



Master chef Tommy Miah feeds a physically challenged boy at the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed at Savar yesterday.

Tommy's big dal for paraplegic children

UNB, Savar

It was a big arrangement. Four 80-kg capacity fry pans were on a specially made hand-operated burning oven and over 20 assistants put various ingredients into the pans to prepare the world's biggest spinach and dal soup.

It was master chef Tommy Miah who was doing all this for the socially disadvantaged group of people at Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) at Savar yesterday to set a world record of cooking.

CRP organised the charity-cooking lunch party of Tommy Miah for its beneficiaries, including children, aiming at raising funds for the centre.

Wearing his white apron with colour combination of Bangladesh flag, the UK-based restaurateur began the preparation for his nutritious soup at 8:30am and finished it at about 1pm. Tommy constantly guided his team.

He put 100 kgs of lentils into prepared spices made with mixture of tomato, carrot and green chilly that ultimately turned into 240 kgs after cooking. To serve the dal, Tommy's another team prepared capathi (bread).

"It's likely to be the world's biggest amount of curry as there is no record of cooking for 5000 people in the Guinness Book of World Record," said a beaming Tommy after the cooking.

"I'm happy to get the people

around me with smiling faces. It's great to see that they are happy with whatever they have but we cannot," said Tommy explaining the reason for cooking for the people having some sort of paralysis.

Spinach and dal soup were served among about 2000 people of the centres, including guests, and 3000 more people around the centre, the organisers said.

Tommy, who is involved in another 20 charity organisations worldwide, will also throw a dinner at his newly set up restaurant, Heritage, today to raise funds for the centre.

It was like a festival for the CRP staff and patients. Children who study at CRP schools also joined the function.

CRP, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with 25 years of service, has now 100 patients and 20 cerebral palsy under treatment. There are facilities for treating people at the outdoor. It provides various modern services for physically handicapped people through its Spinal Cord Injury Special Hospital, OT/PT Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

Although CRP depends on donors for carrying 85 percent cost, it also has income-generating activities like nursery, wooden items that are being done by the beneficiaries.



Retrenched employees of Rajuk formed a human chain at

VC panel election

HC showcause on JU authorities

JU CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has issued a show-cause notice on the authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) asking them to explain within 14 days why the two votes cast by two university deans should not be declared invalid.

The notice followed a writ petition on last Wednesday by Prof. A F M Obaidur Rahman, one of the three candidates of the defeated VC panel led by incumbent Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmed.

In his writ petition, Prof Rahman claimed that two serving deans were not eligible to cast their votes in the election under 1973 JU Act.

Earlier, Prof Sheikh Md. Monjurul Huq, dean of social science faculty, and Prof. Abul Khair, dean of life

science faculty, filed a writ petition with the High Court as they were excluded from the voter list.

Upon their petition, the court on February 18, a day ahead of the election, gave a verdict saying that the two serving deans are eligible to cast their votes.

Following the verdict, Registrar Kazi Mohiuddin included their names in the voter list and sent official letter to them requesting to attend the senate session to elect a three-member VC panel.

Meanwhile, official result of the election was sent to education ministry and chancellor on February 22.

An uneasy situation is prevailing on the campus following the chaos over the selection of a VC even after the VC panel election.

US grant for computer training of imams

A computer training programme for imams and madrasah students with United States government support was inaugurated on February 24, says a USIS press release.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan attended the function as chief guest at the Imam Training Academy in the city. Director of the American Centre of the US Embassy in Dhaka Karl Fritz also addressed the ceremony as special guest.

The Islamic Foundation has received a grant of Tk 20,30,000 (35,000 US dollar) to carry out the training over a period of year in five imam training academies organised by the Islamic Foundation.

The American Centre has been funding two-month long training courses at the Imam Training Foundation. It will also fund two-month long training courses at the imam training academies in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Khulna.

BPA general secy robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of muggers snatched one cellphone and Tk 1,000 from Naser Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BPA), at Ramna in the city last night.

Five snatchers intercepted Naser when his rickshaw reached near Vigarunnisa Noon School and College on his way home at 8.00pm.

Pointing an arms at his abdomen, the muggers took away his mobile and money.



Bangladeshi teacher wins int'l English debate contest

Suhani Sanwar, an English teacher of Vigarunnisa Noon School & College, won the Champion Prize as well as the Best Speaker Prize in the International English Debate Competition 2004 for the professionals held in New Delhi from February 15 to 20, says a press release.

The debate competition was organised and funded by the American State Department.

A total of 40 national champions from 39 select countries across the world took part in the competition.

Topics that figured prominently in the debate were world peace, democracy, global environment, international terrorism, and globalisation.

Sanwar is the second daughter of Dr Abdul Hye Mondal, senior research fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and Sufia Khatun, assistant headmistress, Vigarunnisa Noon School & College.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Journalist SM Shamsul Huq Alinoor died here yesterday at a hospital after a prolonged illness at the age of 56.

Alinoor was admitted to BIRDEM hospital two days ago after his health condition deteriorated due to kidney complications and was later shifted to Sikder Women's Medical College Hospital on Wednesday night where he died yesterday morning.

He worked in the then Purbodesh, the Banglar Bani and the Dainik Janata.

Alinoor was buried at the Azimpur graveyard after namaj-e-janazas at Kafrul and Jatitya Press Club.

His Kulkhawani will be held at 459, North Ibrahimpur in the city on March 1 after Asr prayers.

Jatitya Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud in a joint statement expressed their deep shock at the death of Alinoor.

In a statement they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed their heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Francis Haldar



Francis Haldar, executive director of Pragati Manabik Unnayan Sangstha, died of a cardiac arrest at Heart Foundation Hospital in Mirpur on Wednesday at the age of 52, says a press release.

He was also a former chairman of Rajihar Union under Aagailjhara thana, Barisal.

He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.

Death anniversary

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Safura Khatun, mother of Prof. Afia Dil, Prof. AKM Aminul Islam and Prof. Sharifa Hafeez, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at her residence in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers



Professor Dr Salim Rashid of the University of Illinois speaks at a seminar titled 'Knowledge as Politics' on the Presidency University campus in the city yesterday. Vice-Chancellor Musheuddin Ahmed presided over the seminar.

Seminar on 'Knowledge as Politics'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The developing countries should give more attention to the foundational issues with a view to checking pervasive presence of bias in the knowledge transmitted by the West, said Professor Dr Salim Rashid of the University of Illinois yesterday.

"With the help of primary sources and original data, we could decide whether the information being provided to us is actually knowledge," he said at a seminar titled 'Knowledge as Politics'.

The Presidency University organised the seminar at its campus in the city, with its Vice-Chancellor Musheuddin Ahmed in the chair.

Member of the Presidency University Foundation Dr Saad Andaleeb and students of the university attended the seminar.

DHAKA TODAY

Painting exhibition 6.00pm.
The opening ceremony of a solo painting exhibition by Samiran Chowdhury will be held. Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till March 6 from 9.00am to 8.30pm daily.

Prize distribution ceremony
The prize distribution ceremony of children's art competition, organised by Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco as part of its fortnight-long programme to observe International Mother Language Day, will be held with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 9.00am.

Alphabet writing competition
Karak Natya Sampraday organises an alphabet writing competition titled 'Esho Rakte Jeta Barnamala Sundar Kore Likhi' to mark the 21 February and International Mother Language Day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 8.00am.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'True Romance' (1993) and 'Titanic' (1997). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

French film show
Alliance Francaise will screen a French film titled 'Rosetta' directed by Jean-Pierre et Luc Dardenne (1999). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and

BSU conference
The inaugural session of the 16th national conference and annual general meeting of Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography (BSU) will be held with LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 10.30am.

Orthopedic conference
The opening session of the 27th scientific conference of Bangladesh Orthopedic Society will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9.00am.

Roundtable
The 3rd SIOP-Asia Conference will hold a roundtable on 'Role of society towards childhood cancer'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 3.00pm.

Memorial meeting
A meeting will be held in memory of noted politician Pir Habibur Rahman. Venue: House-1, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Rotary meeting
Weekly meeting of Dhaka Rotary Club will be held. Venue: Rotary School and College, Mirpur-14. Time: 11.00am.

Reunion
A daylong alumni reunion of Siddheswari Girls' College will

DU admission test for Kha unit today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for first year honours courses under 'Kha' unit (Arts group) of Dhaka University will be held today.

About 20,000 candidates will sit for the test beginning at 10.00am.

Candidates have been asked to report to their examination centres by 9.30am.

The seat plan for the test is as follows: Admit card No 30001 to 33063 at Arts Building, 33064 to 33692 at Lecture Theatre, 33693 to 35722 at Business Studies Faculty, 35723 to 36252 at IBA, 36253 to 36812 at DU Central Library, 36813 to 36992 at Institute of Modern Language, 36993 to 37603 at IER, 37604 to 38018 at Institute of Social Welfare and Research, 38019 to 39368 at Science Annex Building, 39369 to 39568 at Micro-Biology Department, 39569 to 39793 at

Computer Science Department, 39794 to 39993 at Food and Nutrition Institute, 39994 to 40243 at Pharmaceutical Chemistry Department, 40244 to 40366 at Chemistry Department, 40367 to 40716 at Science Library, 40717 to 43467 at different departments at Curzon Hall, 43468 to 43871 at Statistics Research Institute, 43872 to 44286 at University Laboratory School and College, 44287 to 45743 at Udayan School, 45744 to 48489 at Home Economics College, 48490 to 49426 at Nilkhet High School, 49427 to 49729 at Fine Arts Institute, and 49730 to 50000 at DUCSU Cafeteria.

Detailed seat plan will be displayed on the bulletin board of the examination centres.

There are about 2,332 seats under the 'Kha' unit. Around eight students will vie for each seat.



Students and teachers of Zisan Hrid Memorial School placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar in Ruppur village of Pabna district to pay tributes to the language movement martyrs on February 21. Later, Principal of the school Prof. Mohammad Habibullah spoke at a discussion held there.