

DHAKA
TODAY

Painting exhibition

The opening ceremony of a solo painting exhibition by Abhijit Chowdhury will be held with Unesco Representative Wolfgang Volmann as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise Auditorium, Dhamondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till August 15 from 9.00am to 12.00noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Arts exhibition

National Museum, in collaboration with Switzerland Embassy, organises an Arts and Crafts Exhibition with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm. The exhibition will continue till August 10.

Drama

The Prachyanat, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'Gander' directed by Toufiqui Islam Ermon to raise fund for flood victims. Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall of Shilpkala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 7.00pm.

Musical evening

The Nandan, a cultural forum, organises an evening of Tagore song titled 'Brishti-Nesha-Bhara Sandhya Bela'. Venue: YWCA Bhaban, Mohammadpur. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

The Mulhara, a centre of writers, journalists and artists, will screen two films titled 'Chalte Chalte' and 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhamondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'Angie Hall' and 'Harry Porter-3'. Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Memorial meeting

Gallery Chitrak will hold a meeting in

memory of noted artist Kazi Abul Kashem. Venue: House-21, Road-4, Dhamondi. Time: 5.00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Mohila Karmakar Samity will hold a seminar on the identification of problems of women officials and their solution. Venue: NAEM, Mirpur Road. Time: 10.00am.

Rally

Bangladesh Adibasi Forum organises a rally demanding cancellation of Eco-Park at Madhupur. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 11.00am.

DHAKA
TOMORROW

Drama

The Swapna, a socio-cultural forum, will stage a drama titled 'Zwala' written by Ritik Kumar Ghatak. Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 7.00pm.

Lecture

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies will hold a lecture on Hirala Sen. Venue: Bishwasita Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6.00pm.

Forum

The Association of Management Development Institutions of Bangladesh organises a management forum on 'Business education with focus on faculty development, quality assurance, curriculum and pedagogy, mode of delivery with IT integration and future trend' with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: IBA Auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 9.30am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Cold Mountain' (2003). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Memorial meeting

Gallery Chitrak will hold a meeting in



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina called on Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam at Rastropati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday.

Police prevent non-govt relief collection in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday prevented different political and non-governmental organisations from raising funds and collecting relief materials for flood-affected people in the city.

They did not allow the leaders and workers of Bikalpa Dharsha Bangladesh (BDB) to collect relief materials from different sectors of Uttara in the morning and picked up three activists, Aziz Akhand, Mobarak and Abul who were later released in the evening.

BDB spokesman and lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury said, "Local people came out of their houses spontaneously to contribute to the relief fund, but police foiled the

programme."

Duty Officer Habibur Rahman of Uttara Police Station said "We intervened in the programme at the request of the locals who were annoyed with the noise of loud speakers."

Nibedan, a cultural forum, said police prevented their fund-raising campaign at around 5.00pm at Malibagh.

"We had been collecting relief materials in different parts of the city for last three days," said Bishwajit Roy of Nibedan adding, "We are now frustrated by the government decision of banning non-government relief collection and fund-raising."

Police also snatched away the

banners and clubbed the activists of Biplab Chhata Moitri from collecting relief materials in Dhanmondi.

An alliance of five left parties and Chhata Moitri, in separate press releases, protested the government decision describing it inhuman and autocratic.

Other political parties and social organisations have also criticised the government ban on non-government fund-raising and called for immediate withdrawal of the order.

Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu said, "We did not take such decision, but anyone found collecting toll in the name of relief will be punished according to the law."

Madrasa teacher held on charge of raping girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Amadrasa teacher was sent to jail on charge of raping a minor girl in Khulna yesterday.

Moulana Abul Kalam, a teacher of Keratul Cadet Madrasa of Labchora under Khulna thana, was sent to district jail after showing him arrested under 'Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act'.

The victim is a student of class three of the same madrasa.

According to an FIR lodged with Khulna thana by her mother, the girl was raped by her teacher in his bedroom adjacent to madrasa on Wednesday afternoon.

Police arrested him on the same night after receiving the complaint.

The victim was examined yesterday and she is now undergoing treatment in Khulna General Hospital.

GP donates medicine to Red Crescent

GrameenPhone Ltd. donated medicines worth Tk 5 lakh to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday, says a press release.

Red Crescent will distribute these medicines among the flood-affected people through its medical teams. The medicines included 35 different types of essential drugs requested by the Red Crescent Society.

GrameenPhone Managing Director Ola Ree handed over the medicines to BDRCS Chairman Major General (Retd) ZA Khan at a simple ceremony at the GP head office.

The BDRCS chairman thanked GrameenPhone for coming forward to help the flood-affected people.

Citibank staffs' donation for flood victims

Citibank Bangladesh employees have joined hands with Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women, an NGO, to mobilise relief funds for the flood-affected people, says a press release.

They have donated their one day salary for the relief fund.

The bank employees will also take part in the relief operations with Shakti Foundation.

Ziaur Rahman, head of human resources and administration of Citibank, handed over the cheque to Humaira Islam, founding executive director of the Foundation, on Wednesday.

Two rapists get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced two youths to life imprisonment for raping a 16-year-old girl at Kandulbagh under Savar thana on April 26 in 1999.

The convicts Mohammad Safaz Uddin and Mohammad Mohsin are residents of Kandulbagh.

Judge Sarker Abdul Mansur Ahmed of the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression-3 gave the verdict in presence of the convicts.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 12 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Safaz and his accomplice Mohsin raped the girl about 16 days nearby desolated place at about 9.00pm on April 26 in 1999 when she went out of her house for nature's call.

Police arrested him on the same night after receiving the complaint.

The victim was examined yesterday and she is now undergoing treatment in Khulna General Hospital.

He also distributed some relief materials among the flood victims at Madarsetk Mohammad Azizul School and College, Madarsetk Primary School, Bashabo Girls School, Bashabo Community Centre, Khilgaon Model College, Khilgaon Taltala Community Centre and some other flood shelters.

According to the NSI report, there was no substantial evidence that the meeting was held at the Audit Bhaban or its compound on the day.

The CSB also cited the same reason.

Both the CSB and the NSI conducted investigations into the matter three times.

Later, victim's elder brother Mohammad Siruzul Islam filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 accusing Safaz and Mohsin on June 5 in 1999. The investigation officer pressed charges against them on November 27 the same year.

Special Public Prosecutor Sajawat Ullah Khan Aun appeared for the state while Advocate Syed Reazur Rahman defended the accused.

After a lengthy hearing from the two sides, the court rejected the discharge petition and framed charges against Babul.

In the case filed with Badda Police Station, a woman of Dholairpar in Demra in city alleged she met Babul, a leading businessman and owner of Bangla newspaper Dainik Jugantor, at his office in Motijheel on March 17 for a job.

Babul aided by an armed gang took her to Kuril Bishwa Road in Badda by a car, she said, and forcing her into a tin-roofed house near Bishwa Road, attempted to rape her.

She filed the case against Babul and two others on March 19.

The investigation officer of the case pressed charges against Babul on April 27 to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing seven people as prosecution witnesses.

Karmojibi Nari distributes relief

Karmojibi Nari, an organisation for working women, distributed relief materials among the flood-affected women workers at Siddhirkhanj in Narayanganj on Wednesday, says a press release.

President of the organisation Shirin Akhter, Director of Training Mahmuda Imam, Arifa Akhter Aun and Al-Azam Khan were present during the distribution.

Death anniversary

The 26th death anniversary of Abul Quasem, a retired judge and former president of Chittagong Bar Association, will be observed at his residence at Sultanpur in Raiganj, Chittagong, tomorrow, says a press release.

A memorial meeting and mafail will also be held at Raiganj Nizamuddin Public Hall auditorium at 3.00pm on August 6.

Annual Urs Mubarak of Fakhrul Muhaddesin Hazrat Moulana Abdul Ghafoor, popularly known as Bare Bhaiya, will be held at 78 Shantinagar in Dhaka tomorrow, says a press release.

Recitation from the Quran will begin at 10.00am and doa at 12.00 noon. Later, tabaruk will be distributed.

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ADB keen to fund in Dhaka eastern bypass

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday expressed its interest in constructing Dhaka eastern bypass for the protection of Dhaka city from massive flooding in future.

A visiting team of ADB's board of directors in a meeting with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday stated the intention, meeting sources said.

Jusuf Anwar led the six-member delegation of ADB.

The ADB board members expressed grave concern over the severe flooding that Bangladesh is faced with. They discussed post-

flood rehabilitation programmes and assured of all-out support in rebuilding communications infrastructure.

They told the minister that ADB was closely monitoring the flood situation. They underlined the importance of building roads and highways so as to be above the flood level.

The communications minister sought unconditional help from the ADB in rebuilding roads, highways, and rail tracks after the flood is over. He also called for ADB help in construction of the Padma Bridge that is likely to begin from March 2005.

As a professor of medicine, he had served in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Prof Quaderi is survived by three sons.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Gulshan Central Mosque yesterday. His body has been kept at Birlam mortuary and will be buried after his sons arrive in Dhaka from abroad within a couple of days.

Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Swadhinata Chikitsa Parishad and Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association have expressed condolence at his death.

Prof Mazhar Ali Quaderi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Mazhar Ali Quaderi, former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), died of multi-organ failure on Wednesday night at the age of 80.

A former lawmaker, Prof Quaderi was also the founder president of Swadhinata Chikitsa Parishad and president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

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Banker Mohammad Khaled

BSS, Dhaka

Eminent banker and founding Managing Director of the Pubali Bank Mohammad Khaled died at Birlam Hospital on Wednesday night at the age of 80.

Mohammad Khaled, former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, was suffering from old-age diseases for sometime. He left behind his wife.

The body of Mohammad Khaled was taken to his village home at Sultanpur under Raiganj thana of Chittagong after his first namaz-e-janaza at Dhamondi Jame Mosque.

Later, he was buried at his family graveyard at Sultanpur after the second janaza there.

President and General Secretary of Chittagong Journalist Forum, D. M. K. (CJFD) Mesbahuddin Jomi and Mostafa Kamal expressed deep shock at the