



PHOTO: STAR

President of the Asiatic Society Prof. Emajuddin Ahamed unveiled the cover of the CD-ROM of Banglapaedia at the Society stall at Bangla Academy Book Fair yesterday.

Economy can't afford hartal: US Senator

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting US Senator Richard J Durbin has found that the best thing for Bangladesh would be no more strike (hartal).

In an exclusive interview with the UNB yesterday, he said all the people suffer because of strike. "Your economy is affected due to strike that you cannot afford," he said.

"I was fortunate enough that there was no strike call during my stay in Dhaka. But I feel and understand the strike is very painful for you," said Durbin who came here to join the micro-credit summit.

"I heard both the parties have been doing this," he said without specifically mentioning that BNP had also enforced strikes while in opposition.

The Senator, elected from Democrat Party, smilingly mentioned that there is no hartal in the United States and said there were important differences between President Bush and the Democrats, but they waited for the election.

Asked whether election is the only option for the opposition, he said: Election is the end of the process that goes through educating people why the change is needed.

"If your ideas are stronger, your candidate is good; you will win the election," he added.

Asked to comment on the main opposition's boycott of parliament, he said: "I'm not an expert on Bangladesh... People will not vote for me if they don't see me in the Senate. I'll not get paid too."

He continued: "For you, the parliament should be the centre of discussing all matters and opposing the government's unacceptable policies and moves."

Durbin was impressed by NGO activities in Bangladesh. "It's a great programme being carried out by NGOs, including BRAC and Grameen Bank in micro-credit, health, education and other sectors."

Banglapaedia CD launched

The CD-ROM of Banglapaedia, the national encyclopaedia of Bangladesh in English, was launched yesterday.

President of the Asiatic Society Prof. Emajuddin Ahamed unveiled the cover of the CD-ROM at the Society stall at Bangla Academy Book Fair, says a press release.

Chief Editor of Banglapaedia Prof. Sirajul Islam, Chairman of Project Implementation Committee Prof. Aminul Islam and Chairman of Multimedia Committee Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury were also present.

The CD-ROM version includes materials in excess of those published in the print edition of the encyclopaedia launched last year.

The edited and updated entries contained in the CD are more than 6,000 covering arts and humanities, history and heritage, society and economy, state and governance and nature and environment of Bangladesh.

Teenager raped in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager was raped at Basila in Mohammadpur on Thursday.

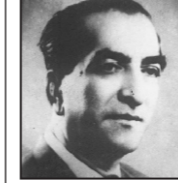
The 14-year-old girl along with two other was collecting vegetables from a piece of land at Basila when a gang of youths forcibly took her to a field on the west of Basila road and violated her, said the victim.

She is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The victim filed a case with Mohammadpur police against six youths of Mohammadpur embankment slum.

All the six -- Sujan, Rubel, Rafiq, Kalam, Babul and Sagar -- went into hiding after the incident.

Death anniversary



The 27th death anniversary of former minister Sultan Ahmed will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

A social worker, Sultan hailed from Chittagong. He was associated with educational institutions and social organisations.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Two killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of a family were killed and two others injured in a road accident on Airport Road yesterday.

Ferdous Ahmad Dipta, 14, and Amina Begum Jhili, 16, died on the spot and their parents Nazneen Nigar Sultana and Abu Bakar

Siddique received injuries when a bus hit their autorickshaw from behind near Zia International Airport at around 1:15 pm.

Nazneen and Bakar are undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers managed to flee.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and the regions of Comilla, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Bogra today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 14.7 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 6:27am 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	28.3	19.5	70	72
Chittagong	28.4	18.0	67	62
Rajshahi	29.5	19.0	90	73
Khulna	31.6	18.8	89	67
Barisal	30.6	18.0	96	82
Sylhet	23.6	16.6	87	67