

Bhutan can import garments, medicine

President tells ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has said Bhutan could import garments, medicine, melamine and ceramic goods from Bangladesh.

The president made the remarks when newly appointed Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dasho Jigme Tsumtim presented his credentials to him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Iajuddin said a greater cooperation between the two countries could be made in various sectors like education, culture and tourism by turning the existing bilateral relations into multi-lateral ones.

He emphasised enhancement of communication among teachers, physicians, engineers and cultural delegations of Bangladesh and Bhutan.

The president said Bhutanese

students could avail of the opportunities of studying on various subjects like arts, science, commerce and medicine in various universities and colleges here.

Ambassador Dasho Jigme Tsumtim said Bhutan considered the bilateral friendly relations between the two countries with importance and referred to the prospect of enhancing economic, commercial and cultural communications between Bangladesh and Bhutan.

The envoy was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment on his arrival at the Bangabhaban.

Secretary to the President Mesbahuddin Ahmad, Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury and President's Military Affairs Secretary Maj Gen Abdul Matin were present on the occasion.

UK education fair opens

DU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day Education@UK Fair 2004 organised by the British Council began Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Inaugurating the fair as chief guest, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz said educational institutions in the United Kingdom provide the best education in the world.

British High Commissioner Dr. David Carter was present as special guest.

The British government would spend nearly Tk 100 crore on the development of education in Bangladesh in the next two fiscal years, he said.

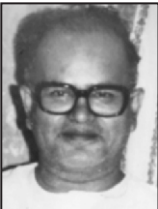
He hoped that the British Council education fair in Dhaka and Chittagong would help build trust and friendship between Bangladesh and Britain.

British Council Director Dr. June Rollinson also spoke.

A total of 18 educational institutions are taking part in the fair.

It will remain open from 11:00am to 7:30pm. The entrance fee is Tk 20.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of M. D. Abdur Rahim, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, says a press release.

Milad mahfil will be held at his Jatrabari residence in Dhaka and his village home at Narayanpur in Chougachha, Jessore.

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

Nasim Biswas



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Dr Ehteshanul Haque Nasim Biswas, a former MP and son of former president Abdur Rahman Biswas, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at House # 4, Road # 10, Block # H, Banani after Asr prayers.

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

Mahmuda Begum



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Mahmuda Begum, wife of Alhaj Ashraf Uddin Mia of Kalmajin Louhajang, says a press release.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at the residence of her son AKM Mohsin at 18 Faridabad Lane after Asr prayers.

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

Md Kamruzzaman

Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Md Kamruzzaman, former project manager of perinatal care project WCF (Dhaka), says a press release.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at 8/1 Moneshwar Road, Jigatola at 4.30pm.

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

Shraddha



The shraddha of Fatik Roy Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and owner of The Gold Queen Jewellers, will be held at the Dhakeswari Temple at 2.00pm today, says a press release.

He died of brain hemorrhage and liver ailments at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on February 26.

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

Chehlum



Chehlum of Zobaida Khatun, mother of Shafiqul Islam Yunus, editor of the daily Dhaka, will be held at her village home at Dulchapur in Purbadhala, Netrakona, today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and distribution of foods among the destitute have been arranged on the occasion.

Zobaida Khatun died on February 8 at the age of 68. She is survived by her husband, three sons and three daughters.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, Left, inaugurated the three-day Education @ Fair at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. British Council organised the fair.

Banshkhali carnage

Confession of accused could not be recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Confessional statement of Md. Hasan alias Army Hasan, an accused in Banshkhali carnage, could not be recorded, as he was produced before the magistrate's court at Banshkhali at late hours yesterday.

Hasan, one of the five persons arrested so far in connection with the attack in which eleven people were burnt alive at Sadhanpur Shilpara on the night of November 18, was taken

to Banshkhali police custody from the city at around 1.20pm.

But, it took long three hours to produce the accused before the court of Magistrate Khalilur Rahman, a five-minute walk from Banshkhali police station.

As Hasan was produced before the court at 4.20pm, the confessional statement under section 164 could not be recorded, sources said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the magistrate recorded the confessional

statement of Mahbubur Rashid, another prime accused in the attack.

Meanwhile, Aminul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of neighbouring Kalipur Union Parishad and Banshkhali upazila BNP general secretary, denied his involvement in the attack.

At a press conference at Banshkhali Press Club yesterday, Aminul, also a cousin of State Minister for Environment and Forest and local MP Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, protested the newspaper reports indicating his involvement in the barbaric incident.

He also claimed to have helped in arresting and identifying two accused, Nasiruddin Tota alias Totaiya and Mahbubur Rashid.

Janatar Mancha

157 officials terminated, says MK Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is harassing officials at different levels of administration bringing allegation of their involvement with Janatar Mancha which played an anti-government role in 1996, said former state minister for planning and Awami League leader Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in the city yesterday.

"After coming to power, the government has so far terminated 47 officials of civil administration, 62 of police administration and 48 officials of various corporations bringing allegation of their involvement with Janatar Mancha," he told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

"The government is victimising the civil servants with political intention which is contrary to the country's existing civil service act," he added.

About his involvement, Mohiuddin said, "I feel proud that I could join the Janatar Mancha as it was a right decision in the then political context of the country."

"Had we not joined the Janatar Mancha in 1996, huge bloodshed could take place in the country as the general people went against the government," he claimed.

"Civil servants are bound to carry out legal orders of the democratic government but the then BNP government took the power illegally after the election of February 15, 1996 as there was no participation of voters in that election," the former state minister added.

He also alleged that the junior officers are superseding the seniors on political consideration which is a hindrance to smooth functioning of the administration.

He said 250 officials of various cadres have been made officer-on-special duty (OSD) and 358 officials have been deprived of their promotion under the present government.

Former assistant inspector

general of police B Karim, former Public Service Commission member Sirajuddin Ahmed and former secretary Azizur Rahman Aziz were present at the press conference.



DUEDAA executive

Dr Shoaib Ahmed was re-elected president and Prof Farid Uddin general secretary of the Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association (DUEDAA) at its biennial general meeting on March 5 at Sonargaon Hotel says a press release.

Other office-bearers are: Vice presidents: Prof Shamsuddin Ahmed, ATM Alamgir, Zahiduzzaman Faruque and Syed Mahmudul Huq, treasurer: Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, joint secretaries: M Monwarul Islam and Shafiqul Islam Khan.

Executive Committee members are: Dr Quazi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prof Momtazuddin Ahmed, M Anwarul Azim, Firdous Ali, Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Moazzem Hossain, Prof MA Taslim, Helaluddin Ahmed, Habibullah Bahar, AKM Masrur Ahmed, Abbasuddin Afsari, Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Murshid Kuli Khan, Ziaul Haque Khandker, Nurul Amin, Nazmul Islam, Ghulam Hussain, Anwar Shahid, Dr Towfiqur R Chowdhury, Kamaluddin Talukder, Quamrul Hasan, Dr Nigar Nargis, AKM Delwar Hossain Malder, Sadiqul Islam Rezon and Iftekher Ahmed.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6pm today with light to moderate fog in the morning.

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 13.8 degree Celsius at Ishurdi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.06 pm today and rises at 6:09 am tomorrow.

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	29.0	17.8	80	51
Chittagong	30.6	16.8	81	59
Rajshahi	30.4	14.6	--	--
Khulna	30.5	16.8	77	61

DHAKA TODAY

Group art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a group art exhibition by SHAKO, women artist association of Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: Gallery Chittrak, House-21, Road-4, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till March 21 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.

French film show

Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'Ma Femme est une actrice' (My wife is an actress) directed by Yvan Attal (2001). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Mirpur Road. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

US film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'The Pallbearer' (1996) and 'The War of Roses' (1989). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Rosemary's Baby' directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Drama

Subachan Natya Sangsad will stage a drama titled Tirthankar. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 7.00pm.

Street drama

Vision Theatre will stage a street drama titled 'Chourastsa' (Crossing of four roads) directed by Rehana Yeasmin. Venue: Shataiyu Mancha, Ramna Park. Time: 4.00pm.

Tagore song

Bishwabina organises a session of Tagore song titled 'Aji Basanta Jagrata Dware'. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.

Discussion

A discussion on 'From language movement to independence', organised by Smritimoy 1965-Dhaka University, will be held with Prof Dr Anisuzzaman as main speaker. Venue: Kainonia auditorium, Mirpur Milk Vita Road. Time: 5.00pm.

Presentation meeting

A presentation meeting on 'Structure of DNA/RNA as described in the Holy Quran', sponsored jointly by the Centre for Human Development and the Baraga Foundation, will be held. Dr Mohammed Abdul Matlib, professor of Cincinnati University, Ohio, USA is the

guest speaker.

Venue: BIAM auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 6.30pm.

Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony and a seminar on UK Education, organised by IBCS-PRIMAX Software (Bangladesh) Ltd, will be held. Venue: House-44, Road-13/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am.

Prize distribution ceremony

The annual prize distribution ceremony of Monipur High School will be held. Venue: School premises, Mirpur-2. Time: 9.00am.

Physiotherapy seminar

Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled (PRCD) organises a seminar on the importance of physiotherapy to be participated by specialists from home and abroad. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Photography exhibition

The opening ceremony of an inter-university photography exhibition, organised by North South University Photography Club, will be held. Around 300 photographs, snapped by amateur photographers from 15 universities including four from abroad, will be on display. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till March 19.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'It runs in the Family' (2002). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of the regional office of David & Nayari Consultant, a UK-based immigration law firm, will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Meeting

Democracy Watch and The Hunger Project jointly organise an opinion sharing meeting on the government decision to increase women seat in parliament. Venue: Democracy Watch, Circuit House Road. Time: 10.30am.



A four-day eye camp organised by Bashirullah Trust Charitable Hospital at Nishchintapur village in Chatkhil, Noakhali concluded on Wednesday.