

Jharna Das Purakayastha wins Anannya Literary Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted litterateur Jharna Das Purakayastha has won the Anannya Literary Award for the Bangla year 1415.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury handed over the award to Jharna at a ceremony at the National Museum in the city yesterday.

Thanking the Anannya, Jharna Das Purakayastha said, "This award inspires me to come up with better write-ups. Today it has once again been proven that perseverance pays off."

"There is no alternative to book, which creates a world of diversity for a human being, but it is a matter of sorrow that in today's world the number of advertisements for cellphone or soft drinks is much more higher than that of the books," Jharna Das said.

Jharna was born on July 27, 1945 in Sunamganj.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury said, "Human quality is the most important feature of Jharna's works."

Pointing the emergence of communal power and the dismantling of the Baul sculptures in the city, Prof Kabir said, "The communal power would have to be resisted with the spirit of literature."

"Rise of communal power will be a big hurdle for advancement of women in the society," he added.

Litterateur Selina Hossain said, "Only giving recognition to a writer is not the aim of this award, but the effort is to inspire the cultural arena."

Executive Editor of the Anannya Dil Monowara Monu delivered the welcome speech while Progya Laboni was the moderator of the programme.

Writers Rizia Rahman, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam and Prof Bishwajit Ghosh also spoke on the occasion.



National Professor Kabir Chowdhury hands over the Anannya Literary Award for the Bangla year 1415 to noted litterateur Jharna Das Purakayastha at a ceremony at the National Museum in the city yesterday.

Int'l symposium on Islamic civilisation begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day international symposium on 'Islamic Civilisation in South Asia' began in the city yesterday to look back on this part of the history and do research on the contribution made by Islamic scholars to different areas of life in the South Asia.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) organised the programme in association with the Dhaka University at a city hotel.

Islamic scholars from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will deliver their speeches at different sessions of the symposium inaugurated by Foreign Secretary Md Touhid Hossain.

Touhid Hossain said, "Our nation, which has thousands of years of history, has its deep-rooted conviction in the human spirit and the dignity of human expressions. With the infusion of Islam in the mainstream socio-cultural modes of existence, the people of Bangladesh have ascribed an even greater conviction in the equality and universality of core human values."

A collective effort should be in place to promote greater understanding and people should prove their commitment to peace and show their moderation, he said.

On the occasion, an art and photography exhibition also began at the Zainul Gallery of Institute of Fine Art at DU yesterday afternoon. The DU VC, IRCICA Director General Dr Halit Eren and Foreign

Ministry Director General (International Organisations) Muhammad Imran spoke at the opening session of the symposium.

Dr Halit said IRCICA as the OIC's cultural centre is promoting research and international cooperation for studies on Islamic civilisation, inter-cultural relations, cultural development and the history, art and cultural heritage of the OIC member states and Muslim communities all over the world.

CLIMATE CHANGE Call to demand adaptation cost from rich states

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should make sufficient homework so that it can raise the concern of the country and negotiate properly with the developed partners at the Poznan Climate Change Conference to be held in Poland from December 1 to 12.

This was stated by environmentalists and politicians at a discussion titled 'Role of the government of Bangladesh at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)' at a city hotel.

The discussion was organised jointly by People's Empowerment Trust (PET) and Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL).

The speakers urged the government to demand adaptation cost for climate change from the developed countries.

"The USA will have to bear 44 percent cost of adaptation in affected countries, Japan 13 percent, Germany seven percent, the UK five percent, Italy, France and Canada four to five percent while Spain, Australia and South Korea will have to bear three percent," said Ziaul Haque Mukta, member-secretary of CSRL.

Abdur Razaque, agriculture affairs secretary of Awami League, said climate change and it affects have been given top priority in their election manifesto.

It Gen (ret'd) Mahabubur Rahman, standing committee member of BNP said two lakh hector of land will be submerged and two crore people will have to be displaced if the sea level rises due to climate change.

PET Executive Director Shishir Shil presided over the discussion which was also addressed by environment expert Dr AAtik Rahman.

10 injured in BCL factional clash at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured when two factions of the Rajshahi University unit were locked in a clash over welcoming the admission seekers on the campus yesterday.

The violence erupted when the factions took out two separate welcome processions and held rallies on the campus.

Sources said dogged by two factions, the RU BCL has been facing troubles since the expiry of its present committee four years ago.

Of the factions, one is led by its incumbent President Ibrahim Hossain Moon and General Secretary Ayeen Uddin, while the other by Mainul Arefin Niaz, Abu Raihan Raju and Dipayan Sarker Dip.

BCL president and secretary-supported leaders Masud, Uzzal and Khokon held a rally on the campus welcoming the students, sources added.

At the same time, another faction brought out a procession and held a counter rally at the same venue.

At one stage, the leaders and activists loyal to president and

secretary attacked their rival faction for holding counter programmes with wood and bamboo sticks, leaving 10 activists of both the groups injured.

When contacted, RU Proctor Dr Enamul Haque said the authorities

took additional security measures to hold admission tests peacefully.

Progressive Students' Alliance, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir units took out separate processions on the campus to protest the incident.



Egyptian Ambassador in Bangladesh Fayeze Mustafa Noseir hands over replicas of five Egyptian antiques to Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury at the National Museum in the city yesterday.

Nat'l Museum gets replicas of 5 Egyptian antiques

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Egyptian Ambassador in Bangladesh Fayeze Mustafa Noseir handed over five replicas of Egyptian antiques to Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury at the National Museum yesterday, says a press release.

The replicas are Bust of Princess Baketaten, Hippopotamus, Sekhmet, Part of Earrings and Model of 'Ankh' sign.

Director General of the National Museum Samar Chandra Pal delivered the welcome speech at the programme.

He said these replicas are the assets of the world as they bear the history of world civilisation.

Rasheda K Chowdhury said this kind of cultural exchanges will strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Such initiatives would let the peoples of both the countries know about each other.

Md Sharful Alam, secretary to the cultural affairs ministry, said such cultural exchanges will enrich the collection of the museum.



KMP Commissioner Md Helal Uddin Badri (left) addresses an anti-drug rally at Hadis Park in Khulna city following a procession (right) recently. Citycell, a mobile phone operator, and Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) jointly organised the event.

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