

## Probarona Purnima observed

BSS, Dhaka

Shubho Probarona Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhist community, was celebrated across the country yesterday with traditional religious festivity and due solemnity.

Also known as Ashwini Purnima, the festival marks conclusion of the three-month long seclusion of the monks inside their monasteries for self-education and atonement of their defilement.

The festival follows a month-long preaching of sermons by the Buddhist monks for the welfare of every beings and whole humankind through yellow robes offering ceremony that begins today.

The day also celebrates another event in the life of Buddha.

According to legend, Buddha once clipped some strands of hair from his head and said that if he was qualified to attain supreme wisdom and enlightenment, the hairs would not fall down but go up instead, which they did.

To mark this event, Buddhists ignited and send up balloons made of coloured paper to flow towards the sky as a symbol of lighting up the sky which is the chief attraction of the festival.

The main attraction of the day's programmes was releasing of lighted balloons in the sky soon after the sunset simultaneously from all monasteries.



Buddhists ignite and send up 'fanush' (balloons) made of coloured paper to flow as a symbol of lighting up the sky at Nandonkanon Buddha Bihar, Chittagong yesterday during Probarona Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhist community.

PHOTO: STAR

## 4 BNP men hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Four BNP activists were injured as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League men allegedly beat them up in Mirzaganj upazila of the district yesterday. The attackers also ransacked a shop of a BNP activist at Bhayan Bazar and a bus counter at Khalishakhali Bazar.

Injured Naushad, 25, Badsha Khan, 30, Abdul Hakim, 22 and Abdur Rashid, 36, of the upazila were admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital.

Locals said around 50 activists of BCL and Jubo League on motor-cycles led by Sohel, secretary of upazila unit Jubo League, came to Bhayan Bazar around 12 noon in search of some local BNP activists including Mokbul. They ransacked the shop owned by Naushad, a BNP activist, and beat others as they tried to resist the attack.

On their way back, they ransacked the local bus counter owned by Bashir Ahmed, organising secretary of upazila unit BNP, and beat up Rashid at Kakrabunia Bazar.

## Al-Gore's messenger offers documentary on climate change

UNB, Dhaka

Lance Simmens, climate messenger of former US vice-president Al-Gore, offered to produce a documentary, depicting the real plight of Bangladesh due to the adverse impacts of climate change and mobilise public opinion for the country.

Simmens, now a cabinet member at the Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania, gave the offer during a meeting with Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Akramul Qader on Wednesday, according to Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

Appreciating on-going activities of the Bangladesh government to meet the challenges, Simmens offered to work for the cause of climate issue of Bangladesh to sensitise the global community.

He said ignorance is prevailing in the USA and elsewhere about the magnitude of the climate challenge impact in general and Bangladesh's vulnerability in particular.

A documentary on Bangladesh will ultimately depict the real effect on the plight of Bangladesh due to climatic conditions, he added.

Simmens said Bangladesh could get tremendous mileage by making such a documentary available among the media houses and entertainment community, particularly in USA, where he has easy access due to his long association.

The ambassador assured that he would take up the issue with the concerned authorities in Bangladesh. The ambassador gladly accepted his offer and assured of organising such an event soon in which US officials, academics, civil society members and other stakeholders will be invited.

Simmens is currently the special assistant to the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania for Inter-Governmental Affairs. The ambassador apprised Simmens and members of his delegation about the vulnerability of Bangladesh while touching on various measures taken by the present government to address the challenges.

Qader said Bangladesh has identified the climate issue as one of its priorities to deal with, nationally, regionally and internationally. Given the track record to fight climate menace with her own resources, he said Bangladesh desires to establish an International Climate Adaptation Centre in Dhaka, dedicated to climate change adaptation research and modeling.

## Provide latest, correct information in time

### Planning minister directs BBS

UNB, Dhaka

Planning Minister AK Khandker yesterday asked officials and employees of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) to act with more responsibility in releasing data and information in time.

He said, "Latest and correct statistics is indispensable for formulating development plans."

It is expected that the agencies involved in collecting data will present accurate statistics before the nation where the bureau has a great role to play."

The planning minister was addressing as the chief guest at an inaugural session of a day-long seminar titled "Statistics for all" at the auditorium of the East West University in the city in observance of the World Statistics Day.

The day was observed in the country on Wednesday as elsewhere in the world.

Statistics Division Secretary Riti Ibrahim was the special guest at the seminar, organised jointly by Bangladesh Statistical Association (BSA) and East West University.

Urging to avoid duplication in data collection and dissemination, Khandker emphasised using information technology for sharing information.

He also called for making statistics education system in the country modern, functional and IT-based, with a special role to be played by the statistics departments of the universities.

Khandker informed that the process is

underway to increase the manpower of BBS as well as bring modifications, to strengthen the bureau.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, also president of the Board of Trustees of East West University, alleged that BBS lacks credibility.

He quoted a BBS survey that says there are only 3.3 million jobless people in the country. "This is not acceptable," he said.

Farashuddin said BBS included individuals who worked at least one hour a week to identify the working population.

"There is a need to clearly clarify the definition of any topic," he said.

Secretary Riti said the syllabus of the universities on statistics should be changed, giving more priority on practical statistics.

She informed that BBS would extend its cooperation if any university wished to share their studies, surveys or data.

Underscoring the importance of the next Housing and Population Census next March, Riti said digital mapping would be extensively used in the census to accomplish the task accurately.

Besides, the period of training for the enumerators has been extended to three days from the previous one day, she added.

Chaired by BSA President Prof M Nurul Islam, its Secretary General Abdur Rashid Sikder gave the welcome address while its Vice President Prof M Mujibur Rahman gave the vote of thanks.

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