



Outstanding students of 'O' and 'A' levels pose for photograph at the 9th award presentation ceremony at the National Indoor Stadium at Mirpur in the city yesterday. The Daily Star organised the event to honour the nation builders of tomorrow. (Story on Page 16)

Talk on India, South Asia in city tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka
The Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies (CFAS), a private think-tank, will hold a talk on "India and South Asia in an Emerging World Order" at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel at 3:00pm tomorrow.

Rajendra M Abhyankar, a former Indian external affairs secretary, will talk while Syed Muazzem Ali, a former foreign secretary of Bangladesh and Brig Gen (ret) Shahedul Anam Khan, a defense and strategic analyst, will be the discussants.

Ashfaqur Rahman, chairman of the centre and former ambassador to China told BSS that the talk of Abhyankar is the beginning of a series of seminars.

CFAS was established in November last year to fulfill a long-felt need of a think-tank dealing with foreign affairs related issues of Bangladesh.

Soroptimist club observes Int'l Women's Day

Soroptimist International Club of Dhaka observed the International Women's Day on March 9 at their Literacy Centre at Maghbaraz in the city, says a press release.

Mothers, who are enrolled at the literacy centre were invited to participate in a discussion regarding their role as guardians and caretakers.

Soroptimist members emphasised upon the importance of equal treatment of sons and daughters, particularly in matters relating to nutrition and education, and on the adverse effects of early marriage on the health of the girl child.

The club is a chartered club of professional women involved in voluntary community service for the less advantaged women and children in areas of health and education.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE HELD
Contribute to development
CS Karim urges university teachers, researchers

CU CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture, Forest and Environment Adviser CS Karim yesterday urged the university teachers and researchers to utilise their knowledge and experiences for the development of the country.

Those who received higher education from abroad have a greater responsibility in this respect, he said as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 30th Bangladesh Chemical Society Conference.

Chemistry department of Chittagong University (CU)

organised the conference at the Social Science Faculty auditorium on the campus.

Agriculture Secretary Md Abdul Aziz and Home Secretary Md Abdul Karim were present as the special guests.

There was no alternative but to establish a knowledge-based society, Adviser CS Karim said and stressed the need to arrange training programmes for researchers so that they can help find out solutions to various problems facing the country.

CU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam said the educational

institutions lack equipment and other facilities for research activities.

He urged the government and non-government organisations to come forward to provide better facilities for quality researches.

Bangladesh Chemical Society President Prof Dr M Mahibur Rahman presided over the ceremony while Prof Dr Al Mostafa of Dhaka University delivered the theme lecture.

Two scientific sessions and a business session were held during the daylong conference.

Dhaka wants action-oriented OIC
Iftekhar tells international media in Dakar

UNB, Dakar

Bangladesh wants an action-oriented OIC focussed on implementation of resolutions rather than remaining satisfied with their adoption, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said.

He said this while he was briefing international media at the conclusion of the OIC Summit in the Senegalese capital through adoption of the Dakar Declaration on its latest agenda on Friday evening.

He said Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, who led the Bangladesh delegation, made this point very clear twice when he spoke on behalf of the Asian Group of leaders at the beginning of the conference and also in his country statement.

"Bangladesh has been experiencing a series of fundamental transformation in her own society through homegrown ideas like micro-credit and non-formal education," Iftekhar said.

He said Bangladesh is keen to

share her experiences with others in the Islamic Ummah, including the brotherly countries of Africa who historically pass through ordeals.

Speaking on 'Islamophobia,' in response to a question, Iftekhar noted that it exists because of 'misunderstanding' of the real values of Islam.

"If this gap in understanding can be reduced by spreading the real message of peace and tolerance that

Islam stands for, then the apprehension will be gone," he told the media men.

He said Bangladesh, a country of 145 million people, is a harmonious nation that tolerates and celebrates differences in cultures and this is reflected in the resolution Bangladesh sponsors each year at the UN General Assembly entitled 'Culture of Peace'.

Iftekhar said there were many

commonalities between Bangladesh and Senegal and both the countries were working together to secure peace in West Asia as "co-members of the Non-Aligned Committee on Palestine".

He said the Ummah looks forward to the leadership of President Wade as the new chair of the OIC.

The press conference was held at the Media Centre in King Fahad Complex of the Summit venue.

DAM invites nominations for Chand Sultan Literacy Prize

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has invited nominations from individuals and organisations for Chand Sultana Literacy Prize 2007, says a press release.

The prize will be given for remarkable contribution in the field of developing education materials, awareness building for prevention of cancer or HIV/AIDS, implementation of innovative projects or conducting research on non-formal education.

The prize comprises of Tk 30 thousand, a crest and a certificate.

Persons or organisations are requested to send their particulars with their contribution to Director, Human Resource Division, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (House-19, Road-12, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209) by 10 April 2008.



Participants of a contest titled 'Sharpener 2008' for under-30 Bangladeshi creative professionals pose for photograph on the Advertising Club, Dhaka premises on Friday.

Sharpener '08 contest for creative professionals held in city

The Advertising Club, Dhaka with the support of Save the Children-USA organised a daylong contest 'Sharpener 2008' for under-30 Bangladeshi creative professionals at the club premises on Friday, says a press release.

A total of 28 contestants from different advertisement agencies took part in the contest.

Rahul M Alindib and Hasib Hasan Chowdhury won the award.

The winners will get the opportunity to participate in the Young Lotus contest of the 11th Asia Pacific Advertising Festival 2008 to be held on March 26-29 at Pattaya, Thailand.



Winners of 'Etcetera-Lyra Victory Day Art Competition 2007' pose for photograph with Ascent Group Director Syed Anwar Ali at a prize giving ceremony at the STM Hall at Uttara Model Town in the city yesterday. Etcetera Bangladesh Pvt Ltd organised the art competition for the school children aged between 5 years to 15 to celebrate the Victory Day.

Former JCD leaders demand release of Khaleda, Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The JCD leaders of the 80s yesterday demanded release of all political prisoners, including two former prime ministers Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina.

Presenting a five-point demand at a press conference at the National Press Club, they also demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, withdrawal of the state of emergency, stopping the use of a certain quarter to split political parties and establishing an independent judicial system by removing government pressure from higher courts.

Former JCD leader and currently BNP central committee member Khandaker Babul Chowdhury raised the demands. Nearly 100 former JCD leaders, including former senior vice-president Ferdous Ahmed Khokon, acting president SM Kamal Uddin Chowdhury, joint secretary Saberul Huq Sabu and office secretary Sarwar Azam Khan and Swapan Chowdhury were present.

In a written statement, Babul Chowdhury said the country is being pushed towards darkness through domestic and international conspiracies. He said the caretaker government and a special quarter are busy breaking BNP.

He, however, said as conspiracy against BNP was not successful in the past, it will not be successful in the future too.

Chowdhury said Begum Khaleda Zia is the life force of BNP and millions of its workers have complete trust and confidence in her.

He said the Election Commission is trying to hold an election of blueprint by keeping

BNP aloof from the election process.

He said people would not accept any stage-managed election under the incumbent commission as they did not accept any election of blueprint in the past.

Chowdhury said participation of the two leaders - Khaleda and Hasina - is essential to make the future election credible.

If the government wants to hold a credible election, the two leaders must be released. Otherwise, people will not accept any election without Khaleda and Hasina.

He also blamed the government for keeping Khaleda and her two sons behind the bars for nearly seven months. He said the government has failed to frame any charge against Khaleda.

He supported the anti-corruption drive but called for halting elimination of politics in the name of curbing corruption.

He said although many BNP leaders were arrested on charges of corruption but former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan whose ministry was the champion of corruption remains out of touch.

British Council library in Ctg closed for 4 days

CU CORRESPONDENT

The library services of British Council, Chittagong will remain closed from today to Wednesday due to annual stock taking, said a press release yesterday.

All other services will run as usual.

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