



German Ambassador Frank Meyke calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

Japanese PM greets Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso yesterday greeted Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of office as prime minister of Bangladesh following a free, fair and peaceful election.

In a letter of felicitation the Japanese PM said Hasina's election as the prime minister of Bangladesh is a manifestation of the trust and confidence the people have in her political leadership.

"I would like to express my deepest respect and congratulations to you and the people of Bangladesh for the success of the recent general election that was held in a free, fair and peaceful manner, overcoming many difficulties," he said.

"Japan as an old friend of Bangladesh would like to work closely with the new government to further develop the cordial relations between the two countries," Taro Aso said.

Indian envoy meets tourism minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty called on Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Kader at his office at the secretariat in the capital yesterday.

They discussed matters of bilateral interest, including development plans for aviation and tourism sectors.

Tourism Minister GM Kader hoped that the two countries would work together to further strengthen economic and trade ties between them.

The high commissioner greeted the new government on behalf of the Indian government.

He also hoped that the relations between Dhaka and New Delhi would be further strengthened in the days to come.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Syed Mohammad Zobaer was present at the meeting.

Samad Azad's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



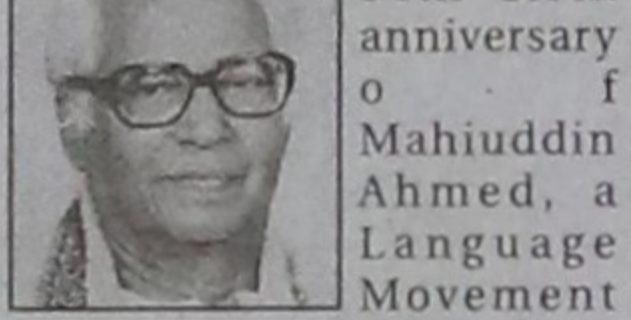
The 87th birth anniversary of former foreign minister and Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad will be observed today, says a press release.

Abdus Samad Azad Foundation chalked out elaborate programmes including milad mahfil and discussion to mark the day.

Sunamganj unit of Awami League and its front organisations also arranged milad mahfil and discussion.

Mahiuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 84th birth anniversary of Mahiuddin Ahmed, a Language Movement veteran and one of the organisers of Liberation War, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and discussion will be at different unions in Mathbaria upazila and Mahiuddin Ahmed Smirity Sangsad and different political and social organisations will lay wreaths at his graveyard.

Student union polls a must for better student politics

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent academician Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday said the long-due elections to students unions in all public universities specially the Dhaka University should be held to end confrontational student politics.

"Students must have political knowledge but there should not be any place of confrontation which is going on in the country. Polls to all students unions should be held for better student politics," he said while talking to reporters at the National Press Club in the city.

He was speaking at a roundtable discussion on "Policies for the Youth: Expectations from the New Government" organised by the United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB). Students from different universities took part in the discussion.

"The armed student politics did not allow holding elections to DUJCSU and other students unions. Students should be allowed by the unions to do politics rising above partisan interest," he said.

Prof Muzaffer said university teachers should also be allowed to express their political rights and views but they should not belong to any party.

He urged policymakers to make Dhaka University a research-based institution rather than just one that distributes certificates.

He said the government should concentrate more on creating quality teachers at the primary and higher levels of education.

The participating students urged the new government to bring some reforms in the education sector for producing efficient youths. They also called upon the government to renew the national youth

policy adopted in 2003 that would reflect the views of the youths.

They urged the government to remove all problems from the public universities, provide them with more educational facilities and include youths at the policymaking level.

Assistant Professor of DU mass communication and journalism department Shamim Reza moderated the discussion while Institute of Micro Finance Executive Director Prof Baqui Khally, Prof Syed Munir Khasru of DU,

Future Leadership Foundation CEO Kazi M Ahmed and newly elected UNYSAB President Nafiz Imtiaz, among others, spoke.

Sir William Beveridge begins journey in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir William Beveridge Foundation, a British international charity, formally launched its programme in Bangladesh yesterday.

At a 'Meet the Press' at the National Press Club in the city, the members and advisers of the foundation briefly narrated the activities of the foundation that include home care service to the poor elderly people, nursing training and English education course and education programme for the underprivileged children.

By helping individuals, the Sir William Beveridge Foundation aims to transform societies, tackle inequality and promote the wellbeing and potential of all, said Prof Alan Lee Williams OBE, chairman of Sir William Beveridge Foundation.

Founder and Executive Director of the foundation Rahman Jilani said, "Inspired by the philosophy of 'care', which focuses on providing essential and culturally appropriate health and social care services, we provide homecare services to the vulnerable elderly citizens and persons with disabilities at their own houses."

Jibon Kanai Das of the foundation was also present.

Fine Art faculty admission test tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

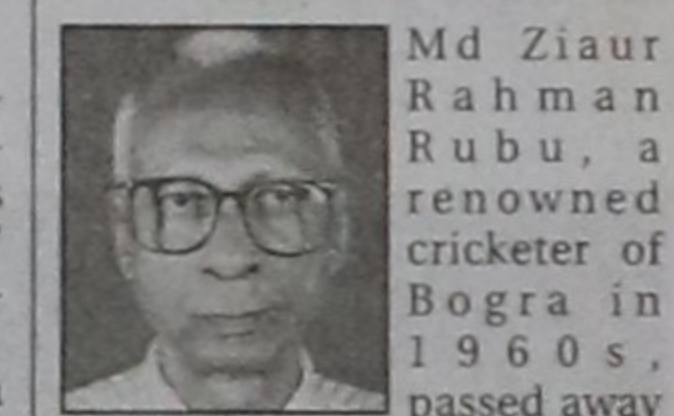
The admission test for the first year honours courses of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University under 2008-2009 academic sessions will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm tomorrow, says a press release.

Around 1,000 students will sit for the admission test.

This is the first admission test after the Fine Art Institute turned into the Faculty of Fine Art.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Md Ziaur Rahman Rubu, a renowned cricketer of Bogra in 1960s, passed away at Birdem Hospital in Dhaka on January 13 at the age of 70, says a press release.

He had been suffering from kidney and lung complications.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a granddaughter to mourn his death. He was laid to rest at Bhaipaglia Mazar Graveyard in Bogra after a namaz-e-janaza yesterday.

On the occasion of his quikhwani, a milad mahfil will be held at Baitur Redwan mosque near Malotinagar High School in Bogra after Juma prayers tomorrow.

Begum Fatema Salam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Begum Fatema Salam, wife of late Abdus Salam, former editor of the Bangladesh Observer, and mother-in-law of journalist ABM Musa, passed away due to old-age complications at her residence in the city on Tuesday night at the age of 91, says a press release.

Fatema Salam left behind her six daughters and one son to mourn her death.

She was buried at Banani graveyard in the city.

Her quikhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at Salam Summer Sigh, 32 Dhanmondi, in the city.

Mohammad Mostafa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Mostafa, general secretary of Noakhali District Primary Teachers' Association, passed away due to brain haemorrhage yesterday at the age of 67, a press release said.

49 percent of foreign job seekers less skilled

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said massive awareness must be raised at grassroots level to minimise the exploitation of migrant workers by manpower brokers.

They said this at the seminar on 'Labour migration and socio-economic development of Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Home Workers' Women Association (BHWA) and WARBE Development Foundation at the LGED auditorium in the city.

Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Director Dr Nurul Islam said, "Around 49 percent of the workers going abroad with jobs are less skilled. They are basically the victims of exploitation and frauds."

Bangladesh has a high rate of unemployment, while the demand for overseas jobs is not that high. Such supply-demand gap causes high cost of labour migration, he added.

"We regularly brief the aspirant migrants on the government-fixed rates of cost. They never say they were paying the agencies higher than the fixed rate," he said,

adding that purchasing of visa is illegal, but still none could check it.

Dr Nurul said it is the NGOs, which could come up to create massive awareness at grassroots level on the issue.

BMET Director General Abdul Malek said the labour receiving countries are not interested to come to the forums of the UN or ILO and thereby not following the international labour standards.

"Due to our huge unemployment rate, we also cannot bargain with those countries," he added.

Trade Union Kendra Secretary General Dr Wazedul Islam Khan said the government should take initiatives to create heavy industries in the country to meet the local demands and reduce imports.

Such unemployment in the country forces people to leave

for overseas jobs, he said, adding: "Our workers get very low salaries, though they contribute to the economies of the labour receiving countries heavily."

He suggested agreements among the Saarc countries on the minimum salaries of their workers in the labour receiving countries.

WARBE Development Foundation Chairman Syed Saiful Haque demanded the government ratify the UN convention on the migrants and their families, saying that ratification of the convention will create opportunities for the country to realise many of the workers' rights.

BHWA General Secretary Dilruba Anguri presented a keynote paper at the programme where Human Development Research Centre Director Saiful Haque also spoke.

New DU VC, pro-VC, treasurer soon likely

DU CORRESPONDENT

The posts of vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer of Dhaka University (DU) might be filled with new faces soon.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid sought cooperation from Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Treasurer Prof Abul Kalam Azad in appointing a new team of VC, Pro-VC and treasurer when they met him at his office.

VC Prof SMA Faiz has already decided to step down and requested the education ministry to take necessary steps in this regard.

Prof Yusuf Haider and Prof Azad met the minister as he invited them to a tea.

"He [minister] told us that we have worked as a team. As Prof Faiz has submitted a letter seeking to step down, the government has to take a decision in this regard," Prof Azad told The Daily Star last night, adding that the minister sought cooperation from

them because a new team will be necessary for the new VC.

"We have told him that we are fully mentally prepared in this regard and ready to extend our cooperation," Prof Azad added.

On January 11, VC Prof Faiz decided to step down and submitted a letter requesting the education ministry to take necessary steps in this regard.

On Tuesday, a team of pro-Awami League 'Blue Panel' teachers met the education minister at his office and urged him to pick teachers for the posts who were active after 1/11 and are acceptable to all, said a teacher who was on the team.

It was just a courtesy meeting, he said.

Two muggers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People caught two muggers of a gang while they were running away snatching Tk 10 lakh from an employee of an iron sheet factory at Sadarghat in the city yesterday.

They also recovered the money from possession of the muggers Alamgir, 35, and Hasan, 30, and later handed them over to Kotwali police after a good beating, witnesses said.

Locals said a gang of six muggers snatched Tk 9.90 lakh from Kamal Hossain, an employee of an iron sheet factory, when he reached near the foot over bridge at Sadarghat at around 4:00pm.

When they were running away snatching the money, Kamal cried for help and local people caught two of them.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country, Met Office said predicting night temperature may fall slightly.

Highest temperature 28.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 10.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

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	21.8	14.6	98	84
Chittagong	24.8	14.7	84	67
Rajshahi	24.5	10.9	100	86
Khulna	21.6	14.0	95	87
Barisal	23.6	12.5	99	88
Sylhet	26.6	14.0	85	75
Cox's Bazar	28.2	15.5	70	62

DHAKA TODAY

Report release

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will release its study report on effectiveness of the diesel subsidy and operational issues related to fertiliser distribution. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Centre for Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue organises a seminar marking the International Day of Religious Freedom. Venue: World Religions department, DU. Time: 3:30pm.

Conference

The two-day 3rd South Asian Regional Conference on Autism 2009 will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Two criminals arrested with forged notes, equipment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch police arrested two criminals with forged notes worth Tk 45,200 and fake note-making equipment from a flat at Uttara in the city on Tuesday.

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Jasim alias Tera Jasim, an accomplice of slain top criminal Rosen, and Jasim alias Chhoto Jasim.

Tera Jasim was also involved in the killing of Farid, the owner of Toma Hotel in Shayampur.

During a raid on the flat, the DB police seized 89 fake notes of Tk 500 and seven fake notes of Tk 100, a computer, a monitor, a printer and two dices.

During an interrogation, Chhoto Jasim said he has been producing fake notes for two years and he has a network to supply the notes.

With the arrest of Tera Jasim, the number of criminals involved in the killing of Farid rose to seven, the police said.

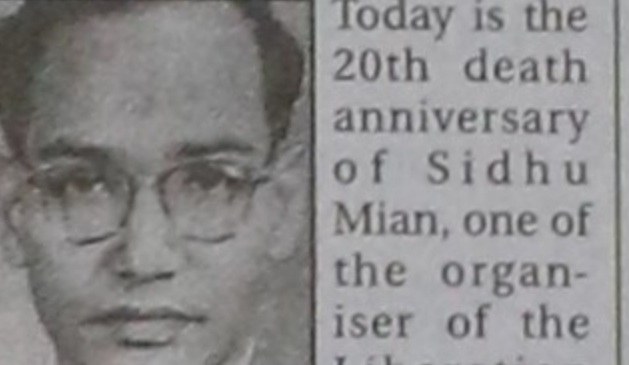
Farid was shot dead in his hotel on August 13 last year.

AC Sanwar told The Daily Star that Tera Jasim went into hiding following the arrest of six other accused in Farid murder case.

A case was filed against Chhoto Jasim and Tera Jasim, Uttara police said.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Sidhu Mian, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and father of fashion designer Bibi Raseel, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held and fateha will be offered at his grave.

Mahmudul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Mahmudul Haque Manu, a sports organiser and former joint secretary of Muktijoddha Cricket Board, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and destitute feeding programme will be held.