



PHOTO: STAR

Karmojibi Nari holds a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to mark the 'Day of Resistance to Violence against Women'.

Bengal Studies Confce in city in January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 37th Bengal Studies Conference (BSC) will be held in Dhaka from January 4 to 6 to help create a potential future for Bangladesh through discovering its past.

This is the first time that the conference is going to be held in Bangladesh in its 40-year history.

Traditionally, the noted universities of the United States and Canada have organised the conference.

The first BSC was held at Michigan State University in the USA in 1965.

It specially focuses on culture, tradition, history, science, technology, political science, international relationship and anthropology of Bangladesh.

Stamford University Bangladesh, a private university, will host the 37th Bengal Studies Conference.

Stamford University Vice-Chancellor Dr MA Hannan Firoj will act as convener.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday, Dr Hannan announced the formation of different committees including patron committee, apex committee and organising committee for smooth holding of the conference.

He said it will include seminar, roundtable, open discussion, audio-visual show, book and photo fair, cultural programme, river cruise and city tour.

16 ships to arrive at Ctg port this week

BSS, Chittagong

Sixteen ships, including a container, are expected to arrive at Chittagong Port in the next one week, port officials said.

The ships, scheduled to arrive here by September 16, include five Bangladesh flag carrier, four Singapore flag carrier and two Vietnam flag carrier vessels.

The port sources said four ships - Kota, Naga, QC Honor, Orchid and Banglar Shourabh berthed at the port jetties yesterday while five others - MV Gracia, MV Banglar Jyoti, Bangladesh Robi, Banglar Bijoy and Sonata -- sailed out after unloading container and bulk cargoes.

Twelve ships now berthed at the port and the private jetties and now loading and unloading containers and cargoes, the sources said.

Bhuiyan visits ailing Naziur

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday visited four party alliance leader and Chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Naziur Rahman Manzur at Birdem Hospital.

BEA distributes books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Electrical Association (BEA) yesterday distributed educational materials among the flood-affected students in the capital.

The association distributed books, khatahs, pens and pencils among the students of Meradia Government Primary School, said a press release.

Association Chairman Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Senior Vice-Chairman Alimuzzaman Alam, Vice-Chairman Engineer Mohammed Rustom Ali Khan, Director Abu Bakar Siddik, Headmistress Nurjahan Begum and other teachers were present on the occasion.

75.29 pc wants UZ system

Survey says

UNB, Dhaka

A nation-wide survey by a Dhaka University teacher found that 75.29 per cent respondents support immediate reintroduction of the upazila system.

Prof Dr Salahuddin Aminuzzaman of Public Administration and Chairman of Development Studies Department conducted the survey among 2250 people of 21 old districts.

Among the respondents, 84.60 per cent of the elected representatives of Union Parishad suggested immediate reintroduction of the upazila system.

Respondents of the survey included students, lawyers, local level political leaders and activists, small businessmen, agricultural workers, farmers, UP elected leaders, school and college teachers. Division-wise distribution of data

reveal that the highest 82.67 per cent of the respondents from Rajshahi division favour immediate reintroduction of the upazila system while the lowest 70.40 per cent was from Chittagong division.

According to the survey, 70.60 per cent of its respondents acknowledged that the system helped develop infrastructures in upazilas and 60.27 per cent noted that the upazila system did help create a strong base for local government system and initiated a process of local level resource mobilisation.

Of the respondents, 66.06 per cent were of the view that the upazila system made the local level bureaucracy accountable to local leadership.

Among the respondents, 74.14 per cent said the upazila system must be kept outside the control of local MPs and 71 per cent suggested that it must not work as local party unit of the ruling party.

COURSE ON JOURNALISM

PIB students threaten legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalism students of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) yesterday protested the inscription of word 'diploma' instead of 'postgraduate diploma' on their mark sheets and certificates.

The PIB conducts the course 'Postgraduate diploma in journalism' in affiliation with the National University (NU).

At a meeting in the city, the students also threatened to take legal action against the two institutions if they do not correct it.

They said the PIB mentioned the course as postgraduate diploma in the advertisement for admission, question papers and all notices, but the NU issued mark sheets and certificates with the inscription of 'diploma'.

"This is simply a fraud and we will go to court if the authorities do not take corrective measures," said Shawkat Hossain, a 2nd batch student of PIB and editor of the Daily AjkerBhola.

Such negligence has tainted the image of the institute, said Rafiqul Islam Badal, convener of the Postgraduate Diploma Course Implementation Committee.

Contacted, PIB Director General Dr Rezwana Siddique said the mistake

Citibank's donation for book reading programme

Citibank NA, Bangladesh donated Tk 1.48 lakh to the Bishwa Sahitya Kendra for its book reading programme yesterday, says a press release.

This is the third donation for the programme. The fund was raised during a six-month campaign that ended yesterday.

During this campaign, Citibank had teamed up with the Prothom Alo and taken the pioneering initiative to raise the fund by deducting Tk 10 against each of the international payments or fund transfers on behalf of its own clients.

Citibank's clients, including Dhaka Bank Limited and Mercantile Bank Limited, also contributed to the fund.

Sanjay Nayar, area head, Citibank South Asia, handed over the cheque to Abdullah Abu Sayeed, chairman of Bishwa Sahitya Kendro.

Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, and Mamun Rashid, chief executive officer of the Citibank Bangladesh, were also present.

Training programme on road safety Sept 15

UNB, Dhaka

A daylong training programme on "Road Safety and Good Driving Practices" for heavy vehicle drivers will be held at the auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on September 15.

Presided over by BUET Vice Chancellor M Aleem Murtuza the training programme will be attended by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest.

Death anniversary



Today is the third death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khadem, former medical officer of Tejgaon Thana Health Complex, says a press release.

A milad mahfil and distribution of food among the destitute have been arranged at his home at Kharampur in Akhaura.

Policy for hawkers' rehabilitation soon

BSS, Dhaka

Communication Minister Nazmul Huda has said the government is keen to rehabilitate the hawkers by providing them with various incentives.

He said the ministry of LGRD is now formulating a policy for the hawkers' rehabilitation with various facilities like micro-credit and permanent business space for them, a press release of Bangladesh Hawkers

Federation said here yesterday.

Addressing the federation's national council at the Mohanagar Natyamanch here recently, he said the policy would be finalised at an inter-ministerial meeting to be held soon.

He also said that a hawker rehabilitation board would be constituted to develop hawkers' markets and their accommodation in each district, ensure extortion-free business.



PHOTO: STAR

A visitor admires orchid flowers at an exhibition of orchid plants that began at House # C-2 in Gulshan # 2 in the city yesterday. Organised by the Orchid Society of Bangladesh, the exhibition will continue today.