

Bangladesh land of dead ideas

Zia Haider Rahman tells DU talk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is a land of dead ideas, where new concepts are throttled at birth and never get passed on because of social, political and class barriers, Zia Haider Rahman, the author of critically acclaimed novel "In the Light of What We Know", observed yesterday.

"This country belongs to people with extraordinary power and privileges," he said, referring to how ideas mostly come from the top and people on the bottom rung of the ladder always say "yes" to those.

The British-Bangladeshi writer was speaking at a talk titled "Notes of a Native Son", organised by Dhaka University's English department in Muzaffar Ahmed Auditorium of the social sciences faculty.

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Zia Haider Rahman, a British-Bangladeshi writer, speaks at a talk titled "Notes of a Native Son", organised by Dhaka University's English department in Muzaffar Ahmed Auditorium of the social science faculty. His debut novel "In the Light of What We Know" has received huge critical acclaim.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

CITY DESK

Prof Halima Begum Khuku, a renowned geographer and former head of Geography department at Eden Girls' College, died on November 27.

She was born on February 8, 1948. Wife of late Advocate Mahiyuddin Khaled, she left behind a daughter and a son.

A doa mahfil will be held tomorrow at 04:00pm at her Dhanmondi residence house-53, road-6/A.

All are requested to attend and pray for her departed soul.



2 found dead in Ctg

One was an autistic youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 10-year-old girl and an autistic youth were found dead in two separate incidents in Chittagong yesterday.

Md Emran Hossain alias Erfan, 24, son of Ear Mohammed of South Ziri in Patiya upazila, who was suffering mental disabilities, might have committed suicide by slitting his throat, said family members.

Police suspected that he was murdered by his family members, as his head was almost severed. "We recovered two blood-stained cleavers from his room," said Officer-in-Charge of Patiya Police Station Refayet Ullah Chowdhury. His mother Syeda Akther, 40, and younger brothers Osman Hossain, 22, and Korshed Alam, 18, were detained for interrogation.

In Bayezid of Chittagong city, the body of Shamima Akter, 10, daughter of Abdul Mannan of Modina Colony, was spotted in a common toilet by neighbours. Scratch marks were seen around her throat, said police.

Around 2:00pm, she was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital but doctors said she was brought dead.

Babul Chandra Banik, OC of Bayezid Police Station, said they were investigating to find if there was foul play. Samima, a second-grader at Brac School in Banglabazar, was found unconscious in the bathroom around 1:30pm, said his neighbour Mishuk Ahmed.

CLASH AT SUST

Nine BCL men remanded for assaulting cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court remanded nine Bangladesh Chhatra League men for two days each in a case filed for assaulting police during a BCL factional clash at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology on November 20.

The order came after police produced Joyonta, Ashik Mursalin, Ujjal, Nayeem, Belal, Sajal, Mehedi, Emran and Sultan before the court. The nine are students of Leading University, Madan Mohan College and Sust.

The clash killed an activist and injured nine. Police arrested 33 BCL men in this connection.

JS needs improvement

FROM PAGE 5

In reply to a query, Saber said democratic practices cannot be developed bypassing parliament.

"We are moving forward in terms of parliamentary democracy but we will have to do more in this regard. Political parties will have to be selective over whom they are nominating as MPs because quality of parliament also depends on MPs," he added.

He also stressed the need for enacting a law on the code of conduct of lawmakers in parliament.

Asked if their wins could be compared to the moon and the January 5 election, through which they became lawmakers, the moon's craters which seem to be scars from earth, Shirin replied in the negative.

She also said the continuation of democracy and the constitution was ensured through the January 5 election.

"How would have we been able to win in the two prestigious international forums if the January 5 election had not taken place?" she said, adding that the international community would have raised many questions if the election had not been held.

The duo vowed to work towards resolving people's problems and develop living standards in the region as well as the world through CPA and IPU.

Multiple glitches bog

FROM PAGE 5

Director Abu Eusuf told The Daily Star, "Although we have conducted the research only in 25 clinics, it reflects the scenario of the other community clinics across the country."

Dr Makhduma Nargis, additional secretary and project director of Revitalisation of Community Health Care Initiatives in Bangladesh, said, "We are trying to develop the infrastructure of community clinics and strengthen the monitoring mechanism to ensure better services to people."

Rally demands gas

FROM PAGE 5

connections were not given by February next year.

The agitators said hotels and restaurants consume 600 maunds of firewood daily.

Contacted, Tofail Ahmed said 5,400 households and industries were given gas supply so far since gas was made available in Rajshahi in July 2012. He said around 19,500 connections were still pending.

"We have orders to give connections to households and industries, but we cannot supply to commercial units like hotels and restaurants and CNG filling stations," he said.

Road crashes kill 4

FROM PAGE 5

Our Pabna correspondent adds Emon Hossain, 10, son of Bokul Hossain of Bohorpur village died when a tractor ran him over while he was crossing Pabna-Ishwardi highway in Ishwardi upazila.

Air quality monitoring

FROM PAGE 5

a station on the campus and a machine has arrived from Germany. Researchers have begun working...but we need to formulate policies before disclosing information on the website," said Prof Shahid, who is also the sub-project manager.

He added that the machine would give updates on the quality of air round-the-clock.

LOST

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NEWSIN brief

2 arrested with 5.2kg of explosives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two persons with 5.2kg of explosives in the capital's Khilgaon area on Tuesday.

The arrestees, Mahbubur Rahman, 19, and Atikur Rahman, 21, were transporting the package to its owner whose name could not be known immediately, said Mustafiz Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station. A case was filed.

9th RU convocation on Jan 18

RU CORRESPONDENT

The 9th convocation of Rajshahi University will be held on January 18 next year, said a press release on Tuesday.

Only graduates who have already registered will be able to join the convocation. Details are available at RU website www.ru.ac.bd.

National conference on tropical medicine from tomorrow in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Third national Conference on Tropical Medicine and Toxicology will begin at a hotel in Sylhet city tomorrow.

The 2-day event is organised by Toxicology Society of Bangladesh, Department of Medicine at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Tropical Medicine.

National Professor and founder of National Heart Foundation Brig Gen Abdul Malik (retd) will attend the inaugural ceremony as chief guest.

Butterfly fair at JU tomorrow

JU CORRESPONDENT

The department of zoology of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will organise a daylong butterfly fair on the campus tomorrow for the 5th time.

The event will be supported by Cute, Prokriti O Jibon Foundation and Channel i and FM radio Bhumii, said Monwar Hossain, a professor of zoology, yesterday.

Prof Farzana Islam, JU vice-chancellor, will inaugurate the fair where 80 species of live butterflies will be displayed.

DISCUSSION

Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum will organise a discussion on "Strengthening special administrative institutions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in line with the CHT accord." Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Time: 10:00am.

DISCUSSION

Steps Towards Development will organise a discussion on women's progress. Venue: Dhaka College, Time: 11:00am.

DISCUSSION

International Union for Conservation of Nature will organise a Bangladesh-India civil society dialogue on ecosystems and people. Venue: Amari Dhaka, Time: 9:00am.

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Request for Proposal (RFP)



JICA Bangladesh Office seeks proposals from interested NGO's/ Consultants/ Firms/ companies for its survey named "Study on Preparation of Policy Matrix for the development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Area".

All interested agencies may collect the detail Terms of Reference and proposal related documents from bd_oso_rep@jica.go.jp through a formal request by **12 pm, 5 December 2014**. Interested agencies are requested to submit their bids in sealed envelopes to JICA Bangladesh Office, Uday Tower, 7th Floor, 57& 57A Gulshan Avenue (South), Circle-1, Dhaka-1212, by **14th December 2014 (10. AM)**.

Request for Expression of Interest

for Network Devices (Core Routers, Core Switches etc)

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The Competent Vendors are invited to take part in this process and provide a proposal that satisfies the requirements of the Bank. To collect the RFP electronically, please email to eeoi2014@gmail.com before 5:00 pm, 15 December, 2014. The sealed proposal (technical and financial) in response to the RFP can be submitted on or before 11:00am, 17 December, 2014 at the address mentioned in the RFP Document.



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Request for Proposal (RFP)

Procurement of Sound System for the Conference Room

UNDP, JSF project is working with the Justice Sector of Bangladesh. To support the National Legal Aid Service Organization, JSF is going to procure a full sound system for the conference room. The detailed specifications are available in JSF website <http://jsf-undp.org/procurement/>

Interested companies/vendors are requested to collect the list and detailed specification from the link <http://jsf-undp.org/procurement/> and send their price quotation in a sealed envelope to the National Project Director, JSF Project, UNDP, Bangladesh, House # 10, Road # 62, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212 on or before **December 15, 2014 by 17:00 hours**. Quotation received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered.

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Cell No: 01711528105

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations invites bids for Lime (Quick Lime), Bagda (Shrimp) Post Larvae (PL-15), Tilapia Mono-sex Fry and Fish Feed. Bids should be submitted in the format indicated in the ITB document. ITB documents can be downloaded from the organization's Website: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/bangladesh/procurement/ongoing-tenders/en/>. ITB must be submitted no later than **12:00 Hrs. 14 December 2014**.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh
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Phone: 811 8015-18, Fax: 58152025

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Intending candidates fulfilling the required qualifications & experience should send their profile to the below mentioned address or to the e-mail address: jobs.hr@meghnagroup.biz till December 15, 2014.

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