

NEWS IN

brief

Habibullah memorial lecture held

METRO DESK

The Islamic History and Culture department of Dhaka university organised a memorial lecture yesterday on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Prof ABM Habibullah, founder chairman of the department.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, as the chief guest, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Arts faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin, as special guests, addressed the programme arranged at RC Majumdar auditorium in the University, said a press release.

3 held with Tk 2.20cr fake money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Tuesday arrested three people, including an Indian, from the city with counterfeit money of Tk 2.20 crore, fake currency-making equipment and three coins, which DB claims is from the East India Company era.

The detained Indian identified himself as BN Sarkar alias Masudur Rahman, 45, of Gorabazar in Kolkata while the other two are Abdul Based, 41, and Shahin Oliullah, 40, residents of Belkuchi upazila in Sirajganj district.

Sarkar was arrested from the Officers' Club canteen in Baily Road around 10:00pm, said Mohammad Masudur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Based on his information, a DB team raided a Badda house where the remaining two were arrested with the seized items, said Masudur.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Prakton Chhatra League Foundation will organise a discussion. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers.

Rally

National Awami Party (Nap-Bhasani) will hold a rally. Time: 10:30am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Announcement

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will announce month-long programme. Time: 4:00pm. Venue: Moitree Milonayatan.

Exhibition

Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) will organise an exhibition. Time: 11:00am. Venue: IUB permanent campus.

Roundtable

Free Thinkers Forum, Bangladesh (FTF) will organise a roundtable. Time: 10:00am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Programme

Padakkhep Bangladesh will organise a programme. Time: 7:00am. Venue: Hakim Chattar, Dhaka University.

Seminar

e-Asia Secretariat will organise a seminar. Time: 4:30pm. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Discussion

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will hold a discussion. Time: 11:00am. Venue: BGMEA conference room.

Seminar

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will hold a seminar. Time: 10:30am. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall.

Tk 6.5cr govt incentive to promote maize farming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday declared a Tk 6.5 crore incentive package for 50,000 small and marginal farmers of 11 districts to promote maize farming this winter.

Each farmer will get three kilogrammes (kg) of homegrown hybrid seeds and 50 kg of fertiliser (equal volumes of muriate of potash and diammonium phosphate) to cultivate mainly char areas.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury announced the initiative at a press briefing in the ministry. This is the first government incentive for maize cultivation.

"Demand for maize is increasing day by day in Bangladesh. Maize is used to make flour and feed for fish and cattle while the plants are dried to be used as fuel," she said.

In addition, growing maize is more economical than "boro" (rice) cultivation as it requires less water and yields more per acre.

Each acre of maize cultivation requires Tk 20,000 and yields over four tonnes. Rice,

however, requires Tk 33,000 per acre but yields only two tonnes, said agriculture ministry officials.

"Maize requires irrigation only twice or thrice and sometimes not at all if there is rain on time. Unlike wheat, maize can be cultivated in rainy and winter seasons," said Matia.

The ministry officials said Bangladesh's current annual wheat production came down to 10 lakh tonnes while 38 lakh tonnes has to be imported.

Maize production, however, is 15.52 lakh tonnes and over four lakh tonnes are imported. The government targeted to produce 16.50 lakh tonnes of maize on 2.4 lakh hectares of land this year, they added.

Matia said they are expecting an additional 31,000 tonnes of maize from 7,143 hectares this winter.

The 11 districts are Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Pirojpur, Barguna, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Noakhali and Barisal.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:25am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 13.4 degrees Celsius 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	27.0	17.2	54	53
Chittagong	26.8	18.2	78	66
Rajshahi	26.6	13.4	87	78
Rangpur	27.8	15.3	78	77
Khulna	27.8	17.8	72	77
Barisal	27.7	15.0	83	92
Sylhet	29.5	17.2	80	73
Cox's Bazar	28.5	17.5	77	64

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, *standing at centre*, at a candlelit vigil he organised at Central Shaheed Minar in the city at midnight marking the country's 40th anniversary of independence and protesting the government's move to split Dhaka City Corporation.

President urged not to sign DCC split bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud yesterday appealed to the president to refrain from signing the bill to split Dhaka City Corporation into two.

"You (the president) have the jurisdiction to send the bill back to parliament without putting your signature to it," he said in a candle lighting programme at Central Shaheed Minar at 12:00am.

Maksud organised the programme marking the country's 40th anniversary of independence and protesting the government's move to split Dhaka City Corporation.

Some 400 candles were lit and a fanush (miniature hot air balloon) was released on the occasion, attended by civil society members and different organisations and a few councillors.

"Dhaka cannot be divided in the same way that our motherland cannot be partitioned. Our Dhaka is not divided. It is one and indivisible and self-sufficient.

"The age of Dhaka is more than 700 to 800 years and we would pray that our Dhaka would remain undivided for 4,000 years and I would say for four lakh years with joy and prosperity," Maksud added.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Dr Pias Karim and Ruhin Hossain Prince also spoke at the programme.

'Unscrupulous agents disturb online Indian visa application'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Indian high commission in Dhaka has said certain unscrupulous elements and visa agents have been trying to intrude into the online visa application system for blocking slots and apportioning them for a consideration.

In a press release yesterday it said unauthorised activities of such elements and agents are not only an impediment to smooth functioning of the online visa application system but is causing grave inconvenience and distress to genuine travelers wishing to visit India.

The commission assured all visa applicants that the matter is being probed to take preventive measures soon.

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