

Shaheed Asad Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Asad Day will be observed today, commemorating the supreme sacrifice of the student leader Asaduzzaman Asad.



On January 20 in 1969, Asaduzzaman Asad, the hero of the 1969 mass upsurge movement, was gunned down by the Pakistani police at a protest against the atrocities on the people of East Pakistan at a rally near Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The death of Asad, then a master's student of Dhaka University, took the mass upsurge to the highest peak which expedited the fall of the then military dictator Field Marshal Ayub Khan from his long rule.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages paying tributes to the memory of Asad on the occasion.

To mark the day, different socio-cultural, student and political organisations, including Shaheed Asad Parishad, have also chalked out various programmes. The programmers include placing wreaths at the memorial plaque of Asad in front of the DMCH and his grave at Shibpur in Narsingdi.

Sultan-uz Zaman Khan's death anniversary

STAR REPORT

The tenth death anniversary of former bureaucrat Sultan-uz Zaman Khan was observed yesterday.



He served in different local and foreign organisations in various capacities. He was the founder chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Bangladesh and served from 1993 to 1996, says a press release.

Sultan-uz Zaman entered the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1955 and was the commissioner of Khulna Division in 1970.

He served as the secretary of the Shipping, Inland Waterways and Aviation in 1973.

He was a senior official at Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok for many years.

His family requested all his relatives and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Delegation led

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South cooperation including in the areas of trade, investment, sustainable development, climate change, poverty eradication, and digital economy.

In Kampala, the 134 Member States will reiterate the message of solidarity, unity, and complementarity of the South and speak with a unified voice to achieve their common goals and objectives. The foreign minister is scheduled to leave Kampala for Dhaka on January 22.

CHUNGA PITHA

Sylhet's secret winter delicacy



Locals prepare Chunga Pitha, a complex process that involves cutting down bamboo into small pieces, patching banana leaves inside and filling it with pre-soaked Binni rice. The bamboo pots are then slow-cooked on fire pits for 40-50 minutes, with the final dish being served with freshly caught fish, meat curry, rice pudding, milk, ground coconuts and hand-grinded Lai leaf chutney.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

"Dolu" bamboo, newly harvested Binni rice, banana leaves and straw.

If one has these four items, they're all set to celebrate winter with Sylhet's traditional delicacy, Chunga Pitha.

Also known as Chungapura Pitha, this delicious dish used to be a must-have in the rural areas of Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts. Not many know of the origins of this traditional rice cake. Most locals believe its roots lie in the indigenous communities, who once lived in the hills where Dolu bamboo is widely available.

Preparing Chunga Pitha is quite complex, as witnessed by this correspondent during a recent visit to the area.

It starts with collecting and cutting down bamboo into small pieces, keeping a knot at one end intact, to make "chongs". This is

where the name "Chunga", meaning a tube-shaped pot in Bangla, comes from.

Banana leaves are then patched inside the bamboo pots, before being filled with pre-soaked Binni rice.

Working as a natural non-stick foil, the banana leaves

prevent the rice cakes from sticking to the bamboo walls. Once ready, the pots, with their tips secured tightly with straws, are slow-cooked on fire pits for 40-50 minutes.

The special texture of the Dolu bamboo slows down the burning process and ensures moisture to the rice to be cooked properly.

The cakes are then set aside for cooling and later pulled out before being

unwrapped and served warm, with fish freshly caught from the haors. They can also be stored when cold.

It can also be paired with meat curry, rice pudding, milk, ground coconuts and hand-grinded Lai leaf chutney.

Once a must-have in rural areas of Sylhet and Moulvibazar, the glory of Chunga Pitha has dimmed with time, owing to the unavailability of Dolu bamboo (Schizostachyum dullooa).

A bundle of 20 bamboos are sold for Tk 500-700. The prices are higher during festivals like Poush Sankranti, according to locals.

"Earlier, we could harvest enough bamboo to make 15-

20 such bundles every day, but now, we only get enough to make 2-3 such bundles. Population of this bamboo variety is declining and needs protecting," said Hira Das, a bamboo seller of Baralekha upazila in Moulvibazar.

Catering to rising demand, two sisters from Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila - Sawda Akther Chowdhury and Shamima Yasmin Chowdhury - have made a Facebook page, with Chunga Pitha being their main attraction.

"Many cannot make this pitha, as they cannot find necessary raw materials. We are bringing this dish to them," said Sawda.

Sold nationwide through their page, the demand for this pitha is very high. This has led to several challenges for the two, who often struggle to source raw materials.

"We will keep trying our best to preserve this tradition," said Shamima.



Sunken ferry crew member still missing

Salvage ship 'Prottoy' joins rescue operation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The salvage ship "Prottoy" joined the operation to rescue the sunken ferry in Padma near Manikganj's Paturia Ghat yesterday.

Meanwhile, Humayun Kabir, 39, the assistant master of the sunken ferry, is still missing, said Shah Md Khaled Nawaz, deputy general manager (commerce) of the Aricha Regional Office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation.

The ferry "Rajanigandha," operating on the Daulatdia-Paturia route, capsized near Terminal-5 around 8:15am on Wednesday with nine goods-laden vehicles.

Despite three days passing since the incident, there has been no significant progress in the rescue work.

After recovering two trucks on Wednesday and one truck at 3:30pm on Thursday, neither the vehicle nor the missing assistant master has been found.



Palash Khan from Patgati village in Tungipara said, "My truck has not been recovered yet. The truck was loaded with cowhide..."

Similarly, Anwar Hossain, a cotton trader and truck owner from Uttarlalhari in Kushtia, said, "My truck has been salvaged, but the cotton worth Tk 1 crore in the truck drowned..."

Another truck owner, Monwar Hossain Minarul, faced the same fate.

BIWTC official Nawaz said, "After the accident, rescue ship Hamza joined the operation immediately and managed to recover a covered van nine hours after the incident. Three hours later, a truck was recovered at 8:00pm, and the rescue operation was halted due to dense fog and severe cold. Another truck was recovered at 3:30pm on Thursday."

He said "Prottoy" went to the spot at 3:30pm, and the rescue operation was called off at 6:00pm yesterday. With the assistance of Hamza and Rustom, the operation will resume at 9:00am today.

1,200 chickens burnt to ashes

UNB, Chattogram

Fire gutted a poultry farm with 1,200 chickens in Chattogram's Boalkhali upazila yesterday morning.

The fire broke out at Kamal Hossain's poultry farm in Ward-2 of East Kalurghat area of the upazila.

The Boalkhali fire service rushed to the scene, but the farm was destroyed before they could reach it.

"The fire broke out on my farm around 4:00am. There were 1,200 chickens on this farm. Everything was burnt to ashes," said Kamal.

Md Saidur Rahman, acting station in-charge of Boalkhali Fire Service, said the fire originated from an electric short circuit.

Commercial building sale

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পুটি বিক্রয় হবে

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It's our duty to protect rivers, haors: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists and environmentalists at a public meeting yesterday emphasised the importance of individual initiatives to protect rivers, haors and agricultural lands.

"When we become hostile to nature, nature denies us its resources and rather pushes us towards further crisis," said Sultana Kamal, a former advisor to a caretaker government and member of the DHORA advisory committee.

The event titled "Demanding Protection of Haors, Rivers and Agricultural Lands" was jointly organised by Dhoritri Rokhaya Amra (DHORA) and two local union parishads at Tahirpur upazila in Sunamganj.

DHORA member secretary Sharif Jamil identified unplanned and illegal sand mining as factors exacerbating natural disasters like floods.

He called for urgent national and international action to address the problems facing Tanguar Haor.

Before the speeches, participants visited the flood-prone Tanguar Haor to witness firsthand the threats facing the vital ecosystem.

Prof Nazia Chowdhury of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology also spoke at the event as a special guest.

When we become hostile to nature, nature denies us its resources and rather pushes us towards further crisis.

SULTANA KAMAL

Where the buffalo

FROM PAGE 3

communities, as they stand to lose their means of income if this practice becomes unsustainable.

The encroachment on grazing land by the advancing sea poses a threat to the livelihoods of herding communities, which can also impact the region's protein supply. During a recent visit to the island, this correspondent spoke with at least 10 herders, including Mohammed Rahim, who expressed concerns about the need to relocate their livestock due to a shortage of pastures.

Mohammed Mostafa, a herder with 52 buffaloes, had moved from Urir Char to Amanullah on Sandwip in 2017. "Livestock rearing is my family business. But we are now struggling to survive," he said.

The island's economy is suffering due to the decline in the buffalo population. Some herders have been compelled to switch professions, such as Shamsul Hoque, who lost his job as buffaloes of the farm where he used to work had to relocate to Sandwip.

The status quo has also hit the local yoghurt market. Mohammed Harun, a 45-year-old resident of Urir

Char, said, "I used to produce yoghurt from buffalo milk, but the milk shortage forced me to abandon this profession, and I am now working as a day labourer,"

GOVT INTERVENTION A MUST
Both researchers and officials from the livestock department are recommending the construction of a sustainable dike to safeguard the island.

Upazila livestock officer Azam said, "We urged WDB officials to build a dike around the island to protect the livestock pastures."

Climate expert Mohammad Abdur Rahman warned, "If the island is not shielded from erosion, the grazing land crisis is likely to exacerbate in the future."

WDB engineer Anis Haider Khan confirmed that they have submitted a project proposal costing Tk 794 crore to construct an embankment

"We conducted a survey and identified that the 9.6 square kilometre area of Urir Char is susceptible to washing out during extreme weather events due to the lack of a dike.

We plan to construct a dike surrounding the island pending approval from the ministry."

TIB report

FROM PAGE 3

Nazrul appreciated the opinions given by local and foreign organisations disapproving of the election held on January 7.

"Fairly speaking, we'll welcome those who speak on behalf of the people of Bangladesh. What we say matters, and what people say matters... We also thank all those who criticise injustice, tyranny, repression, and vote-stealing," he added.

He said the country's people do not like the autocratic rule of the current AL government. He said the government has unjustly arrested the BNP leaders and activists, including Begum Khaleda Zia, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Mirza Abbas, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, and Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal.

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:30	12:45	4:15	5:43	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:47 7:45				
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

EAST WEST UNIVERSITY
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TENDER INVITATION

Tender is invited from the bonafide / intending suppliers/firms for the following items:

- Interior Decoration of office rooms of the Chairperson, BOT and Chief Adviser of East West University
- Interior Decoration of Day Care Center at East West University

The schedule of the items with terms and conditions (hard copy) can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department (1st floor) of the University up to 31.01.2024 during office hours (up to 03:00 p.m.) on working days. The price of the tender schedule (non-refundable) is Tk.500/- (excluding online service charge for e-tender process).

The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender schedule through hard copy by 01.02.2024 within 02:00 P.M. Hard copy of the tender must be dropped in the tender box kept at the 2nd floor of the Office of the Treasurer (Room No-316) of the University. The tender(s) submitted within the deadline will be opened on the same day (01.02.2024) at 02:30 P.M. at the Conference Room (4th floor) of East West University in the presence of the bidders (if any) by ensuring health safety.

The bidders must mention the "name of the item" at the top of envelope. Otherwise, the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without mentioning any reason thereof.

Chief of HR & Logistics