

Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Maksum ul Hakim, former judge of the High Court. Justice Hakim also served as the ambassador of Bangladesh to Argentina, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland for several years, says a press release.

Appeal for help

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things less tight, the couple have sent their two kids back to their village home. They are resolved not to give up. But they need help from others, especially the affluent and benevolent people of the society. Donations for Shukhi (also known as Nodi) can be sent to Mohammad Mollik, account no. 1511202219756001, BRAC Bank. He can be reached at 0198-1756114.

Job seekers

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Those sent to Malaysia had to pay only TK 33,500 per person while the private agencies usually charge a minimum of Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh. The first phase began after a 2009 ban by the Malaysian government on recruiting manpower from Bangladesh was withdrawn on November 26 last year.

One lakh IT learners

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Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) by giving them necessary support and cooperation. The meeting was attended, among others, by Project Director of Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance Project of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) Md Rezaul Karim; Team Leader of the project Fokhriz Zaman; Project Director of BD-ITEC Project of BCC Sheikh Amzad Hossain; Deputy

Secretary Dr Abul Hasan; Consultant of Access to Information (A2I) Programme Asad Uz Zaman; and Gabriel and Haripada Das of ILO TVET Reform Project of the Ministry of Education. A 13-member committee headed by Joint Secretary Gazi Mizanur Rahman was formed for chalking out a plan on how to strengthen the BTEB and setting up assessment centres in the districts with the help of different projects and district administrations.

Govt out to create

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Awami League must resolve the problem as it had created it. He said the BNP-led 18-party alliance would in no way allow the current regime to hold a lopsided election under a partisan administration. Rafiqul termed the Election Commission "a subservient institution" and criticised it for its alleged efforts to register the Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF). "They (EC) are going to register a baseless organisation, BNE, at the behest of a government intelligence agency," he said. He also said the EC did not have the capability to

hold a free and fair election. Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abedin Farroque alleged that the premier was illegally conducting election campaigns in favour of her party spending public money. "There'll be no use seeking votes for 'boat'. We won't allow you even to send the ballot boxes to the polling stations. We want to clearly state that no election will be held in the country keeping BNP out of the race," he warned. Farroque called upon the government to arrange the next polls under a non-party government to protect democracy and avoid violence.



Bangladesh Cancer Awareness Forum brings out a procession from Shahbagh in the capital to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Thursday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Monthly self-test can cut breast cancer: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A substantial amount of breast cancer cases can be prevented through maintaining a healthy lifestyle, said medical experts in the capital on Thursday. Speaking at a procession and a discussion on the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Day on October 10, they emphasised self breast examination saying breast cancer can be cured if detected at the early stage. Bangladesh Cancer Awareness Forum comprising 11 organisations, including ICDDR,B, Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital and Centre for Cancer Prevention and Research, organised the programme to observe the day. Dr Md Habibullah Talukder, coordinator of the forum, said deaths from breast cancer

can be reduced significantly if appropriate measures are taken to detect the disease at the early stage. Dr Dewan S Alam, acting director of ICDDR,B Chronic Disease Centre, stressed self-examination of both breasts once a month. "If she feels anything unnatural, then she should go to a doctor or a health professional," he said. The procession, brought out from Shahbagh in the morning, ended at Jatiya Press Club while the discussion was held at Rabindra Sarobar. A number of breast cancer survivors, including poet Kazi Rozy, shared their experiences and inspired women to include breast self-examination in their monthly routine.

Unicef for more girls in schools

UNB, Dhaka

Unicef yesterday highlighted the power of innovation to get more girls in schools and improve the quality of learning for all children to mark the second International Day of the Girl Child. Despite the decreasing number of girls out of school, too many around the world are still denied a quality education and a chance to reach their full potential, according to a media release. Evidence shows that even a single year of secondary school for a girl correlates with as much as a 25 percent increase in her future earnings. But today, millions of girls are still out of school, including 31 million primary school aged girls. "Education can transform the lives of girls and strengthen their communities," said Unicef Executive Director Anthony Lake.

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president, Barisal Reporters Unity, addressed the programme. Buli Rani Pal of Goila village of Agoiljhara upazila, Barisal and Uttam Pal of Jhalakathi were specially honoured for their achievements in the art of idol making. The speakers and participants said that for centuries, Pauls and Kumars had been keeping this ancestral profession alive even after living in abject poverty and without any social status and recognition as mainstream artists. After weeks of work ahead of Puja festivals, particularly Durga Puja which began on Tuesday night, these artists return home with an incidental amount of pay. A team of five or six artisans needs 17-21 days for crafting a big idol, while the smaller ones take them 13-17 days. To ready a protima, they collect bamboos, hay, clay, wooden sticks, jute, and rice chaffs, among other articles. For all this, the team is paid Tk 25,000 to Tk 50,000. The mandap committees arrange their lodging, food additionally. The speakers said unfortunately these artists who lay in the core of Hindu festivals had been neglected for years. For this, many crafters have left this profession, and it has been strongly necessary to give economic and institutional support to defend this craftsmanship from extinction, they said. The five-day Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Bangalee Hindus, started on Thursday night at 550 Puja Mandaps of the district including 33 in the city. The festivity will come to an end through immersion of the idols and images of the deities in different rivers, canals, ponds with solemnities and religious rituals and exchange of greetings of "Bijoya Dashami" on Sunday.

Repeat of May 5

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now plans will not come true. Parliament will be in place even after October 24." He said there was no confusion that the prime minister and the cabinet would remain in place after October 25 as the parliament will be in place at the time. The parliament will resume session on October 23 and the session will continue until the tasks are completed, he said. Turning to a recent survey, the authenticity of which he himself questioned, conducted by a national daily, the veteran AL lawmaker said it showed that AL's popularity has increased. "None of us has yet engaged in (electoral) campaigns. Only our leader (Sheikh Hasina) did. If we all will engage in the campaign, Awami League's popularity will increase to 45 percent whereas BNP's popularity will come down to 43," he said. Criticising BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Suranjit said the leader of opposition wants to "snatch away the franchise of the people forming polling station-based Sangram Committees."

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