



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Federal Sangskritik Parishad forms a human chain at Topkhana Road in the city yesterday to protest against terrorism, bomb blasts, hartal and anarchy.

800 bottles of phensidyl seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight hundred bottles of phensidyl were seized in the city yesterday. A team of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) seized 600

bottles of phensidyl from the house of a drug trader at Titipara slum in Gopibagh.

The team also arrested the drug trader Harun-ar-Rashid during a raid on the slum.

Acting on a confessional statement of an arrestee, Ariful Islam Dipon, the DNC men conducted the raid at around 9:00am.

In another raid, detectives seized 200 bottles of phensidyl from the house of one Shamsul Haq at North Sayedabad yesterday noon and arrested one Rubel, a tenant.

People's Summit for Saarc begins today

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day People's Summit for People's Saarc (PSPS) will begin in the city today.

South Asia Partnership (SAP) in collaboration with South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) has organised the event.

Alike other summits in the past, this was supposed to coincide with the 13th Saarc Summit which has now been postponed, said convener of the PSPS Syed Nurul Alam. "But we have decided to go with our own programme," he added.

The concept of this PSPS is based on the premise of people leading the process of development, peace and regional cooperation in South Asia, he said.

The basic objective of this regional event, Alam said, is to bring together the people and civil society leaders from different south Asian countries on a common platform to discuss the issues that are on the agenda of Saarc Summit and come up with some people, concrete recommendations and suggestions.

The opening ceremony will take place at BRAC Inn at 9.30 am. The event will be inaugurated by people's representatives from different Saarc countries.

Experts will also present papers on different topics: 'Trans-border agenda: Poverty, livelihood in the

context of globalization,' trafficking and human security, poverty, trade and globalisations, gender rights, labour rights, peace and militarisation, governance, food sovereignty, natural catastrophe and concerns in South Asia and mitigation of natural catastrophe.

The recommendations will be presented in the plenary session on Sunday.

'Withdraw ban on plying of rickshaws'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rickshaw Van Sramik Oikya Parishad yesterday demanded withdrawal of a recently imposed ban on plying of rickshaws on several city roads.

Protesting the move to make more roads off-limits to rickshaws, the Parishad leaders blasted the government for taking such steps as per the prescription of the World Bank without arranging alternative employment opportunities for the rickshawpullers.

At a rally held at the Elephant Road, they called on the rickshaw workers and others to launch a movement against such anti-people decisions.

Cake festival held in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A daylong cake festival was held at the DC Hill Park in the port city amid festivity yesterday.

Noted social scientist Prof Dr Anupam Sen formally inaugurated the festival organised by Piha Utsab UjJapan Parisad. A cultural function was also held at the inaugural session.

A discussion meeting was also held in the afternoon with Sheikh Zahiruddin in the chair. Among others, ex-lawmakers Mosharaf Hossain, Abul Kashem, advocate Sadhanmoy Bhattacharya and Dr Dilip Dey spoke.

Speakers at the meeting said that the festival is a symbol of peace and unity.

Whale caught in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A blue whale weighing over two tonnes was caught by local fishermen from the Bay of Bengal on Wednesday.

The 40-foot-long whale was netted by fisherman Yasin of Jahanpur village under Charfashion upazila in Bhola district.

Yasin was helped by fishermen Ishaque, Abul Hossain and Abul Hashem.

It is now lying at Pachkapat fish canning house at Charfashion.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League, 11 Party, JSD and NAP take out a procession in Chittagong yesterday to mourn the death of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, who was killed in a grenade attack on January 27.

