

NEWS IN *brief*

DU to observe 117th birthday of Satyan Bose

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University (DU) will observe the 117th birth anniversary of internationally renowned scientist and former teacher of DU Prof. Satyan Bose.

The decision was taken at a DU meeting with its Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair yesterday.

Science Faculty Dean Yusuf Ali Molla, Social Science Faculty Dean Farid Uddin Ahmed, Bose Centre for Advanced Study and Research in Natural Sciences Director Shamima Chowdhury also attended the meeting.

RCC, BMDF sign MoU for dev works

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF) is providing a grant of Tk 18.56 crore for various development works at all the 30 wards of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC).

RCC Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and BMDF Managing Director KM Nurul Huda signed a memorandum of understanding in Dhaka in this regard yesterday, says a press release.

Out of the grant Tk 15 crore will be spent at 30 wards ensuring Tk 50 lakh for each ward.

The RCC identified 12 wards out of 30 as less developed and the rest Tk 3.56 crore will be spent for development of those wards.

NDC team visits defence ministry

METRO DESK

A 61-member National Defence Course-2011 delegation led by Commandant of National Defence College (NDC) Major General AKM Muzahid Uddin visited ministry of defence at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, in the city yesterday, says a ISPR press release.

Defence secretary exchanged greetings and gave a welcome address to them. At that time Research Officer of Defence Ministry Major Junaed Ahmed informed NDC delegation about organogram, role, function and ongoing projects of defence ministry. Later, the defence secretary answered different questions of delegation members.

Bangladeshi company to invest \$1.22m in Uttara EPZ

BSS, Dhaka

M/s SA international, a Bangladeshi Company, will set up a Sweater Manufacturing Industry in Uttara Export Processing Zone.

Fully Bangladeshi owned company will invest US\$ 1.22 million in setting up their unit to produce sweater items. The company will also create employment opportunity for 525 persons including two foreign nationals.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and M/s SA International in BEPZA Complex, Dhaka yesterday.

MoU signed between DU and S Korean varsity

UNB, Dhaka

The University of Dhaka and Far East University of South Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promoting educational, scientific and cultural exchange between the two institutions.

DU Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and President of Far East University Kee Il Lyu signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions at DU yesterday.

The objectives of the MoU are to explore opportunities for joint collaborative educational and cultural programs, exchange of scientific materials, publications and information and develop student and faculty exchange programs.

BNP leaders and activists set afire the bus in front of the party's central headquarters at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday, after holding a rally in protest of a case filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia over the Munshiganj clash that left one policeman dead and scores of people injured on Monday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



University student killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A university student was killed and 15 other people were injured as a bus overturned on Jessore-Chougachha road yesterday afternoon.

Samir Debnath, 20, son of Dharendra Debnath and a student of microbiology department of Jessore Science and Technology University died on the spot. The injured, four of them also students of the same university, were taken to Jessore 250-bed hospital.

On information, the university Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sattar along with teachers and students rushed to the spot.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik's death anniversary tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tomorrow is the third death anniversary of Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, a former general secretary of Gono Forum, says a press release.

To mark the day, Gono Forum has taken initiative to hold two-day long programmes from today including memorial meeting, placing floral wreaths at his grave and milad mahfil at the party office.

Patua Quamrul's 23rd anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of world famous painter Patua Quamrul Hassan.

Students and teachers of Patua Quamrul Hassan Art School will place wreath at his graveyard on Dhaka University's central mosque premises today, says a press release.

Quamrul Hassan designed the National Flag of Bangladesh and made outstanding contribution to the development of folk art. Together with Zainul Abedin, he had established the Government Institute of Fine Arts (presently, the Faculty of Fine Arts) in 1948.

Hassan died on February 2, 1988 after suffering a massive heart attack while attending the National Poetry Festival. He was buried beside the DU central mosque.

Quamrul was born in Kolkata in 1921. He graduated in Fine Arts in 1947. After the partition of India, he came to Dhaka.

EKUSHEY BOI MELA OPENS

PM for creative books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the writers and publishers to come up in this year's book fair with creative and readers-friendly books with a particular attention that the new generation learns the right history of the country.

She also urged the young generation to make the habit of reading, buying, and presenting books. The premier was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2011 yesterday.

"Read more books to know thyself, the country, and the world." Every achievement of the country including the freedom and the right of mother tongue have been attained at the price of huge sacrifices, she added.

"We got independence of the country and its language in sacrifice of bloods. We will have to protect the both." Salam, Barkat, Rafique, Shafique, Jabbar, and many more have established the dignity

of the mother tongue through supreme sacrifice, she said.

And it was Awami League that declared February 21 as Language Martyrs' Day in 1956 when the party assumed office, said Hasina.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury chaired the inaugural session while Nobel Economics laureate Amartya Sen attended the event as the guest of honour.

"The country people should always remember those who have dedicated their lives in the language movement, as Bangladeshis hold spirit for their mother tongue," he said.

Sen said he feels proud and gets choked hearing the national anthem of Bangladesh. He said unity, harmony, parity, rightness, and secularism have been going on in parallel with Bangla language.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promad Mankin, and Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan

also addressed the event attended by a number of noted academicians, intellectuals, and ministers.

Bangla Academy has been organising the annual book fair since 1984 to commemorate the martyrs of Language Movement, 1952.

After declaring the fair open, Hasina visited several bookstalls and inaugurated the Jatiya Lekhak and Sahitya Museum at the historic Burdwan House in the academy complex.

The theme of this year's fair is Rabindranath Tagore, marking the great poet's 150th birth anniversary.

A number of foreign writers and publishers have been invited to this year's fair. The venue will accommodate 376 publishers this year, which is divided into 556 units of stalls.

The fair opens at 3:00pm and closes at 9:00pm every day. On holidays, the schedule is 11:00am to 9:00pm. The fair will open 8:00am and continue till 10:00pm on February 21, the International Mother Language Day.



People in queues are kept waiting for entry into Bangla Academy premises until Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived there to inaugurate Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2011 in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cut sufferings of litigants Urges president

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has emphasised the need for quick disposal of thousands of cases lying pending in the court system to alleviate the sufferings of the litigants.

"It's urgently needed to ensure that the people get justice in the shortest span of time," the president said when eight additional judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegation comprises Justice M Ruhul Kuddus, Justice M Khairuzzaman, Justice Farid Ahmed, Justice M Nazrul Islam

Talukder, Justice Bhabani Prosad Sinha, Justice Anwarul Haque, Justice M Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Justice M Ashraf Kamal.

During the meeting, Zillur Rahman said the role of the judges is very important in upholding the fundamental rights of the people in a democratic country.

"It is equally important to ensure that innocents are not punished while culprits are set free," he told the judges.

The judges apprised the president of various deficiencies of opportunities they are facing in carrying out their day-to-day activities.

'Only-boys-earn' attitude creates gender disparity Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The society's long-held view that boys alone will earn and assist family leads to discrimination between boys and girls, says a study of DemocracyWatch.

DemocracyWatch conducted the survey on 216 women and children living in three shantytowns in the capital.

Findings revealed that most of the girl children feel the families discount their opinions regarding their education, marriage, and earnings.

The survey outcomes were disclosed at the seminar room of the Press Institute of Bangladesh in the city yesterday.

The research investigated the changes in thinking pattern about girl child among the income-poor group, problems facing the girl children, and the nature of discrimination.

Though most of the mothers now think their girl child should go to school, a significant number of the girls cannot do that for looking after household chores at the absence of their mothers.

The interviewees also think that the first initiative to change society's stereotypical thought should come from the families.

At the same time, the girl child should be let go to schools and thus ensure their participation in different social activities.

DemocracyWatch chairperson Prof Latifa Akand was present as the chief guest at the vent. Arifa Sharmin of Unicef, Abdullah al Mamun of Manusher Jonno Foundation, and Mahin Sultan of Brac Development Institute also spoke as panelists.

Taherunnessa Abdullah, Dr ASM Atikur Rahman, and Executive Director of DemocracyWatch Taleya Rehman also attended the programme.



Food connoisseur and columnist Sitara Ferdous speaks at the Pitha Festival organised by State University of Bangladesh on its campus in the city Saturday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

WEATHER TODAY

Change in night temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather will remain dry over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:45pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39am.

Country's highest temperature 29.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 09.6 degrees at Rajshahi.

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	27.3	15.0	70	33
Chittagong	27.8	15.7	75	51
Rajshahi	26.5	09.6	94	56
Rangpur	25.2	11.3	95	60
Khulna	27.4	15.3	79	58
Barisal	28.5	14.0	92	67
Sylhet	27.6	13.6	80	54