

Amar Ekushey in picture



Bangladesh Nationalist Party



Bangladesh Awami League



11-party



Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain



Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University



Dhaka University Teachers' Association



Foreign diplomats



Shaheed Abdul Jabbar Smriti Parishad



Bangladesh Mohila Parishad



Supreme Court Bar Association



Kendriya Khelaghar Asar



Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari and Press Sramik Federation

PHOTO: STAR

Different organisations and individuals placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday to pay homage to the martyrs of Language Movement.

7th congress of Workers Party begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seventh congress of the Workers Party of Bangladesh will begin at the Eidgah Maidan in Jessore tomorrow.

The inaugural ceremony of the five-day congress will be held at 2.30pm.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas invited all to attend the inaugural session.

Children's film festival in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

A three-day children's film festival will begin in the port city tomorrow.

The Children's Eye has organised the festival with the theme "Recreation to be the curriculum of education", to be held at Bandar Republic Club, said a press release.

A total of 10 local and foreign movies, including one documentary on Tsunami, will be screened during the festival.

Primet awards students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primet Programme has awarded 1,005 students for their success in medical admission tests across the country under 2004-05 academic session.

Primet is a teaching programme designed to prepare students ahead of the test in which some 20,000 students vie for 1,450 seats every year.

A total of 1,005 students, who subscribed to Primet programme, came out successfully this year.

President of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh Aftabul Islam handed over certificates and crests to three top students for getting highest scores at a function at Biam auditorium in the city on Sunday.

Of them, Rumana Ferdous Akhi stood first while Kazi Mohammad Mohsin and Partha Pratim secured third and fourth positions.

Primet Managing Director Dr Tito and Programme Director Dr Zahir were present on the occasion.

Unite against politics of anarchy: Mannan

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called on all to be imbued with the spirit of the Language Movement and united against all sorts of anarchy.

"Some political parties are creating anarchy in a bid to halt the economic progress achieved by the government," he said at a public rally organised by the BNP in observance of the Shaheed Day and the International Mother Language Day at Ramna Batamul.

Mannan Bhuiyan said some quarters are trying to destabilise the country by pursuing the politics of hartal and anarchy so that the alliance government could not go ahead with its development programmes and fulfil the election pledges.

Health Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Whip Ashraf Hossain, State Minister for Cultural

Ashura observed

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ashura was observed across the country on Sunday with due religious fervour, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hossain (R), grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

On the 10th of Muharram in the Hijri year of 61, Hazrat Imam Hossain (R), along with members of his family and companions, embraced martyrdom at the hands of Yazid's forces in the desert of Karbala to uphold the cause of Islam and the teachings of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

Special prayers were offered at mosques seeking unity and welfare of the Muslim Ummah, world peace and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

Different religious and social organisations arranged milad mahfil, Qurankhwani and discussions, highlighting the significance of the day.

Tazia processions were brought out in the capital and elsewhere in the country, portraying the tragic events of Karbala.

Affairs Selima Rahman, Jubo Dal President and Advisor of Commerce Ministry Barkat Ullah Bulu and General Secretary Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal addressed the rally.

Assistant Office Secretary of BNP Syed Emran Saleh Prince conducted the function.

Mannan Bhuiyan said some political parties are conspiring against the country both at home and abroad to discourage foreign investment by creating instability.

"When the government is carrying forward its economic activities, a certain quarter is hatching conspiracy against the country," he alleged.

Referring to the main opposition Awami League's abstention from parliament, he said that as an opposition party, Awami League should play its due role in parliament by raising its voice in favour of the people who voted them to the Jatiya Sangsad.

He brushed aside the Awami League allegation that the Awami League MPs were not getting enough time to speak in parliament. "As the members of the main opposition, Awami League MPs were getting more time than that of its proportionate ratio to speak in parliament," he said.

He called on the Awami League to join parliament session and extend its cooperation to the government in carrying out its administrative and economic activities for the greater interest of the nation.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Pakistan and later he served as a minister for health, public works and communications.

He also set up many industrial units. His family has taken up different programmes, including Khatme Quran, milad mahfil and placing wreaths to his graveyard, to mark the day.

Lions Club VP Ashok Mehta arrives

UNB, Dhaka

First International Vice-President of Lions Clubs International Ashok Mehta arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to ascertain its project activities in Bangladesh, particularly the Sight-First programme.

Obituary



Rafi Karim Chowdhury, son of Chowdhury Rabiul Karim and grandson of noted educationist RK Chowdhury, died in a tragic

accident on February 19. He was one and half years old, says a press release.

Qulkhani and doa mahfil will be held at the residence of RK Chowdhury at Jatrabari after Asr prayers on February 24.

Mahmuda Shamsuzzoha



Mahmuda Shamsuzzoha, a poet and photojournalist, died of a cardiac arrest at a city clinic yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

Chief adviser to the Mijai Publications, she had received many awards, including Begum Rokeya Padak.

Wife of late Shamsuzzoha, former chief engineer of Water Development Board, Mahmuda is survived by two sons and two daughters.

Syed Moniruzzaman Moni

BSS, Jamalpur

Syed Moniruzzaman Moni, a freedom fighter, died at National Heart Foundation Hospital in Dhaka on Sunday at the age of 68.

A former district food controller, Moni joined the Liberation War under sector 11, family sources said.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Chandra village with state honour yesterday.

BOMB ATTACK CASE 2 outlaws sent to jail

OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Iqbal Hossain Swadhin and Merajul Islam, two of the four outlaws arrested in journalist Dip Azad bomb attack case, were sent to Khulna district jail after the expiry of their five-day remand yesterday.

Two other arrestees Rafiqul Islam Hasan and Khairuzzaman alias Tall Babu will be sent to court today although their remand expired yesterday.

According to a reliable source, Rafiqul, son of a renowned lawyer, surrendered to police with arms in 1999. He was an armed cadre of

outlawed 'Tiger Khokon Bahini'.

Rafiqul's sister Nira told this correspondent that her brother was picked up by former Additional Police Super Mofazzel last year to work as his source to help catch Janajuddho outlaws.

"An engineer by profession, my brother was never an outlaw. He was a classmate of Mofazzel," claimed Nira.

She also alleged that unidentified persons had threatened their family members over phone several times after her brother leaked out the additional police super's notorious activities in Khulna.

Youth drowns in lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A youth drowned in the lake of a local tourist complex yesterday.

He was identified as Ariful Islam, 24, an employee of Brac Bank at Gazipur, and resident of Mirpur.

Arif along with six friends went to Bandarban on February 17, said his friend Dipu.

On the way back to the capital, Arif and another friend Munna went

to Meghla Parjatan Complex for a swim, he said, adding that

Munna managed to get the shore, but Arif drowned.

His body is yet to be recovered. Amateur divers conducted the search as divers of the fire service and civil defence were not available, said the deputy commissioner.

He said the help of Chittagong Naval Headquarters might be sought.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Shia community took out a Tazia procession at Azimpur in the city on Sunday on the occasion of holy Ashura.

DHAKA TODAY

Poetry festival

A festival of poetry on Ekushey, organised by Punima Basor, a literary and cultural forum, will be held with noted folklore scientist Dr Ashraf Siddiqui as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room of the Teachers Students Centre, Dhaka University. Time: 3.30pm.

Debate competition

The first inter-hall debate competition, organised by Ekushe Debating Club, will be held with Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Dr SMA Faiz as chief guest. Venue: Amar Ekushe Hall. Time: 4.30pm.

Magazine conference

A conference on Little Magazines and Poetry Festival 2005, organised by Aloha, an initiative for little magazine unity, will be held. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra, Bangla Motor. Time: 10.00am.

Award giving ceremony

The distribution ceremony of Tanusree Award 2005, introduced by Natyadhara, will be held. Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6.00pm.

Muldhara meeting

Weekly meeting of Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of a book titled 'Rashtrabhasha Andoloner Itihash' authored by MA Barkim, will be held. It will be accompanied by a photography exhibition on Language Movement. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar

Human Rights and Social Development Association organises a seminar on 'Providing legal aid to the disabled and our duty'. Venue: Dhaka Bar Association Auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Convocation

The ninth convocation of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 12.00noon.

Discussion

Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpadhara Bangladesh jointly organise a discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers' Auditorium, Kakrail. Time: 3.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the region of Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said, adding that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest of 17.8 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 6:26 am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 32.1 | 23.0 | 54 | 50 |
| Chittagong | 33.0 | 23.2 | 87 | 60 |
| Rajshahi | 33.2 | 19.6 | 64 | 45 |
| Khulna | 33.7 | 19.8 | 77 | -- |
| Barisal | 33.6 | 20.6 | 74 | 50 |
| Sylhet | 30.8 | 21.5 | 91 | 55 |
| Cox's Bazar | 31.5 | 21.8 | 83 | 68 |