



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a huge public meeting at Jhalakathi Stadium yesterday.

Make ties meaningful thru' expanding trade, commerce

PM urges Bhutanese envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday emphasised making the existing good relationship between Bangladesh and Bhutan meaningful through expanding trade and commerce.

She said the Himalayan Kingdom can import a number items from here, particularly jute and jute goods, and pharmaceutical, leather and ceramic products.

Khaleda made the offer when newly appointed Bhutanese Ambassador Dasho Jigme Tshulim made a courtesy call on her at the PM office.

The ambassador said he would take initiative to utilise the business opportunity in Bangladesh and discuss it with local business community.

In this context, Dasho said Safta and Saarc spirit would help in "widening opportunity for enormous business in the region".

Recalling the role of late president Ziaur Rahman, he said Saarc was his brainchild and vision. "And Saarc is gradually playing meaningful role."

Khaleda said Bhutan and Bangladesh are very close and the good relations would strengthen further.

The envoy thanked the prime minister for agreeing to host next Saarc Summit in Dhaka. Khaleda hoped that all members of the forum, including Bhutan, would extend cooperation for successful holding of the summit.

While depicting his country's socioeconomic scenario, Dasho praised the success achieved in Bangladesh in various sectors. He conveyed greetings of King and Prime Minister to Khaleda.

She also reciprocated. Khaleda, through the envoy, invited the Bhutanese King to visit Bangladesh at his convenience.

One gets death penalty for killing wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court in Khulna yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mosharrar Hossain passed the sentence on Sylvester Roy alias Tito.

According to the prosecution, Sylvester Roy, whose conjugal life was not a happy one, hacked his wife Mahmuda Khatoun to death on July 5, 2000 at Mathurabad under Dumuria thana and dumped her body in a canal there.

Police recovered the body the next day and arrested Sylvester from Khulna city.

Both husband and wife were tailors.

Jayanti murder case transferred for quick disposal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judge Matur Rahman of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court sent the Jayanti Reza murder case yesterday to the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka for quick disposal.

The Detective Branch (DB) on March 30 indicted Azam Reza for killing his wife Jayanti Munsri alias Jayanti Reza and dropped the names of television performers Shampa Reza and Afsana Mimi from the charge sheet as the allegations against them could not be proved.

Investigation officer (IO) DB inspector Ruhul Quddus submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka after 82 days of the incident.

Ruhul Quddus in the charge sheet said that primary investigation based on the first information report (FIR), statements of 20 witnesses and the post-mortem report found Azam Reza guilty.

The IO quoting the post-mortem report said, death was due to cerebral failure resulted from head injury, which was homicidal in nature.

Police recovered the body of Jayanti, a teacher of Australian International School, hanging from the ceiling fan in their Banani residence on January 9 afternoon. Jayanti's mother filed a General Diary (GD) with Gulshan Police Station,

where she mentioned that Azam killed Jayanti to pave the way for making Mimi his life partner. Later, she filed a case accusing Azam Reza, his sister Shampa Reza and Afsana Mimi.

Call to unite against misrule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday called on the progressive and left-leaning parties to unite against the misrule of the government.

They also called for floating an alternative political front with left-leaning and democratic parties to break the cycle of political stagnation created by the two major parties.

Presided over by Abdullah Sarkar, the rally was also addressed by Comrade Khalequzzaman, Bazlur Rashid Firoz, Abdul Salam, Shubhrangshu Chakrabarty and Mabinul Haider Chowdhury.

Admission test of Fine Arts Instt changed again

DU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University have again changed the date of admission test for first year honours courses under 2003-04 academic session.

The test will now be held on April 16 instead of April 12 owing to student strike in all educational institutions called by the Bangladesh Chhatra League, student front of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

The test will begin at 9:00am.



Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal organises a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday protesting killing, increasing crimes and misrule of government.

RECEPTION TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

More aid for better environment assured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission and the Department for International Development (DFID) have assured that more assistance would be provided for better environment management system in Bangladesh.

They also called for improving the livelihoods of poor people through sustainable management of the environment, as there is a link between the environment and poverty.

The high commission recently accorded a reception to development partners in the environment sector, aimed at promoting greater interaction between them and exploring ways to fight poverty.

Representatives of organisations working on environment, entrepreneurs and environment officials attended the reception ceremony.

British High Commissioner David Carter, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui and Environment Secretary Syed Tanvir Hossain were also present.

The DFID has already announced an assistance of 20 million pound sterling towards protecting environment.

In the past few years, good environmental practice has played a major role in sustaining poverty reduction, said Tim Robertson, natural resources and environmental advisor to DFID.

"The British High Commission's long-term commitment to environment includes educating the future leaders of Bangladesh through a schools programme," said Russel Bud of the high commission.

He said the UK has been supporting various projects, including renewable energy, climate change awareness, environmental education and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).



Members of the Keraniganj Press Club took out a procession at Keraniganj yesterday protesting the attack on Jugantar journalist Delwar Hossain.

Obituary

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Phool Akhter Begum, mother of Kazi Rahamat Ullah, judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, died of old-age complications at her village home in Narsingdi on March 27 at the age of 89.

She is survived by four sons and two daughters.

Her chehlum will be held at her village home at Balusair under Narsingdi upazila on May 7.

British Council-NUB joint workshop

The British Council, in association with the Northern University, Bangladesh (NUB), organised a two-day workshop on "Interpersonal and Communication Skills" for its local staff on April 2 at the BRAC Inn auditorium at Mohakhali in the city, says a press release.

The main objective of the workshop was to enhance their professional efficiency.

Head of the business administration department of NUB and international management consultant Mustafa Kamal conducted the workshop.

A total of 125 participants including 25 executives of British Council from its Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet offices took part in the workshop.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Social Harmony Project uniting children for a better world will be held. Venue: International School Dhaka, Basundhara. Time: 1:00pm.

Drama festival

As part of the weeklong drama festival of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Laxminarayanpur Theatre of Noakhali will stage a drama titled 'Ijjat'. Venue: Theatre hall of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Iranian film titled 'Taste of Cherry' (1998). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.

Publication ceremony

The Association for Land Reform and Development organises the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Abhibasan, Bhumi Bichchinnata O Jagatata Danda: Parbatya Chattagram Daridrarat Karan' and a roundtable with Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan as chief guest. Venue: YWCA auditorium, Mohammadpur. Time: 3:00pm.

BNP meeting

A meeting of Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natya Mancha, Gulistan. Time: 5:00pm.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Rajshahi University Old Students Association will be held. Venue: 5/5 Block C, Lalmatia. Time: 5:30pm.

Conference

A conference of Dhaka city unit of Biplobi Chhatra Maitree will be held. Venue: TSC road island of Dhaka University. Time: 11:00am.

Muldhara meet

The weekly meeting of Muldhara, a centre for writers, journalists and artists,

will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30pm.

Rotary meet

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Inter-Madrassahs Debating Competition will be held with State Minister for Education A N M Ehsanul Haque Milon as chief guest. Venue: ICMA auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Towards a cleaner and greener Dhaka', organised by the North South University, will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: University campus, Banani. Time: 3:30pm.

Lecture

Yoga Foundation organises an introductory lecture on quantum method meditation. Venue: 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail. Time: 5:00pm.

Drama festival

As part of the weeklong drama festival of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Gramchitra Chapainabaganj will stage a drama titled 'Bibaha Caricature'. Venue: Theatre hall of the academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Something's Gotta Give' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.

Debriefing session

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) organises a debriefing session on Global Ministerial Forum held in South Korea with Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: FEJB conference room, National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Nepalese Ambassador Bhagirat Basnet inaugurates the 20th solo painting exhibition titled "Peace through Painting" of Govinda Prasad Sah Azad, a freelance artist of Nepal, at the old gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) forms a human chain in front of the office of ATN, a satellite TV channel, in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of the programmes of Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Saidee and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.