

Indo-Bangla Festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An India-Bangladesh Festival titled 'Parbon' begins at Sheraton Hotel today.

The four-day Parbon includes handicrafts exhibition, cultural programme and food festival, says a press release.

The Parbon will provide a platform for unorganised sector of both the countries to meet and exchange knowledge and expertise in the backdrop of festivity.

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury will inaugurate the festival at 7.00pm.

Indian High Commissioner Veene Sikri will attend the inaugural function as special guest.

The festival has been organised by Indian High Commission, MAA Consortium of Bangladesh, Real Concepts of India, and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

"This is an epitome of friendly exchange and cooperation in the field of culture and business between India and Bangladesh," said Anuxag Bhushan, co-ordinator of Real Concepts, at a press briefing at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

He said it would not only promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the handicrafters and businessmen of the two countries but also strengthen friendship between the two peoples.

The festival is unique and innovative in its nature which would attract the attention of Bangladeshi people, said

Sanaul Arefeen, coordinator of the festival.

Fashion designer Sharbari Dutta, and Sales and Marketing Director of Sheraton Hotel ATM Hafizullah were present at the press briefing.

Sponsored by New Jarwa House, Pride Textile, RC and Emami (Germany), the festival will remain open from 8:00am to 7:00pm daily.

MOB BEATING

Another robber dies at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the five robbers, who sustained injuries in a mob beating at Adarsha Nagar in Badda on Friday, succumbed to his injuries at the orthopaedic hospital in the city early yesterday.

Hospital sources said critically injured Moynuddin, 22, died at about 1:00am, five hours after he was shifted there from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Locals caught Moynuddin along with Ashraf, 22, Rezaul, 24, Zakir Hossain, 21, and Al Amin, red-handed while they were looting the house of one Haji Abdus Sattar at north Badda, and beat them severely.

The injured others are undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

Student drowns at Dhanmondi lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student drowned at Dhanmondi lake in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Kazi Mohammad Sharier Ferdous Tomal, 20, son of Daud Ibrahim of Dhanmondi.

Tomal obtained GPA five in Higher Secondary Certificate Examination from BAF Shaheen College this year.

The mishap took place when Tomal along with four friends went to Dhanmondi lake for swimming at around 3:00pm.

"We were swimming in the south side of the bridge over the lake while Tomal was swimming on the other side of the bridge. Suddenly he disappeared," said one friend.

Firefighters recovered the body of Tomal from the lake after an hour.

His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police also picked up his four friends for quizzing, but later released them.

2,106 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 2,106 people, including seven identified criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 48 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.



USAID Administrator Andrew S Natsios called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday. US Ambassador Harry K Thomas, right, was also present.

Prisoner dies at KMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An under-trial prisoner died in Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) Prison cell on Friday night.

The dead was identified as Obaidur Rahman alias Tiger Obaid (32). He was rushed to the KMCH prison cell from Khulna district jail hospital on October 7 to undergo treatment of fatal injuries

caused during interrogation by the joint forces on September 22 in Chuadanga.

Earlier, he was shifted to Khulna district jail hospital from Chuadanga district jail hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Tiger Obaid was arrested by joint forces under arms act at Belkhali village under Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district.

Black Bulu held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Black Bulu alias Imam Bulu, a listed criminal, was arrested by elite force Cobra on Friday night from the residence of one Shajahan Mia of Shanir Akhrha in Dhaka.

Black Bulu, a resident of 10, Old Housing Estate under Khalishpur thana, is wanted in several murder and criminal cases, KMP sources said. He will be brought to Khulna for interrogation, source added.

One to die for HRC double murders

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced one person to death for killing two guards of HRC Building at Karwan Bazar in the city on December 9, 1998.

Rafiqul Islam of Shield Security Company Limited beat his two colleagues Mohammad Ali, 30, and Zakir Hossain, 35 to death and took away Tk 4,30,228. Ali and Zakir were posted at the HRC Building as security guards.

Judge Monzurul Basit of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court gave the verdict at a jam-packed courtroom in presence of the convict Rafiqul Islam.

On hearing the judgement, Rafiqul got fainted and collapsed on the dock.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 16 out of 33 prosecution witnesses.

In the case filed with Tejgoan Police Station, Meshbahuddin Ahmed, Executive Director (Administration) of HRC Group at Senakalyan Bhaban alleged that Rafiqul Islam posted at the HRC Building as security guard killed Ali and Zakir at about 11:00pm on December 9, 1998 and looted Tk 4,30,228 from the HRC Building.

Later, he went to his village home at Golabari under Bhupur upazila in Tangail district and hid the looted money in jute field.

Acting on his statement, police recovered the said money after two days of the incident.

Rafiqul gave a confessional

statement to a magistrate in this regard on December 14 in 1998.

The investigation officer pressed charges against Rafiqul on February 27, 1999.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Jalaluddin and Advocate Saiful Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Rafiqul Islam defended the accused.

PM to launch ISACPA report today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will launch the report titled "Our Future, Our Responsibility" of the Independent South Asia Commission on Poverty Alleviation (ISACPA) at the International Conference Centre here today.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will be present as special guests on the occasion.

The ISACPA was formed following a decision taken at the SAARC summit in 1991 at Colombo.

The SAARC leaders reconstituted the ISACPA in 2002 with Nepal as convenor and Bangladesh as co-convenor.

The landmark document prepared by the ISACPA would pave the way for undertaking effective poverty alleviation programmes and reducing the number of poor people by half by the year 2015 in South Asian Region.