

NEWS IN *brief*

Ahmed Sharif's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Dr Ahmed Sharif, a renowned scholar, researcher of medieval Bangla literature and a forerunner of free thought movements in the country.

On the occasion, Dr Ahmed Sharif Commemoration Lecture and award giving ceremony organised by the Swadesh Chinta Shangha will be held today at the auditorium of Business Studies faculty of Dhaka University (DU) at 4:00pm, says a press release.

Comrade Santosh Rana, renowned revolutionary leader of India's Naxal Bari peasant movements, will deliver the lecture while the awards will be given to Communist leader Comrade Jashimuddin Mondal and social worker Dr Kazi Kamruzzaman.

Prof Abul Kashem Fazul Haque of DU will chair the function while Comrade Badruddin Umar will be present as the chief guest.

Dr Ahmed Sharif wrote many essays on contemporary social, political and cultural issues.

Debate festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day National Debate Festival-2012 will begin at Dhaka Residential Model College, Mohammadpur today organised by the Debate Federation Bangladesh.

The 6th NDF-BD festival is scheduled to be concluded on February 25.

The festival will be participated by debaters from different Bangla and English medium schools, colleges, madrasas, medical colleges and universities.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury is expected to inaugurate the festival as the chief guest while Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will distribute the awards to the winners as the chief guest on the concluding day.

Youth summit from April 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day long second youth leadership summit 2011 of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) will begin at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on April 26.

Around 450 youth delegates from all over the country and 50 national and international speakers, including experts from Harvard University and MIT, will attend the summit, said a press release yesterday.

BYLC has launched admission for the interested youths to attend the summit. College and university students as well as young professionals are eligible to apply for the event at www.bylc.org/summit2012/ apply by March 10.

Traffic sergeant's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Police Service Association yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of traffic sergeant Riaz Uddin, who was killed by a recklessly driven private car.

In a statement chairman of the organisation Md Mokhlesur Rahman and secretary Habibur Rahman said Bangladesh Police have lost a sincere and honest officer through the death of Riaz.

They prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members, said a press release.

Riaz, hit by a car while discharging his duty in the city's Panthapath area, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on February 14. Later, he was referred to Square Hospitals where he died early Wednesday.

Workers Party rally tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh will organise a rally tomorrow demanding mitigation of people's sufferings due to price hike of essentials and deterioration of law and order in the country.

They will hold the rally in front of Mohanagar Natya Mancha in the city.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 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 and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 6:24am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 12.3 degrees at Srimongal.

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	31.3	17.5	52	40
Chittagong	28.4	17.4	78	82
Rajshahi	32.0	15.1	80	43
Rangpur	28.8	14.4	90	61
Khulna	32.5	20.0	95	58
Barisal	32.4	18.5	95	54
Sylhet	30.9	16.3	61	49
Cox's Bazar	30.8	18.0	58	76



A visitor looks at a CD, featuring poetry recitations, on sale in a stall at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela in the city's Bangla Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WB set to choose new president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank Group will choose its next president from among competent candidates who must be nationals of its member countries.

But past history shows that all WB presidents were citizens of the US, the largest contributor to the lending agency.

Current President Robert B Zoellick has already announced that he will not seek reappointment at the end of his term, which expires on June 30.

The WB Board of Executive Directors held a meeting in this regard in Washington on February 17.

They reconfirmed the importance of a merit-based and transparent process in the selection of the next president, with all executive directors able to nominate and consider all candidates, says a WB press release.

They also agreed that candidates should have a proven track record of leadership, experience in managing large organisations

with international exposure and a familiarity with the public sector.

They must also have the ability to articulate a clear vision of the World Bank Group's development mission, a firm commitment to and appreciation for multilateral cooperation, effective and diplomatic communication skills, impartiality and objectivity.

Nominations should be submitted by March 23 and may be made by the executive directors or by WB governors through their executive directors.

Afterwards the executive directors will decide on a shortlist of up to three candidates and publish the names with their consent.

Formal interviews will then be held by the executive directors to hopefully select the new president by the Spring Meetings of 2012.

The Board of Executive Directors approved the process for the selection of the president in 2011.

WORLD BANK PRESIDENT PM made proposal to ridicule Yunus Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the prime minister's proposal for Prof Muhammad Yunus to be World Bank chief was made to ridicule him.

"World Bank has a constitution. Usually American or Canadian citizens can be elected as the chief of this organisation. The prime minister knows it well, but she made the proposal only to mock Prof Yunus," he said while talking to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of former president Ziaur Rahman.

The BNP leader went there to pay homage with the newly nominated leaders of his party's Pabna district unit.

Earlier on Wednesday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the proposal when a delegation of the European parliament met her.

Mirza Fakhrul also criticised her for saying that it is not possible to provide security in anyone's bedroom.

Law and order has deteriorated to such a level that journalists are not safe even at their own houses, he said.

Replying to Sheikh Hasina's allegation that the opposition party wants to assume power through dubious paths, he said BNP always came to power through democracy.

The BNP leader said their demand to restore caretaker government system achieved huge support at both home and abroad.

"People will reply to our demand on March 12," he said.

Engr assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Sylhet was assaulted by some locals at Rahimpur village in the district's Zakiganj upazila yesterday.

WDB Executive Engr Shailen Chandra Paul and Sub-Divisional Engr Tapash Purkayostha were on a visit to the site of an under-construction Pump House in Zakiganj at 4:30pm, when the incident happened.

While talking to contractor's there, the duo was threatened to suspend work at the site by one Sadar Uddin Mukta and 3-4 of his men, who were claiming ownership of the project land, said Paul.



The inauguration of a newly-renovated Private Outpatient wing of Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital took place in the city on Wednesday. Donors Barkat Ismail and his wife, from Toronto, Canada and Salim Ismail and his wife, from Houston, Texas, USA financed the renovation in memory of their parents -- Ismail Charnia and Noor Banu Ismail.

PHOTO: COURTESY

REFUSING TO RECEIVE HC ORDER Contempt rule on DCC south

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a second contempt of court rule against Dhaka City Corporation (South) Administrator Khalilur Rahman for refusing to receive its earlier order.

On February 9, the HC issued a contempt of court rule against Khalilur and five officials, asking them to explain why they should not be punished for demolishing a building near the city's Jatrabari kitchen market, defying its order.

In response to a contempt of court petition, the court had also summoned them to it yesterday to explain their roles in demolishing the building.

Humayun Kabir, the building's owner, filed the petition saying that some DCC officials led by a magistrate knocked down his building on February 7, ignoring a status quo order of the HC.

The HC on August 25 last year imposed the status quo and also issued a rule upon the government authorities concerned to explain why the acquisition of the building's land should not be declared illegal.

The six officials appeared before the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin

Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim yesterday.

During yesterday's hearing, the petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid said the DCC administrator's office refused to receive its February 9 order from a Supreme Court messenger twice before finally receiving it.

The HC bench yesterday called the messenger before it to hear about the allegation.

The messenger said the DCC administrator's office refused to receive the HC order under the instructions from "higher authorities".

The court then issued the contempt of court rule against the DCC administrator and asked him to appear before it on February 28.

The HC bench yesterday also directed the additional registrar-1 of the Supreme Court and assistant commissioner of land of Demra in Dhaka to investigate the allegation of the building's demolition.

The court asked them to submit a report to it on February 28.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain represented the government.

Five vehicles penalised for polluting environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday penalised five vehicles in the capital's Agargaon area and realised Tk 18,000 in fine for polluting the environment by emitting black fumes.

The Department of Environment (DoE) along with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and traffic police conducted the drive led by DoE Executive Magistrate Md Kamruzzaman.

The court inspected 25 vehicles and penalised three diesel-driven and two CNG-run vehicles under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1983, and the Environment Conservation Act, 1995 which was amended in 2010.

Magistrate Kamruzzaman said under the act, a vehicle owner can be sentenced to one-year imprisonment or fined up to Tk5000 for emitting black fumes.

The mobile court measured the level of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon in the air with emission analyser before penalising

the lawbreakers.

According to the Environment Conservation Act, the permissible level of carbon monoxide for a CNG-driven motor vehicle is one percent while hydrocarbon is 1200 PPM (parts per million), said a DoE official.

The primary aim of the drive is to create public awareness about the environmental and motor vehicle laws, he said.

"However, we cannot make them follow the rules stringently by conducting regular drives due to our lack of manpower and logistic support," said DoE Director (planning) Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi.

The BRTA and traffic police checked driving licenses, route permits, and registration and fitness certificates of the vehicles.

BRTA Motor Vehicle Inspector Mohammad Abdul Alim Chowdhury who was present during the drive said no document-related anomalies were found during the drive.

BOI MELA Poetry in CDs the new wave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Audio format of poems of eminent Bangla poets is fast gaining popularity alongside books at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela.

Visitors are collecting a good number of CDs on recitations of their favourite poems from four stalls -- Abritti Mela, Boikantha Bangladesh Abritti Samonay Parishad and Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi -- set up before the city's Bangla Academy.

"We started getting a huge response from visitors from the very first day of the fair," said Mofidul Islam, chief executive of Abritti Mela.

They sold such CDs, each ranging in price from Tk 60 to Tk 100, worth over Tk 8 lakh last year and hope to make similar sales this year, he added.

Since most of these CDs are not available in shops around the city and outside, visitors find it convenient collecting them from the fair, said the sellers.

"I like both reading and listening to poetry recitations," said Robin, an ardent poetry fan who bought three CDs from the stall yesterday.

The sellers said most visitors preferred romantic and patriotic poems by popular poets.

"Poems recited by popular artistes have a different taste. I became a fan of the CD format a couple of years ago," said one visitor, Kamrunnahar Keya, a government official.

Asked why he sells CDs in a fair for books, Mofidul, who also recites poems, said, "Poems recited by artistes played a significant role during different socio-political movements of Bangladesh."

"Poems are a part of literature. We are offering the same poems but in audio format, which does not contradict the basic spirit of this fair."

Mofidul said he did not face any problem getting space for his stall.