



Indian Air Force Chief Arup Raha in town

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Air Force Chief Arup Raha arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh. Diplomatic sources said the visit, till February 25, is intended to take the existing defence cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries to the next level.

The areas of cooperation at present include exchange in military training courses, exchange of visits and joint sporting activities, they said.

During his stay, Air Chief Marshal Raha, who is also chairman of the chiefs of staff committee of the Indian Defence Forces, is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with the three

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US embassy releases Amar Ekushey video

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US embassy in Dhaka yesterday released a special video message for the Bangladeshi people in the city, marking the International Mother Language Day.

In the video, the embassy's staff paid their homage to those who sacrificed their lives to preserve the Bangla language, and wished the people of the country saying "Amar Ekushey" (Immortal 21st) in their respective mother tongues.

Many American employees of the embassy grew up speaking a language other than English, typical in a country with rich and diverse

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Actor Afzal Hossain teaches two kids how to write Bangla letters during the Bornomela 2016 at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in the capital yesterday. Inset, a girl smears a letter with colours at the daylong event, organised by the Prothom Alo in association with Unilever's brand Surf Excel, marking International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Children celebrate Bangla

Create colourful letters at Prothom Alo's Bornomela 2016

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drawn, coloured, painted and formed with clay by little hands, Bangla letters got hundreds of designs and shapes at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in the capital yesterday.

From the morning till evening, children with their friends and parents crowded the place celebrating their love for the mother tongue at the Bornomela 2016 (alphabet fair), organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with Unilever's brand Surf Excel, on International Mother Language Day.

Six-year-old Sadia Hasan Cynthia had red paint on both her hands. "I am colouring 'Aw' (the first letter of the Bangla alphabet)," she said, while pressing her hand on the huge white letter made from cardboard.

"I drew our national flag and flowers on T-shirts and wrote Bangla letters on the kite," she said. As she gave an account of her busy day at the fair, her mother standing beside informed how

Cynthia had been waiting for this day since she attended this event last year.

The fair, organised for the seventh time, engages people mostly children with the world of Bangla letters through songs, games, painting and hand-writing competitions and puppet and muppet shows. Celebrities, writers, and singers spend time with the kids introducing the alphabets to them.

The event was also held in Rajshahi and Chittagong yesterday.

The fair at Dhaka was inaugurated by actress Joya Ahsan, writer Shahnaz Munni, and gold medal winning weight-lifter in South Asian Games 2016 Mabia Akhter Simanta.

Tashinur Rahman, student of class-II of an English medium school, came to the fair with his mother. He was looking for a T-shirt he painted, at a stall by Surf Excel, which offered a chance to children to paint designs on white T-shirts, out of which the best ones were awarded.

"I drew a flag and the letters," he said, explaining what February 21st signifies. "I can read

Bangla but not fluently," he said, adding that he went to the book fair with his mother almost every year and bought comics and story books.

At the Bornomela, the fun-filled atmosphere intrigued class-X student Mayabi Chowdhury from Uttara so much that she too dipped her hand in the paint buckets and coloured the cardboard letters.

"It feels good to see people of this generation coming here and having fun playing with Bangla letters. You only see our affection for Bangla only on occasions now," said Mayabi, adding that she and her parents would visit the Shaheed Minar afterwards.

Mahmuda, Maisha, and Rifat came with their uncle from Mohammadpur. Though teenaged, they were excited like toddlers to get on the Ferris wheel. "We came here for the first time, reading about the event in the paper," said Maisa, student of class-VII.

"We are having so much fun; we will come here again next year," said her sister Mahmuda with a grin.

NEWS IN brief

3rd convocation of Cuet on March 14

CU CORRESPONDENT
The third convocation of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) will be held on March 14. President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of the university, is expected to preside over the programme. Those who graduated between 2012 and February 2016 are eligible to participate. Registration process, which has started in November last year, will continue till February 28, said Cuet registrar. Detailed information can be found at www.cuet.ac.bd/convocation2015.

India invites Bangladeshis for self-financed education

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
India has invited applications from eligible Bangladeshis nationals for admission to the medical, dental, engineering and pharmacy courses at reputed colleges and institutions in the country under its self-financing scheme for the academic year 2016-2017. The courses are: MBBS, BDS, BE/diploma in engineering, and B pharmacy/diploma in pharmacy, said a press release of the Indian High Commission yesterday. Application forms and detailed instructions are available at the High Commission's website's link: <http://hcidhaka.gov.in/pages.php?id=62>. The submission deadline is March 30. For details, please call 9888789-91 Extn-311 or 142 or email to attu@hcidhaka.gov.in or education@hcidhaka.gov.in.

Bangladeshi youth's feat for int'l mother language month

UNB, Dhaka
A Bangladeshi youth has done a wonderful job by composing the famous song "Amar Bhaier Rokhte Rangan Ekushey February..." into 12 languages together marking the International Mother Language Day.

Nabid Salehin Niloy, a student of American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB), did the job connecting singers from 11 countries apart from Bangladeshi singers and made the song to pay respect to language martyrs in a different way.

"This is one of my dream projects. Thanks a lot for all your comments and supports. Thanks to each and everyone involved in this project. A project for International Mother Language Day... #Project 21," Nabid wrote on his Facebook page sharing the video of the song in 12 languages.

He said singers from 12 countries showed their

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Women from the local fishing community of Adarsha Char 1 knit dolls at a training session at Chandramohan Union in Barisal sadar upazila. After a two months' training, they will be making dolls for export to 32 countries and thus earn a livelihood. The government project is aimed at preventing over-fishing in Barisal and Bhola districts.

PHOTO: STAR



Dhaka Bar Association election on Feb 24, 25

BSS, Dhaka

The two-day polls to elect the leaders in the Dhaka Bar Association will be held on February 24 and 25.

The candidates will vie for a total of 25 posts including president and general secretary posts.

More than 20 thousand members will choose their leaders for the session 2016-17.



Guests, accompanied by doctors, at the launch of Free Medical and Eye Camp-2016 at Hatibandha of Shakhipur in Tangail yesterday. At the camp, over 400 poor patients received treatment in various disciplines including kidney, heart, liver, gynecology and ENT free of charge, and more than 100 eye patients underwent cataract surgery. Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society organised the camp in honor of the Language Movement martyrs.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Obituary

CITY DESK

Mina Zaman Chowdhury, a former lawmaker, died on Saturday, said a press release yesterday.

She was the wife of late Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, former chairman of Education Board, Rajshahi.

She was the daughter of Zobeda Rahim Chowdhury, the first Muslim female politician of Bangladesh, and Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahim Chowdhury, public prosecutor of Sylhet.

She was also the founder chairperson of Jalalabad Hostoshilpo Shongstha.

As an MP of Sunamganj, she initiated a project for allocating plots to landless widows.

In Rajshahi, during the mid-1960s, she was instrumental in setting up cottage industries to help needy women overcome poverty. During this time, she was the founder president of Ladies' Association, Rajshahi too, a social service organisation. She was also the government-appointed honorary jail visitor in Rajshahi.



Toys to give

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"After the training is over we will contact those trainees to supply quality products. They will be paid Tk 30 to Tk 200 for each product.

Later, these products will be exported to 32 countries including America and Europe," Robiul added.

"This toy making training will help me to make money and support my family financially," said Bina Begum, one of the trainees.

Another trainee Munni, a class-XII student, echoed her.

Last year, many women of Barisal Sadar, were given materials to make traditional shitol pati (large mats woven from cane skin), fishing nets, and start poultry farms which helped them create an alternative source of family income, Wahiduzzaman said.

BNP men scuffle with

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of Criminology Prof Zia Rahman fell on the stairs, they added.

In a Facebook status, Zia Rahman said the "attack" was "unthinkable and unacceptable". Later, some BNP men scuffled with the volunteers as the latter did not allow all of them to accompany Khaleda to the main premises of the memorial. Several videos showed BNP men beating the volunteers with shoes after the volunteers prevented them from ascending the Shaheed Minar stairs wearing shoes.

Prof Amzad Ali, acting proctor of DU, told The Daily Star that at least seven people including a professor were injured in the incidents. BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, however, claimed at a press briefing at the party central office yesterday that police repeatedly tried to bar Khaleda from going to the Shaheed Minar. He also denied that BNP men attacked volunteers. "It was police who attacked BNP men, leaving at least 50 people injured," he claimed.

CCC awards 13

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Fazl Karim (social service, posthumous), Mohammad Zakaria (encouraging promotion of learning), Siru Bangali (contribution in the Liberation War) and Arun Chandra Bonik (culture).

The Sahitya award recipients are Kamruzzaman Jahangir (fictional literature, posthumous), Faujul Kabir (poetry), Rashed Rauf (child literature), Sheikh Khurshid Anwar (world literature), Hafiz Rashid Khan (essay) and Nur Mohammad Rafique (research).

"ব্যঙ্গ-সৃষ্টিতে অসাধারণ প্রতিভার প্রয়োজন। ... বন্ধু আবুল মনসুরের হাত-সাঁফাই দেখে বিস্মিত হলাম। ভাষার কান মলে রস সৃষ্টির ক্ষমতা আবুল মনসুরের অসাধারণ। এ যেন পাকা গুস্তাদী হাত।"

-কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম



আবুল মনসুর আহমদের শ্রেষ্ঠ গল্প

সম্পাদনায় ড. নুরুল আমিন

বইটি পাওয়া যাচ্ছে অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলায় ডেইলি স্টার বুকসের ২৩৫-৩৬ নং স্টলে।



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আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ: প্রথমা (৯৬৬৪৮২৫), পাঠক সমাবেশ (০১৭১৩০৩৪৪০) কাটাবন: প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড: সাগর পাবলিশার্স (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪) বিমান বন্দর: বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭), নরসিংদী: বই পুস্তক (০১৮১৮৫৩৪৮৯৩) কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৭১১ ৫৭৫৬০৬)।

চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩০৪০৪৪), প্রথমা (০১৭১১৬৪৯২২২)