

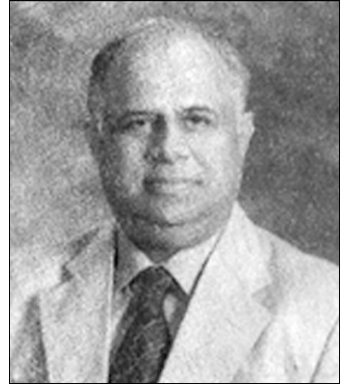
## Clinic Plus-Prothom Alo inter-school debate Super six round begins tomorrow

### CU CORRESPONDENT

The super six round of the Clinic Plus-Prothom Alo inter-school parliamentary debate competition begins tomorrow.

Chittagong Government High School, Dr Khastagir School, Kapasgola City Corporation School, Silver Bells School, Ankur Society School and Meron Sun School will take part in this round.

Conducted by Drishti, a local cultural organisation, the competition will be held at the local public



## Pak columnist Ikram Sehgal arrives today

### STAFF Correspondent

Noted Pakistani columnist Ikram Sehgal will arrive in the city today (Friday) on a two-day visit.

During his stay, Sehgal will deliver a speech on Iraq situation at the North South University on Sunday at 11.30am.

He will also deliver a speech on the state of South Asian countries at the Independent University at 4.00pm the same day.

administration auditorium at 11.00am.

Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), will attend the programme as chief guest.

Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Chittagong chapter Dr Shahadat Hossain, CCCI Vice-president Monzurul Amin and production manager of Liver Brothers Mahmud Hasan Khan will be present as special guests.

The semi-final of the debate competition will be held on September 9.

After the semi final, a Baroari competition will also be held.

The first and second round of the competition were held last month.

## 750 bags of smuggled sugar seized

### UNB, Chandpur

Police seized 750 bags of sugar smuggled from India and arrested seven people from a bus terminal yesterday.

The arrestees include sugar dealers, truck drivers and helpers. Police raided the bus terminal and seized three trucks laden with sugar.

Another report said that a head-on collision of two buses at Mithkhola on the outskirts of the town left 10 passengers injured.

Witnesses said the accident took place at about 1pm on Chandpur-Comilla road.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion marking the National Mourning Day at the Engineers' Institute auditorium yesterday. The Bangabandhu Prokoushali Parishad organised the event.

## 'Indian river project to destroy agriculture, bio-diversity in Bangladesh'

### UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury cautioned that Bangladesh's agriculture, pisciculture, river navigation and bio-diversity would be damaged if India diverts the water of the common rivers of the two countries at the upstream.

Bangladesh's existence would be at stake if the 200 billion-dollar scheme, taken up by India to divert the water of the common rivers at the upstream, is implemented, he said. The state minister was speaking

at the sixth meeting of the member countries of UN Desertification Resistance Convention in Cuba on Wednesday, said a message received in the city yesterday.

He called on the international community including international organisations to come forward to help and support the affected countries, including Bangladesh, in dissuading India from implementing the project.

About 74,000 square km areas of Bangladesh's north-western and south-western region are facing desertification due to water scarcity as India withdraws the water of the

Padma river through the Farakka barrage, he said.

Owing to sweet water paucity in the rivers, Jafrul said, saline water enters the total coastal areas of southern Bangladesh, including largest mangrove forest Sundarbans, endangering the existence of the areas.

Delegates from many countries including Mozambique, Bahrain, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Zambia, Angola, Timor, China, Ghana and Pakistan attended the convention.

## S Asian conference on sanitation from Oct 21

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day South Asian Conference on sanitation will be held in Dhaka on October 21-23 to adopt a uniform strategy and work plan for the south Asia region.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the conference at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Apart from SAARC member countries, Afghanistan and Myanmar will also join the conference, said LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at a press conference yesterday.

He said the government has taken up an ambitious programme to provide sanitation facilities for all by 2010.

To raise awareness about proper

sanitation system, the government has also decided to declare October 2003 as the month of sanitation.

"A nationwide survey is being carried out to assess the existing situation," he added. Government officials, donor agencies, NGOs and local representatives have extended their support to make the programme a success, he said.

"We are, however, yet to estimate the total cost of the programme. We think that 60 to 70 per cent people have the ability to install sanitary latrines on their own initiatives," the minister said.

Stressing the need for awareness campaign, he said around 57 per cent of people still use open latrines.

The nationwide survey is aimed at finding out the reasons for not installing the sanitary latrines, the minister said. The survey that began in June will be completed by the second week of this month.

Bhuiyan said the government

would provide assistance in the form of financial and technical support to the people for installing sanitary latrines.

The community sanitation system will be introduced in the areas where enough land would not be available for the purpose, he added.

The government has also decided to replace around 15,000 open latrines in Dhaka with modern latrines.

A total of 4,533 such latrines have already been set up by various NGOs, the minister said.

In addition, 100 modern public toilets would also be set up in the areas under Dhaka City Corporation.

State minister for LGRD Ziaul Huque Zia and LGRD secretary AYBI Siddiqi were also present at the press conference.

## Attack on indigenous people condemned

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum yesterday condemned the attacks on indigenous people of Mohalchhari in Khagrachhari and village people of Pabna Sadar thana recently.

In a statement, Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Secretary General Saifuddin Ahmed Manik also deplored the government for not taking any action against those involved in the attacks.

They said the settlers attacked the indigenous people in presence of police and armed forces without any provocation from them.

Moreover, the administration is helping the attackers which is a clear violation of human rights and constitution, they added.

Gonoforum leaders also expressed their concern at the attack on the people of char areas in Pabna district allegedly by BNP-Jamaat activists.

They alleged that the police did not take the cases filed by the victims and arrested them instead of taking legal steps against the attackers.

Gonoforum leaders demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the criminals involved in both the attacks.



PHOTO: PID

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a press briefing on sanitation scheme in the city yesterday.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Slight rise in temperature likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over six divisions till 6pm today.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met office said.

Highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 25.0 degree at Chittagong, Comilla Haliya and Cox's Bazar.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	25.8	75	65
Chittagong	32.2	25.0	73	80
Rajshahi	34.0	25.8	80	75
Khulna	34.5	25.6	84	97
Barisal	32.6	25.4	81	80
Sylhet	34.5	26.2	88	69
Cox's Bazar	31.6	25.0	76	82

## 2 rapists get life in Barisal

### BSS, Barisal

A court here yesterday sentenced two persons to life term imprisonment and also fined Tk one lakh each in a rape case.

Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal MA Qudus announced the judgement in the jam-packed court room in presence of the convicts -- Mhammad Abbas, 25, and Mohammad Kabir, 30.

After examining 10 prosecution witnesses, a number of evidences and other relevant documents, the court found Abbas and Kabir guilty of raping a housewife in Barguna district.

The court also asked the Deputy Commissioner of Barguna to realise the fine by selling both movable and immovable property of the convicts and deposit the money with the government fund.

The prosecution story in brief is that Abbas and Kabir of the village Kalibari Kathalati of Patharghata upazila in Barguna district entered the house of the housewife in absence of her husband rickshawpuller Soleman Hawlader and violated her one after another.

Soleman Hawlader filed a rape case with the Speedy Trial Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression in Barisal on April 26 last year against Abbas and Kabir. Police arrested both the rapists on following the day.

## 3 killed, 20 hurt in Tangail road mishap

### BSS, Tangail

Three persons died and at least 20 other injured critically in a road accident yesterday at East Beel-Gharinda by-pass on West Bengal-Dhaka highway, two kilometers off Tangail town.

Police said the mishap took place when a Dhaka bound passenger bus from Rangpur skidded off the road and fell into a ditch when its driver lost control over the steering.

Three persons died on the spot while at least 20 others injured. Among the dead, one was identified as Imron, 7, son of one Parul Begum of Momenabad in Pabna while identities of two others are yet to be known.

Local people rushed to the phase of occurrences and rescued the ill-fated passengers. The injured were sent to Tangail Sadar hospital by rickshaws and rickshaw vans. The driver and helper of the bus managed to escape.

The critically injured persons, under going treatment at the Tangail Sadar Hospital are: Gafour, 60, Abida, 18, Liton, 18, Abdus Sattar, 45, of Sirajganj, Sarwar Hossain, 35, Azizur Rahman, 50, Saiful Mollah, 20, Mofel Mondol, 20, Hamidur Rahman, 33, Rezaul Karim, 30, Akhter Mondol, 45, Bablu, 35, Ratan, 25, Parul, Sumi, 21, and Abdus Sattar, 25, all from Pabna.

Yasin, 35, of Sirajganj, Sariful Islam, 25, of Kushtia, Mostaque Ahmed, 30, of Savar, Dhaka and Abdul Hakim, 25, of Tangail.

Attending doctor Belayet Hossain told BSS that conditions of six persons were stated to be critical.

## Make ADR system effective: Huda

### BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday urged the judicial officers to make the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system effective to protect the interests of litigants.

"The existing laws do not effectively protect the interests of litigants, rather they take years to settle any dispute in the court," he said. Consequently, the litigants become frustrated, he added.

The minister made these observations while he was inaugurating a two-day workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) here. Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organised the workshop at its auditorium with 30 joint district judges participating in it.



## Congratulations

Samiul Hasan has obtained Ph.D. in bio-informatics from the University of Cambridge, UK, recently, says a press release.

The title of his research was 'Prediction and analysis of Neocleosome positioning in genomic sequences.'

Earlier, Samiul Hasan worked at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and was a member of the 'Human Genome Project'.

He is the eldest son of Raziul Hasan, managing director of Omnilink Ltd, and Momtaz Hasan, a schoolteacher.

## Qulqhwani

Qulqhwani of Alhaj Shafia Begum will be held at the residence of her elder son Mohammad Zakaria Khan, editor of Dainik Banglabazar Patrika, at Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Alhaj Shafia Begum died on August 30 at the age of 70.

She is survived by four sons, two daughters and a number of grand children.

## Lux-Anandadhara Photogenic Contest

## Shashi qualifies for final round

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Sharmin Zoha Shashi, a SSC examinee from Rangpur, won the title of Miss Rajshahi Photogenic 2003 at the regional contest of LuxAnandadhara Miss Bangladesh Photogenic 2003 on Tuesday.

She now qualifies for final round of Lux-Anandadhara Miss Bangladesh Photogenic 2003 competition to be held in Dhaka.

In a colourfully lit stage at Nanking Community Centre, Pratyasha, the winner of last year's Lux-Anandadhara Miss Bangladesh Photogenic contest, crowned the Rajshahi regional winner after Asaduzzaman Noor, a prominent cultural activist, announced her name.

Rajshahi University students Raha Nur Sonali and Rumana became the first and second runners-up in the contest.

Nine beauties, who were primarily selected from among the 25 contestants of 16 districts of Rajshahi division, took part in the regional final and three winners were adjudged by their photogenic beauty, merit and stage performance.

A panel of five judges, Asaduzzaman Noor and Anandadhara expert Arun Chowdhury from Dhaka, and local elite Professor Moly Bhoumik, eminent journalist Sharmin Sultana

and RU teacher Dr Munira Kayes, selected them.

Two noted singers, Monir Khan and Farzana Mili, rendered a number of popular songs to enthral the audience that included a number of local elite, artists and journalists.

The Lux Anandadhara Miss

Bangladesh Photogenic contest got bigger dimension this year taking all divisions within its fold and culminating at the final stage in Dhaka.

The contest has become the biggest event in the country to find out talented new stars every year.



PHOTO: STAR

Pratyasha, the winner of last year's Lux-Anandadhara Miss Bangladesh Photogenic contest, crowns Sharmin Zoha Shashi with the title of Miss Rajshahi Photogenic 2003.

# DHAKA TODAY

### Tagore evening

An evening of Tagore song has been organised on the occasion of the 5th founding anniversary of Rabirosimi, a cultural organisation. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium, National Museum. Time: 6:15pm.

### Film show

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'The Old Man and the Sea' directed by J Sturges. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5:00pm.

### Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled '15 minutes' and 'About a boy'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3:30pm and 6:30pm.

### French movie show

Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'L'homme du train' directed by Patrice Leconte (2001). Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery. Time: 10:30am and 6:00pm.

### Led display

The launching ceremony of Led display product of future vision will be held with Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 6:30pm.

### Mela

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day homebased women workers craft mela (fair), organised by Bangladesh Homeworkers Women Association, will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Dhanmondi Krira Complex. Time: 10:00am.

### Memorial discussion

A discussion will be held to commemorate the 29th death anniversary of Abdul Alim, a renowned folk-singer. It will be followed by a musical soiree. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium. Time: 5:30pm.

### Inauguration

The opening ceremony of the third PQS Super Centre the first chain supermarket in Bangladesh- will be held. Venue:

Genetic Plaza, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:30am.

### Workshop

A workshop on the 'Remedies of identified problems of children and their implementation' will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 9:30am.

### Tree plantation

Dhanmondi Paribesh Nunnay Jote organises a programme for tree plantation. Venue: In front of the German Cultural Centre. Time: 10:00am.

### Doctors' conference

A conference of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad will be held with Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium, Eskaton. Time: 9:00am.

### AL meeting

An extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 6:30pm.

### Human chain

Sunder Jiban in collaboration with the Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children, will form a human chain against noise pollution. Venue: In front of the National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 10:00am.

# DHAKA TOMORROW

### Foundation laying ceremony

The foundation laying ceremony of the new building of Dhaka District Judge Court will be held with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Court premises. Time: 11:30am.

### Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Diabetic Association organises a meeting to commemorate the 14th death anniversary of its founder National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim. Venue: Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00pm.