

NEWS IN
brief

Children's drama festival begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day long 5th Children Theatre Festival 2011 and Child Protection Information Fair kicked off at Rabindra Sharobor in city's Dhanmondi yesterday.

Different children's theatre groups will stage a total of 18 dramas to protest child and gender based abuse, violence in workplace and child trafficking.

With a slogan to ensure children's protection at all levels, Ichchey Media Group and Child Protection Movement, supported by Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, organised the event.

Save the Children Country Director Birgit Lundbak inaugurated the programme, where it's Deputy Country Director Shamsul Alam, Adviser Obaidur Rahman and World Vision Associate Director Mrigen Hagidok also spoke.

Teacher suspended for stalking

UNB, Bagerhat

A high schoolteacher was suspended on charge of stalking his female student at Sabukhali village in Chitalmari upazila on Thursday.

The teacher was identified as Sanjoy Kumar Singha, 35, a mathematics teacher of Sabukhali High School.

Subodh Kumar Mondal, headmaster of the School, yesterday told the news agency that the girl, a class X student, in a written complaint to the authorities said that Sanjoy has been stalking her since long.

The teacher also sent a love letter to her on January 3.

The victim lodged a written complaint to the school authorities in this connection.

Shoe factory gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted one room of a small shoe factory at Islambagh of the city's Lalbagh yesterday.

No one was reported injured in the fire that originated from an electric short circuit on the 2nd floor of the six-storey building, according to fire brigade sources.

Four units of fire fighters doused the blaze after more than half-hour. The building housed three small shoe factories with eight families residing in it.

12 'Yaba peddlers' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in four drives have arrested 12 alleged drug peddlers and seized 516 Yaba tablets in the city.

Seven peddlers were held with 326 Yaba tablets, about Tk 2.5 lakh, a private car, and a motorbike in two separate drives at Khilgaon and Shahbagh on Tuesday and Wednesday night.

Rab-3 also arrested five others with 180 Yaba tablets at Khilgaon and Malibagh in two drives yesterday.

Brac Bank raises fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Bank employees realised about Tk 9 lakh in a fund-raising marathon and walkathon event in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Some 1,200 employees participated in the event titled "BRAC Bank DAUR-Kallayaner Pathachala" inaugurated by Roquibul Hasan, ex-captain of national cricket team.

The DAUR (running) started from Manik Miah Avenue at 7:00am. It was followed by a walkathon from Manik Miah Avenue through Rokeya Shoroni, Agargaon, Mirpur Road Shishu Mela, Asad Gate, to Khamar Bari.

Brac Bank doubled the realised amount from its CSR fund. Half the cash was donated to non-profit organisation Diganta Memorial Cancer Foundation that helps children and adults with cancer.

The other half will be spent to distribute blankets and winter clothes among less-advantaged people in North Bengal through the Brac Bank's extensive SME network.



Artiste Mustafa Jaman Abbasi, centre, inaugurates the eighth outlet of KFC at Laxmi Bazar in Old Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

KFC reaches Old Dhaka people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international franchise, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), yesterday launched its 8th outlet at Laxmi Bazar promising the Old Dhaka people a rhythm of traditions and tantalise taste buds with its secret recipes.

Akku Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Foods Ltd, formally inaugurated the outlet.

"We are overwhelmed to open our new outlet here and celebrate that heritage despite facing several problems to expand our business", Akku said.

He added that KFC keeps its commitment of contributing to the nation by creating new job opportunities and to the government's earning from revenue.

Singer Topu said Old Dhaka is always known for its tasty foods; KFC will add up to that tradition.

Actress Moonmoon said, "KFC is preferred all over the world for its unique taste and freshness. We are happy that Old Dhaka traditions is going to merge with it." She requested Akku to open an outlet at Uttara.

Celebrities Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Sharmin Lucky, Farhana Mili, and Deepa Kandkar were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

Two commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people allegedly committed suicide at in city's Kafrul and Jatrabari area yesterday.

Ruma Akhter, 16, resident of a slum at Mirpu 14 and a garment factory worker at Kafrul, allegedly took poison around 8:00am and died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 11:00am.

Abdur Rahim Sagor, 30, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself yesterday at road no 12/1 in Koratitola of the city's Jatrabari.

Tk 25CR BIWTA FUND EMBEZZLEMENT Fugitive officer held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel last night arrested fugitive BIWTA assistant accounts officer SM Abdus Salam on charges of embezzling around Tk 25 crore from BIWTA's contributory provident fund (CPF) from the city.

Rab's Intelligence Wing Director Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan told The Daily Star that they arrested Salam, already suspended from service, from a travel agency office at city's Topkhana Road.

Salam allegedly siphoned off the amount by issuing cheques with forged signatures of concerned officials and went into hiding after the scam came to light in November last year.

Around Tk 8.75 crore is to be deposited a year in CPF as BIWTA's contribution towards provident funds to about 4,500 employees. However, part of it was siphoned off annually for the last few years, the source said.

A case was filed with Motijheel Police Station in this regard and later was transferred to Anti-corruption Commission.

According to sources, suspended class-II officer Salam of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) owns a travel agency named AR Plus, a garment factory named Wears Universe, an automatic rice mill in Sirajganj, a six-storied building, a sports utility vehicle and several bighas of land in Savar.

POURA POLLS Seven AL, BNP men expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League and BNP expelled seven local leaders on Thursday, with many more facing similar punishment for running in the upcoming municipal polls against the parties' nominated candidates in 11 municipalities.

The expelled leaders include three from AL and the four others from BNP.

The expelled AL leaders are Hariar UP Chairman Monir Uddin, poura Jubo League vice president Abbas Ali, and Taherpur poura AL general secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

District BNP leader Zahedur Rahman Iqbal, Charghat Poura Mayor Zakirul Islam Bikul, Saidur Rahman Mintu of Durgapur, and Tozammel Haq of Arani are expelled from party.

Police assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKM Shahidul Hoque, additional inspector general of police (admin), and Md Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of detective branch (DC-DB, South), were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Police Service Association on Thursday.

Vice-Presidents are Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Chief Additional IGP Mokhlesur Rahman, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed and Dhaka Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Asaduzzaman Miah.



Poush Mela Udjapon Committee inaugurates a Pitha and cultural fair at Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Education system now much better: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Finance Minister AMA Muhith here yesterday said the education system is now much better and improved.

We should build the new generation the right way so they can cope with the competitive and technology-based world, he said. The new education policy will help us to keep pace with the modern era, he added.

Education should aim to teach people morality and humanity, said Muhith while addressing the Golden Jubilee function of Bluebird School & College in Sylhet city.

As the chief guest, the minister later inaugurated the festival releasing pigeons. He also unveiled the souvenir "Suborney, Nil Uran".

Deputy Commissioner Abu Syed Mohammad Hashim, also the school committee chairman; former principals Sajeda Khanom Chowdhury and Rabeya Khan Ahmed; Acting Principal Begum Sultana; and Abdul Karim Kim, member secretary of golden jubilee committee; also spoke.

Afzal Rashid Chowdhury, convener of the golden jubilee committee, chaired the programme.

Today, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will attend the closing ceremony as the chief guest.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain

Project Employees Welfare Association, Bangladesh will form a human chain. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will hold a meeting. Venue: Dhaka Club, Time: 1:30pm.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Academy will organise a discussion. Venue: DRU, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Arthaniti Samity will arrange a seminar. Venue: 4/C, Eskatan Garden Road, Time: 3:30pm.

Conference

A special conference on urbanisation, traffic jam and environment will be held. Venue: BIM, Mirpur Road, Sobhanbagh, Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Sujan will form a human chain. Venue: Manik Mia Avenue, Time: 10:30am.

Observance

National Immunisation Day will be observed. Venue: Japan Bangladesh Friendship hospital, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

Bangabandhu Adarsha Mullan and Gabeshana Sangsad will hold a meeting. Venue: Diploma Engineers Auditorium, Kakrail, Time: 10:00am.

INSECURITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

Islam is solution Says UK university research

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many young people of today's world see Islam as an answer to insecurity in relationships, found a study.

The study, conducted on 135 young Bangladeshis who accepted a strong Islamic identity, revealed that those whose spouses are seriously involved in Islamic practices feel more secure about their relationships.

The research was conducted by Body, Health and Religion Research Group (BAHAR), a network of researchers at Cardiff University in Wales, UK.

It was revealed at a workshop held at the Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities in Dhaka University (DU), jointly organised by DU, Cardiff University and Economic and Social Research Council.

Young Muslim women are now concerned on finding a dependable husband in an uncertain modern world, said Dr Santi Rozario of Cardiff University.

They believe husbands who try to emulate practices of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) are less likely to take part in extra marital affairs, said Dr Rozario, who is also the Principal Researcher of the study.

"In other words, it seems like Islam is providing these girls with security in a world filled with uncertainties," said Prof Firdous Azim of Brac University.

Away from traditional arranged marriages and western-style dating and romantic love marriages, Islamic commitments also provide a third option for marriages, the research suggested.

Bangladeshis, 96 in Bangladesh and 39 in UK, both married and unmarried, were interviewed for the study.

The Daily Star **Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus**

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Sayedpur, Satkhira, Jessore and Kushtia, Srimongal, Sitakunda and Comilla and it may continue, Met Office said.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi, and Rangpur divisions and regions of Tangail and Mymensingh. Light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:27pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 27 degrees Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and lowest 07.0 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.6	13.2	84	69
Chittagong	24.4	13.1	72	58
Rajshahi	20.8	08.8	96	80
Rangpur	21.4	10.4	97	85
Khulna	24.0	11.0	80	76
Barisal	24.6	10.4	94	85

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