

CU bids adieu to 1417

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students and teachers of the Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University (CU) bid farewell to Bangla Year 1417 yesterday with much festivities and amusement.

Participants in a colourful procession from the institute premises at Badsha Mian Road paraded different roads and ended up at Chittagong Press Club in the port city.

Some 300 students wearing masks joined the procession and danced in consonance with traditional music. CU Acting Vice-chancellor Prof Mohammad Alauddin led the parade.

Different artworks made by the students of the institute including effigies of elephant, horse, peacock, zebra, and deer accompanied the participants in the procession.



Students of Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University put on the finishing touches to a float for the Mongol Shovajatra procession, to be brought out in the city in the morning, to welcome Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla new year.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Muhith worried over population boom

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday expressed concern over the rising population in the country and felt for stepping up family planning programme to control the population and reduce the pressure on food production.

He said high quantum of food production and import indicates that the population has increased. "The family planning issue is very essential. Special responsibility can be given to women MPs in this regard."

The finance minister made the remarks at a seminar on 'State of the Bangladesh Economy FY11 and Challenges Ahead' at Hotel Sheraton organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Senior research fellow of the BIDS Dr Nazneen Ahmed presented keynote paper at the seminar.

Expressing concern over the price hike of essentials Muhith said, "To con-

trol the price of essentials is not an easy job, I feel it now. But we have to limit our target. Initiatives will have to be taken to provide for rice, flour, sugar and edible oil at fair price."

He agreed with the challenges ahead identified by the BIDS that include inflation, balance of payment and exchange rate, infrastructure and qualitative implementation of ADP implementation.

Responding to questions raised by the MPs present, Muhith said the government wants consultations for formulation of the budget, and the door of the finance minister would always remain open for receiving any recommendation. "It's not my own budget. It's the outcome of the thoughts of many people."

On recently held census, Muhith said the population would increase to a large extent. "But, there was a problem that the data collectors were not well-trained."

Presenting the paper, Dr Nazneen Ahmed said inflation, especially food inflation continues to be a big challenge

for the government and rising price of rice is a puzzle in the backdrop of good harvest.

She suggested imports in right time from right sources and qualitative and quantitative procurement by the government.

Nazneen said the national budget is an important planning document of the government and members of parliament have crucial roles to play in budget formulation and correcting anomalies to ensure a good and implementable budget.

She pointed out that Bangladesh Bank policy on inflation and management of money supply is contradictory. "They are increasing reserve money supply while increasing the reserve ratio." This will discourage investment and increase import cost, she observed.

BIDS Director General Dr MK Mujeri presided over the seminar while parliament members including Awami League leader Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir were present.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two including a child were killed and seven

would prove the building was used as one of the prime torture cells in the port city. Though the team comprised of Assistant Superintendent of Police Nurul Islam and Inspector Obayed Ullah visited the spot, they did not question anybody there.

There are allegations that Al-Badr and Islami Chhatra Sangha men tortured the progressive Bangalees, minority people, leftists and freedom fighters at the building.

The other two members of the team already returned to the capital after collecting pieces of evidence.

Advocate Rana Dasgupta, public prosecutor of the tribunal, told The Daily Star they have collected enough documents and testimony of witnesses to prove the allegations against the war crimes suspects.

"Hope this will be the final roundup of inquiry in the port city as we are on the verge of closing the investigation," said advocate Rana.

Earlier, the ICT members visited Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's Good's Hill residence and other places at Raozan and Rangunia to investigate the war crimes of 1971.

Road accidents kill five

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Lalmonirhat, Jhenidah and Pabna yesterday.

Our correspondent from Lalmonirhat reports: Two persons were killed and four others injured in two separate accidents in the district yesterday.

The injured were identified as farmer Muzibor Rahman, 62, of Selim Nagar village of Sadar upazila and Akbor Ali, 28, son of late Abdur Rahman of Rudreshwar village of Kaliganj upazila. The injured were admitted to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex and Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

In another accident, Akbor Ali was killed and two other persons were injured as a goods-laden truck hit their motorcycle on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway at Rudreshwar around 9:30am.

Akbor Ali was killed on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, while two critically injured were admitted to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two including a child were killed and seven

Programmes to celebrate Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social and cultural organisations took initiatives to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla calendar year, today.

Metropolitan branch of Bangladesh Plant Nurserymen Society will begin a 10-day exhibition from today at the northern side of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The society will also distribute awards to seven people including farmers, investors and patrons of nursery and tree admirers at the exhibition, says a press release.

The society also plans to plant trees gradually all over the country especially in Dhaka. If any one took an initiative to plant trees in any government or private housing areas, the society will help them, added the release.

Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters Unity will observe Pahela Baishakh with cultural programmes and special feast centring dishes of the country.

Lemon24.com, an internet radio, will organise three special programmes from today.

UNB adds: President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia in separate messages greeted the nation on the occasion.

In his message, the president said the day inspires us to go ahead. "The day is an excellent occasion for self-understanding and practice of immemorial tradition".

Bangladesh Betar and all television channels will air special programmes while newspapers will publish special supplements.

Limon to get artificial leg free of cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), a non-government organisation, has come forward to provide Limon Hossain an artificial leg free of cost.

Officials of CDD yesterday met with Limon at his hospital bed at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, took the measurement of his leg and talked with his doctors.

Though three days have passed after filing of a complaint with a Jhalakathi court by Limon's mother against six Rab-8 personnel, it was not recorded as a case by Rajapur Police Station.

Limon's family alleged that the court order reached the police station on Monday but it was not recorded as a case till yesterday.

Executive Director of CDD AHM Noman Khan told The Daily Star they met Limon along with his doctors at 11:00am.

The officials showed Limon photographs of an artificial limb and demonstrated its use.

The CDD executive director hoped that with this artificial limb, Limon will be able to walk and participate in limited sport activities.

There will be another operation on Limon's leg next week, and after that he will be taken to the CDD office at Savar. Limon will be able to walk on artificial leg within about one and a half months, the CDD officials said.

When asked about his comment on prosthetic leg, Limon said that he is very much optimistic about its use. "I will be able to walk again," he said.

Limon and his family alleged that none from any investigation committee has yet talked with Limon or any of his family members about the incident.

Limon's mother Henu Ara Begum also expressed her apprehension whether she will get justice under the given circumstances.

Attack on Bauls protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday demanded punishment to the culprits who assaulted bauls (mystic devotees) at Char Rammagar village in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district on April 6.

The demand came from a rally at Aparajeyo Bangla followed by a protest procession participated by teachers and students of different departments of DU.

They said the assault was not on some bauls but rather an attack on the whole Bangalee culture.

Newspaper reports say, Sadhu Sanga, an organisation of bauls, organised a two-day annual cultural programme at the village where followers of Fakir Lalon Shah, a 19th century Bangalee mystic philosopher of Kushtia, came to attend.

But a group of villagers foiled the programme, assaulted 28 bauls and cut their hair and moustaches following instruction from the imam of a local mosque.

Drakha University teachers Prof Aktheruzzaman, Kaberi Gayen Geeti Ara Nasreen, Zobaida Nasreen, Fahmidul Haque and leaders of different student wings also addressed the rally.

Earlier on Tuesday, the parliamentary standing committee on cultural affairs ministry expressed concern over the assault.

The committee recommended giving highest priority to the matter and taking action against the perpetrators, said the committee Chairman Keramot Ali to journalists after emerging from a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said he would visit the spot on April 15.

TORTURE HOUSE OF RAZAKARS, AL-BADR FORCES

ICT team visits Dalim Bhaban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A two-member team of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) here yesterday visited Dalim Bhaban that was used as a torture house of Razakar and Al-Badr forces during the Liberation War.

The then Islami Chhatra Sangha leader Mir Kasem Ali and his cohorts forcibly occupied the building from landlord Sri Ranjan Nath of Puratan Telegraph Road at Anderkilla Kata Pahar during the war.

The ICT members said they have collected evidence and testimonies that

would prove the building was used as one of the prime torture cells in the port city.

Though the team comprised of Assistant Superintendent of Police Nurul Islam and Inspector Obayed Ullah visited the spot, they did not question anybody there.

There are allegations that Al-Badr and Islami Chhatra Sangha men tortured the progressive Bangalees, minority people, leftists and freedom fighters at the building.

The other two members of the team already returned to the capital after collecting pieces of evidence.

UN delegation meets Tuku

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of the review group of United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) yesterday called on State Minister for Home Affairs Advocate Shamsul Haq Tuku at his secretariat office.

During the hour-long meeting, they discussed various measures so far taken by the government for combating corruption in Bangladesh, a signatory of the UNCAC, an official release said.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two including a child were killed and seven

Bribe taker cop gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to a sub-inspector (SI) of Mirpur Police Station, four months after he was caught while taking bribe.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order upon a bond of Tk 10,000 with two guarantors after SI Rakibul Hasan surrendered to the court and sought bail.

On getting the bail, Rakib laughed out loud while saying, the charge would not affect him.

During the hearing, Special Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol prayed to the court to send Rakibul to jail as the charge brought against him was primarily proved.

When the prosecution prayed for suspending the accused from his current position as a government service holder, the judge replied, the police department should take the initiative for his suspension.

Assistant Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Anwarul Haq filed the case against Rakibul on December 19, 2010 with the same court for committing the offence.

The case statement said SI Rakibul demanded Tk 5 lakh bribe from a Ferdous Ara to arrest five criminals she had brought charges against, on December 3, 2010.

In March, this year, ACC Assistant Director Jahangir Alam investigated the incident and mentioned in his report that SI Rakibul accepted Tk 5,000 in bribe from the complainant, Ferdous Ara, on December 9, last year.

A team of ACC officials caught the sub-inspector red-handed while accepting the bribe at National Heart Foundation Hospital in the city's Mirpur, the statement added.

Earlier on March 16, he was summoned to appear before the court in connection with the bribery case filed against him.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow is the 40th death anniversary of five martyred members of a family, who were killed by Pakistani forces and their collaborators in Nilphamari during liberation war.

The martyred are Eng Fazlur Rahman and Hosne Akter and their three sons Mostafiqur Rahman Mozu, Hasinur Rahman Hiron, and Azizur Rahman Babu.

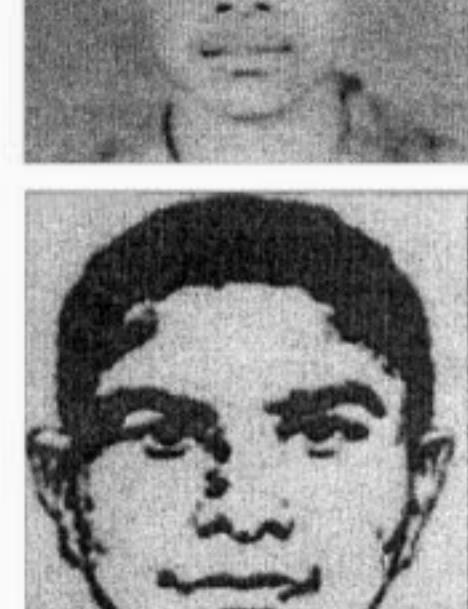
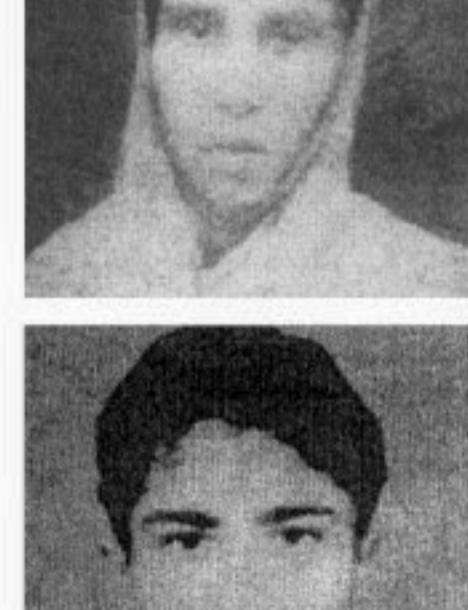
Pakistani military brutally killed the family at the government's railway quarters in Saidpur upazila, Nilphamari on April 15, 1971 alongside many more Bangladeshis.

The family actively participated in the liberation war movement, said a press release.

On the occasion, a quarkhwani and destitute feeding programme will be held.

Three other members of the family including Saidur Rahman, founder (president) of Projonmo 71, an organisation of the children of martyrs of War of Liberation, managed to escape the massacre with his two sisters.

Saidur Rahman has requested everyone to pray for the salvation of the departed souls of those who lost their lives for the country's independence.



10 hurt as madrasa students clash with edn board staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between students of Government Alia Madrasa and staffers of Dhaka Education Board at Bakhshibazar in the city yesterday left at least 10 people injured.

Police picked up seven persons, including five students in this connection.

Arbitration on an incident of smashing a rickshaw by a motorised vehicle in front of the Education board around 11:30pm led to the clashes in phases till 12:30pm.

All the injured are the students of Allama Kashgori Hostel. Five of them received

treatment from Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Five of the arrestees are the students and two are outsiders.

Witnesses said both the groups took part in the clashes when equipped with iron rod, sticks and brickbats. Chase and counter chase took place between the groups during the clashes.

One of the injured students, Muhsin Billah told The Daily Star that the students asked the motorised vehicle owner to pay Tk 6,000 as compensation to the victim rickshaw puller, but the staffers of the education board interfered in and swooped on the students.

"But more support is needed in the form of expertise, management skills and best practices earned elsewhere in various fields which could be replicated in development projects in Bangladesh."

She also asked for EU support in building social safety nets, especially in health and education sector.

The ambassador assured her that EU would continue extending support to Bangladesh in projects under existing areas of cooperation.

The ambassador assured her that EU would continue extending support to Bangladesh in projects under existing areas of cooperation.

"But more support is needed in the form of