

DU to renovate historic Curzon Hall

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

Dhaka University (DU) is going to take up renovation work on the historic Curzon Hall to preserve its original architectural features.

After the renovation of the hall, the university authorities will reiterate its appeal to the UNESCO to declare the Curzon Hall and the Vice-chancellor's Bungalow as World Heritage Sites, as both of them are over 100-year-old, Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said.

"We hope to start the renovation work within shortest possible time," he added. The work will be carried out with funds from the Japanese government.

The balconies and minarets of the Curzon Hall and the attractive architectural patterns have been gradually decaying due to lack of maintenance.

Two years ago, the university applied to UNESCO for the recognition of Curzon Hall and VC's Bungalow as World Heritage Sites and it is still under process.

"The Curzon Hall and VC's Bungalow have passed 100 years, which are now parts of world heritage. So, the university authorities have taken the initiative to preserve them," Prof SMA Faiz said.

On February 19 this year, the socio-economic infrastructure department under the planning commission at its project evaluation committee meeting allocated Tk five crore for repair, renovation and reconstruction of the Curzon Hall



Curzon Hall

PHOTO: STAR

and its surrounding buildings with a view to preserving the heritage and architectural values and for the construction of a dormitory for female students.

"The dormitory will be constructed with red bricks to have similarities with the Curzon Hall as it will be built in the same area," VC Prof SMA Faiz said.

The university received the first allocation of Tk three crore for 2006-07 financial year. Tk 70 lakh will be spent on the repair of Curzon Hall, he said.

The Curzon Hall was last

repaired during the tenure of then Vice-Chancellor Prof Fazlul Halim who served from 1976 to 1985.

The architectural features of the Curzon Hall are a blend of European and Mughal elements. The architectural value of the building and its interior still attract many people from home and abroad.

The Curzon Hall with red-bricked building of Victorian architectural style was founded by Lord Curzon, the then viceroy of India. The hall marked its 100 years on February 19, 2004.

Trader with fake stamps, currency notes held in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

A trader with huge number of forged stamps and counterfeit currency notes was arrested in Narayanganj on Thursday night.

A special team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided Dar Sonakanda in Bandar upazila and nabbed Sanwar Hossain alias Buira, 40, known in the area as a trader of fake currency notes and stamps.

As per Sanwar's statement, Rab recovered forged stamps, counterfeit currency notes, photocopy of papers relating to 200 cases, 400 grams of cannabis, three chapatis (flat knives) and one Chinese axe from his house.

Sources said Sanwar used to identify himself as an informer of the law enforcement agencies and blackmailed people threatening to implicate them in false cases.

Two killed in road accident in Rangpur

Bss, Rangpur

Two rickshaw-van passengers were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Mokimpur point on Bogra-Rangpur highway at Pirganj in the district yesterday.

Police said a Rangpur-bound cement-laden truck from Khulna skidded off the road following puncture of a tyre and rammed the rickshaw-van, killing two persons on the spot and injuring four other passengers.

The truck also caught fire immediately.

Members of the armed forces, Pirganj police and fire service and civil defence personnel rushed to the spot immediately, brought the fire under control and recovered the bodies, police and hospital sources said.

The deceased were identified as rickshaw-van driver Anju Mia, 27, and its passenger Tara Mia, 22.

Police seized the truck, but the driver and the helper escaped.

Body of newborn recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a newborn baby, dumped in a dustbin at Karwan Bazaar in the city, was recovered yesterday.

Locals suspected that somebody dumped the body, wrapped in a polythin, at around 6:00 in the evening.

Street urchins spotted the body inside the bag.

Reunion of former officials of Unilever held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A day-long reunion of the retired officials and employees of Unilever Bangladesh Limited was held on its Kalurghat factory premises in the port city yesterday.

Unilever Chairman and Managing Director Rakesh Mohan inaugurated the programme where the former officials reminisced about the memories and experience they had at the Unilever factory.

Addressing the programme, Rakesh Mohan felicitated the former officials and employees for their contributions that helped the company reach its present state.

He sought support and advice from his former colleagues to help the company reach a new height of success and prosperity.

Imran Momin, Abu Abdullah, Md Yunus, ABM Saleh Uddin Ahmed, former chief engineer Sirazul Islam, Aminuzzaman, former Union Secretary Saleh Ahmed, incumbent Union President AM Shahidul Alam and General Secretary Salim Enayet also spoke while General Factory Manager Rajib Barua gave the vote of thanks.

Later, artistes of Close Up 1 performed at a cultural function.

Antique statue recovered

Bss, Rangpur

An antique statue was recovered during the digging of a pond at Talpukur cluster village under Tepamadhupur Union Parishad (UP) at Syedpur in Nilphamari on Thursday.

Some labourers found the statue, made of blackstone, while digging a pond for one Manjurul Islam of the village. UP Chairman Azmal Haque informed the police of the matter, sources said.

Syedpur police rushed to the spot and recovered the statue weighing about 500 grams. The statue was deposited with Syedpur Police Station, added the sources.

Celebrating Bangla New Year



PHOTO: STAR

Dhakabashi takes out a colourful procession from Shishu Academy in the city yesterday celebrating the Bangla New Year.



PHOTO: STAR

Prakritajan Prajanma organises a Mask Festival on Dhaka University campus yesterday to mark the Bangla New Year.



PHOTO: AAA

American Alumni Association organised a cultural programme at its office in the city yesterday to welcome Bangla New Year.

RECKLESS DRIVING IN CTG

Pedestrians' safety issue neglected

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Seeing the red light on the signal post, some pedestrians began crossing the road and almost walked around four-fifth of the road. They needed only some two to three steps to reach the other side when the light turned green prompting a waiting truck to move forward wasting no time!

At the same time the on-duty traffic constable also waved hand giving go-ahead signal for the truck being indifferent to the pedestrians' safety. The truck rushed on forcing the pedestrians to run and one of them had to jump out frantically for the median and escape from getting crushed under the wheels.

Angry at the move of the constable the passers-by argued that why he allowed the truck to move despite seeing that they did not reach the other point.

But the constable picked up a quarrel and retorted that the green lights signalled the vehicles to go.

"I have done my duty," he argued.

"You should not have crossed the road in that way and its all your faults", he told the pedestrians, mostly professionals holding respectable posts.

It took time before the constable calmed down and stopped bullying the pedestrians, witnessed this correspondent at the spot.

This was a scene that occurred at GEC intersection in the port city at around 8:15am on Thursday.

Such an occurrence, seen frequently at almost every busy road intersections raises question about safety and rights of the pedestrians in the city streets.

The joint forces and the traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) are working hard for streamlining traffic movement in the city over the last two months.

But, the pedestrians in the port city are yet to have any respite from risking lives in the city streets almost every moment due to reckless driving.

Vehicles are still seen to stop at the signal posts overlapping the Zebra Crossing to force the pedestrians cross the roads through the middle.

Public transports stop on the Zebra Crossing to pick and drop passengers.

In the roads with no walkway like Zakir Hossain Road near Ispahani Public School and College, Dewanhat-Halishahar road and Halishahar-Pahartali road vehicles leave almost no space for the pedestrians and push the latter to pass-by walking on the brinks of the roadside drains.

Alongside rough drive and lack of civic sense in some drivers and rickshaw-pullers, the city dwellers also blamed failure of traffic police in tackling such practice.

"Particularly the on-duty traffic constables hardly respond to the pedestrians' appeal for correcting

the drivers or rickshaw-pullers breaking the rules," said Dr Monwarul Haq Shamim, a frequent at GEC intersection.

"Turning aside the pedestrians' complaints the traffic police rather encourage bad practice that hampers pedestrian movement," said Abdul Jalil Mandal, an official of a multinational company located at the city's Kalurghat area.

Shib Prasad Dey, a chief executive officer of a foreign firm of Agrabad Area, observed that more motivational programmes should be carried out to make the traffic men aware of the pedestrians' rights and safety.

When asked Assistant Commissioner (Traffic) Mostaque Ahmed told The Daily Star that as per the rules they always gave priority to the pedestrians' safety in the roads.

"We are conducting motivational programmes twice or at least once a week advising the constables and officers to put the safety of life of a pedestrian first of all while controlling traffic," he said.

"Our sergeants are also instructed to take care of this and to settle any problem or quarrel deriving from traffic movement or management," said AC (Traffic) Mostaq.

However, he admitted that with a limited number of forces traffic police required cooperation from the conscious citizens to bring in order and put a stop to nuisance in traffic movement.

Certificate giving ceremony of Senior Staff Course held

UNB, Dhaka

The certificate awarding ceremony of 16th Senior Staff Course was held at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) in Savar on Thursday.

A total of 23 Joint Secretaries to the government took part in the two-and-a-half-month-long course which began on January 28.

BPATC Rector Abu Mohammad Maniruzzaman Khan distributed certificates among the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, he asked the government officials to improve their service to people and enhance their efficiency to meet the millennium challenges.

Faculty members of the centre were present on the occasion.

Obituary

Bss, Khulna

Veteran Awami League (AL) leader Shamsur Rahman Mani died of liver cirrhosis at his residence in Khulna on Wednesday at the age of 83.

A close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and member of the AL Jatiya Parishad, Mani took part in the Language Movement, Six-point Movement and Liberation War.

He left behind four sons, three daughters, a host of relatives, admirers and political colleagues to mourn his death.

The first namaz-e-janaza of Mani was held at 11:00am at Shaheed Hadis Park and the second at Jatisangha Park at 2:00pm on Thursday.

Hundreds of people, including leaders of AL, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, CPB and Workers Party, attended the janaza.

He was buried at Tootpara Graveyard in the city.

Terrence Pinero



Terrence Pinero, a renowned academician and the founder principal of Royal Academy, passed away at Square Hospital

in the capital on Thursday evening at the age of 56, says a press release.

Pinero was also the chief of the English department of Gono University and guardian adviser of Notre Dame College.

He left behind his father, mother, wife, two daughters, two brothers, and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His funeral will be held at the church in Zaman Khan area in Chittagong today.

Shamsul Haq



Shamsul Haq, a freedom fighter, passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest at Euro Bangla Hospital in the capital early morning

yesterday at the age of 53, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Chairman Kabir Ahmed Khan and Secretary General Shah Alam Chowdhury have expressed deep shock at the death of Shamsul Haque.

They prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

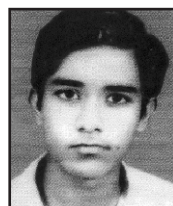
Death anniversary

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Comrade Dr Soif-Ud-Dahar, one of the pioneers of communist movement in the subcontinent, says a press release.

On the occasion, Committee to Preserve Memory of Comrade Dr Soif-Ud-Dahar will pay homage to him at his grave at Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur in the city at 10:00am.

All have been requested to attend the programme.

Abu Naim Najibuddin



Today is the 36th death anniversary of Abu Naim Najibuddin Khan Khurram, a martyr of the War of Liberation.

He sacrificed his life while fighting the Pakistani occupation forces at Ashuganj in 1971.

He was then a second year student of Economics department of Dhaka College.

Khurram was the second son of Alauddin Khan, former director of Bangladesh Jute Board.

His family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka inaugurated the 'Ruposhi Bangla Photo Exhibition' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association organised the two-day exhibition on the occasion of Bangla New Year.



Maqbula wins Anannya Literary Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent writer Maqbula Manzoor has been nominated for the Anannya Literary Award 1414, says a press release.

She will receive the award in October at the founding anniversary of Anannya, a fortnightly magazine for women affairs.

The award carries Tk 50,000 and a crest.

Maqbula, who also received Bangla Academy Award, has published 57 books.

Film festival begins in Rajshahi

Bss, Rajshahi

A two-day film festival on child rights began yesterday with a call to protect the children from being abused by the criminals.

Jointly organised by UCEP Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno, Let Children Speak Project, Trinamul and Mohila Sanghati Parishad (MSP), the films selected for the festival will be screened at different places in the city.

While inaugurating the festival at the Rajshahi Teachers Training College auditorium, speakers laid emphasis on devising ways and means for bringing back the wandering and working children of the poor families to their normal life aiming at building a sound and healthy future generation.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Dr Aminul Islam addressed the opening ceremony as the chief guest.

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, Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 2 to 4 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest of 16.0 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:20pm today and rises at 5:38am 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	31.4	18.1	59	57
Chittagong	32.0	18.0	64	57
Rajshahi	31.2	18.5	68	58
Khulna	31.5	19.0	76	67
Barisal	31.6	18.0	74	63
Sylhet	30.5	17.5	70	48
Cox's Bazar	31.2	19.5	62	60