

MUTUAL TRUST BANK-DAILY STAR DEBATE ENDS Glory for Agrabad Girls' School, Ctg School, Cuet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Agrabad Girls' School, Chittagong Government High School and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) became champions at different categories in the weeklong Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Competition '09 that concluded yesterday.

Mutual Trust Bank Managing Director Anis A Khan distributed prizes among the winners at a ceremony as the chief guest at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium.

Drishy, a cultural organisation, organised the competition in association with Equity Properties Management Limited while ATN Bangla and Radio Forti were the media partners.

The final day of the event

featured the final rounds of 17th inter-school debate, 2nd children's debate and 6th inter-varsity debate.

Chittagong Government High School clinched the title of inter-school debate for the third consecutive time defeating Silver Bells Girls' High School. Tahsin Mahmud of the winning team was adjudged the best debater.

Primary level students from Agrabad Girls' School defeated Chittagong Government High School in the children's debate while Mehrun Saima of the winning team was adjudged the best debater.

The Cuet team defeated Jahangirnagar University (JU) in the final round of the university level debate. Tonmoy Chowdhury of the winning team was adjudicated as the best debater.

Dr Khastagir Girls' High School and Imaratunnesa City

Corporation Girls' High School were also awarded for their promising performance.

Former chairman of Chittagong Club and Equity Properties Management Limited Director Dr Moinul Islam Mahmud, Mutual Trust Bank Senior Vice President Nazrul Islam and Convener of the Competition Committee Rashedul Amin also spoke at the ceremony with Drishy President Masud Bakul in the chair.

Drishy General Secretary Saif Chowdhury conducted the programme while Assistant Public Prosecutor Advocate Mili Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of Bangla Department of Chittagong University College Uddi Das, former debater Dr Masud Rana and Mominur Rahman of International Islamic University of Chittagong (IIUC) were the members of the jury.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of poet Samudra Gupta, says a press release.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed on the grave of the poet at the Shaheed Buddhijibi Graveyard in Mirpur at 10:00am. Mukta Chinta Prakashana will organise a seminar at the Central Public Library Seminar hall at 6:00pm.

Mizanur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Language Movement veteran and journalist Mizanur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad and doa mahfil will be held at the National Press Club after Maghrib prayers. Milad mahfil and a discussion will also be held at his village in Tongi, at press clubs at Tongi and Gazipur.

Dewan Abul Abbas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Advocate Dewan Abul Abbas, former law maker from Bansarampur and member of the constitution framing committee, a press release said.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Abdur Rahim (Wari) Community Centre at Tipu Sultan Road in the city at 8:00pm.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dr Md Zahir Khan

METRO DESK

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Dr Md Zahir Khan, former director of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quranic and milad mahfil will be held at his residence in Dhaka.

Fazlul Karim

METRO DESK



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Fazlul Karim, former chief arboriculturist, Roads and Highways Department, says a press release.

Md Ashraf Ali Khan

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Md Ashraf Ali Khan, former health education official in Tangail, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quranic and milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the poor.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday to brief him about the Nam conference. (Story on Page 16)

TRANS-BOUNDARY RIVER

Respect principles of int'l convention

Speakers urge India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India must respect the principles of fair play and no-harm and existing international convention before building a dam on any trans-boundary river, speakers said yesterday at a meeting in the city.

Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) and Bangladesh Centre for International Studies (BCIS) jointly organised a consultative meeting titled "Trans-boundary water sharing: concerns and prospects" at the city's CIRDAP auditorium.

The proposed 500-metre Tipaimukh Dam by India on the river Barak will dry up the rivers Surma and Kushiara in Bangladesh during lean season, said former conservator of forest Junaid Kabir Chowdhury in his presentation.

The 30-year Indo-Bangla Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996 provides for principles of fair play and no-harm and India should be respectful of them while building Tipaimukh dam, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

"Mere economic utilisation

of a river cannot be the only objective, conservation is also equally vital," she said, adding: "Utilisation must be equitable and reasonable."

Rizwana, particularly referring to the UN convention on the law of non-navigational uses of international water-course of 1997, said that there are international laws and treaties that bar India from building dam on a cross-boundary river unilaterally.

Referring to resolutions of various international river dispute cases, she said that 'good neighbourliness' should be the core principle of river dispute resolution.

Quoting environmental economist Prof Saeed Osman of Queen's Mary University, Virginia, USA, Chowdhury said that the economic loss due to the dam would amount to 30 billion US dollars.

Once Tipaimukh dam is built, severe adverse impact will destroy the fresh wetlands and ecosystems of greater Sylhet and Netrokona, he said.

Former member of Joint Rivers Commission Touhidul Anwar Khan, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former ambassador Masud Aziz and Jahangirnagar University Prof Dilara Chowdhury spoke at the meeting chaired by former ambassador M Anwar Hashim. CSD Secretary General Mahfuz Ullah moderated the meeting.

Tree plantation, fair at Bhawal Rajbari

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A seven-day tree plantation and fruit fair have started at the Bhawal Rajbari ground in Gazipur yesterday.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Mustafizur Rahman inaugurated the fair.

Dhaka Forest Department and Agricultural Extension Department in Gazipur jointly organised the programme.

Gazipur District Commissioner Kamal Uddin Talukdar chaired the event.

Advocate AKM Mozammel Huq MP, Meher Afroz Chumki MP, Chief Conservator of Forest Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Agricultural Extension Department official Abdul Wali Khan were present at the programme.

Health clinic held in Ctg

METRO DESK

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka organised a daylong health clinic at Apollo Info Centre in Chittagong recently, says a press release.

Dr AQM Reza, consultant of cardiology department, and Dr Abdullah al Mamun, consultant of internal medicine, provided health services to the patients. Later, a focused meeting was also held with community doctors of Chittagong. Dr Reza explained to the doctors the modern treatment Apollo Heart Centre is providing for the patients of cardiac arrest, heart attack, heart failure, congenital defect and heart block. Dr Mamun also spoke.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Nazrul Haque, head of the department of Natural History, Bangladesh National

Museum, passed away yesterday due to cancer at the age of 56, says a press release.

He left behind his mother, wife, two sons and a horde of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Nazrul was the general secretary of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh.

He was the first scientist who studied critically endangered white-winged duck at Pabla Khali wildlife sanctuary to achieve an MPhil degree from Dhaka University.

Mussaddarul Huq

METRO DESK



Mussaddarul Huq, editor of the now-defunct daily Mazloom and weeklies Nayazamana and Dishary,

died of old-age complications on July 16, says a press release.

He was 92. He left behind his two sons, a daughter and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was the eldest brother of Editor of the daily Naya Diganat Alamgir Mohiuddin.



Former Indian president Abdul Kalam due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Dr Kalam will meet President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus during his stay here.

He will also visit the University of Dhaka and Viharunisa Noon School and College.

Official sources said on his arrival in the afternoon, the former Indian president would first visit Grameen Bank headquarters at Mirpur and meet Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Sheikh Hasina will host a dinner in honour of Dr Kalam who was the 11th president of India from July 25, 2002 to July 25, 2007.

The distinguished guest will visit Viharunisa Noon School and College tomorrow morning, and interact with the students and faculty members there.

He will be presented with a crest of the institution.

The former Indian president along with President Zillur Rahman will attend the first annual convocation of the University of Information Technology and Sciences at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 12:30pm.

The eminent scientist will visit Dhaka University the same afternoon, deliver a special lecture at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan on the campus at 4:00pm and exchange views with the students and faculty members.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique would chair the session.

A crest of the university would be presented to Dr Kalam.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star Debate Competition '09 pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium yesterday.

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