

Alphabet Fair today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong 'Borno mela' (Alphabet Fair) will be held at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city today on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

Leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo organises the fair with colourful programmes for people of all ages. The fair beginning at 8:00am would remain open for all until 5:00pm.

As part of the fair, an exhibition of alphabets will be held. Designs of the alphabets were invited from school students for the exhibition, and the organisers received a huge response.

Out of about 1,000 entries, 100 designs selected by a panel of judges will be put on display. The winners will also be awarded.

Noted artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Abul Barak Alvi, Abdul Mannan and Shishir Bhattacharya acted as the judges. Qayyum Chowdhury said, "The alphabets made out of different materials with the touch of creativity of the children have impressed me greatly."

Besides alphabet exhibition, painting and handwriting competition will also be held. The competitions have been divided into two groups. In the primary group, students from nursery to class five will participate in the contest. In the secondary group, there will be students from class six to ten.

The 30-minute handwriting competition will start at 9:00am and the one-hour painting competition at 10:00am.

The contestants would have to register at least 30 minutes before the competition.

The programmes also included puppet show, mime show, kite flying, and language and alphabet-based songs and poetry recitation.

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Surer Dhara, Kanak Chandra and artists of Jagoron Sangskritik Charcha Kendro would render songs.



Judges of the 'Alphabet Design' competition select the winning entries to be displayed at the Alphabet Fair at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city today.

PHOTO: STAR

US experts start cardiac surgeries free of cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to helping develop expertise among local cardiac surgeons and technology transfer, a team of expert surgeons from the USA started conducting cardiac surgeries on the patients of congenital heart diseases free of cost yesterday.

The nine-member team will conduct around 25 to 30 critical surgeries on the patients of congenital heart diseases till March 3 at National Institute of Cardio-vascular Diseases (NICVD) and Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Furthermore, they will provide training to the local surgeons, said the experts at a press briefing at NICVD auditorium in the city.

Society for Physicians for Peace (USA), NICVD and Bangladesh Medical Association jointly organised the programme.

Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Shah Monir Hossain presided over the session.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for treatment of the children's cardiac problems.

"This programme will help transfer technologies in treating the congenital heart diseases. At the same time, it will create more experts in this field."

Health experts said for every 20 cardiac cases, there is one paediatric cardiac case and the number of paediatric cardiac patients has been increasing day by day.

Every day, at least 15,000 paediatric cardiac patients seek treatment at NICVD and in 95 percent cases they need surgeries. Only five percent case, the disease can be cured through medicine, they said.

They also said that the paediatric cardiology and surgery is not flourishing in the country for lack of proper attention.

M Abidur Rahman, vascular surgeon, Kim F Duncan, paediatric cardiac surgeon, Joseph Deptula Elkhom, Tara L Yoesch RN, nurse for critical care, Angela M Musserich and Jayesh Thakker are among the expert team.

NICVD Director Abul Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Ehsanul Kabir of BMA, Prof Khaza N Mahmood, head of the department of Cardiac Surgery of NICVD, and Dr Abdul Quader were also present.

Make parliamentary democracy effective

Speakers urge lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday said the lawmakers have to play responsible role in order to make parliamentary democracy effective in the country.

They have to remain present at the parliament session regularly to speak on behalf of the people and they should not interfere in the functions of the local government, they said.

They proposed to make a law for canceling the membership of parliament members for remaining absent at the

parliament session for 30 days altogether instead of existing 90 days.

They were speaking at a roundtable titled "Effective parliament and role of parliament members" organised by Parliamentary Democratic Parishad (PDP) at Tropikana Tower in the city.

General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim, former state minister for foreign affairs

Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Barrister Omar Faruk and Advocate Delwar Hossain

spoke at the roundtable with PDP President Mohammad Salim in the chair.

Mujahidul Islam Selim said decentralisation of the administration has to be ensured for equal distribution of wealth and to establish democracy.

He said 'anarchic' discussions are taking place during the parliament session instead of constructive discussion.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury said parliament members mainly speak at the parliament with a view to satisfying their party leaders.

Four killed as bus hits autorickshaw in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Four people, including a woman, were killed and one person was injured when a bus hit an autorickshaw at Chhotokumira in Sitakunda yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Nila Begum, 31, and Selim, 36, of Bashbaria village while the identity of two others could not be known.

Police and Fire Service sources said the Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka hit the autorickshaw from behind at about 2:00pm, leaving Nila and Selim dead on the spot.

Two others died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Hearing the death news, agitated people vandalised the bus. The driver, however, managed to escape.

Day-care unit for cancer patients opens at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-bed day-care unit has been set up under the Radiotherapy Department at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) to facilitate the treatment of cancer patients who come to hospital to receive chemotherapy.

Director of the hospital Brig Gen Dr Shahidul Haque Malik formally launched the day-care unit on the radiotherapy complex yesterday.

"The unit will reduce suffering of the patients and at the same time it will reduce internal load of the hospital," he said.

Patients will not be charged

for the seats at the day-care unit.

From now on, a cancer patient does not need to be admitted to the hospital for receiving chemotherapy, said Dr Shahidul.

An estimated 12 lakh people are suffering from cancer in the country and two lakh people are being affected by cancer a year. Almost all the patients need to take chemotherapy and radiotherapy to control the cancerous cells.

DMCH Principal Prof Dr Kazi Deen Mohammad, Vice Principal Prof Dr Ismail Khan, Dr Hafizur Rahman Ansari and Dr Rakib Uddin Ahmed were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Documentary on Dr Ibrahim premieres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of Birdem Hospital, was a social worker and he did what he believed was right. He is a source of inspiration for many.

Former chief justice Mostafa Kemal said this yesterday while speaking as the chief guest at the premiere show of a documentary film on Dr Ibrahim at the auditorium of the National Museum in the city.

The 56-minute documentary titled 'Visionary and Missionary National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim' was made by Mahbulul Alam Taru. It focused on the works and contribution of the great man.

"Since my childhood, I have seen him as a social activist. He was very religious," Justice Mostafa Kemal said, adding that this documentary will encourage others to follow the ideology of Dr Ibrahim.

Speaking as the special guest, Prof MR Khan said, "It is Dr Mohammad Ibrahim who inspired me to establish an organisation like the Institute of Child Health."

He was very active and he did what he believed in. The Birdem is his dream child, said Dr AK Azad Khan, president of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

Mahbulul Alam Taru and AKM Arifur Rahman of Laser Vision also spoke.

The documentary will be shown at all the diabetic centres in 56 districts.

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Deputy Managing Editor

The Daily Star, the English national daily with the highest circulation in the country, is going to appoint a DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR. Ideal candidate must be an MBA or Masters in Management/Human Resource or equivalent degree holder in Economics or Commerce with outstanding leadership qualities and proven track record of achievements to lead a highly motivated and talented team to raise revenue and circulation. She/He must also create new products to capture hitherto untapped markets. She/He must possess high-level management experience. Applicants must have minimum 10 years practical experience with any reputed national or international organization to qualify for the post. Highly active, dynamic candidates with innovative, creative minds and familiar with modern IT based management system would be given preference. Attractive pay package with 24-hour office car will be provided to the selected candidate. Applicants with above qualities are requested to apply along with complete bio-data and a passport size photograph to reach the following address by 7 March, 2010. Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

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Envelopes must be marked "Application for Deputy Managing Editor" at the top.

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