

PM performs Ziarat at Madina

BSS, Madina Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has performed Ziarat at the Razumbarak of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) in Madina Al Monawara. Khaleda Zia, who reached here on Thursday night from Makka, offered prayer and special nujajat at the Masjid-e-Nababi. She prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the country and Muslim Ummah. Earlier Prime Minister reached the sacred city of Madina by special aircraft of Saudi airlines from Jeddha after attending the third extraordinary summit of OIC in Makkha. She was accompanied, among others, by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Mosaddeq Ali MP, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and PM's Secretary Khondaker Shaheedul Islam and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia SM Ekramul Haque.



Visitors look at photos at an exhibition of six photojournalists at the gallery of Fine Arts of Dhaka University that began yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Weeklong V-Day programmes of LWM begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Liberation War Museum (LWM) kicks off a weeklong programme today to mark the Victory Day. The programme includes discussions, dramas, musical sessions and poetry recitation. A discussion on '1971: Crime against humanity' will be held this afternoon. The trustees of the museum announced the programmes at a press conference on the museum premises at Segunbagicha yesterday.

They proposed that the government should include the contents reflected in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in the curriculum of schools and madrasas with a view to instilling humane values in the new generation.

"The inclusion of UDHR and ideas of harmony and peace in the curriculum has become very important in the present national and international contexts," said Mofidul Haque, a trustee of the Museum. Dr Sarwar Ali, Ziauddin Tareque Ali and Rabiul Hossain also spoke.

World Human Rights Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Human Rights Day is being observed in the country today amidst concern over deaths in 'crossfire' with law enforcers, and the absence of a human rights commission even 34 years into independence.

On this day in 1948, the Universal Human Rights Charter was signed in Paris, and its principles and philosophy were later included in various international human rights charters for implementation in many countries.

On the eve of the 56th World Human Rights Day, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged all to work together to develop and nurture in future generations a culture of human rights to promote freedom, security and peace in all nations.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have given separate messages on the occasion reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to upholding human rights.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in her message blamed the government for its 'failure' to ensure the rights of the citizens.

Different rights organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. These include discussion, rally and human chain.

Human Rights International yesterday held a meeting presided over by its presidium member Dr Mohammad Salim.

The meeting expressed shock and grief at heinous attacks by the suicide bombers on innocent people across the country.

It urged the government to take more effective measures to stop such attacks in future.

The organisation will form a human chain today.

Bangladesh Bastobayan Sangstha, Orpito Samppati Ain Protirodh Andolon Jatiya Committee, Centre for Communication Network, World Peace and Human Rights Movement Bangladesh, Initiative for Radical Human Rights, Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, Human Rights Review Society, National Garment Workers Federation, Coalition for the Urban Poor, Bangladesh Awami Sangskritik Forum, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, The Hunger Project, EPZ, Workers Centre Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Bangladesh NGO Sammilan have arranged different programmes to mark the occasion.

Obituary

Syed Shahidullah, secretary of Phoenix Insurance Company Limited, passed away due to cardiac complications at his Mirbagh residence in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 62, says a press release. A former chief officer of TCB, he is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and a number of grandchildren. He was buried at his family graveyard at Narinda. His qulkhwan will be held at his residence at 'Falguni', 15 Mirbagh on December 12.



Youth citizens of Chittagong forms a human chain at Shilpakala Sarak in Chittagong city yesterday protesting continuous bomb attacks across the country.

PHOTO: STAR

Raise awareness about heart diseases: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called on cardiology experts to come forward to disseminate the knowledge of keeping good health for greater interest of the people.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the international conference on 'Updates on Management in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery' organised by the LabAid Cardiac Hospital at a city hotel.

"Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in our country. Each year, the number of death due to cardiovascular diseases is alarmingly increasing," the president said.

"In the year 2000, about 16.7 million people died of cardiovascular diseases, amounting to 30.3 percent of all deaths worldwide," he

added.

President Iajuddin noted with concern that South Asia comprising India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka represents more than a quarter of the developing world, and is likely to be strongly affected by the increase in cardiovascular diseases.

He said: "Nowadays, every one is looking for answers. Patients want new and better ways of healing. So, physicians, government, community, social leaders want to reduce the impact of heart disease."

The president said the treatment of cardiovascular disease is expensive, which the poor people of the region cannot afford.

Mass awareness regarding the causes of these diseases can play a vital role in reducing the heart diseases, he added.

He hoped that the conference

would contribute towards raising professional efficiency, helping the physicians to render improved services to the people of the region with enhanced commitment and dedication.

The president urged the rich as well as the benevolent persons to extend their help in the services of humanity by establishing a Heart Centre of international repute in Dhaka.

This will benefit the patients irrespective of their economic status, he said, adding that foreign exchange could also be saved.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Hadi were, among others, present at the inaugural function.

Road mishap kills woman

UNB, Comilla

A woman was killed and 20 people were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Kheron Khal in Chandina upazila yesterday afternoon.

Police said the accident took place at about 1:00pm when a Noakhali-bound bus from Dhaka hit a roadside tree, killing an unidentified woman passenger, aged about 35, and injuring 20 people.

The injured bus passengers have been admitted to different hospitals for treatment.

13 houses gutted in Feni

UNB, Feni

A total of 13 houses were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Kachua village in Parshuram upazila early yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire originated from an electrical short circuit at a room of Zakir Hossain and soon engulfed other houses in the area.

On information, fire fighters from district town rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

Local sources estimated the loss at about Tk 20 lakh.



Professor Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a seminar organised by Transparency International Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Most corrupt bodies

FROM PAGE 16

But the problem also extends to education, with serious consequences for students and the development of countries concerned, TI argued, launching a separate report entitled "Stealing the Future: Corruption in the Classroom".

Both documents were released to coincide with the United Nations international anti-corruption day.

Overall, citizens of 48 countries believed corruption had increased over the last three years while only six -- Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Kenya and Singapore -- said it had decreased.

In 13 countries -- Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines and Venezuela -- more than 50 percent felt corruption increased a lot.

Africans and Latin Americans felt most negative about the past.

The future offered a more mixed bag: 12 countries expected corruption to fall but 34 countries were pessimistic about turning around the situation.

TI chairwoman Huguette Labelle described corruption as "a major problem of our times."

"Its most deadly impact is on the poor," she said. "If people are pessimistic, they will not feel they can do something about it."

"The results of the survey are a call for alarm for people. It can change, but it requires leadership, will and pressure."

The 85-page education report meanwhile, cites evidence from 10 countries revealing corruption including bribes to secure a child's admission to school to passing university exams.

"A basic textbook and a good grade should not depend on greasing the palm of a corrupt teacher or administrator," said Labelle.

"Poor parents who are forced to pay up may choose instead to feed their families, leaving a generation gap of students without a proper education and perpetuating the poverty trap," she added. The report said such practices in

schools and universities contradicted "basic values of integrity, equity and the public good" and risked perpetuating the problem by fostering a negative perception of authority and institutions.

Giving examples, it said an opinion poll at two major universities in Bosnia-Herzegovina revealed bribes for passing exams and selling diplomas were commonplace on campus.

In Brazil, a study found that poor municipalities lose up to 55 percent of their federal school subsidies to fraud in procurement.

Meanwhile, in Mexico, the average family reportedly paid 30 dollars (25.50 euros) each year in kickbacks and bribes for access to supposedly free education.

Efforts are, however, being made to combat the problem, TI said, citing parent-teacher associations in Zambia, which control school finances as a successful anti-fraud measure.

Wife kills husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An enraged wife killed her husband at one stage of altercation at Keraniganj near Dhaka in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said Harunur Rashid, 35, a rickshawpuller of Dharmasur, died of suffocation when Razia Begum tied his neck with a muffler at about 3:00am after she was allegedly beaten up by her husband.

Police arrested Razia and sent the body to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Razia told police that her husband used to beat her very often although he could not provide her with food.

Nasir Ahmed, victim's brother, lodged a murder case.

'Mass upsurge needed to end corruption'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said a mass upsurge is needed to eradicate massive corruption of the government that are eating up the very vitality of the nation.

The discussion was organised by Chittagong City Sacheton Nagorik Committee in association with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the Chittagong Press Club on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The speakers said every sector of our national life is now under the grip of corruption.

TIB Representative Ikram Hossain presented a concept paper on corruption at the discussion.

Renowned social scientist Dr Anupam Sen, Dean of sociology department of Chittagong University Dr Moinal Islam, Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen and Writer Moshari Shafi were the discussants.



Death anniversary of Sirajuddin Hossain today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 34th death anniversary of eminent journalist Sirajuddin Hossain, a martyr of the War of Liberation.

He remained missing since the Pakistani forces and their collaborators, Razakars and Al-Badr, took him away from his Chamelibagh residence on this day in 1971.

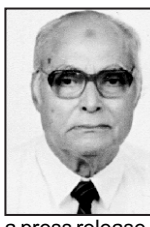
A pioneer of investigating reporting, Sirajuddin was the executive and news editor of the daily Ittefaq. His writings helped mobilise support for the War of Liberation.

During his long career in journalism, Sirajuddin was involved in all movements, including the Language Movement, to establish the rights of Bangladeshis.

He was also awarded the International Press Institute Award.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 3/11 Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, after Maghrib prayers today. A Qurankhawani and milad will also be held at his village home at Sharusuna in Shalkha, Magura.

Amir Uddin



Today is the second death anniversary of Amir Uddin, a retired executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, says a press release. A doa mahfil will be held at his residence on the occasion. Family members have requested the relatives and admirers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours ending at 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country in the early morning, Met office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakundu and the lowest of 11.0 degrees at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:12pm today and rises at 6:31am tomorrow.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.