

DHAKA TODAY

Travel fair

The inaugural ceremony of Dhaka International Travel Fair will be held with Unesco representative to Bangladesh Wolfgang Vollman as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00am.

Craft exhibition

A solo exhibition titled 'The Craft and Art of Clay' by artist Tayabuzzaman Topu will be inaugurated. Venue: Art and Soul Gallery, Road-36, House-16, Gulshan. Time: 4.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till March 13 from 11.00am to 8.00pm daily.

Award giving ceremony

The distribution ceremony of National Children's Award will be held with Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.30pm.

Music festival

The concluding function of the International Music Festival, organised by the Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts, will be held. Venue: Shaheed Ziaur Rahman auditorium, National Museum. Time: 6.00pm.

Roundtable

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) will hold a roundtable on 'Our duty in protecting national security and

reputation.' Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Tophkana Road. Time: 9.00am.

Projonma Academy

A dialogue on the 'Reforms of the caretaker government and electoral system: Recent thoughts', organised by Projonma Academy, will be held. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 4.30pm.

Discussion

Sammilita Nari Samaj, an NGO for women, will hold a discussion on 'TIFA, Tipaimukh and Tangratila fire'. Venue: Conference room of the National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Get-together

A get-together of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex. Time: 10.00am.

Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of Bitarka, a debating organisation of Jagannath Hall, Dhaka University will be held. Venue: Hall auditorium. Time: 6.00pm.

Diabetes check-up

Global Accessories Limited organises a free diabetes check-up camp. Venue: Rabindra Sorobor Natyamancha, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.30am.

'Pancho Pandober Charon Bhumi' launched

A book titled 'Pancho Pandober Charon Bhumi' by Mahbubar Rahman was launched at a ceremony at Novera Auditorium of the National Museum recently, says a press release.

Chaired by Dhaka University professor Wakil Ahmed, the function was addressed by Prof Zubaida Gulshan Ara, Prof Qari Madina, novelist Rashid Hyder and a distinguished writer and journalist of West Bengal, Hosainur Rahman.

Speakers at the function appreciated the author's well-described narration of the plight of Bengalis stranded in Pakistan after 1971, and the description of the hallucinations that a post-operation cardiac patient came across in the Escorts Hospital of Delhi.

Hosainur Rahman said that the author had set the incidents on the background of the final days of the British in India. The book will be welcome by Indian readers if it reaches to them, he added.

Participants at the function condoled the deaths of noted singer Abdul Latif, Prof Selina Bahar Zaman and SAMS Kibria.

Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, former secretaries, ambassadors, educationists and prominent personalities from all walks of life were present in the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Sex Workers' Network of Bangladesh took out a procession at Shahbagh in the city yesterday to mark the International Sex Workers' Day.

'Conserve nature to ensure sustainable economic dev'

BSS, Dhaka

Former director of UN-ESCAP and chief of environment and development of ADB Dr Kazi Farhad Jalal underscored the need for conservation of the nature for ensuring sustainable economic development.

He said such development can be achieved by raising the standard of living of the poor measured in terms of increased food intake, real income, education, healthcare, water supply and sanitation.

Dr Jalal, currently a consultant on environment and development and a part time faculty at the Harvard University in USA for a course on 'Introduction to Sustainable Development,' was sharing his thoughts with the members of the Forum of Environmental Journalists

of Bangladesh (FEJB) at the FEJB office on Wednesday.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury presided. It was also addressed by FEJB General Secretary Mofizur Rahman, members Badiul Alam, Syed Akhter Yusuf, Mohammad Qamruzzaman, and Shamima Chowdhury.

Dr Jalal emphasised the need for forging a better linkage between sustainable development, environment and poverty and advised the policymakers to balance project benefits.

He underlined the need for improving the water quality and stopping encroachment of water-bodies for maintaining the ecosystem.

Ensure rights of sex workers

Speakers tell Ctg seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Speakers at a seminar here called for formulating a national policy to ensure the rights of sex workers and recognise their profession.

Rehabilitation Centre for Prostitute and Rootless Children (Parc), working on the sex workers in Chittagong since 1994, organised the seminar titled 'The rights of sex workers and our responsibilities' at the Zila Parishad auditorium yesterday.

Scientist Professor Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam addressed the seminar as the chief guest while Professor Dr Obaidul Karim of Sociology Department of Chittagong University presented the keynote paper.

Taslima, a sex worker, rehabilitated by Parc, addressed the seminar. "Despite repeated attempts, I had failed to get my son admitted in any school yet," she said and appealed to all for helping her in this connection.

Expert on HIV/Aids AQM Sirajul Islam, Public Prosecutor of Chittagong Women and Child Repression Control Tribunal Mafizul Haque Bhuiyan, Ward Commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu and Parc Chief Executive Nazrul Islam Manna also addressed the seminar.

Earlier in the noon, hundreds of sex workers, NGO activists and members of civil society formed a human chain at central Shaheed Minar premises.

Saiful elected MFA chairperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (Warbe), has been elected chairperson of

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) for the year of 2005-06 at the forum's executive meeting held in Hong Kong on February 24 and 25, says a press release.

MFA, a Manila-based regional network of nearly 200 organisations of migrant workers and trade unions, is committed to protect and promote migrant workers' rights.

Saiful Haque is also a member of the technical committee of Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment for the formulation of Bangladesh Overseas Employment Policy.

Six abductors get 10 years' RI

BSS, Munshiganj

District and Sessions Judge here sentenced six people to 10 years' Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) each for kidnapping a businessman.

The convicts are Lokman, Alamgir Hossain, Mohammad Ali, Asadul, Abul Kalam alias Uthan and Mizan alias Lucky, court sources said.

According to the prosecution, the convicts abducted businessman Paritosh Bhawal at gun point when he was returning home from Taltala

Bazar of Sirajdi Khan upazila along with his domestic help Julhas on the night of March 21 of 2001.

The abductor took Paritosh to Dhaka by a microbus and demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom from his elder brother Sukhomoy Bhawal on the next day.

Being informed, Dhaka Metropolitan Police raided a house at New Eskaton in the capital and rescued him the same day.

Police also arrested the six abductors from the house with arms and filed a case in this connection.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said predicting that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 14.6 degree Celsius at Sayerdupur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:03pm today and rises at 6:17am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	23.6	77	33
Chittagong	30.7	22.5	64	85
Rajshahi	34.2	17.5	63	72
Khulna	35.0	22.3	87	65
Barisal	36.0	23.5	87	58
Sylhet	31.3	20.7	77	58
Cox's Bazar	31.5	21.4	73	84