



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Chander Hat, an organisation of the children, took out a colourful procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its fourth national council.

SUST film festival ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

'Mukto Doirgha Cholo Chhitra Utsab-2005', a Bangla film festival, first of its kind at Shahjalil University of Science & Technology (SUST), ended amidst huge enthusiasm at the mini auditorium on the campus on Thursday.

Chokh Film Society (CFS), the sole film society on the campus, organised the event that began on March 13. As many as 13 films were screened in the festival that also provided the viewers with an opportunity to meet the renowned filmmakers of the country.

A good number of viewers sat enthralled and enjoyed each and every film screened at the SUST mini auditorium during the 5-day festival with 'Matir Moina', screened on the final day, attracting most of them.

The daily Manabjamin Editor Matiuir Rahman Chowdhury attended the concluding session as chief guest while renowned actress Rokeya Prachi and Journalist Liaquat Shah Faridi were present as special guests.

SUST Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Mosleh Uddin Ahmed attended the session as guest of honour while CFS President AKM Imran chaired it.

The chief guest in his speech said there is an ever-growing demand for quality films to expose our society and its culture in the international arena. Filmmakers and scriptwriters have to play pioneering role in this regard, he said adding there is no emphasis on making good films at the Film Development Corporation (FDC). Besides, officials in the Film Censor Board do not value quality films.

In such crisis period of our society, there should be more and more good films and the new generation filmmakers should be focused in this area so that they could get more response and appreciation from the viewers that would be encouraging for the development of the industry. Appreciating the organisers, Rokeya Prachi said organising such events on university campuses would encourage good filmmakers as well as viewers, so there should be more such festivals. Expressing her impression on the film 'Matir Moina', Rokeya said, Tarek Masud had portrayed that good films could be produced here in Bangladesh too.

Call for concerted efforts to stop violence against girls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for concerted efforts to put an end to violence against girl children.

Repression of girls is an act against humanity and a disgrace to women, they said.

Incidents of such heinous acts are on the rise because of poverty, lack of social awareness and dominating attitude of men, they added.

The Zonta International (ZI) Area-II organised the discussion at a hotel in Gulshan to mark the International Women's Day. The Zonta members also took out a procession on the South Avenue, Gulshan before the meeting.

Dilruba Ahmed, governor of ZI Bangladesh, called on all to be united to stop violence against girls, especially domestic helps.

Dilruba, also principal of Little Jewels School in Chittagong, underscored the need for incorporating gender issues into the primary education curriculum.

Nilufer Zafarullah, area director of ZI, said that women need to attain leadership quality to establish their rights in society and play a vital role in the advancement of the world.

The organisation has been helping the underprivileged women through various projects on healthcare, education, micro-credit and adult literacy. It also raises funds for the people of other regions during natural disasters, she said.

The speakers also called on all to raise social awareness about breast cancer.

Death anniversary of Abu Zafar Obaidullah today

Today is the 4th death anniversary of legendary poet and Language Movement veteran Abu Zafar Obaidullah, says a press release.

An agriculture expert, Obaidullah also worked as an advisor to the government and a minister for agriculture, forests and fisheries.

Poet Obaidullah's 'kingdom of kotha bolchi' is considered to be one of the veritable cornerstones of his writings as well as that of Bengali literature.

A recipient of Ekushey Padak and Bangla Academy Padak, he has published several essays and books on agriculture, nature and environment.

The Centre for Bangladesh Culture will hold a programme in his memory at the National Press Club in the city at 5.00pm today.

Citibank, WEA celebrate Int'l Women's Day

The Citibank and the Women's Entrepreneurs Association (WEA) jointly organised a cultural evening in the city recently to celebrate the International Women's Day, says a press release.

The day was specially organised to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions women have made to society throughout the years.

Artists from both national and international arena took part in the programme. Habib captivated the audience with his spellbinding performance while Mustafa Faruque Wahid worked some magic with his violin.

The international artists represented the USA, India, China, Philippines, France and Spain.

In her welcome speech, WEA President Rokia A Rahman stressed the need to integrate women into the decision-making process, benefiting the economy as a whole.

Mamun Rashid, chief executive officer of Citibank, said "The Citigroup's core community objective is to support the economic empowerment of the underprivileged women through our community development programmes. Hence, we should all come forward to honour and recognise the role of Bangladeshi women in transforming culture, history and the economy as a whole."

Debate contest on Aids begins in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

For the first time in Rajshahi, an inter-college debate competition on Aids issues began yesterday.

A total of 16 higher educational institutions, including Rajshahi University, Rajshahi Medical College and Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) are taking part in the competition.

Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) and Bangladesh Anti-Aids Students Alliance (Basa) jointly organised the event with the support by the British Council and Connecting Futures.

Inaugurating the competition at Barendro College, Principal Prof Aunil Kumar Shah said, the trend of involving into anti-social activities, including drug addition, is increasing among students and adolescents. They should be provided with enough opportunities for flourishing their creative and intellectual talents for the revival of their constructive potentiality.

On the occasion, Physical Education Teacher of Rashahi Government City College Md Lokman Hossain spoke as special guest while CCD Program Coordinator Hossain Abdul Hai chaired it.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mishu of CCD and Tofayel Ahmed Ujjol of Basa presented welcome addresses while Basa Member Asma Khanam Mita conducted the function.

"Not the Politicians, Rather the Civil Society can play more important role in creating awareness on Aids issues", was the first topic of the opening day. Barendro College defeated Rajshahi Govt City College. Meanwhile, Rajshahi Court College defeated New Govt Degree College debating on "The female are the most vulnerable for Aids in Bangladesh."

Shahinuzzaman of Barendro College and Sazida Kathun of Court College were selected the best speakers of the respective debates.

Pro-opposition panel sweeps Rajshahi Bar polls

BDNEWS, Rajshahi

Pro-opposition Shammilito Ainjibi Shamannoya Parishad (SASP) swept the Rajshahi Ainjibi Samity elections held on Thursday.

They bagged 17, out of 23 posts including posts of president and general secretary. The remaining six posts went to pro-ruling Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP).

Advocate Zillur Rahman and Advocate Hamidul Haque have been elected president and general secretary.

JAOP has won the posts of two vice presidents, two secretaries and two EC members.

The secretaries elected from the SASP backed panel are joint secretaries Entajul Haque and Bazle Towhid AI Hasan, library secretary Shajahan, audit secretary Abu Bakkar, magazine and cultural secretary Mantaz Khanam.

Members are: Masum Ahmed Tipu, Alhaj Abdul Matin, Syeda Marzina Khatun, Saifur Rahman Khan Rana, Abdus Samad and Nawshad Ali.

The winners from JAOP panel are vice presidents Dewan Abdul Khaleque and Mainul Ahsan Panna, finance secretary AKM Mizarur Rahman, information secretary Mahmudur Rahman Ruman and members- Monwara Begum and Habibur Rahman.

Ershad Shikder's sister, brother-in-law surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Criminal Ershad Shikder's only sister Selina Begum and brother-in-law Iddris Aii surrendered to the assistant judge of fourth court on Thursday.

They have been absconding after being sentenced to.

Selina and her husband Iddris were sentenced to eight and seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) respectively on charge of possessing heroin and hemp.

A case was filed against them with Sonadanga thana of the city under Narcotics Control Act.

Globalisation puts ethnic languages, cultures at risk of extinction

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Globalisation, free market economy and satellite culture have put the languages and cultures of indigenous people at the risk of extinction, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They also called on the conscious people to come forward to safeguard their culture and language from the clutches of 21st century's new international order.

The Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) organised the seminar on 'Adivasi Life, Language and Culture' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The speakers said all ethnic

languages in the country are now facing three-pronged attacks from local dialects of the mainstream Bengali, global English and regional Hindi language.

They also said the future of the minor ethnic languages is more uncertain as most of these languages do not have own scripts or writing system.

"In the next 50 years, 50 percent of the literate people of the world will use English instead of their mother tongue," said educationist Rafiqul Islam, professor of Bangla department of Dhaka University.

Presenting his keynote paper, Reja Devasish Roy said, "The

government should take effective measures, such as amendments to the constitution, to protect the multi-cultural heritage of the country as indigenous people are backward."

Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan, chairman of SEHD, called on the Bengali-speaking people to respect the indigenous cultures and languages.

According to the official figure, there are 27 ethnic communities living in the country, but an unofficial estimate put the figure at 58, said Prashanta Tripura in his keynote paper.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Bangladesh Public Relations Association march in a procession in the city yesterday to celebrate on its silver jubilee.

National public relations policy demanded

BSS, Dhakaz

Communication Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda today said the Public Relations Officers (PROs) could play a vital role in setting up a bridge between the government and the people to achieve further progress in the national economy.

Public Relation's (PR) job is a very noble profession, which can contribute a lot towards changing the lot of common people and ensure increased progress and prosperity in the national economy," he said.

He was inaugurating a weeklong programme of the Bangladesh Public Relations Association marking its silver jubilee at the National Press Club here with its President Mustafa-e-Jamili in the chair.

Huda emphasised the need for formulating a public relations policy in the country and also establishing an international standard PR institute to further improve this profession in the greater national interest.

Public Relations Officers working in different government, semi-government and autonomous organizations, banks, insurance companies and financial institutions attended the function.

President of the association Mostafa-e-Jamili and General Secretary Mirza Tarequul Qader also spoke on the occasion.

They demanded establishment of a public relations institute, giving recognition to public relations as an "expert profession" and adopting a national public relations policy.

Later, the minister led a rally of the association.

Police release 37 UPDF detainees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police on Wednesday midnight released the 37 leaders and activists of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) detained earlier that day.

The indigenous workers of the UPDF were detained on suspicion from a community centre in Panchlaish in the city.

A three-member police probe committee after interrogating the UPDF men found they were not involved in any illegal activities, sources said.

UPDF sources said their workers gathered at the community centre to chalk out programmes on the occasion of Baisabi - a traditional festival of the tribal people of Chittagong Hill Tracts - next month.

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 and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali till 6.00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and Majidee Court and lowest 19.4 degree Celsius at Sypdur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:09pm today and rises at 6:03am tomorrow.

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	31.2	23.7	69	71
Chittagong	31.8	22.5	84	74
Rajshahi	30.4	22.3	89	74
Khulna	32.8	22.8	92	65
Barisal	32.5	22.0	83	75
Sylhet	30.6	20.5	92	61
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.6	75	70

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Awami Sechchasebak League organises a discussion to mark the 86th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: In front of the Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 3.00pm.

Memorial meeting

Amra Suryamukhi and Amra Mujib Sena will hold a meeting in memory of former finance minister Shah ASM Kibria. Venue: Feni District Samity auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Projonmer Chetona

Projonmer Chetona, a social organisation, will form a human chain demanding steps to solve water and electricity crisis and to protect the people from the mosquito menace. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 12.00 noon.

Orientation course

A two-week orientation course for joint tax commissioners will be inaugurated, with Kazi Aslam Hossain, member of National Board of Revenue, as chief

guest. Venue: BCS (tax) Academy, 133 New Bailey Road. Time: 10.00am.

Human Chain

Students of College of Textile Technology will form a human chain demanding that the college be upgraded to university. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00am.

Protest rally

Anti-War Movement Bangladesh will stage a rally to protest war, terrorism and human rights violations. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 3.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Recognition ceremony

The University of Information Technology and Science (UITS) will hold a 'Matriculation & Recognition Ceremony 2005', with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon as chief guest. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. Time: 10.00am.

'Ensure quality edn for development'

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the government attached priority to develop human resources for poverty reduction.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Shibpur Upazila Welfare Association in Dhaka on the occasion of its 10th foundation anniversary, he said the law and order situation in the country would improve at a desired level if we can alleviate poverty.

Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division Hedayatul Islam attended the discussion as special guest.

With president of the association, Mohammad Motiur Rahman in the chair, the discussion was also addressed by Prof Jashimuddin Ahmed, Dr Bazul Karim Bhuiyan, Harun-ur-Rashid Bhuiyan and Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan.

Bhuiyan, also the secretary general of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said quality education has to be ensured for the development of the country.

He also encouraged the students to participate in sports and cultural activities and develop their habits in reading.

He urged the guardians and elites of the society to discharge their responsibilities to the students.

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Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting attack on its activists in Chittagong port.