



Indian film actress Shabana Azmi looks at a painting after inaugurating a fortnightly art exhibition of artist Shahabuddin at Bengal Gallery in the city yesterday. On her right are artist Shahabuddin and Finance Minister AMA Muhith. The exhibition will remain open to all from 12:00pm to 8:00pm daily.

Number of heart patients on the rise

Minister assures surgical, intensive care services in public hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque at a seminar yesterday said the government would extend facilities of surgical and intensive care services for the patients of heart diseases at all public medical college hospitals.

Even it would ensure services at all the district-level hospitals through establishing coronary care units and other services as the number of the patients with heart ailments is on the rise, he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very keen to extend those facilities, the minister added.

Ruhul said this at the seminar organised by Bangladesh National Heart Foundation (BNHF) in the city NHFB President Justice Chowdhury ATM Masud chaired the seminar to mark the World Heart Day with the slogan 'Work with heart'.

He stressed the need for public-private partnership (PPP) in this regard as the overall treatment cost for the disease is often beyond the reach of the poor.

BNHF also took out a procession from in front of the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at 9:00am which ended at National Heart Foundation Hospital.

Representative of World Health Organisation Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol, NHFB Secretary General National Prof Brig (ret'd) Abdul Malik and Vice President Prof RK Khondoker also spoke.

The experts said some 1.72 crore people die every year across the world due to heart diseases and 80 percent of these immature

deaths occur in developing countries like Bangladesh.

They stressed the need for healthy working environment to keep their hearts sound.

They explained that healthy working environment has four advantages. It saves life, keeps the employees healthy, strengthens social bond and brings economic advantages by reducing treatment cost and absenteeism.

At the same time, it is important to take adequate fruits and vegetables, take exercise, control weight as well as to avoid smoking, they added.

According to the experts, tobacco use, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet leads to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high blood sugar and obesity which are the main risk factors of heart diseases and strokes.

Different organisations chalked out a number of programmes, including rally and discussion, to mark the day as elsewhere across the globe.

Bangladesh Cardiac Society brought out a procession with Baul songs highlighting heart disease prevention messages from in front of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Bangladesh Society of Geriatric Cardiology organised a rally in Comilla in association with its partner organisations.

Our Khulna correspondent adds: Khulna unit of Heart Foundation, Bangladesh took out a colourful procession where Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque took part.

Bangladesh Army replaces contingents in Ivory Coast

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Army is going to replace its contingent to United Nations Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) - UNOCI.

As part of this replacement a 170-member team of 4 contingents led by Lieutenant Colonel Sheikh Pasa Habib left Dhaka for Ivory Coast by a UN chartered plane on Saturday, says an ISPR press release.

A total of 1894 Army personnel of 7 contingents will be replaced in Ivory Coast.

Along with the Army team, a 10-member combined Military-Media team left Dhaka by the same aircraft led by Brigadier General GM Kamrul Islam to see the activities of Bangladesh Contingent in Ivory Coast.

Remaining members of the contingent will leave Bangladesh for Ivory Coast by 26 October in phases.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been working in Ivory Coast since 2004.

Bangladesh Contingent achieved confidence of Ivory Coast government as well as general people by discharging their duties with efficiency, professionalism and sincerity.

UK defence studies team in city

UNB, Dhaka

A 13-member team of the UK Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), led by Maj Gen Sebastian Roberts, arrived in the city yesterday on a week-long visit, says a British High Commission release.

The aim of the visit is to examine, at first hand and from a strategic perspective, the current position and future prospects for the preservation and enhancement of the stability, security and prosperity of the regions in general, and Bangladesh in particular.

RCDS membership comprises military officers, civil servants, diplomats, police officers and representatives from the private sector from a wide variety of nations and cultures.

All members are of colonel, brigadier or equivalent levels, and selected to attend the course on the basis of their potential to progress to high office, the release added.

During the tour, they would call on the president, chief of army staff and principal staff officer of Armed Forces Division (AFD).

They would visit National Defence College and hold discussions on the contemporary international issues. As part of the tour, the team will also visit Chittagong.

Lt Col Phillip Spicer, defence adviser at British High Commission in Dhaka, said: "The defence and security cooperation between the UK and Bangladesh has always been warm and intense."

This visit is important, as it would facilitate the team to examine the main factors affecting stability, security and prosperity, and opportunities for greater international and regional cooperation, he added.

Phillip said, "It would also provide a platform for explaining the UK's foreign policy objectives... to increase stability, security and prosperity."

Work on Karnaphuli Container Terminal to begin soon

UNB, Chittagong

The work on Karnaphuli Container Terminal (KCT) with a capacity of handling additional six lakh TEU (twenty equivalent unit) containers annually is likely to be started soon.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) would construct the new terminal, involving Tk 820 crore from its own fund. CPA has already sent the final proposal and design of the terminal to the shipping ministry for approval.

It would be the third container terminal of the port after Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) and New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT).

Port sources said the work of the container terminal is likely to be completed by 2013 if the government approves it finally.

KCT would be constructed on the land of the three cargo handling jetties which were constructed in 1950 but the importance of those jetties has been diminishing nowadays, they added.

Port officials said the annual container

handling of the port would reach to 30 lakh TEUs from 25 lakh if the new terminal is constructed.

Secretary of Chittagong Port Syed M Farhaduddin said CPA sent a project concept paper (PCP) for constructing the container terminal to the shipping ministry when the alliance government was in power. Later, a development project paper (DPP) was sent to the ministry in March 2007.

As CPA received green signal from the government about the project, they have been working for it, he mentioned.

He further said the finance ministry has recently issued liquidity certificate for the project and approved employment of necessary manpower against 28 posts under the project.

Port Chairman Commodore RU Ahmed said Chittagong port would reach to a new height in terms of capacity if the new terminal is constructed.

"We are expecting to begin the work soon," he said.



62nd birth anniversary of Hasina today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 62nd birth anniversary of Prime Minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina.

AL has chalked out different programmes to celebrate the day across the country as well as in the United States. The AL chief is now in New York to attend the ongoing United Nations General Assembly.

In New York, the party's central working committee will present Hasina bouquets seeking her good health and long life.

AL will organise milad mahfil and special munajat at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Asr prayers. Dhaka city unit AL will also organise a milad mahfil at the party's central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue after Asr prayers and distribute food among the destitute.

Jubo League will hold a discussion at Engineer's Institution at 11:00am to mark the day where acting party president Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest, while AL presidium members and senior leaders will take part.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born at Tungipara in Gopalganj on this day in 1947.

She was elected president of AL at a council session of the party in February 1981 while she was in exile. She returned home on May 17, 1981.

Hasina led AL to power and became the prime minister in June 1996, two decades after Bangabandhu along with other family members and relatives was assassinated in August 1975. She became the premier again after winning the December 29 parliamentary elections.

The AL chief escaped an assassination attempt on her on August 21 in 2004 when a rally of her party came under grenade attacks in the city that left 24 leaders and activists dead.

AL General Secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam called on the party leaders and activists and all well-wishers to observe the day.

Govt firm to end trial of all political killings: Sajeda

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Leader of the House and acting President of Bangladesh Awami League Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday said the government is committed to end the trial of all political killings.

He said as per public expectations, the government is working on bringing an end to trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and others who lost lives in various democratic and anti-autocratic movements.

She made the comments to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of Shaheed Moizuddin in the Banani graveyard on the 25th anniversary of his killing.

Sajeda Chowdhury said Shaheed Moizuddin was a dedicated Awami League leader and very much affectionate to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib. He always worked for the welfare of the people.

She said people would always remember him for his contribution to the country's democratic movements. She prayed for the peace of his departed soul.

Moizuddin's daughter Meher Afroze Chumki MP, Zahid Ahsan Russel MP, AKM Muzammel Haque MP and mayor of Tongi municipality Azmatullah were present on the occasion.



People in their thousands yesterday make their way on foot from Sadarghat Launch Terminal after they returned to the city following the Eid vacation as there was thin movement of vehicles.

CHT development project extended for four years

UNB, Dhaka

The government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have decided to extend the CHT development project for the next four years.

The two sides decided to extend the 'Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts' scheme until September 2013, based on the positive impacts of the current phase of the project which ends in September 2009, an official announcement said yesterday.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary M Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Acting Secretary of the CHT Affairs Ministry Masud Ahmed and UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner signed the agreement yesterday on behalf of their respective sides.

The activities of the project, which include community empowerment, institutional capacity building, health, education, economic development and confidence building, are now underway in 16 out of 25 CHT upazilas, benefiting more than 500,000 indigenous people

and Bangladesh in often remote locations.

"The extension of the project will raise the total budget of the project from \$50 million (approximately Tk 300 crore) to \$160.5 million (approximately Tk 1100 crore), thus providing international development assistance of significant scale to the CHT in order to build confidence among the people and institutions of the CHT to promote long-term peace," it said.

In addition to UNDP's own resources, funds for this purpose have been made available by the European Commission, Canada (CIDA), Denmark (DANIDA), the USA (USAID), Norway, Australia (AusAID) and Japan.

"UNDP is pleased to continue this successful multi-sectoral project to support the process of peace building that emanated from the signing of the Peace Accord. This will be done through the immediate provision of multiple services to the peoples of CHT, whilst building the basis for long-term sustainable development in the region," said the UNDP Country Director.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts

region is home to 11 distinctive indigenous groups and ethnic Bangladeshes.

According to sources, 25 years of protracted conflict has left many of its 1.5 million people in conditions of extreme poverty and the region is in need of economic and social regeneration.

The signing of the Peace Accord in December 1997 raised high expectations, not only within the CHT but across Bangladesh and internationally, that it would serve as the cornerstone of a successful peace-building process and as a means for opening up new opportunities for development.

To support this peace and development process, UNDP launched its development project in 2003, working in close partnership with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Hill District Councils, Circle Chiefs, CHT Development Board, Upazila Parishads, Union Parishads, village organisations (Para Development Committees), and local Partner NGOs.



Bangladesh Cardiac Society takes out a procession from in front of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday on the occasion of World Heart Day.

Killing of Sutopa condemned

DU CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari (KN) yesterday condemned the killing of Mafruda Huq Sutopa, a master's examinee of mass communication and journalism department at Dhaka University.

In a joint statement, KN General Secretary Sharmin Kabir and Executive Director Rokeya Rafiq said violence against women is increasing alarmingly.

They called upon all to be united to eliminate violence against women and demanded punishment to the culprits responsible.

Call to make info commission effective

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campaign on Citizen's Right to Information (CCRI), a non-government organisation, yesterday demanded the government take necessary steps to make Information Commission effective.

It also urged the government to formulate regulations in a bid to implement Right to Information (RTI) Law properly, says a press release.

CCRI placed the demand on the occasion of the International Right to Information Day today.

This year Bangladesh will observe the day on different perspectives as the ruling Awami League government has passed the RTI law.

The government formed Information Commission in line with the RTI law, though it is working on a limited scale, it mentioned.

Md Azizur Rahman was appointed as the chief information commissioner of the Information Commission.

CCRI said the commission cannot perform its task in full scale due to lack of manpower, budget and infrastructure.

The government, therefore, needs to take proper steps to make the Information Commission effective," it added.