

AMAR EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Change of venue stressed

AMENA KHATUN

Publishers, readers and writers have suggested organising the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at a larger venue as the Bangla Academy premises is not large enough to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

"I don't think it is mandatory to organise the book fair on the Bangla Academy premises every year. In future it would really be difficult to accommodate all these visitors only on the Academy premises," said popular writer Humayun Ahmed on Tuesday.

"The publishers with the help of the authorities concerned can choose a larger

venue to hold the fair next year," he suggested.

Noted writer and researcher Prof Muntasir Mamun said, "Comparing with the other fairs across the world, we cannot say that the present venue is an ideal one to organise such a big one like the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, as hundreds of people throng the fair every day."

"In future, there might be a clash between the publishers and the Bangla Academy authorities when the latter would not be able to accommodate the increasing number of stalls on its premises," he added.

"The association of the publishers through the cultural affairs ministry should

take proper initiatives to choose a larger venue," he also said.

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, publisher of the Annesha Prokashan, said if the authorities decide to change it, they should fix only one venue like the International Trade Fair, otherwise it would lose its popularity.

"The playground of the Dhaka University might be an ideal place to organise the fair as it is large enough to accommodate a large number of stalls. It will also encourage more visitors to come since many people feel reluctant to come to the fair now as the present venue is too congested."

Director General of the

Bangla Academy Syed Mohammad Shahed said, "Some publishers want to change the present venue while some others have opposed it apprehending that the fair might lose popularity and the sale of books might also be affected."

Bani Yasmin, a student of Dhaka University said, "I can't imagine the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela being held at some other place instead of the Bangla Academy premises as we have been accustomed to going there every year."

Instead of changing the venue suddenly, she suggested allowing more stalls in the adjacent areas like the Suhrawardy Udyan to address the problem.



Visitors flip through the books at a stall on the concluding day of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলা ২০০৯



Winners of the Best Stall Award of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair pose for photograph with the guests on the Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury was present on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR

'Facilitate process of migration to Italy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Expatriates Development Society of Bangladesh yesterday called on the government to take necessary steps to facilitate the process of migration to Italy.

Italy is an important labour market of Bangladeshi youths and currently around one lakh skilled manpower are working in Italy.

The leaders said this at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

But recently a visa processing agency appointed by the Italian embassy in Dhaka has been harassing around 2,000 aspirant workers and violating the Italian law, they said, alleging that they did not give them the work permit visa.

The visa processing centre named 'VFS Global' - Italian Visa and Legalisation Application Centre - does not cooperate with the hopeful migrant workers and take service charges in addition to the visa fees, they mentioned.

They complained that without showing any cause, some 2,000 applicants were refused after

harassing for around 10 months, while some 200 to 300 applications are kept in the centre for more than seven months.

But there is no way to say anything against the agency, the leaders added.

On behalf of the workers, they urged the government to take necessary steps in a diplomatic way so that the Italian embassy offers refusal letter if they fail to provide visas to the aspirants.

The government should formulate a monitoring cell and provide legal services to resolve the problems to those who are trying to migrate to Italy or other countries, they added.

The leaders said non-resident Bangladeshis in Italy have been sending around \$300 million currently to the country. Italy is a potential sector for the Bangladeshis and it will take 80,000 seasonal workers from different countries in 2009.

Chairperson of the society Abu Syed Khan, Executive Director Shah Mohammad Taifur Rahman, Director (Information) Iqbal Hossain and Organising Secretary Khan Kamal Nazrul spoke at the programme.



Shah Mohammad Taifur Rahman, executive director of Expatriates Development Society of Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Md Abu Syed Khan and Iqbal Hossain.

PHOTO: STAR

501 DU teachers condole loss of lives in BDR mutiny

UNB, Dhaka

Some 501 Dhaka University teachers yesterday expressed deep shock at the huge loss of lives in the two-day BDR mutiny at Pilkhana.

In a statement, they said a good number of senior army officials, a few BDR personnel and civilians were killed in the bloody incident that took place at the BDR Headquarters. "This is an irreparable loss to the country," the statement said.

The DU teachers also thanked the government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her quick and pragmatic initiatives she took with patience, tolerance, firmness and wisdom that led to a peaceful solution to the unexpected trouble.

They urged all to exercise highest restraint in tackling the evolving situation.

The signatories to the statement include Dr M Anwar Hossain, Dr M Ohiduzzaman, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof. Khandaker Bazul Haq, Prof Shahadat Ali, Dr M Akhtaruzzaman and Dr Hossain Mansur.

They also conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Eight hurt as BCL factions clash at BM College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five students and three teachers were injured in a clash between two Bangladesh Chhatra League rival groups in connection with the dining management at Aswani Kumar Hall of Barisal BM College yesterday.

Sources said tense situation is prevailing on the college campus between the factions - one led by Moin Tushar and the other by Rafiq Serniabat who are joint conveners of the college unit.

They were engaged in clashes in the presence of teachers.

Students Chanchal Mokhes, Mizan, Liton, Waliullah, Saifur and Khokon, assistant hostel supers Akhtaruzzaman and Mojibor Rahman and Sardar Akbor Ali, teacher of history department, were injured in the half-hour-long clash.

Vice Principal Prof Ansaruddin told The Daily Star that they brought the situation under control and asked all students to maintain discipline, adding that they will take action against those involved in the incident.

On the other hand, a group of 12 to 15 miscreants riding on motorcycles came to Kuakata tourist zone on Friday night and collected tolls from residential hotel owners.

When they demanded toll from Hotel Razu, its Manager Zakir Hossain Bepari denied giving them any toll. At one stage, they beat him and snatched Tk 10,125 from the hotel counter.

Nurul Alam, a police constable of Kuakata police camp, arrested Saiful Islam Bayezid, 29, of Haludia union under Amtali upazila in Barguna.

The hotel manager lodged a case against the miscreants with Kalapara Police Station under speedy trial act.

The arrestee was sent to jail after producing him before Kalapara judicial magistrate's court.

BDR MUTINY

Call for probe to find out masterminds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties and other organisations and individuals yesterday strongly condemned the massacre at the BDR headquarters, which sent shock waves through the entire nation.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Hamid Advocate, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali and Chief Whip Abdus Shahid expressed deep shock and condolence at the death of army officers. This is an irreparable loss for the nation, they said in separate statements.

In another statement, Workers Party of Bangladesh called for an investigation to find out the masterminds behind the BDR mutiny. It also expressed concern over unguarded border points.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party leaders termed the carnage a conspiracy and demanded punishment to the killers.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Command Council and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association conveyed deepest sympathy to the family members of the

Comilla road crash kills 2

UNB, Comilla

Two siblings were killed and 25 others injured as a bus fell into a roadside pond at Baropara at Daudkandi in the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Noman, 18, and Mamun, 16.

Police and witnesses said the bus fell into the pond at about 2:00pm as its driver lost control over the steering, killing the two on the spot and injuring 25 other passengers.

Ten of the injured were sent to Dhaka for better treatment while seven others were admitted to Gouripur Health Complex.

deceased.

Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan and Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association demanded punishment to the persons involved in the massacre.

The Centre for Human Rights, Development and Human Security said the horrific episode that took place inside Pilkhana BDR headquarters is a gross violation of international human rights laws.

Teachers of World University of Bangladesh also condemned the massacre while Peshajibi Shamannay Parishad hailed the prime minister for her efficient role in handling the national crisis.

Dhaka State College and Ibn Sina Medical College organised a condolence meeting on the college premises and the Islamic Foundation organised a milad mahfil at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday.

Fish trader beaten to death in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

A fish trader was beaten to death allegedly by his business partner in Shariatpur municipal area on yesterday over a trifling matter.

The deceased was identified as Samad, 45, of village Dakshin Baluchara.

Witnesses said Samad and his partner Motaleb Mollah had an altercation over feeding of fishes at about 1:00pm.

At one stage, Motaleb started beating and kicking Samad. After some time, Motaleb's wife also joined him in the attack, leaving Samad severely injured.

Hearing the screams of Samad, neighbours rescued and rushed him to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared Samad dead.

The accused went into hiding after the incident.

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Summer Semester Academic year 2008-09

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