



Dutch Ambassador Sjeff IJzermans, British High Commissioner David Carter and EC Ambassador Esko Ketschynskyi called on Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil in the city yesterday and discussed prevailing political situation in the country.

'Bangladesher Joy-Porajoyer Rajniti' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Bangladesher Joy-Porajoyer Rajniti' written by former minister Sarder Amjad Hossain was held at the National Press Club yesterday.

Toab Khan, advisory editor of the daily Janakantha, unveiled the book at the function organised by Dhaka-based Barind People's Forum.

He said politicians write very little whereas their informative and objective views are much needed for development, transparency and accountability.

The book will surely inspire other politicians to write, which will benefit the people and nation, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof. Zillur Rahman said Sarder Amjad took a courageous initiative to present such an objective and informative book as it is difficult to write books on politics and history these days.

Presided over by Kader Siddiqui MP, the function was attended by Brig. Gen. (retd) Giasuddin A Chowdhury and GM Kader MP as special guests.

Journalist Shafiqul Aziz Mukul, former DCCI president H Rahman and writer Sekandar Abu Jafar also spoke.

Dhaka free of int'l terrorists

Says US envoy

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador in Dhaka Harry K Thomas has categorically said that Bangladesh is free from international terrorists, but there are 'goondas' and criminals.

"There are no international terrorists in Bangladesh. There are hoodlums, goondas, and criminals, just as in New York City," Thomas said while exchanging views with students, faculty members and staff of North South University (NSU) during his

visit to the varsity yesterday.

He also admitted that 'Saddam Hussain didn't possess weapons of mass destruction' and the intelligence was 'wrong' about it.

After a short speech, the US Ambassador entertained questions from the audience on Iraq, American foreign policy, garment industry and US presidential elections.

He expressed his satisfaction at the prevailing democracy in the country and hoped that the major political parties could "coexist in the

spirit of amity, mutual tolerance and trust".

He informed that out of 5,000 Bangladeshi items granted duty-free access, only two were exported to the United States of America.

Bangladesh has been offered a liberal garment-export quota in exchange for establishment of Trade Unions in Export Processing zone (EPZ), which Bangladesh failed to do in 13 years and the deadline is about to expire on March 1, 2004, the US envoy said.

Thomas assured the NSU of cooperation and support, including US University faculty teaching.

NSU Vice-chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi introduced the diplomat to the audience and thanked him for his campus visit.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr SAM Khairul Basher, Deans Dr Khaliuzzaman M Elias and Dr ANM Meshquat Uddin, registrar and treasurer were also present according to a press release of the NSU.

4 to die for killing student

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday awarded death sentences to four and jailed another for life for the killing of college student Manjur Hossain Shimul in August, 2002.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 gave the verdict at a crowded courtroom.

The death convicts are Mohammad Anwar, Mohammad Razu, Mohammad Jamal and Hashem Miah alias Dulal, while Maksud alias Biri will serve life

term behind bars.

The judge also fined the death convicts Tk 50,000 each and Biri Tk 20,000. The death convicts would spend another year more in prison if they failed to pay the fines.

Of the convicts, Anwar and Maksud were present in the dock, while Razu, Jamal and Biri were tried in absentia.

The tribunal also acquitted accused Gobinda and Manir alias Chhitka Manir, as the allegations brought against them were not proved.

The convicts for death sentence can appeal to the High Court in 30 days and the punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the date of their surrender or arrest, the judgement said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the tribunal recorded statements of 12 prosecution witnesses. The trial was completed in 44 working days.

On August 21, 2002, local miscreants chopped Shimul to death and dumped his body on the rooftop of a house at Mugdapara. Shyampur police recovered his body the following day.

The victim's father Mohammad Abdur Rahim filed a murder case against nine persons. The IO (investigation officer) of the case pressed charges against seven accused on January 10 and the court framed charges against the accused on December 6 last year.

Zakir Hossain, the victim's elder brother, was also shot dead by miscreants in 2000. The case is now under trial with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

3 outlaws held in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested three members of outlawed New Biplabi Communist Party (NBCP) from Abdullahpur in Uttara.

The arrestees are Ziaur Rahman alias Zia alias Sana and his accomplices Badsha and Dilip Kumar Biswas, all from Minal faction of the NBCP, an outfit of the southwestern region.

Zia is an accused in 11 cases including six for murders with Dumuria and Batiaghata Police Stations in Khulna, while his accomplices are also accused of several criminal charges including of murder.

Acting on a tip off, members of Rapid Action Team (RAT) raided Abdullahpur on the outskirts of the city at around 11:45am and arrested the outlaws.

Meanwhile, Khilgaon police in a raid arrested two alleged robbers -- Ibrahim Khalil and Jahangir Alam alias Rony -- from Meradia Madhyapara early yesterday and seized a foreign revolver with six bullets.

Contraband goods seized in Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Coast Guard seized contraband electrical goods worth about Tk 9 lakh from a merchant ship in the Chittagong port on Wednesday.

While the guards of East Zone were patrolling the outer anchorage, they found the goods after searching the ship 'Banglar Moni'.

The items including 59 colour TV sets, 27 VCDs and RCDs were handed over to Chittagong customs.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of SP Tariqul Islam will be held at his residence at 1488 South Donia, Jurain after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Tariq, former Sp of Madaripur district, died of a cardiac arrest on February 16. He was buried at his family graveyard at Bararchar village under Palash thana in Narasingdi.

He is survived by his mother, wife, a son and a daughter.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the funeral.

Death anniversary



Today is the 17th death anniversary of A K M Shamsuzzoha, a former law-maker and an organiser of the liberation war, says a press release.

He was also the president of Narayanganj district Awami League. Different political and socio-cultural organisations have drawn up programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include mourning procession, discussion and milad mahfil.

Allahma Ataur Rahman



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Allahma Ataur Rahman, founder-chairman of the Allahma Gold Cup Foundation

and a social worker, says a press release.

During the liberation war, the Pakistani army confined him to a camp for eight months and tortured him.

Milad mahfil will be held at his home in Golapganj, Sylhet and in Dhaka.

Kazi Akram Hossain



Today is the fourth death anniversary of freedom fighter Kazi Akram Hossain, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union

and a leader of Khetmajur Samity, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held at his wife's residence at Batul Aman Housing Society, Road #3, House # 306, Adabar after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Abdus Salam Biswas, former headmaster of Gohala High School of Gopalganj, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 79 Wapda Road, West Rampura in the city after Asr prayers today.

Alhaj Mokbul Ahmed



Chehlum of Alhaj Mokbul Ahmed, a retired officer of the Bangladesh Bank, will be held at his Banani residence in the city

after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Alhaj mokbul died on January 7 at the age of 82.

MA Karim



Chehlum of MA Karim will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be

organised at the residence of his son journalist M Kamaluddin at House No-15, Road No-5 at Nawab Faizunnesa Wakf Estate at Pallabi in the city after Juma prayers today.

MA Karim died of old age complications at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on January 12.



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DHAKA TODAY

Sculpture exhibition
The inaugural ceremony of a sculpture exhibition titled 'Aronner Dindrati' by Ferdousy Priabhashini will be held with theatre activist Sara Zaker as chief guest. Venue: Shilpanganj Gallery, House-25, Road-5, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Movie show
Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'La Promesse' directed by Jean-Pierre et Luc Dardenne. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Launching ceremony
The launching ceremony of a photo-album titled 'Satyajit Ray in my eyes' by Saeda Khanam will be held. Published by Anannya, a fortnightly magazine, the cover of the album will be unveiled jointly by noted writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Selina Hossain. Venue: Ekushey Book Fair, Bangla Academy premises. Time: 3.30pm.

Language procession
Bangladesh Sangskritikarmi Sangha organises a unique procession to mark the International Mother Language Day. Flags and alphabets of different countries will be carried during the procession. Venue: Ekushey Book Fair, Bangla Academy premises. Time: 10.00am.

Art exhibition
Liberation War Museum organises an art exhibition for the children. Venue: Museum premises, 5 Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

Art competition
On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day, Bangladesh Unesco National Commission in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises an art competition for the children with Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: National Art Gallery of Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

Hand writing competition
Bangladesh National Museum organises a hand writing competition for the children to mark the 21st February and International Mother Language Day. Venue: Museum premises, Shahbagh. Time: 10.00am.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'Swimming Pool' (2002), a Spanish film titled 'Love Can Seriously Damage Your Health' (1996) and a British film titled 'The Year of the Sex Olympics' (1968). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Seminar on cancer
Bangkok Hospital in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Dhaka and Bangladesh Cancer Society organises a seminar on cancer awareness and an art competition. A drama will also be staged by the members of the Rotary club on this occasion. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 3.00pm.

Farakka meeting
The first meeting of the National Co-ordination Committee of International Farakka Committee, New York will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Padatik programme
Padatik Natya Sangsad organises a day-long programme comprising music, dance, drama and recitation to mark the Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Bakultala of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

Drama
On the occasion of 21st February and International Mother Language Day, Somoy Sangskritik Gosthi will stage a

DU teachers condemn police action on pickets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and sixty teachers of Dhaka University yesterday condemned the police baton charge on the demonstrators during the recent hartals called by the Awami League (AL) and its front organisation Jubo League.

In a statement, the DU teachers termed the police action as regrettable and urged the government to take action against the persons responsible for the attack on AL leaders and workers during the hartals.

They also urged the government to take necessary steps so that such incidents do not take place in future.

The signatories to the statement included Prof AAM S Arefin Siddique, Prof S M Imamul Hoque, Prof Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Mohammad Hossain Mansur, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Prof Sultana Shafi, Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya, Prof Shahadat Ali, Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, Prof Quazi Shahidullah, Prof Golam Rahman, Prof Ajoy Roy, Prof Mohammad Samad, Prof Tofael Ahmed Chowdhury, Prof Nazma Shahin, Prof Mohammad Mostafa Chowdhury and Prof Harun-ur-Rashid.

They also agreed to prepare a list of holidays for newspaper industry in consultation with the BSP.

BSP President Barrister Moinul Hossain and Secretary General Salauddin Ahmed MP were present at the meeting held at the National Press Club, said a press release of SSKOP.

SSKOP President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Akhter Hamid Khan, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Joint Secretary General Shahin Chowdhury, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf Mahmud, Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers Acting President Mohammad Asadullah, Sangbadptra Hawkers Samabay Samity President Mostafa Kamal and Sangbadptra Hawkers Kalayan Samity President Abdul Malek attended the meeting.

BSP, SSKOP agree on Feb 21 holiday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Sangbadptra Parishad (BSP) and Sangbadik-Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) at a meeting yesterday agreed to keep newspaper offices closed on February 21, the language martyrs day.

They also agreed to prepare a list of holidays for newspaper industry in consultation with the BSP.

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Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed speaks at the reunion of Dhaka-based Ratanpur Parishad at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the National Museum recently.