



Women police search visitors at the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday as the security has been tightened at the fair venue to avoid any untoward incident.

Mainstream education needs modification: Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mainstream education needs modification with the objective to meet the needs of modern age, said noted economist and Managing Director of Grameen Bank Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The integration of practical training into the education system will contribute in building up a skilled workforce in the country, he said at a seminar in the city yesterday.

The Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES), an NGO working for the underprivileged adolescents, organised the seminar on 'Effective education for the disadvantaged adolescents, adolescent girls' power and technology for their life and livelihood' as part of its silver jubilee celebrations.

Prof Yunus said if the CEMS can achieve successful integration between education and work for the underprivileged children, it would be a good example for the mainstream education.

He said such an education system, introduced by the CMES, will help the students compete with the world by their intelligence, not money.

CMES Executive Director Dr Muhammad Ibrahim said this education system has provided many underprivileged adolescents with life-skill training and education.

In another seminar organised by the CMES, the speakers called for better coordination among the NGOs, government and civil society to make the development programmes a success.

The title of the seminar was 'How to take the NGO achievements into the community responsibility and the mainstream?'

Shaheen Anam, team leader of Manusher Jonno, stressed the need for ensuring transparency and accountability of the NGOs to increase acceptability to the local people.

The NGOs should also help each other, follow the best practices and work in collaboration with the local institutions, she said.

Former Joint Director of BRDB Taherunnesa Abdullah, Director of CAMPE Rasheda K Chowdhury, ITDG Country Director Veena Khaleque, Prof Abu Hamid Latif, Shireen Haque of Nari Pokkho, Dr Saiful Islam of Brac also spoke in the seminars.

The CMES also organised a two-day exhibition that began at the Engineers' Institute on Monday, with the adolescent boys and girls showcasing their products and services.

Mushroom cultivation, apiculture, a beauty parlour, a photography studio, as well as food processing and solar electricity systems were put on display.

2 killed in road accident in Manikganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed and 10 others injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Basta bus stand on Singair-Dhaka Road yesterday.

The dead are Lutfor Rahman, 50, of Kanainagar village and Nurul Islam, 55 of Begun Geori village under Singair upazila in Manikganj district.

One to die for killing wife for dowry

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife Moni for dowry seven years back.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court gave the verdict in presence of the convict Mizanur Rahman at a jam-packed courtroom.

The court acquitted Mizan's brothers Mohammad Faruq and Mohammad Sayeed as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 14 prosecution witnesses.

The convict can appeal to the High Court against the verdict within seven days from the date of receipt of the judgement, the court said.

The injured have been admitted to Singair Upazila Health Complex.

Police said the Dhaka-bound bus from Singair skidded off the road when the driver lost control of the steering at about 9:30am.

Arannayk Foundation to be launched today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arannayk Foundation, a USA-Bangladesh bilateral initiative, is being launched today with a goal for preservation and development of tropical forest resources in the country.

Arannayk, the Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, aims at improving management, conservation and restoration of natural forests and bio-diversity, said Dr Mahfuzul Haque, joint secretary of the of environment and forest ministry and the executive director of the foundation, at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

"Arannayk will ensure accomplishing such activities that support tropical forest conservation as well as ensure the community participation in the forest management. It is basically a monitoring body," said Gene V George, director of USAID who chaired the meet.

Civil society members Atiq A Chowdhury and Khushi Kabir were present at the press meet.

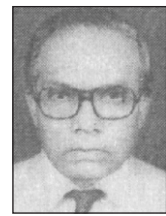
Death anniversary



League leader, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his youngest son at Subastu Kaberi, 2/1 Block-C, Lalmatia in the city after Maghrib prayers.

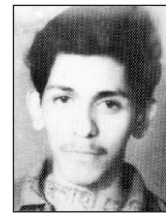
Dr M Amirul Islam



Agricultural University, Mymensingh and the founder Director of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), says a press release.

On the occasion, a Quran khwani and milad mahfil will be held at his ancestral home at Senbag upazila under Noakhali district on February 18.

Nahidul Haque Khan Titu

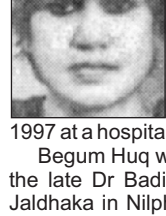


The 9th death anniversary of Nahidul Haque Khan Titu will be observed today, says a press release.

Titu, a student of Rajshahi University, was shot dead by the miscreants on this day in 1996 during the non-cooperation movement.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 574 Uttar Shahjahanpur in the city after Asr prayers.

Begum Hamida Huq



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Begum Hamida Huq, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

She died on February 9 in 1997 at a hospital in New York.

Begum Huq was the daughter of the late Dr Badir Uddin Ahmed of Jaladhaka in Nilphamari and wife of Rafiqul Huq Dadubhai, chief sub-editor of the daily Jugantar.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad and doa mahfil will be held at her residence at Shantinagar in the city and in Rangpur town.

Political leaders, journos slate bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Political leaders and journalists at a protest rally here yesterday deeply condemned Saturday's bomb attack in which four Khulna journalists were injured.

They called for a greater unity among journalists of the country to build up strong resistance against continuing bomb attacks launched by criminals.

Khulna Press Club (KPC), Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) and Metropolitan Union of Journalists (MUJ), Khulna jointly organised the rally on the press club premises.

Speaking at the rally, Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, said Bangladesh has become the most dangerous country in Asia, especially for journalists.

Thirteen newsmen were killed in the southwestern region in the last few years but the killers could not be brought to book due to flawed investigation of the cases, he said.

He alleged that the criminals cannot be punished due to their connection with a section of corrupt policemen.

SATKANIA MURDER

Two Jamaat leaders sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two persons held in connection with Friday's union parishad chairman murder in Satkania were sent to jail yesterday.

A Chittagong court ordered to send Shamsul Islam Hakimi and Afser Uddin to jail when police produced them before it yesterday.

Shamsul is the Ameer of Khagaria union unit Jamaat-e-Islami while Afser is a local union parishad member. With the two, so far three Jamaat men had been sent to jail for suspected links with the killing of Khagaria union chairman Engineer Aminul Islam.

Police yesterday did not petition to take the two on remand as Helal, the other accused, made a confessional statement under section 164 on Monday.

Referring to Helal's confessions, the Officer-in-Charge of Satkania Police Station Moyeen Uddin said they could now be able to identify the killers as well as unearth the motive for the killing.

Meanwhile, police were carrying out a manhunt for the rest of the killing-squad that allegedly killed Amirul, said Moyeen Uddin, also the investigating officer (IO) of the case.

UP Chairman Engineer Aminul Islam was shot dead at Amirkhil of Khagaria on Friday night.



PHOTO: STAR
Khagaria Union Jamaat Ameer Shamsul Islam Hakimi and pro-Jamaat UP member Afsaruddin, the alleged members of the Engineer Aminul Islam chairman killing squad, were being taken to court in Chittagong yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia till 6.00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Teknaf and lowest 10.7 degree Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:50pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	17.6	59	44
Chittagong	33.0	17.5	66	53

Prof Kabir Chy's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 82nd birthday of noted educationist and writer Professor Kabir Chowdhury will be celebrated today.

Born in 1923 at Brahmanbaria, Professor Kabir Chowdhury served as principal of different government colleges, director of Bangla Academy, secretary to the government and professor of Dhaka University.

He was made a national professor in 1998.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury has 167 books, both original works and translations, to his credit.

The birthday, however, will be celebrated in a simple ceremony at his home at Gazi Bhaban, 41 Naya Pallan, in view of the present situation in the country, said a press release.

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee wished him a happy and long life.

KILLING OF KIBRIA

Daughter seeks British help to ensure trial

UNB, London

Dr Nazli Kibria, daughter of slain Awami League (AL) leader SAMS Kibria, met British State Minister Douglas Alexander MP at the House of Commons on Monday and sought cooperation from the British government in ensuring a trial for the killers of her father.

In response to Nazli's appeal, the British minister reiterated his government's commitment to work together with the Bangladesh government for the trial of the gruesome murder.

"We are with you and are deeply shocked at the killing. Democracy and the rule of law have been threatened by the killing," said Douglas. He also expressed his deep concern over the attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet.

British MP Oona King, Arney Roch MP, AL UK unit President Shamsuddin Khan, AL leader Sultan Mahmud Sharif and Jubo League leader Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury were present.

Nazli Kibria also met officials of Amnesty International on Monday and sought help of the human rights watchdog in ensuring punishment to the killers of her father.

Addressing a meeting of expatriate Bangladeshis the same day in London, Nazli urged them to create pressure on the government for punishing the assailants.