

Literary periodical launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mashik Chakrabak, a monthly magazine, was launched on Monday to focus on the works of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Chakrabak, an organisation which works to explore and spread works of the national poet, launched the magazine at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, said a press release.

Publisher of the magazine Sujit Mustafa said Nazrul's writings explored themes like love, freedom, and revolution and inspired people to raise their voice for freedom against oppression and injustice during the era of domination.

Nazrul's spirit is still necessary in our life, he added.

Dr Biswajit Ghosh said Nazrul was the only non-communal poet and still he is the lone poet who talked of all communities.

Chakrabak Editor Shahinur Reza vowed to continue publishing the magazine regularly.

Kazi Rownak Hossain and Dr Korunamoy Goswami were present on the occasion.

ODOMMO CHATTAGRAM 3-day film festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As part of ongoing Odommo Chattagram programme, a three-day film festival will begin at the auditorium of Fulki, a reputed educational institution in the port city, at 3:00pm today.

The festival will feature offbeat movies and documentaries directed by filmmakers and young talents of Chittagong.

The films have been selected in such a way that the works of the talents of the port city can be highlighted, said Shaibal Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Film Centre, the key organiser of the festival.

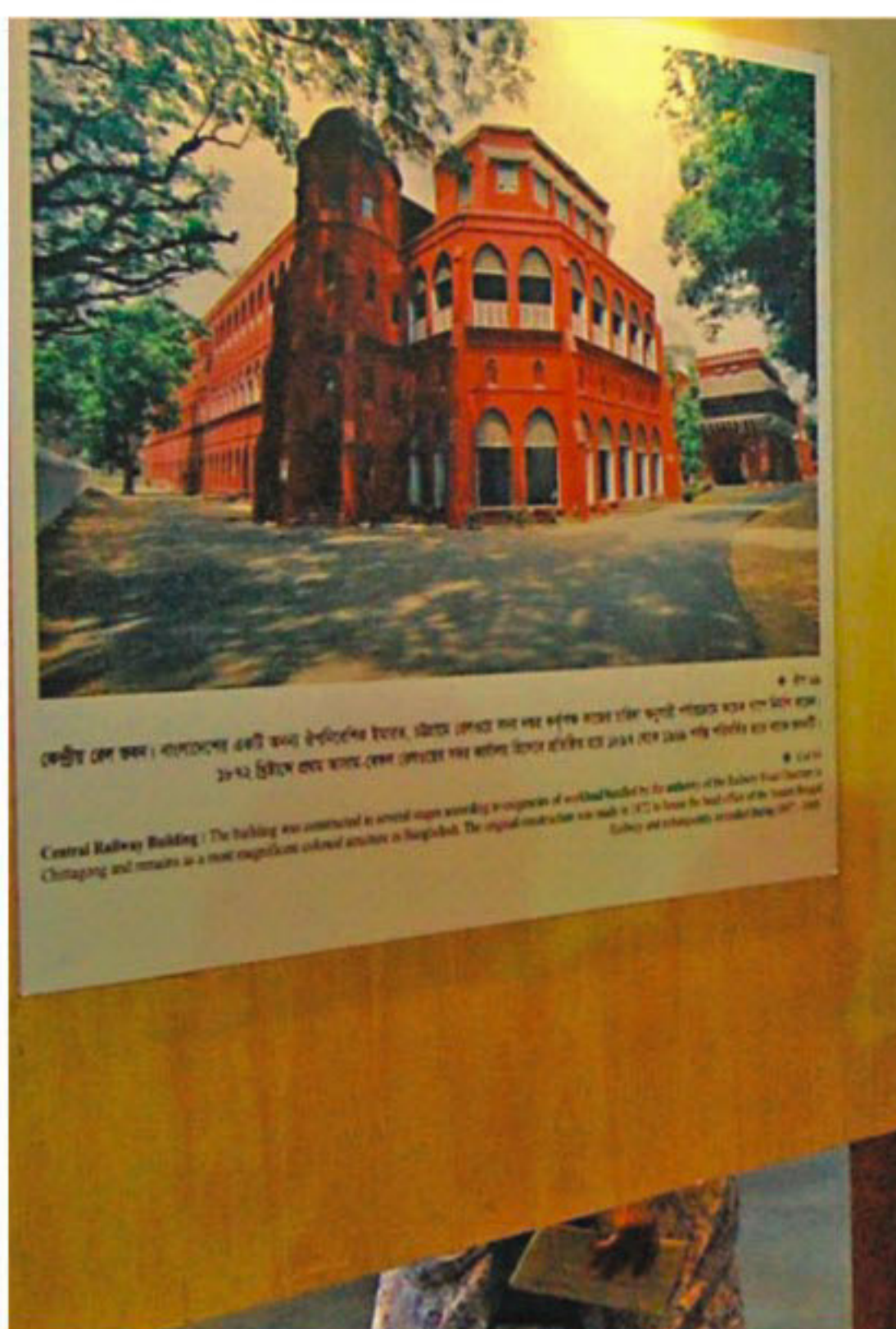
Every day, films will be screened in two sessions, the first session beginning at 3:00pm and the second one at 6:30pm.

Today's first session movies include "Sareng Bou" (122 minutes), directed by Abdullah Al Mamun, and two documentaries--"Sufier Kahini" (24 minutes) directed by Shamsul Hossain and "Purna Ek Surer Shyam" (25 minutes) directed by Rupam Chakraborty.

The second session documentaries are "The last rites" (17 minutes) and "Epitaph" (11 minutes) directed respectively by Yasmin Kabir and Anjan Sarkar Jimi. "Moner Majhe Tumi", a feature film, directed by Matiu Rahman, will also be screened in the second session.

Begum Mushtari Shafi, spouse of a martyr, will inaugurate the film festival as chief guest.

With an aim to projecting Chittagong, The Daily Star is hosting the 12-day Odommo Chattagram (indomitable Chittagong) festival, which began on March 30.



Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam, right, views an image at an exhibition titled Chirayato Chattagram, a programme of the ongoing Odommo Chattagram (indomitable Chittagong) festival being hosted by The Daily Star, at MA Aziz Gymnasium in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Separate service body for teachers on cards

PM tells BCS education assoc team

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reminded the public servants that they have to be sincere in performing their duties as their salaries and other allowances come from the tax money people pay.

"We're getting our salaries and allowances from taxpayers' money, so we have to be careful while discharging our duties," she said when a delegation of BCS Education Association, led by its President Prof Fahima Khatun, met with her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The PM said the government is actively considering constituting a separate Service Commission to ensure the appropriate status of teachers in the society.

She asked the teachers to stay in their workplaces instead of trying to have them posted in Dhaka.

A separate pay commission will be formed for the teachers to enhance their salaries and other benefits, she said, adding

that the government already provided time-scale for all the teachers.

It is implementing various programmes for the development of education, which is the primary prerequisite to poverty alleviation, Hasina said.

The government is providing free textbooks up to the secondary level and introduced locally-managed school-feeding programme to check student dropout, she added.

Besides, an Education Assistant Trust Fund with initial money of Tk 1,000 crore has been formed to help the poor and meritorious students to continue their studies up to degree level.

Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad briefed journalists after the meeting.

Principal Secretary to the PM Sheikh M Wahid Uz Zaman, PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman and Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury were also present.

Tight security on Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 50,000 law enforcers will be deployed at different points in and outside the capital to ensure security during Bangla New Year celebration, Pahela Baishakh, on April 14.

Festival goers are requested not to carry any luggage and avoid car parking in and around Ramna Park area where the city's main celebratory programmes are held.

A total of 14,000 law enforcers will keep vigil at Ramna Batamul, Dhaka University campus, Rabindra Sarobar and other spots in the city, while 30,000 others will be deployed across the country, Home Minister Shahara Khatun told a meeting at her secretariat office yesterday.

She also urged festival goers to take extra caution so that their children do not get lost in crowds, though a "centre for the lost and found" will be set up in Ramna Park.

Some 10 to 12 lakh people take part in the New Year celebration in the capital, Shahara said, adding that law enforcers would work in uniform and plain clothes on that day.

Asked if there is any militant threat on Pahela Baishakh, she replied negatively but asserted that law enforcers would keep always alert.

Home Secretary CQK Mustak Ahmed, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmud Khandakar, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed and the chiefs of other law enforcement agencies attended the meeting.

After the meeting, journalists asked the minister about the progress in the investigation into the murder of a journalist couple, but she denied talking on the issue.



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a delegation of BCS Education Association at PMO in the city yesterday.

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Antarctica ice melts may hit Bangladesh hardest: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will be the world's worst victim if the ice-sheets of Antarctica start melting due to global warming, Environment Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said at a seminar yesterday.

If the industrialised nations do not reduce pumping carbon into the atmosphere immediately, many island states will plunge under seawater by the end of this century, he said.

According to an UN study, the minister said, global temperature might shoot up to 4 degree Celsius due to existing carbon emission rate, eventually raising sea level as high as 16 feet.

Dr Hasan Mahmud, who presented videos and photographs at the seminar, taken during his recent visit to Antarctica, said ice melting was very bad news for the world.

Brac University arranged the seminar, "Climate Change and Glacier Melting: Sharing Experience of Antarctica" where the minister spoke as chief guest.

Dr Ainun Nishat, vice chancellor of the university, was present as a special guest, while Dr Zainab F Ali, the director (student affairs), chaired the session.

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তারুণ্য উৎসব Youth Festival
Inaugurating today:
Upcoming Events: Shampan Baich, Brands Expo, Film Festival, Chittagong and Science, Children Festival, Music and Dance Festival, Economic Conference
The festival will be till 10 April, 2012. Check The Daily Star regularly for updates.