



PHOTO: STAR
Poet Shamsur Rahman launches a book titled 'Shaheed Kibria' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Justice KM Sobhan and on his right are Reza Kibria and Mohammad Shahjahan, editor of the book.

PUBLICATION CEREMONY OF 'SHAHEED KIBRIA' 'Anti-liberation forces out to capture state power'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a publication ceremony yesterday called on the countrymen to continue the on-going non-violent movement, initiated by Asma Kibria, for the trial of the killers of former finance minister ShahAMS Kibria.

The nation will always remember the slain Awami League leader for his outstanding contribution to the national economy, they said.

The publication ceremony of the book 'Shaheed Kibria' was held at the National Press club. The book, edited by Mohammed Shahjahan, is a collection of about 80 write-ups by noted academics, journalists, columnists and politicians.

Launching the book, poet Shamsur Rahman said Kibria played a vital role in the country's diplomatic and political arena.

"When I heard the news of Kibria's death, it came to me as a great shock. I burst into tears as he was like my own brother," he said.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association Dr Abul Barkat

said the anti-liberation forces are now united and killing the progressive people in a bid to capture the state power.

Former foreign secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed called for building up a strong movement against such killings to free the nation from the grip of evil forces.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association DrAAMS Arefin Sddique said Kibria succeeded in

making the economy stronger while he was the finance minister.

Kibria was the architecture of development as he always took up pro-poor policy while formulating development plans, he added.

Presided over by Justice KM Sobhan, the ceremony was also addressed by Prof Muntasir Mamun, Reza Kibria, Rina Sultana Kibria and Mohammad Shahjahan.

Tele-link with Ctg snapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The telecommunications between Chittagong and the rest of the country has remained snapped since the early hours of yesterday because of theft of fibre optic cable.

Unknown people stole the underground cable at Magpukurpar in Sitakunda, some 36 km off the port city, at around 3:00am, cutting off the tele-link with other districts of the

country, sources in the BTTB said.

The telephone subscribers have been facing serious problems in calling nationwide and overseas although the BTTB authorities claimed that they have restored the tele-link to some extent through alternative circuits.

A special BTTB team, who has arrived from Dhaka, is now trying to restore the communications, sources said.

5th national debate festival begins today

BSS, Dhaka

The 5th national debate festival of the Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) begins in the city today.

Poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the two-day carnival of the BDF, an alliance of mainstream debate organisations, at the National Museum.

The Prothom Alo is the key sponsor of the festival.

3 of a family burnt alive in Chakaria

BSS, Cox's Bazar

Three members of a family were burnt alive in a fire that broke out at a house at Satdalia village in Badarkhali, Chakaria, yesterday.

The victims were identified as Jafar Ahmed, 55, owner of the house, his wife Jahanara Begum, 50 and daughter Rozina Akhtar, 14.

The three were trapped when they entered the burning house to take out their belongings.

Police and local people said the fire originated from a lamp.

DHAKA TODAY

Calligraphy exhibition

A three-day Bangla Calligraphy Exhibition 2005 will be inaugurated with Information Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Vashkar Novera Hall, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 3.00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The concluding function of the two-day prize giving ceremony, organised by Bishwasahitya Kendra, will be held. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 3.00pm.

Candlelight vigil

Bikkhubda Nari Morcha, an alliance of aggrieved women, organises a candlelight vigil. The programme will be rounded off with a musical soiree. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 6.00pm.

Workshop

A workshop on National Sanitation Strategic Paper will be inaugurated with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Biam auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 10.00am.

Meeting

The first meeting of the Sustainable Tourism Forum of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation will be held with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Muhammad Nasiruddin as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9.00am.

Discussion

National Awami Party will hold a discussion on 'Maulana Bhasani and present politics' with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: National Sports Council auditorium, Purana Paltan. Time: 3.30pm.

Birthday programme

A programme has been organised to mark the 75th birth anniversary of filmmaker Subhash Dutta. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Convocation

The 5th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10.30am.

Inauguration

The Capital Recreation Club Ltd will be inaugurated with Speaker Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar as chief guest. Venue: House-12, Road-71, Gulshan-2. Time: 6.20pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1.30pm.

Rotary North West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.



Leaders of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon stage a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the move to evict a horticulture and nursery located near the Asad Gate in Mohammadpur.

Election with a difference

ABDUL KADER, back from Tangail

It could be a good example as well as a lesson for the country's mainstream politicians to know how to hold a election in a democratic atmosphere without denouncing one another.

With about 95 percent turn out, the child voters of Tangail yesterday voted amid great enthusiasm to elect their union parishad chairmen and members in seven union parishads of Gopalpur, Kalihati, Bhuapur and Modhupur upazilas and two municipal wards of the district town.

A total of 40,000 child voters aged between 6 and 14, and belonging to their 1400 Shishu Parishad Clubs went to 49 polling centres to elect nine chairmen and 81 members from 394 contestants.

With a view to inculcate democratic values in the children for the advancement of the society, Save the Children, Australia has taken up such exceptional programme with the rural children.

Being nominated by Save the Children following an interview, the selected candidates campaigned on a fixed day on a same stage under the same rules.

With the commitment that "Vote

me if you think me competent" and 'I will work for you even if I fail to win', the children ran their election campaign.

During the visit to several polling centres at Gala and Alenga unions and Adi Tangail pourasava, a group of journalists from Dhaka found the children standing in long queue for casting their vote.

There was a returning officer, assistant returning officers, presiding officers, polling officers, election observers and even police patrolling to encourage the children and bring the real election atmosphere.

Local distinguished persons including school and college teachers were involved with the election process.

The voting started at 10.00am and continued till 3.00pm. Each candidate will be elected for two years.

An election observer Abdul Malek Topu, who is a student of class ten and editor of monthly Shishu Kantha, said, " Currently elections are not held free and fairly in the country. If the children can learn and practice voting in a proper democratic way, they will be able to strengthen the country's democracy in future."

Feroz Al Mamun, another election observer said, "The election is quite peaceful."



PHOTO: STAR
Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi speaks at a seminar on 'Sustainable management of urban solid waste', organised by the Presidency University in the city yesterday.

Forward Block team meet AL leaders

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of All India Forward Block met Awami League leaders at the party office at Dhanmondi in the city.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and expressed the hope that bilateral friendly relations would be strengthened further.

Member of central committee of All India Forward Block and Cooperatives Minister of West Bengal government Comrade Hafiz Alam Sairani and the party's central committee member and Tripura state committee General Secretary Comrade Shaymol Roy were present in the meeting.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, among the AL leaders, attended the meeting, said a press release.

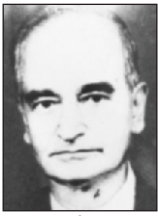
Obituary

Tofazzal Hossain Farid, a director of Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association, died of a cardiac arrest at his home yesterday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He was the proprietor of Puthipatra at 38 Banglabazar.

All bookshops at Banglabazar in old Dhaka will remain closed up to 12.00 noon today as a mark of respect for him.

Death anniversary



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Advocate Shamsuddin Hafeez, former deputy secretary of then Pakistan central government, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Fatim Roy Chowdhury



The first death anniversary of Fatim Roy Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and proprietor of Gold Queen Jewellers, will be observed today, says a press release.

Fatim Chowdhury Smriti Parishad will hold a memorial meeting at the IBCS office, Biman Bhaban, in Motijheel at 10.00am today.

Abdul Kuddus Sadi

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Abdul Kuddus Sadi, a litterateur and journalist, says a press release.

He was a life member of the Bangla Academy and the Nazrul Academy.

A doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Autapara in Pabna.

Social mobilisation needed for proper waste management

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for social mobilisation to improve solid waste management in urban areas.

They said the people should be more active in primary collection of the waste to keep their places clean.

The seminar on 'Sustainable Management of Urban Solid Waste' was organised by the Centre for Excellence and Professional Development (CEPD) of Presidency University at Gulshan in the city.

Prof M Asaduzzaman, chairman of the University Grants Commission, formally inaugurated the seminar.

Speaking as chief guest, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon said management of clinical waste should be prioritised as these are reportedly reused in unhygienic ways posing serious threat to public health.

He said a comprehensive knowledge about the system of urban solid waste management in countries like Japan and the USA could help us in

this respect.

Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi, in his speech, highlighted the cooperation between Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) in the fields of sanitation and solid waste management in the capital.

Deputy leader of JICA study team Kihachiro Urushibata laid emphasis on the increase of budget for waste management.

He said the DCC at present imposes only two percent of holding tax for solid waste management although its upper limit is seven percent.

Chairman of the Presidency University Rokia Afzal Rahman said, "We have to deal the matter of solid waste management seriously in urban areas which attract rural people in large number."

She called for ensuring quality education in all educational institutions.

Acting vice-chancellor of Presidency University Dr MA Baqui Khalily also spoke at the inaugural session.

WORKERS PARTY CONGRESS 'Agri policy plunges farmers into uncertainty'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The agricultural policy pursued by the alliance government has thrown the farmers and the farm workers into deep crisis, said speakers at the 7th congress of the Workers Party of Bangladesh on its second working day.

They also said no governments have taken any land reform measure since independence.

Instead, the number of multinational imperialist companies has increased alarmingly, they added.

These companies have established their control over the production of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertiliser and pesticides, they said.

At a press conference yesterday, Workers Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha briefed the reporters on the speeches made in the congress.

The working sessions were presided over by Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Anisur Rahman Malik, Haidar Akbar Khan Rono, Shafiuddin Ahmed and Hazi Bashirul Alam.



PHOTO: STAR
Children take part in an art competition on the Liberation War Museum premises in the city yesterday. The museum authorities organised the event to mark the death anniversary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque.