

Ensure 33 pc women's representation in parties

Speakers urge EC at BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists yesterday welcomed the Election Commission's (EC) proposal for ensuring 33 percent women's representation on all committees of the political parties...

Mahila Parishad, said at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap as a panellist. The Sanglap on 'Women's rights and development' was held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

major two parties, Awami League and BNP from internal conflicts, the panellists said. The EC's proposal would help competent women to come forward and contribute to the policy-making process of the political parties...

Announce specific dates for election

Demands Zillur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman yesterday said doubts have been created in the public mind as to whether the parliamentary elections will be held in time since the Election Commission and the caretaker government are making contradictory statements about the polls.



Singer Azam Khan, right, performs and a section of the audience, left, at an anti-corruption concert at Gulshan Youth Club ground in the city yesterday.

Youths say no to corruption, violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of youths vowed to say no to corruption and to denounce violence against women to establish a society based on parity when they thronged a concert in the city to mark the International Women's Day yesterday.

cheery crowd. Hoping that the young generation will be always with the ACC and TIB's continuing fight against corruption, he asked them to engage their all-out efforts to stop all sorts of corruption.

Renaissance, Fahmida Nabi, Dalchhut, Mehri, Krishna Koli, Arthohin and Yaatri. Comparatively new performers Kafil, Shahed, Pancham Sur, a band of Acid Survivors Foundation, and Awaz, a group of garment workers, also performed at the concert that continued till 9:00pm.

Criminals loot Tk 80,000 from ticket counter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals looted Tk 80,000 from a bus ticket counter at Mohakhali in the city yesterday evening after stabbing the ticket seller.

AIUB convocation tomorrow

The 8th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre tomorrow, says a press release.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will attend the convocation and will confer degrees among the graduates.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam will attend the convocation as the special convocation guest while Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh, will attend as the convocation speaker.

The founding Chairman of AIUB Dr Anwarul Abedin and Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna will also speak at the convocation.

Obituary

Salma Bhuiyan, founder of Shahjahan Memorial School and Salma Bhuiyan Trust, and mother of Nasreen Awal

Mintoo, president of Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB), passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday.

Alamgir Hossain

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, an employee of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and son of late Abdur Rashid, passed away due to a massive heart attack at Holy Family Hospital in the city on Friday night at the age of 28.

All his colleagues at BSS expressed deep shock at his death. He also played for eternal peace of his departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

He will be buried after namaz-e-janaza after Zohr prayers at Birhati village under Bhuapur Upazila in Tangail.

Sufia Sultana

Sufia Sultana, wife of late Dr AA Mainul Hussain, passed away at her residence in the city on Friday at the age of 63, says a press release.

She left behind a son, three daughters and son-in-laws and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

A doa mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at her residence (5 Orphanage Road, Kaniz Plaza, Bakshi Bazar) in the city tomorrow.

Shah Shahjahan Ullah

Shah Syed Shahjahan Ullah, a businessman, passed away due to a massive heart attack at Heart Foundation in the city yesterday at the age of 67.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter, four brothers, three sisters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Kashimpur village in Habiganj.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed unveils the cover of a booklet on 'National Women Development Policy' at a function organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

'Politicians should study literature to attain human quality'

Speakers at a conference in the city said the politicians of our country should study literature to attain human qualities and render their services to the people in a better way, says a press release.

They said this at a discourse jointly organised by the Department of English of Daffodil International University (DIU), and Star Campus, the Daily Star, at the DIU auditorium yesterday.

Prof Dr G M Shahidul Alam, head of the Department of Media and Communication, IUB, delivered keynote speech in the conference. Prof Dr Aminul Islam, vice chancellor of Daffodil International University, chaired the discourse while Prof Shaheen Kabir, Dept of English of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Dr Rezaul Rahman, DIU, Prof Dr Sarker Ali Akkas, head of Department of Law of DIU, Saikat Habib, from the daily Samakal, and Shakhawat Tipu, from the daily Amader Samoy, spoke.

Dr Binoy Barman, head of Department of English of DIU moderated the programme.

NUS marks Int'l Women's Day

Nari Unnayan Shakti, an NGO working for underprivileged women and children, observed the International Women's Day with various programmes across the country yesterday, says a press release.

A discussion on 'Combating sexual abuse and trafficking in women and children' and a cultural programme were held at Khilgaon in Dhaka city as part of the programme.

Similar programmes were also held in Chittagong, Barisal and Feni districts. The objective of the programmes was to raise awareness among the slum dwellers about violence against women and children.

2cr suffer from kidney diseases

Experts tell roundtable

BSS, Dhaka

Doctors and experts at a roundtable here yesterday said Bangladesh has all necessary facilities for the treatment of kidney diseases. They said since all the required facilities are available at home there is no need to go to India, Pakistan, Singapore and other countries for kidney treatment.

The roundtable titled 'Prevention of kidney disease: Role of media in creating awareness' was organised jointly by the Amar Desh and Kidney Awareness, Monitoring and Prevention Society (Kamps) at the National Press Club in the city.

Noted Journalist ABM Musa stressed the need for providing training to health reporters for increasing their knowledge about health issues so that they can make report in a tangible way.

"We should spread the activities of Kamps and other similar organisations for the benefit of common people," he added. Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin urged the government to withdraw health-related Vat to reduce the treatment cost.

He said doctors and health experts should conduct more research to device sophisticated ways and means for the diagnosis and treatment of kidney ailment. Referring to lack of specialisation in health reporting, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Zaghul Ahmed Chowdhury urged both the print and electronic media to develop expertise for an accurate dissemination of the health-related information.

He said doctors and health experts should also cooperate with the media so that reporters could prepare their stories in easy language for better understanding of the common people.

Prof AK Azad Khan said, "We should give priority to the prevention of kidney disease as its treatment is very expensive." He urged all concerned to build awareness among people about the prevention of the disease.

Prof Firoz Khan said all treatment facilities, including dialysis and kidney transplantation, are available in the country. Describing the kidney disease a curable one, he urged the print and electronic media to inform people about the reliable facilities that are available in the country for the treatment of kidney ailment.

Prof Jahangir Kabir said nephritis is the principal and diabetes is the second cause of kidney diseases. "If we could check nephritis and diabetes, we can prevent kidney diseases easily," he added.

Prof Jahangir laid emphasis on collecting kidneys from dead persons to develop the process of kidney transplantation in the country. Presenting a keynote paper, Kamps Chairman Prof MA Samad said about two crore people are affected by different kidney diseases in Bangladesh while 50 crore people have chronic kidney disease across the world.

He said 15 to 18 percent adult people in the country are affected by chronic kidney disease. Moderated by Amar Desh Editor Amanullah Kabir, the roundtable was also addressed by President of International Commonwealth Journalists Association Hasan Shahariar, Bureau Chief of Associated Press Farid Hossain, Director of Radio Today Sakil Manjur, Dr Jafrullah Chowdhury, Dr Dabir Ahmed and Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury.



Birth anniversary of Ramakrishna today

Today is the 173rd birth anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna, one of the most revered figures in the Hindu religion, says a press release.

The Ramakrishna Mission in Dhaka will celebrate his birth anniversary with six-day long programmes beginning today. The first day's programmes include special puja, homa, devotional songs, study from the scriptures and Kavi songs.

On March 10, the annual function of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya will start with Swami Aksharananda in the chair and eminent drama personality Mamunur Rashid as the chief guest.

A discussion on 'Sri Ramakrishna: Love University' will be held at 5:00pm on March 11, with Justice Gour Gopal Saha in the chair. Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will be present as the chief guest. A pantomime will be staged after the discussion.

Discussions on 'Sarada Devi and Awakening of Women' and 'Swami Vivekananda and Human Conscience' will be held at 5:00pm on March 12 and 13 respectively.

WEATHER TODAY Rise in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka. Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.



World Poetry Centre executives

Poet Rafiq Azad and poet Sarder Azad have been made president and general secretary of the executive committee of World Poetry Centre, Bangladesh for 2008-09, says a press release.

The 11-member committee of the Poetry Centre was formed at a general meeting at its office in the city recently. Other office-bearers are: Shihab Sarker -- senior vice-president; AN Salamat Ullah -- vice-president; Shahidul Islam Bappi -- joint secretary; Yeasir Aziz -- organising secretary; KM Masum -- finance secretary; Parvez Babul -- literary and social welfare secretary; Ahsan Alam Tapash -- publicity, publication and office secretary; and Dr Dilara Hafiz and Prof Rafiqul Haque Bangali -- members.

'Ensure safe migration for female workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to ensure safe migration for female workers who are playing a significant role in the economy of the country by sending foreign currency.

Termining female migrant workers respected citizens of the country, they also called upon the government to explore new job markets for the female migrant workers. The discussion titled 'Rights of female migrant workers' was organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), in association with Manusher Jonno and IFIC Bank at the National Press Club in the city.

Taleya Rehman, executive director of Democracywatch, urged government as well as other organisations to train up the unskilled and semi-skilled female workers so that they can get better jobs abroad. In her keynote paper, Dr Tasneem Siddique said the government explores labour market only for man, and not for woman.

She said there is huge demand for female workers at present in Malaysia, but the government is not looking into it. Parvin Huda, a human resource expert, Salman Haider, brand manager of IFIC Bank, Saiful Haque, chairman of the Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants (Warbe), and Shomi Kaiser, a celebrated artist, also took part in the discussion.

Water filtration plant reactivated in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A water filtration plant was reactivated with the technical and financial assistance from British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) at Gorpora under Sadar Upazila in Manikganj yesterday. Manikganj Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ataur Rahman inaugurated the plant.

'Real progress' in Nato-Russia talks on Afghan transit

AFP, Baku

Nato and Russia are making 'real progress' in talks on allowing supplies for the Nato-led mission in Afghanistan to transit Russian territory, a senior Nato official said here yesterday.

"I think we're making real progress on coming to an agreement," Robert Simmons, Nato's special envoy for the Caucasus and Central Asia, told journalists in the Azerbaijani capital Baku. Simmons, who held talks on the issue in Moscow this week, said Russian officials would soon be travelling to Nato headquarters in Brussels for more negotiations.

He said both sides hoped a deal could be reached before the April 2-4 Nato summit in the Romanian capital Bucharest. He said the deal would allow "non-lethal equipment for the Nato efforts in Afghanistan" to travel by land routes through Russia and Central Asia -- a far cheaper option than shipping by air.

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Simmons said talks are also underway for Russia to supply training, new equipment and spare parts for existing equipment to the Afghan military. Russia could also participate in training programmes for counter-

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DHAKA TODAY BEI talk Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a talk on 'Trend of terrorism in South Asia'. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 10:00am.

Workshop Directorate of Health organises a national workshop on infectious and non-infectious diseases and nutrition. Venue: Hotel Abakash. Time: 12:30pm.

Memorial meeting A memorial meeting on the daily Sangbad editor Bazlur Rahman will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.