



Noted personalities hold copies of a book titled 'Gorad Bhagar Sangrameera Jago' by language movement veteran poet Mahub-Ul Alam after unveiling its cover at a memorial meeting on the poet at Rabindra Sarobar stage in the city yesterday. Prantik Shilpa Gosthi organised the meeting.

2 lakh hectares of land become barren in southern region

'Choturtho Chinta' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to lack of proper scientific planning, almost two lakh hectares of cultivable land became barren in the last five years in the southern region of the country.

This was stated by Shafiquddin Sarker, author of the book titled 'Choturtho Chinta' (the fourth thought), at its launching ceremony in the city yesterday.

"Politics without scientific and technological thoughts was the main reason that caused the losses and to avoid such situation in future the government needs

proper planning," he added.

The book also dealt with some other issues related to national politics and suggested for people's awareness to solve them.

Speakers at the ceremony said the government had no proper survey on the quality of land and the type of crops of the region when shrimp cultivation started there.

They urged the government to take every step in favour of people and national interest.

They said due to shrimp cultivation, salinity in coastal areas has increased alarmingly.

"Shrimp hatchery needs saline

water which has made a vast tract of land unfruitful for seasonal crops. This is simply a disaster for an agriculture-based country," said Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University.

"Bangladesh has to lose Tk 20 billion in gas and electricity sector per year due to lack of technological planning," he also added.

Abdul Matin, language movement veteran, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, and Mamunur Rashid, famous actor and director, were also present on the occasion.



A book titled 'Choturtho Chinta' by Shafiquddin Sarker was launched at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof AMM Shafiqullah, language movement veteran Abdul Matin, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid and Maj Gen (ret'd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 21st edition of the BBC World Service's Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Kurigram Govt Girls' High School in Kurigram at 2:45pm today.

Maj Gen (ret'd) AMSA Amin, president of Kurigram Awami League, Golam Habib Dulal, a former Jatiya Party lawmaker, Manik Chowdhury, director of Jibika, a local NGO, and Rehana Begum of Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal will take part in the programme as panel members.

The programme will be aired on BBC Bangla Radio at 8:00pm tomorrow and on Channel i at 8:00pm on Monday.

BAU admission test results published

Results of the first year admission test under six faculties of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) have been published, says a press release.

Candidates are requested to visit www.bau.edu.bd to see the results.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Mymensingh and Tangail in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night to morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country. Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest of 10.0 degrees at Ishwardi and Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm and rises at 6:43am 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	25.2	14.3	92	72
Chittagong	25.6	15.1	86	80
Rajshahi	24.6	10.2	99	77
Khulna	26.7	13.4	92	68
Barisal	26.9	12.6	95	75
Sylhet	25.5	14.3	82	75
Cox's Bazar	27.6	16.0	79	62

Dhaka views Sino-Indian cooperation positively

Says foreign adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Bangladesh views the growing Sino-Indian cooperation positively.

"China and India are the two economic giants of this continent who can turn this into a truly Asian Century if they can cooperate effectively," he said commenting on the recently concluded visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to China.

"As Asia grows in economic terms, so can hopefully Bangladesh. We have a huge population and enormous potential capabilities," the foreign adviser said in a statement.

"An era of peace and harmony in our region will give us time and scope to devote ourselves to development," he added.

Iftekhar said, "We see both China and India as friends and partners and will look to them for support to our own efforts for progress."

"Indeed, we will welcome any activity that will seek to enhance peace and stability anywhere in the world, as we will stand to benefit from it either directly or indirectly."

16th anniversary of Nirmul Committee today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 16th founding anniversary of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

The day will be observed with a renewed call for the trial of war criminals and the ban on religion-based politics in the country.

The programme of the day will begin with the placing of wreaths at the grave of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam at Mirpur at 8:00am.

A discussion titled 'Trial of war criminals and Jamaat-e-Islami politics' will be held at the Supreme Court Bar Association Auditorium at 3:00pm.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury will preside over the programme. Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Prof Ajay Roy, Abdur Razzak and Ferdous Priobhashini will also be present.

Committee President Shahriar Kabir will deliver the inaugural speech.

On this day in 1992, the Committee led by Jahanara Imam was formed with a call for the trial of war criminals and upholding the spirit of the liberation war.

Later, pro-liberation war political, social, cultural and professional organisations formed Mukti Juddher Chetana Bastobayan Committee and Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannay Committee to hold trial of Golam Azam as a war criminal in the Gono Adalat (people's court).

Old afforestation policy endangering wildlife: Experts

UNB, Dhaka

The present afforestation policy has endangered Bangladesh's rare species of wildlife because it is unsuitable for her ecological balance and biodiversity.

Experts said Bangladesh should review its afforestation policy to make it helpful for the wildlife by making the environment suitable for their habitation.

"Bangladesh is implementing a British afforestation policy of 1873. In the name of afforestation, we're actually doing plantation. Our own natural forests are being destroyed while foreign trees are being planted across the country," Prof Kazi Zaker Husain, head of The Wildlife Society of Bangladesh, told UNB yesterday.

Prof Husain said some 80 percent of the exotic trees planted under the afforestation programme have been imported

from foreign countries.

The existence of rare species of wildlife, including Hoolock Gibbon (known as Ulluk in Bangladesh), wild elephant, deer, and various types of tigers, are at stake due to plantation of these imported trees.

"By planting these you can increase the number of trees, but cannot protect the environment and biodiversity," Prof Zaker said.

The animals are directly or indirectly dependent on trees for their survival. The trees and animals are living through co-evolution in a particular place for thousands of hundreds of years. "If you cut down such trees now, then what will happen to the animals? The foreign trees are completely unknown to them," Prof Zaker said.

He said Bangladesh is creating mono-culture forests where only one type of tree is being planted

in a vast tract of land which is destructive for the wild animals.

"In a natural forest, many kinds of trees are available on which various species of animals find food and environment to live on.

But in a mono-culture forest, only one type of tree is available, that's why animals find it difficult to live on the same trees for scarcity of food and ecological support," added Prof Zaker.

Elephants, for example, need banana trees and bamboo saplings as their food. "But in Bangladesh, to recover the lost or destroyed natural forests, we usually plant one type of tree and we don't allow any small trees like bamboo or banana trees over the area. Thus we get some trees in a particular area. But at the same time we destroy the food stock of the animals," he said.

Prof Zaker said Bangladesh should stop the mono-culture

afforestation programme immediately as it needs afforestation on the lands where natural forests have been destroyed. "Those lands only require protection for the natural growth of local trees."

Prof Anwarul Islam, chief executive of Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB), said 10 percent of the country's total land can be declared as protected areas where local trees will grow naturally.

Considering the economic interest of the people and the country, Prof Anwarul said another section of land can be allocated as buffer zone where some fast-growing exotic species of trees would be planted. But the exotic trees will have to be eco-friendly.

"For timber and firewood, we can make some buffer zones. Exotic trees can be planted in the buffer zones. But the trees will have to be selected through deep research," he added.



Children admire the winning entries of an art competition put on display at Shishu Academy in the city yesterday. The Club Excel organised the competition in association with GlaxoSmithKline to raise awareness about the environment.

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The Daily Star organised the annual family get-together of its staff members at Saffron Garden Restaurant in the city yesterday. Journalists, employees and workers of the newspaper along with their family members attended the programme. The picture shows children of the staff members singing in a cultural function during the event.