

2-day handicraft fair for autistic children begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around hundred of autistic children took part in the two-day handicraft fair that began in the city yesterday on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day and the 5th founding anniversary of Autism Welfare Foundation.

On the occasion, the annual fair was organised by a special school of the foundation at Mohammadpur. The students participated in the event spontaneously with their parents.

A number of craft works were exhibited, including paintings, handmade showpieces, cloths and other decorative items made and tinted by the autistic children.

Chairperson of the foundation Dr Rownak Hafiz told The Daily Star that the children are very excited to take part in such a programme which definitely encourages them.

Sabrina Israt, a parent of a 14-year-old autistic child Tahsin, said these children attend the vocational classes throughout the year. Such an initiative is truly inspiring.

Obituary

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Advocate AZM Asad, a language movement veteran and teacher, passed away at his residence at Kurigram town on Wednesday at the age 72.

He had been suffering from cancer.

Advocate Asad was elected president of Kurigram Bar Association several times.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Ataur Rahman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Ataur Rahman, former principal of Gaibandha Adarsha College, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence yesterday at the age of 65.

He left behind his wife, two sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at the family graveyard.

Lawmaker Mahub Ara Begum Gini (Gaibandha-2) expressed shock at his death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Dr Captain Abdul Kashem, a former Awami League lawmaker from Rangunia, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwan and milad mahfil will be held at Baro Mosque at Panchlaish in Chittagong after Asr prayers.

Relatives and political colleagues are requested to attend the programme.

Salahuddin Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Salahuddin Ahmad, the first managing director of Hotels International Limited, owner of Sonargaon Hotel, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the destitutes.

Even a divorce couldn't protect Jharna

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

She was like a goose that laid golden eggs for him on demand.

Jharna was beaten up and tortured in many ways by her husband Mahub, every time for dowry, and she never failed to deliver.

But things went wrong for Mahub two months ago when Jharna decided that enough was enough and divorced him. Since then he has been pressing her family to give him another chance and allow him to take Jharna back to his house.

As all his attempts failed to make them agree, on the night of March 14 Mahub and his accomplices set Jharna on fire while she slept at night.

Jharna is now undergoing treatment with severe burn injuries in her face, neck, hands and legs at the Burn and Plastic Surgery unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Jharna's cruel fate began over a year ago when she was married off to Mahub of Char Nimtoli in Munshiganj district. Her father who works as a labourer in the Middle East, paid a hefty dowry to get his daughter married.

"We paid Mahub Tk 30,000 in cash and gave him

We also gave Jharna two tolas of gold," her mother Jahura Begum said.

"But six months into the marriage, Mahub began new demands for dowry. We tried to give him what we could but here was no end to his wants. He hadn't even taken Jharna to his own home yet. Then he came up with a demand to arrange and pay for his way abroad to

started torturing my daughter. He even burnt her palms and hands with burning cigarettes. Jharna finally decided that a divorce was the only way out of these endless pain," Jahura said.

Since the divorce, Mahub has been trying to make her family agree to sit down for negotiations to "settle the matter" and take Jharna back to his family,

Suddenly she woke up to find herself drenched in some sort of a liquid. As she sat up in surprise, she saw a hand throwing a burning matchstick at her and instantly her body was on fire.

With presence of mind, she jumped out of bed and managed to capture one of her attackers who was trying to flee. Her screams woke up the household and neighbours while two other men fled the scene.

Locals later handed over the captured Sona Miah, a neighbour, to the police while Jharna was rushed to DMCH.

"Since my divorce, Mahub has been threatening to teach me a lesson so that I cannot ever get married to someone else if I don't return to him," Jharna said from her hospital bed.

Jharna's family has filed a case against Mahub and the two other men with Sirajdi Police station in Munshiganj.

The investigation officer of the case, Sub-inspector Golam Kibria told The Daily Star that the accused Sona Miah has confessed that Mahub led the attack on Jharna.



Jharna lying in hospital bed.

Kuwait for work," she said. "After a while we agreed to do so but sought some time to arrange for such an expensive thing. But Mahub became impatient and

which they refused to do. On the night of March 14, at around 10:30pm, Jharna was sleeping with her younger sister at her father's house, also in Char Nimtoli.

Establish knowledge-based society: Minister

BSS, Chittagong

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud has said that the judicial officials and lawyers should put their best efforts to establish a knowledge-based society.

"Independence of judiciary has paved the ways for both judges and lawyers to contribute more in establishing rule of law in the society and timely delivering of justice to the litigants," Dr Hasan said while speaking as the special guest at the installation ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of Chittagong District Bar Association (CDBA) here on Thursday night.

Held at the CDBA auditorium at Court Building with its president Advocate Mohammad Rafiqul Quader, District and Session Judge Majnu Ahsan, Metropolitan Session Judge Bhabani Prasad Singha, newly elected general secretary Advocate Ziauddin Ahmed and former

president Advocate AKM Serajul Islam Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Speaking at the function, Dr Hasan Mahmud said time has come to work together for an integrated society with the introduction of politics of accommodation, shunning the politics of division aiming at establishing 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He said all we have to work unitedly to achieve a self-reliant economy for building "Digital Bangladesh" as per vision-2021 declared by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said the wheels of progress and process to turn the country as the "Golden Bengal" by reshaping the war-ravaged Bangladesh in the post-independence period under the leadership of Bangabandhu were halted by killing him and his family members.

"The killers could not have

dared to unleash such barbaric killing at the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana if trial of the killers of Bangabandhu was taken place timely," he viewed.

Speakers at the meeting opined that the real independence of judiciary must be upheld and protected for the sake of ensuring justice and establish 'Digital Bangladesh' imbued with the spirit of rule of law.

Alleging that conspiracies are on against the independence of judiciary, they said freedom and dignity of the country's judiciary would be preserved at any cost.

Participating in the discussion, the judges said that the judicial officials have been depriving of their legitimate rights and benefits and the judicial sector has been facing enormous problems that hampers the timely disposal of cases and other functions of the department which ultimately mounting the sufferings of the litigants.

Hundi trader held at Benapole

UNB, Benapole

BDR jawans arrested an alleged hundi trader along with Indian rupee 1 lakh from near the check-post here on Thursday.

The arrestee was identified as Mashiur Rahman Lintu, an employee of local Livestock Department. Acting on a tip-off, the border guards arrested Lintu and recovered the Indian currency from his possession in the afternoon.

BDR sources said Lintu was engaged in hundi trading in the area since long. A case was filed.

Mahila AL leader killed in road accident

BSS, Dhaka

Nargis Amin, organising secretary of Gulshan thana unit of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, was killed in a road accident at Gulshan in the city on Thursday night. She was 53.

She is survived by one son and a daughter, said a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held on the premises of Japanese School at Shahzadpur in Badda and she was buried at Badda graveyard.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Nargis Amin.



Physicians Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr Rafique Uddin, former head of the Department of Medicine, Dhaka Medical College, and Prof Dr AKM Mosharrar Hossain of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, were elected president and secretary general to the executive committee of Association of Physicians of Bangladesh (APB) for the term 2009-11, says a press release.

Other office bearers are: vice-presidents -- Prof Syed Atiqul Haque and Prof MA Jalil Chowdhury; treasurer -- Prof Mujibur Rahaman; joint secretary -- Prof Golam Rabbani; science secretary -- Dr Abdul Wadud Chowdhury; and organising secretary -- Prof MA Rashid.



Students form a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding cancellation of the decision of full implementation of Structured Question (SQ) method in the SSC examinations in 2011. Guardians' Coordination Committee organised the event.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 19.2 degrees at Srimangol.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Dr Mujeri joins BIDS as DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Mustafa Kamal Mujeri joined Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) as its director general on April 1.

He took over the charge from Dr Quazi Shahabuddin who was the director general of the institute during the past six years.

Before joining the BIDS, Dr Mujeri was the chief economist of the Bangladesh Bank.

RCC won't impose new holding tax : Mayor

BSS, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has taken an initiative to hold open discussions with the city dwellers over preparing its forthcoming 2009-10 annual budget.

As part of the initiative, RCC and Conscious Citizens Committee (CCC) jointly organised a view exchange meeting on the premises of Miapara Public Library yesterday.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzaman Liton, who attended the meeting as the chief guest, revealed that no new holding tax would be imposed in the proposed budget. He, however, said the tax would be reassessed on the extended building at the previous rate.

Besides, he said different

steps were taken to enhance revenue earning to expand the civic amenities and the need-based activities would be started soon.

In this context, he said RCC could not realise outstanding taxes and other charges amounting to about Tk 17 crore from different establishments and individuals despite frequent attempts.

Mayor Liton said two projects with a cost of Tk 21 crore were already approved in line with the city's development activities and some other projects at a cost of Tk 52 crore are on the cards.

For development of the wards those lack civic amenities, he said a project of Tk 67 crore would be adopted as early as possible.

Referring to bringing transparency and accountability in

the programmes, Liton said no works would be kept hidden and everything would be reflected in the next budget.

Necessary steps would be taken to control mosquito menace in all the 30 wards of the RCC simultaneously.

"We are going to undertake a project for manufacturing biogas and fertiliser from the household wastes," Mayor Liton said adding steps would be taken to establish Wasa for addressing the city's water crisis.

Chaired by CCC Convener Advocate Golam Arif Tipu, the meeting was addressed by panel mayor Shariful Islam Babu, Ward Councilors Abdul Hamid Sarker Tekon and Abdus Sobhan, Editor of the daily Sonali Sangbad Liakat Ali and Dr Syed Shaiful Alam.

Pirates release 30 fishermen

10 others still held hostage

BSS, Borguna

Pirates released 30 abducted fishermen after realising ransom at Manpur Char in Bhola on Thursday night.

The pirates kidnapped a total of 40 fishermen along with five trawlers on Wednesday night from Dhalchar of the Bay of Bengal, 150 kilometers south-east off Patherghata Fisheries Port, under Borguna district.

The pirates took the rest 10 fishermen with four fishing trawlers to deep forest of the Sundarbans, the released fishermen said.

President of Borguna District Trawlers Owners' Association Golam Mostafa Chowdhury said the pirates abducted 40 fishermen in the Bay of Bengal.

Quoting fishermen, Mostafa said the pirates demanded Tk 7.50 lakh for the release of rest 10 fishermen and four trawlers.

Coast Guard Commander of Southern Zone Ashraf

Hoque told BSS that they recovered a trawler named Sohel-1 and launched campaign to rescue rest of the abducted fishermen.

193 sacks of urea seized in Ctg Port

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Smuggling Cell of Bangladesh Navy seized 193 sacks of urea fertilisers while they were being smuggled by a fishing boat at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port early yesterday.

Sources said acting on a tip-off, a team of the cell challenged the engine boat at the anchorage at around 6:30am. As the navy men forwarded, the smugglers fled the scene, leaving the boat.

Later, the boat and fertilisers were handed over to the Chittagong Customs authorities.

Newly married woman found dead in Jamalpur

UNB, Jamalpur

A newly married housewife was found dead on a paddy field at Bhaluka village in Melannda upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Hasi Begum, 19, wife of Dulu Mia of the village.

Police said Hasi was married off to Dulu barely a month ago and Dulu took Hasi from her parents' house to his house on Thursday evening.

But locals found her body on the paddy field in the morning and informed the police.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police suspect that Dulu might have strangled Hasi after torturing.

The victim's brother Hasmat Ali filed a murder case against Dulu.

Dulu went into hiding soon after the incident.

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DHAKA TODAY eprothom alo The formal launching ceremony of the eprothom alo (www.eprothomalo.com) will be held. Human chain Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance will form a human chain demanding picture messaging on health caution in tobacco packets. Discussion Nagonk Sanghati organises a discussion on water crisis in Dhaka city.