



Former chief adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman admires artworks after inaugurating a visual art exhibition titled 'Kagojer Chhaya' by Dhali Al Mamun and Wakilur Rahman at the Nolinikanta Bhattashali Exhibition Room at National Museum in the city yesterday. Atiqul Haq Chowdhury and Dhali Al Mamun were also present.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.



PM visits ailing husband at hospital

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited her ailing husband Dr M Wazed Mia at Square Hospital in the city yesterday and inquired about his health and treatment.

The prime minister stayed at the hospital for one and a half hours from 10:30am.

Special prayers for rain

BSS, Dhaka

Special prayers were offered after Juma prayers yesterday at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque for rain for better Boro crops in the current season.

Thousands of devotees raised their hands to Almighty Allah for divine blessings for the betterment of the people as well as rain for Boro crops across the country.

The prayers, led by Khatib of the national mosque Prof Salah Uddin Ahmed, also seek early recovery of nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

POLYBAGS STILL BEING USED WIDELY

Promoting alternative bags a must to protect environment

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Despite the ban on polythene bags, such bags are still being used widely, causing serious damage to the environment, as suitable alternative shopping bags are not easily available in the market.

In 2005, the national taskforce on alternative shopping bags had suggested using jute bags as a substitute for polybags, but no alternative shopping bags could sustain in the market due to lack of initiative and coordination among the parties concerned, experts told The Daily Star.

Prof Dr M Shamsheer Ali, vice chancellor of Southeast University and head of the taskforce, said the jute bags available in the market can carry a load of five kilograms to 10 kilograms and their prices range between Tk 1 and Tk 3.

The cost of these environment-friendly bags can be cut down if they are produced commercially, he said.

The national taskforce had

also recommended against using the net bags, which are not biodegradable, he added.

Referring to a fine yarn developed by the Jute Research Institute recently, Prof Shamsheer Ali said this yarn can be used to produce suitable alternative shopping bags.

Though there is no official data on the daily demand for shopping bags in the country, the shopping bag traders and producers estimate that the daily demand might be 250 crore bags.

Yahia Ahmed, general secretary of the environment-friendly bag producers' association, said members of his association are capable of producing at least 55,000 environment-friendly bags but "the demand is 10 times more than supply".

Due to inadequate supply of cheap yarn and paper and other necessary logistics, shopping bag manufacturers cannot increase production of such bags, he said.

He sought financial and

logistical support from the government to make alternative bags sustainable in the market.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has also an important role to play to promote jute bags as an alternative to polyethylene bags.

BJMC Chairman TV Mitra said jute bags can be suitable alternative bags which can also earn a lot of foreign exchange, but there should be a good marketing strategy.

He also said, "BJMC can engage its mills to produce finer jute yarn and supply it to the bag producers. But the bag producers must come forward and show their interest."

The country produces, on average, 15 to 16 lakh metric tons of jute annually while only about 50,000 metric tons of jute are used, he said.

About the impacts of

polybags on the environment, Technical Director of Department of Environment (DOE) Mohammad Shahjahan said that as polybags are not biodegradable, they hinder penetration of sunlight, water and other elements into soil, reduce fertility of soil and kill beneficial bacteria for crops. Polybags also contaminate water and air.

Although DOE has recently been taking regular action against the use of polybags, availability of alternative bags are a must to discourage the use of polybags, the experts said.

At a discussion last week, DOE Director Nazibur Rahman stressed the need for development of alternative shopping bags and urged all concerned to come forward in this regard.

"It is high time to find out an alternative to polythene bags in order to save our environment. Otherwise, we have to face dire consequences," he said.

'Politicians hardly evaluate history'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former students of History department at Dhaka University at their 10th reunion yesterday said politicians do not evaluate history unless they need in doing politics.

History should be written neutrally and objectively so that new generation can know the real accounts of the past, they added.

History Department Alumni Association organised the reunion inaugurated by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin at Teacher-Student Centre on the campus.

A total of over 700 former students of the department participated in the programme.

The ex-students said the real history of the partition of India in 1947, language movement in 1952 and liberation war in 1971 should be projected to the new generation for safeguarding them from knowing the distortion of history.

Regional history during the liberation war should be collected properly to enrich the documents on the liberation war, they added.

"Our politicians do not evaluate the history properly and take initiatives to write or preserve real history for the new generation unless they need in their national politics," said eminent historian and columnist Prof Muntasir Mamun, a former student of the department.

He went on saying that the practice of the distortion of history should be stopped strictly, otherwise patriotism would not emerge among the new generation.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra rewards best readers in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Founder president of Biswa Sahitya Kendra Abdullah Abu Sayeed yesterday distributed prizes among the winners of its book-reading programme held in Khulna city last year.

A total of 1860 students of class VI to class X of 35 schools were awarded at the programme on the Government Coronation Girls' High School premises.

Grameenphone Regional Head FM Shahriar Omar, Consultant of Delta Life Insurance Company Limited Ali Hossain Sarder, TV personality Abdun Noor Tushar, Deputy Commissioner of Khulna NM Ziaul Alam, Headmistress of Government Coronation Girls' High School Farhana Naz and Headmistress of Khulna Government Girls' High School Masuda Begum were present on the occasion.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra has been organising the book-reading programme for the students across the country for the last 24 years with a view to grooming them as worthy and enlightened citizens.



Prof Sanjida Khatun, second from right, and Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, third from right, jointly inaugurate Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan by lighting lamps at the Public Library auditorium in the city yesterday. On their left is Bulbul Islam and on their right is Sharmila Bandopadhyay.

PHOTO: STAR

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For the first time ever the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB) and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility - UNDP, will be hosting

Bain: Weaving the Past, Present and Future Regional Conference and Workshop on Backstrap Looms

The aim of the event is to highlight the exquisite and endangered weaving traditions of the indigenous of nine countries of the Asia Pacific Region -

Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand & Bangladesh



The finest indigenous artisans of these countries will be demonstrating their unique skills during the three-day workshop from 22nd to 24th March 09 at the **Spectra Convention Centre** House # 18, Road # 7, Gulshan-1

- 22nd March: 1 pm to 6 pm followed by Cultural Programme
- 23rd March: 10 am to 6 pm followed by Cultural Programme
- 24th March: 10 am to 3 pm

You are cordially invited to attend with family and friends.

