

NEWS IN *brief*

Barkat memorial museum at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday opened Language Movement Hero Abul Barkat memorial museum and archive for visitors.

Former chief adviser to a caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman inaugurated the museum located in the southern part of Sergeant Zohurul Haque Hall of the university.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, DU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Pro-VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid, former Prof of Bangla department Rafiqul Islam, and Barkat's son Abul Hasnat were also present.

Dhaka District Council constructed the museum

Token war crimes tribunal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight law department students of Dhaka University acted out a token tribunal, on the trial of people who committed crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, in the city's Liberation War Museum yesterday.

Dividing equally into the prosecution and defence teams, the third-year students raised issues discussed by different quarters since Bangladesh's war crimes trial began in 2010.

The museum organised the tribunal as part of its weeklong programmes marking its 16th anniversary and Bangladesh's Independence Day.

Judge Barrister Tapash Kanti Baul concluded the tribunal.

Later, some children lit candles at the museum remembering the black night of March 25, 1971 when the Pakistani army massacred thousands of unarmed

NU degree admission begins Apr 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Admission in the three-year degree pass course of 2011-2012 session in National University (NU) will begin from April 10, says a press release.

The last date of admission without late fee is April 30 while the last date with late fee is May 21.

Classes will start from May 2, the release said.

Detail information can be known from the websites

US mission closed today

METRO DESK

The American Embassy, including the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the Student Advising Center, will remain closed today on the occasion of Independence Day, a Bangladeshi national holiday, says a press release.

Emergency services for American citizens will be

New Jica team arrives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An eleven-member team of volunteers of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) arrived here for a period of two years of assignment to work in various development programmes in Bangladesh, said a press release yesterday.

Among the 11 members, two will work on infection control at civil surgeon office in Noakhali and Brahmanbaria; one will work on primary education at Mymensingh Primary Training Institute (PTI); three will work on rural community development in Narsingdi, Comilla and Meherpur; two will work on waste management of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and one will

One to die for killing schoolboy

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One person was sentenced to death yesterday for killing a schoolboy last year.

Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the verdict. The condemned convict is Tajul Islam alias Sagar.

According to the prosecution, Dipto Das Shuvo, the first boy of class-IV of Gendaria High School, was killed by his neighbours. Later they drowned Shuvo in a water drum and stabbed his father Bibhuti Ranjan Das at their house on January 8, 2011.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 05:56am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 16.6 degrees Celsius 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	34.0	22.0	69	44
Chittagong	30.5	22.8	82	75
Rajshahi	35.3	17.3	64	41
Rangpur	32.6	19.2	56	50
Khulna	35.5	22.4	87	54
Barisal	34.0	21.8	83	43



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses with the recipients of Independence Award-2012 at the award giving function at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

Youth kills brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly stabbed his younger brother to death at their residence at Pallabi in the city yesterday morning.

The victim is Abdullah Al Mamun, 18.

Mohammad Sohel, 25, elder brother of the victim wanted some money from him. As Mamun refused to give him it, Sohel stabbed him indiscriminately at around 10:00am, said police.

Mamun, died on the way to a local hospital.

Locals caught Sohel and handed him over to police.



Discussion

Kendria Kachi-Kanchar Mela will hold a discussion; Venue: the Mela auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Drawing competition

Jatiya Press Club will arrange a drawing competition; Venue: the press club; Time: 8:30am.

Discussion

Bangla Academy will organise a discussion; Venue: the academy's

Call to observe March 25 as Int'l Genocide Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lighting torches at Central Shaheed Minar at around 10:30pm last night, Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee demanded observing March 25 as "International Genocide Day".

Meanwhile at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, freedom fighters, politicians and families of the martyred brought out a candlelit procession to pay homage at the killing field there.

The attendees, alongside the country, deeply mourned for the innocent and unarmed Bangalees who were massacred by the Pakistani Army on the same night in 1971.

At a meeting at Central Shaheed Minar before the procession, speakers urged the government to engage diplomatic efforts in the United Nations and different countries for March 25 to be declared International Massacre Day, says a press release.

They also urged all parliament members to take the initiative in this regard.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said he was in Washington on March 25. The time from then on was both of

expectation and apprehension. Finally, it was the optimism that emerged strongly after the nine month-long Liberation War, he said.

The verdict in the Bangabandhu killing case was implemented and currently ongoing is the war crimes trial, completion of which would rid the nation of the shame of impunity. However, the nation must unite for it, said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

KM Shafiullah, a sector commander, said on the black night, in a span of one and a half hours, the Pakistani forces killed 300 students and teachers at Dhaka University.

Awami League Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said they would place a private bill in parliament to observe the black night as "International Genocide Day".

Just as the Pakistani forces had started their crackdown, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave the call of independence, he said.

Another sector commander, CR Dutta said being in Pakistan for most of his professional life, he realised what was happening only after arriving home on leave after the Liberation War started, and this was when he

joined the war.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said the responsibility does not end with the war crimes trial's completion, as the practice of politics by war criminals must also come to an end.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu said there was no scope of reaching a compromise with the war criminals as they had not changed even 40 years into the country's independence.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the country's people arose after the massacre that night and then began the war of "the Davids against the Goliaths".

Sector Commanders' Forum General Secretary Lt Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid said, "To complete the war crimes trial we have to mobilise more strength and overcome its weak points."

Freedom fighter Kamal Lohani chaired the meeting where Muktiyoddha Sangsad Chairman Helal Morshed Khan and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promode Mankin also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee lights torches at Central Shaheed Minar at around 10:30pm last night, demanding the observance of March 25 as "International Genocide Day".

Popularity of Jamaat on rise for ICT role

Claim party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, the party which opposed Bangladesh's independence struggle in 1971, yesterday claimed that the party's popularity is increasing due to the role of the war crimes tribunal.

"We are gaining popularity among the general people because of the tribunal's controversial roles. People don't trust this tribunal any more," said Dhaka city unit Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Prof AKM Nazir Ahmad at a discussion.

"War crimes tribunal is nothing but a showpiece," he added.

The city unit Jamaat arranged the discussion marking the 41st Independence Day at Jatiya Press Club.

NSU refutes media allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The North South University (NSU) authorities yesterday refuted allegations brought against the university and its management by a section of print media.

In a press release, the NSU management claimed that the reports were published to tarnish the images of NSU, its sponsor directors, faculty members and the students.

"Without following the ethics of journalism the media outlets published the biased and false stories just to misguide the students and their guardians," read the release.

The NSU management served legal notices against the editors of the papers and sought justice from Bangladesh Press Council, it added.

The university management said such false and fabricated news against a renowned educational institution will simply hamper the educational atmosphere and frustrate the teachers and students and patrons of education.

They said a vested quarter is out to malign the university seeing its success and propagate false information on the NSU's academic activities and admission process.

All the academic activities including regular lessons and exams are being held smoothly and timely. A total 12,000 NSU graduates put their marks in their respective fields, an indication of the guardians' confidence on NSU, the release said.

The management hoped that all quarters will come forward to help the university carry its academic activities and research work smoothly.

DU teacher dismisses marriage claim of doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University teacher Dr Nuruddin Alo yesterday dismissed the allegations Dr Nur Nahar made on Saturday that they were married and he was torturing her for Tk 5 lakh as dowry.

Dr Nuruddin, at a press conference at Dhaka University Journalists' Association, said, "I am still a bachelor."

The lecturer of the political science department said he had filed a case at Shahbagh Police Station on January 17 against Dr Nahar for embezzling Tk 30 lakh of his.

Presenting an affidavit which stated that Dr Nahar was married to one Saiedul Bakin, he claimed that he had an acquaintance with Dr Nahar as she was a nurse in an English medium school of his.

Shamsher's martyrdom yet to get recognition

ANWAR ALI, RAJSHAHI

Independence Day today remains as meaningless as it has been for the last 40 years for the family of martyred freedom fighter Shamsher Ali, who is yet to be recognised.

No one has called Shamsher's family members to any meeting, or give any honour to the freedom fighter. Even, family members have no time to recall him except to shed silent tears.

Though Shamsher's name as a martyr freedom fighter now is recalled by almost all the villagers and his fellow freedom fighters, the name was not included in any state records, said Kasimuddin, commander of Muktiyoddha Command Council of Bagatipara upazila in Natore.

"As per state records, he is not a freedom fighter, or a martyred one. And [this situation] occurred because his family was poor and people's leaders concerned were apathetic to his contributions [to the liberation war]."

During a visit to Chitholia village of Bagatipara on Sunday, this correspondent was informed that Shamsher's wife Rahima Begum, 60, was married off to one Sadek Ali while her son Jhumur Ali, 45, and daughter Samiara Begum, 40, live at their respective in-laws' houses.

They had a home of their own on five bighas of land when Shamsher joined the liberation war but later the land was sold due to their economic hardship.



"I left the house and went to my parents' house at Malanchi as the Razakars started torturing us," said Rahima, choking on her tears.

Shamsher's sister Zobeda Begum said her brother wanted to protect the country but his family had been almost ravaged and homeless in the absence of the lone bread earner.

Mozammel who also joined the war with Shamsher told The Daily Star that Shamsher embraced martyrdom during the Alaipur operation in Rajshahi some days before victory. As per plan, a group of freedom fighters attacked the Alaipur Razakar camp, arrested 26 Razakars and seized a huge amount of arms and ammunition.

All the freedom fighters, except seven, left the camp. Shamsher stayed there. But hours later, Pakistani army attacked the camp. The seven fled by crossing the river and started crawling on the river char as heavy gunfire raged around them.

As he was crawling, a mortar shell suddenly hit Shamsher, leaving his waist broken, recalled Mozammel, who was also crawling about 15-20 yards away from Shamsher.

"Go away brother, go away. I cannot make it," Shamsher told Mozammel. Shamsher carried some grenades but he could not use these, said Mozammel who also received a bullet.

At one stage, the Pakistani army caught Shamsher and brutally killed him and dumped the body under the sand.

Rahima Begum identified her husband's body by his yellow shirt and black and red lungi several days after liberation.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Md Abdur Malek, principal officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank

Netrakona regional office, passed away on 20 March at the age of 54.

He had been suffering from diabetes, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Bhug village of Purbadhala upazila in Netrakona last Friday.

Rawshan Jahan Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Rawshan Jahan Hossain, wife of former deputy inspector general of

police M Afzal Hossain, passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 76, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, one son, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Banani graveyard.

Her quikhwani will be held on March 27 after Maghrib prayers at her residence at house no 3, road no 112 in Gulshan-2.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Rabeya Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Rabeya Begum, founding director of Asian Group, died of cancer

at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

She left behind four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Shashongaon Shai Mosque in Narayanganj after her namaz-e-janaza on Jatrabari Ideal High School premises.

Her quikhwani will be held at her residence in Uttar Jatrabari of the city on Friday.