girl, who came to JU on a visit on Sunday, to smoke. They also beat and shaved head of Paul James Gomez, a master's student of anthropology department, who tried to protect Barin. Both of them are well-known photographers of the campus.

He said the youths and couples mostly asked about the books of Dr Humayun Azad, Humayun Ahmed and Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. A discussion on 'Centennial tributes: Harmony Anusandhan by Mansuruddin' was held at the fair venue. Momen Chowdhury was the key speaker. Presided over by Mobasser Ali, the discussion was participated by Hosne Ara Shahed, Hasan Hafiz and Nasir Islam. The discussion was followed by a cultural programme.

Outlaw killed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An underground operative was murdered by unidentified assailants at village Bharsha in Tala upazila in the early hours of yesterday. The outlaw was identified as Kabirul Islam, 28, son of Munsef Islam of village Bharsha in Tala upazila. Police quoted the victim's wife as saying an armed gang of three called Kabirul out of his house at about 1:30am and took him to a nearby beel (waterbody) where they chopped and strangled him. Police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for autopsy. No-one was arrested till the evening. When contacted, Kabirul's mother said he was killed by his rivals in the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (M-L Janajuddha faction). But his wife Rozina Begum blamed his (Kabirul's) elder brother Nazrul Islam for the killing. She alleged that there was a longstanding dispute between the two brothers over a piece of land. She demanded arrest of and punishment of the killers.

A shelter with a difference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year-old girl Taiba is a blood cancer patient who is under going treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) in the city. About ten months ago, her disease was detected. But before that, Taiba's mother had hectic time trying to identify the disease consulting traditional village doctors or Kabiraj who had diagnosed it as skin-allergy. "Taiba suffered from frequent illness which could not be properly diagnosed. A neighbour advised me to take her to a local hospital where doctors identified her illness as blood cancer," said Taiba's mother who hails from Brahmanbaria. Taiba, now visually impaired from the side effects of radiation, still has a few more cycles of the drugs she is now receiving. She is availing the costly treatment staying free of cost at a shelter known as ASHC (A Shelter for Helpless III Children), a non-profit organisation that started its journey in 1994 in memory of Ashic who also died from blood cancer. About six thousand children, mostly under ten years of age, develop blood cancer in the country a year but only a few can get treatment at the BSMMUH, the only hospital in the country where nine beds are allotted for children surviving cancer. "Most of the survivors and their parents cannot afford to stay in the capital as cancer treatment often takes months. So we decided to establish a 'home' where the survivors and their guardians can stay while availing treatment," said Salma Chowdhury, founder chairperson of ASHC Foundation. Salma said, "We have a dream to establish a hospital-cum-home where children along with their parents can stay free of cost and at the same time avail treatment. But a suitable land is the main problem we are facing." She said as a blood cancer patient survives very short period of time unless he or she receives any anti-cancer drugs, the government should give more attention to them. On the occasion of the third International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) which was observed globally on Sunday, the ASHC Foundation organised a press briefing at its shelter in Central Road where ten children surviving blood cancer are now being taken care free of cost. "I hope to take my son back home fully cured," said one father of a survivor staying at ASHC shelter being unaware of the fact that blood cancer in Bangladesh is generally detected at a very late stage which means survivors can stay healthy only by taking regular anti-cancer drugs which are very costly. The foundation has also established play centre and organised field trips for the survivors. It has so far provided shelter to over two hundred survivors. ASHC is a member of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO) and earned recognition of many international organisations for its outstanding work in this field.

Some cadres of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday severed the tendons of hands and legs of a Jubo League leader in Char Fashion upazila of the district. According to police and local Awami League sources, the BNP cadres swooped on Akhterul Alam Sham, also a ward commissioner of Char Fashion Municipality, on his way to Bhola district town in the morning. They beat up Sham, cut the tendons and left the scene riding motorbikes. The critically injured Jubo League leader was admitted to Char Fashion Health Complex and later shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. A case was filed with Char Fashion police.



Dhaka Zila Autorickshaw Sramik Union took out a procession in the city yesterday to press for its 9-point demand, including resignation of Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

Tendons of Bhola Jubo League leader severed

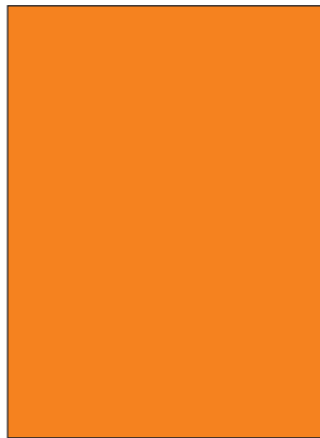
A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Some cadres of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday severed the tendons of hands and legs of a Jubo League leader in Char Fashion upazila of the district. According to police and local Awami League sources, the BNP cadres swooped on Akhterul Alam Sham, also a ward commissioner of Char Fashion Municipality, on his way to Bhola district town in the morning. They beat up Sham, cut the tendons and left the scene riding motorbikes. The critically injured Jubo League leader was admitted to Char Fashion Health Complex and later shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. A case was filed with Char Fashion police.

Tributes paid to Justice Debesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a condolence meeting paid glowing tributes to late Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya and recalled his contribution to protecting human rights and establishing the rule of law in the country. The judgements given by Justice Debesh Bhattacharya became landmarks in the judicial history, which added a new dimension to the interpretation of judgement of the higher court, they said. The condolence meeting was held at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on Sunday, with Justice KM Sobhan in the chair. Justice Bhattacharya would always be remembered by the countrymen for his role in ensuring human rights, Law Minister Maudud Ahmed said, adding that he made some landmark rulings that helped protect the legal rights of the people. Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said Justice Bhattacharya was one of the persons who played a vital role in building up the country's judicial system in the initial stages after independence. His judgements are not only a source of inspiration, but also a guideline on establishing the rule of law, Dr Kamal said, adding that "We have to preserve the spirit of the judgements given by the late justice." Prof. Rehman Sobhan said Justice Bhattacharya was a man of principle. "We have to follow the footsteps of the late justice to protect the rule of law in the country." President of the Workers Party of Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon said Justice Bhattacharya was against anti-democratic and black laws. "Democratic and anti-communal spirit was reflected in his judgements," Menon added. President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Rokan Uddin Mahmud said Justice Bhattacharya was a champion of human rights. "We have to pay tribute to his memory by ensuring human rights in the country." Former foreign minister and Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad, Vice-president of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Amir-ul Islam, Prof. Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, former state minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam, Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof. Nim Chandra Vhowmik, President of the Communist Party Munzurul Ahsan Khan, President of the Sammlita Sangskritik Jote Nasir Uddin Yusuf and major general (ret.) CR Dutt also spoke.



Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

The 18th death anniversary of Dr MA Quasem, one of the organisers of the Liberation War, will be observed today. A former member of the Jatiya Sangsad and the then Pakistan National Assembly, Dr Quasem was also involved in journalism for a long time. He was the founder president of Madaripur Press Club. Qurankhwani and distribution of food among the destitute have been arranged at his eldest son Dr Milton's residence at Dhanmondi North Circular Road.

Fazlu Miah



The first death anniversary of Fazlu Miah, vice-president of the managing committee of Bangladesh Railway High School and a businessman, will be observed today. A milad mahfil will be held at his Bhairab residence after Asr prayers. Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Jayanti Munshi Reza alias Kachi, a teacher of Australian International School, will be held at Flat No. 2-G, 274 Jafarabad, Aziz Co-operative Housing in Shankar after Asr prayers today. Jayanti Reza was found hanging at her Banani residence on January 9. She was buried at Azimpur Graveyard the next day.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

Dhaka University Film Society will screen two films titled 'Repulsion' and 'Tess' directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Intimacy' (2000) and a French film titled 'My Girlfriend's Boyfriend' (1987). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Memorial discussion

Spectra Group will hold a discussion in memory of language veterans Abdul Matin and Gazuli Haque with Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, as chief guest. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan-1. Time: 10.00am.

Seminar

The inaugural session of a two-day seminar on the 'Role of National Archives and National Library to conduct historical research and preserve cultural heritage' will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Jatiya Granthagar Bhaban auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 3.00pm.

Reception

The Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will hold a reception for outstanding polytechnic graduates with Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 10.30am.

BUP workshop

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) organises a workshop on 'Sharing of common regional resources' will be held with State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafrul Islam Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Best Western La Vinci Hotel, Karwan Bazar. Time: 9.30am.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Heritage, the signature restaurant of famous Chef Tommy Miah will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: House-10, Road-109, Gulshan-1. Time: 7.30pm.

Programme

The launching ceremony of 'Mass Awareness Campaign for the Prevention and Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Bangladesh', organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

ICT seminar

A seminar on 'Prospects and Employment Opportunities in ICT sector of Bangladesh' will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Rotary meeting

West Bengal District Rotary Club of Kolkata will meet tomorrow. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Meeting

A meeting of the central committee of Jatiya Nari Sramik Trade Union Kendra will be held. Venue: 23/2, Tophkana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of Oriental Art will be held. The participating artists are Shawkatu-zzaman, Nasreen Rahman, Ponko Kumar Roy, Moloy Bala, Kantidev Adhikari and Mehdi Hasan. Venue: Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 4.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 23 from 2.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Film show

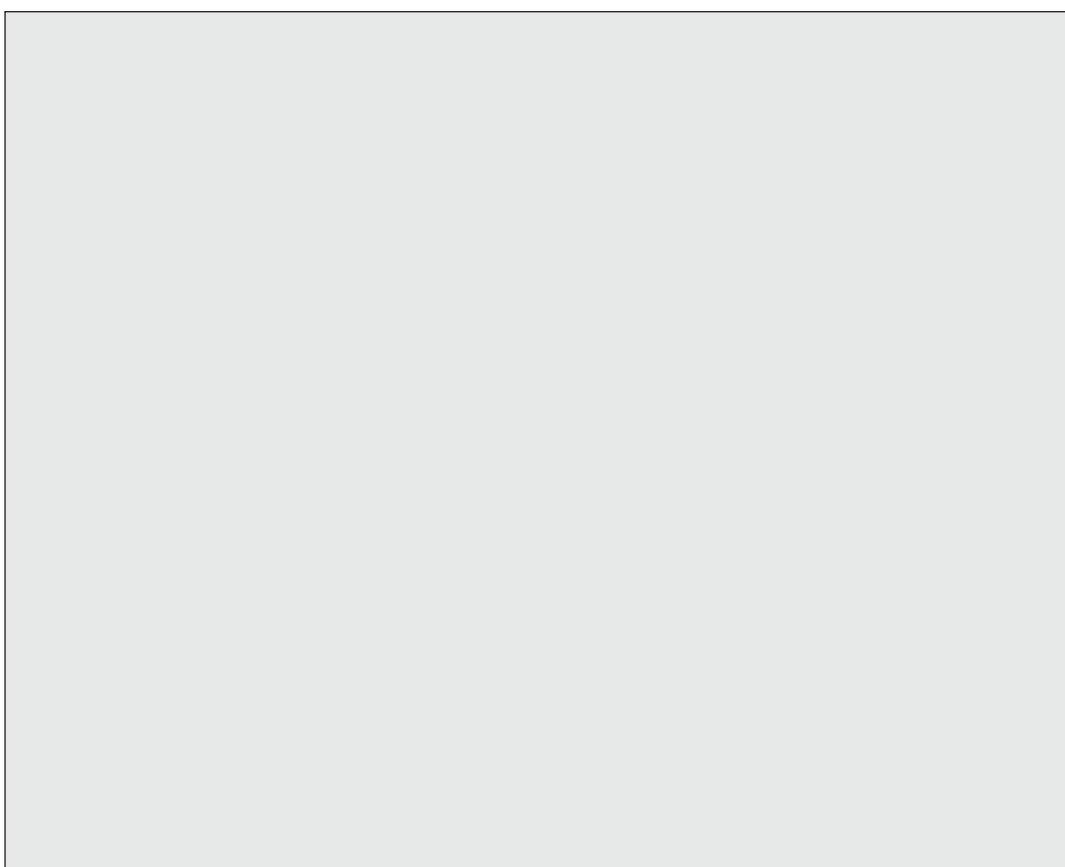
Dhaka University Film Society will screen two films titled 'Bitter Moon' and 'China Town' directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm and 5.45pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Don Juan De Marco' (1995). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Book exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day Dhaka Unesco Book Exhibition-2004, organised by



Artistes of Padatik Natya Sangsad render songs on the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday. Sammlita Sangskritik Jote organised the function on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

WEATHER TODAY

Night temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today. Night temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and the lowest 11.8 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:54pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.