

FIRST DHAKA INT'L BOOK FAIR BEGINS Books can help establish peaceful society: CA

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said a close relationship among the writers, publishers and readers is essential to build a knowledge-based society.

"A book is not only for writer. A reader-circle, library and publishing community are needed for proper publicity of the books. These things are closely interrelated," said Fakhruddin while inaugurating the first Dhaka International Book Fair in the city. The 15-day fair is being held at the central playground of Dhaka

University.

A total of 150 local and overseas publishing houses are taking part in the fair organised by Jatiya Granthakendra with the theme 'Book for a peaceful world'.

Fakhruddin said the writers and publishers can also contribute to expand the reading community.

Speaking as a representative of civil society Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said a book not only enhances knowledge but also adds resource in a society. A nation is bound to develop where the book finds its dignity, he added.

Adviser for Primary and Mass Education Rasheda K Chowdhury was present as special guest with Secretary to cultural ministry Mohammad Sharful Alam in the chair.

The function was also addressed by Managing Director of University Press Limited Mohiuddin Ahmed and Director of Jatiya Granthakendra Mahmudur Rahman.

The fair will remain open for all with an entry fee of Tk 5 from 11:00am to 8:00pm and on holidays from 11:00am to 8:30pm until December 30.

The school students will have free access to the exhibition.

Continued support to farmers a must for food security: CS Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next government must continue to extend all-out support to farmers in order to ensure food security and help face challenges posed by the global climate change, Agriculture Adviser CS Karim said yesterday.

"The state has to support our real heroes... It has now been proved beyond any reasonable doubt that the rewards are far greater than the investments the state makes in the process," he said while giving a presentation on his experiences in the agriculture sector in the last two years.

Development partners, including the members of local consultative group (LCG), diplomats and agriculturists attended the programme held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

"I would argue, in strongest possible terms, that there is no alternative to continued support to our farmers," the adviser said, referring to increased Boro harvest and subsidy in diesel and fertiliser.

Although the share of agriculture in GDP has shrunk gradually in recent years mainly due to increasing contribution of services, manufacturing sector and foreign remittances, agriculture is the key to food security, sustenance of rural livelihoods and overall economic growth, he said.

Agriculture, however, is facing serious challenges of climate change, he said and called on development partners to make investments in researches on agriculture.

"We trust the development partners and the governments around the globe will respond to our needs of survival under extremely unfavourable

conditions -- help us on the way to sustainable food security," the adviser said.

CS Karim also placed some recommendations for the next government.

He stressed the need for new varieties responsive to climate change, development of non-rice sectors such as fisheries and livestock, export

of vegetables and horticulture products and linkages on research, extension and market.

Cabinet secretary Abdul Aziz, External Relations Division Secretary Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan and agriculture secretary Enayet Ullah were also present at the programme.

'Army not involved in allotting Rajuk plots'

UNB, Dhaka

The Army Headquarters yesterday said the army doesn't have any kind of involvement in allotment of the plots of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and there should not be any misunderstanding in this regard.

Mentioning that confusion has been created in public mind and media about direct involvement of Bangladesh Army, an ISPR release said, "It is to inform all that army doesn't have any type of involvement in plot-allotment system."

It noted that the professional skills of the army were appreciated by all as they formulated voter list with photograph and national ID card within a very short span of time.

"And due to such professional efficiency of the army, the Housing and Public Works Ministry requested Bangladesh Army to provide information technology assistance for necessary data entry and selection of candidates through lottery in the allot-

ment of Rajuk's plots under two projects -- Purbachal and Uttara," the ISPR release said.

Following the request, the army sent an expert team to the Rajuk to review the whole matter of electronic selection.

The Army team opined that any non-government skilled IT organisation would be able to accomplish the task of Rajuk through its specific IT programme and IT operators.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Begum Irani Huq (Ayesha), wife of late Syed Rafiqul Huq of Nawab Bari Paschimgaon, Laksham under Comilla, passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest at the United Hospital in the city on December 13, says a press release.

Begum Irani was the eldest daughter of late Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Zamindar of Shorshadi, Feni.

She left behind her two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

President okays withdrawal of emergency

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has signed an ordinance repealing the Emergency Power Ordinance 2007 with effect from December 17 in line with an earlier government announcement.

"The president has signed the order at 5:00pm today," secretary of the President's office Mohammad Sirajul Islam told BSS.

He said the president also signed an order for lifting the emergency rules, which is to be sent to the home ministry while the order for repealing Emergency Power Ordinance would go to the law ministry for required actions.

The president promulgated the state of emergency on January 11, 2007 and the current caretaker government was installed the following day.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 36th death anniversary of martyred intellectual Prof Dr Md Abul Kalam Azad, says a press release.

Prof Azad was killed by the members of Al-Badar at the fag end of the War of Liberation. His body was recovered from the killing ground at Rayer Bazar on December 16 in 1971.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at the residence of Shaheed Azad's brother The Daily Morning Post Editor Habibul Bashar at House # 35/5, Road # 7, Block-G, Banani at 11:00am today.

A milad mahfil will also be held at the Daily Morning Post office 29/B, East Panthapath in the city at 11:00am on December 22 which coincides with the 14th death anniversary of Kohinoo Banu, mother of Shaheed Azad.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

Shaheed Ruhul Islam Sadi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 37th death anniversary of Shaheed Ruhul Islam Sadi, says a press release.

He defected from Pakistan Air Force to join the War of Liberation in 1971. He was killed along with his two other co-fighters -- Rafiq and Shafiq -- during a fight with the Pakistani occupation forces in Rajbari just before two hours of victory.

On the occasion, people from all walks of life will place wreaths at the martyrs' graveyard. Milad mahfil and prayer session have also been arranged at Shaheed Smriti Shingha and Library and Rupnagar Jame Mosque.

Mufrad Nabeel Rahman

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Mufrad Nabeel Rahman, only son of Dr Anisur Rahman and Prof Amena Mohsin, says a press release.

On the occasion, a trust and a website will be launched.

Razia Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Razia Begum, a social worker of Pallabi Section-11, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held after Zohr prayers.

Alhaj Abul Kashem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Abul Kashem, founder chairman of Baly Group of Industries and director of Premier Bank, says a press release.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for his departed soul.



Freedom fighter Mokhlesur Rahman speaks at a press conference at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On his right are Editor of the Prothom Alo Matur Rahman, Grameenphone CEO Oddvar Hesjedal, Syed Yamin Bakht and Anisul Huq.

Channel i to telecast Bijoy Mela live

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will telecast daylong Wheel-Channel i Bijoy Mela live from its own office building at Tejgaon from 11:05am to 6:00pm today.

Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar at a press conference at the Siddeshwari office of Channel i said, "Artists of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, members of Swadhin Bangla Football team, members of Sectors Commanders' Forum, cultural personalities, freedom fighters and editors of the national dailies will be present at the inauguration session."

Convener of Sammilita Sangkritik Jote Nasir Uddin Yusuf Bachchu will anchor the inaugural session.

As part of the Bijoy Mela, eminent artists will take part in a painting programme and proceeds from the sale of the paintings would be donated for the welfare of the freedom fighters.

Quayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqunnabi, Biren Some, Alokesh Ghosh, Monirul Islam, Moniruzzaman, Farida Zaman, Shahid Kabir and Jamal Ahmed will participate at the event alongside children.

Senior Programme Manager Amirul Islam and Shahidul Islam Sachchu will direct the Bijoy Mela.

Noted artist Hashem Khan was also present at the press conference.

Tight security on V-Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcers and intelligence agencies have taken three-tier security measures by deploying over 20,000 police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members backed by dog squads and detectives for trouble-free celebration of the Victory Day today.

At each venue, three-tier checkpoints will be put up with security men checking people with sweeper, archway and metal detector. Besides, Rab dog squad and women police will be on duty.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star that additional forces would be deployed at every place, including National Mausoleum at Savar, Bangabandhu National Stadium, Shishu Academy and all other places where the Victory Day programmes would be held.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rab Additional Director General Col Gulzar Uddin Ahmed said, "A

total of 4,500 people would remain vigilant across the country to ensure a trouble-free Victory Day celebration."

HC asks EC to accept candidacy of AL candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Election Commission (EC) to accept the nomination paper of Awami League candidate Aatur Rahman Shamim from Moulabazar-2 constituency in the national elections.

An HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui passed the order following a writ petition filed by Shamim against the EC decision on his candidacy.

Prothom Alo to publish book of letters written by FFs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily Prothom Alo in collaboration with Grameenphone, a mobile phone operator, will publish a book of letters written by freedom fighters to their near and dear ones during the Liberation War in 1971.

All concerned have been requested to submit the letters to the offices of the Prothom Alo or Grameenphone centres across the country to this end. The letters will be received during the period from today to February 28, 2009.

The book will be launched on March 26.

"An expert team comprising veteran freedom fighters, historians, researchers and intellectuals will be formed to verify authenticity of the letters," Matur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, said at a press conference at the Liberation War Museum in the city.

He also said that a national media campaign would be launched today to collect letters written by freedom fighters from the battlefield and the ones written by family members to the freedom fighters.

All the letters will also be preserved at the Liberation War Museum, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Grameenphone CEO Oddvar Hesjedal termed the project a great initiative and said it will help preserve the history of the Liberation War.

Prothom Alo Deputy Editor Anisul Huq, Grameenphone Public Relations Director Syed Yamin Bakht, freedom fighter Mokhlesur Rahman and singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu were present at the press conference.

JBFH health camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) will conduct a health camp for the people from all walks of life at Channel i Bhaban at Tejgaon in the city today on the occasion of the Victory Day, says a press release.

Free health services will be provided to freedom fighters and their families and the family members of martyred freedom fighters and intellectuals at special booths on the occasion.

মহান বিজয় দিবস

আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, স্তানুধ্যায়ী ও দেশবাসীকে জানাই মহান বিজয় দিবসের শুভেচ্ছা

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