

# JUTA continues class boycott programme

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) yesterday observed the second day of their three-day class boycott programme on the campus.

Most of the classes were not held as the teachers belonging to the JUTA did not take any classes.

Some teachers having link with the vice chancellor, however, took classes.

Many departments were a deserted look as the students did not turn up for the classes. These were kept under lock and key.

All scheduled examinations were held on time as these had been kept out of the purview of the programme that ends today.

The JUTA announced the programme on September 1 demanding the removal of the vice-chancellor and punishment to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists who confined the teachers of a residential hall on August 11.

Earlier, the JUTA observed a two-day class boycott programme on September 3 and 4.

A general meeting of the JUTA will be held on September 14 to take tougher programme to press home their demands.

## RUDA celebrations begin today

RU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day programme of Rajshahi University Drama Association (RUDA) begins on the campus today to celebrate the second decade of its founding anniversary.

The programme includes rally, recitation of poems and staging of dramas.

## 1637 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,637 people, including 7 listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they recovered four firearms, two other arms and seven bullets and filed four cases against 10 persons under the Arms Act, says a Police Headquarters press release.



PHOTO: STAR

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal took out a procession in the city yesterday in support of the September 16 hartal.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a huge public meeting at Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday.

# Indian river-linking plan to intensify water crisis in Bangladesh: Bhuiyan

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said implementation of the Indian river-linking project would intensify the water problem in Bangladesh, particularly in the dry season.

Expressing his deep concern, the LGRD minister said, "If India deprives Bangladesh of its rights to the just share of transboundary water defying international laws by implementing its river-linking project, the water problem in Bangladesh will take a serious turn."

Inaugurating a daylong national seminar on "Mitigation of arsenic problem through Rural Development Academy (RDA) - developed multipurpose low-cost deep tubewell water (DTW)," he said the country is facing scarcity of safe-drinking water due to the Farakka Barrage and unplanned use of groundwater.

Bhuiyan said over 35 million people are affected by arsenic contamination. The contamination of water is creating several complex diseases including skin infection, skin cancer, blindness and physical

disability, he added.

Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury chaired the seminar, organised jointly by the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division and the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, at the CIRDA auditorium here.

RDA Director General SM Zahurul Islam and Bangladesh Agriculture University Professor Dr LR Khan also addressed the seminar.

Experts on water resources

management, government officials concerned, and representatives of institutions working on water management and non-government organisations participated in the seminar.

Bhuiyan said 70 per cent water for irrigation is being used from groundwater while 97 per cent for drinking water.

He said the government is pledge-bound to strengthen rural economy as it would ultimately boost the overall economy of the country.

Describing the supply of safe-

drinking water as one of the major components for strengthening the rural economy, he expressed hope that the newly-developed technology of the RDA would help increase water management.

Joint Director (Irrigation Engineering) of the RDA M A Matin presented the keynote paper.

Objectives of the seminar were to introduce the RDA developed low-cost deep tubewell (DTW) and the safe-drinking water supply model, and their multiple uses in the rural areas.

M A Matin said installation cost of the low-cost DTW will be minimum and it will help ensure supply of fresh water.

"The newly-developed DTW has got the superiority over the traditional DTW in respect of cost and amount of water supply on regular basis," he added.

# Stranded Pakistanis to meet Pak FM today

UNB, Dhaka

The stranded Pakistanis will meet Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri today to reiterate their longstanding demand for taking them back to their homeland.

Chief Patron of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) M Nasim Khan told a press conference at the National Press Club here yesterday that about 250,000 people of the community have been languishing in different camps across Bangladesh in a subhuman conditions for decades now.

More than 32 years have elapsed after the independence of Bangladesh, when they were left behind after the war, and many Pakistani leaders gave them assurances about repatriation.

And 1,000 housing units constructed for them in Punjab are lying vacant while sufficient funds are available as well with the Rabita Trust for the rehabilitation. But none came up to end their plight, Nasim Khan said.

President General Pervez

Musharraf also gave us assurance of looking into the matter during his visit to Dhaka last year. But nothing came out of that as yet, Nasim Khan said.

"I'll fight till my last for the cause," said the 82-year-old Khan, who, in last 30 years, have negotiated many times with leaders of Bangladesh and Pakistan and also with different international organisations for the repatriation of the Pakistanis from here.

The stranded Pakistanis, better known as Biharis, opted to go to Pakistan after the independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

Only about two lakh of them could go till 1993 while over 250,000 others are living in different camps in Dhaka, Chittagong, Syedpur, Rangpur and other areas.

Nasim Khan appealed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for allowing a five-member delegation of SPGRC to meet and apprise her of the problems of the camp life.

SPGRC President Abdul Jabbar Khan, General Secretary M Showkat Ali and others were present.

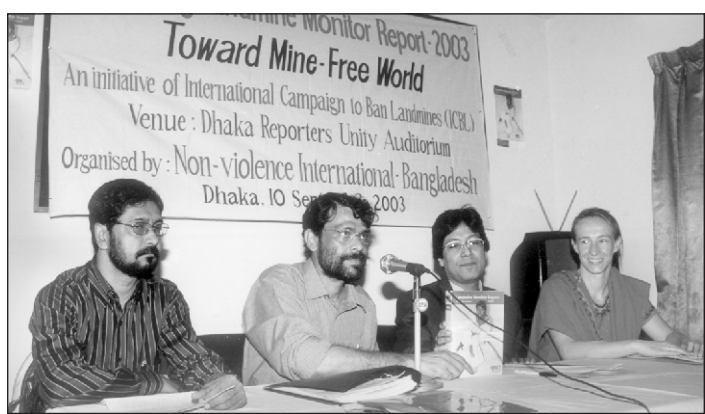


PHOTO: STAR

The Non-violence International Bangladesh released its Landmine Monitor Report-2003 at a ceremony at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity office yesterday.



## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal visons till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and the lowest 24.7 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:07pm today and rises at 5:44am 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	33.1	25.5	69	69
Chittagong	31.5	26.7	80	75
Rajshahi	34.0	26.2	81	76
Khulna	34.1	26.0	81	76
Barisal	33.0	26.6	79	80
Sylhet	35.2	26.4	79	87
Cox's Bazar	32.2	26.2	89	85



**Award giving ceremony**  
An award giving ceremony of the architecture competition, organised by Alliance Francaise, will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise gallery, Mirpur Road. Time: 6.00pm.

**Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Mr and Mrs Iyer' and 'Executive Decision'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

**Drama**  
English Department Drama Society of Dhaka University will stage two shows of Coleridge's 'The Rhymer of the Ancient Mariner' (musical adaptation) directed by Associate Professor Tahmina Ahmed. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

**CD launching**  
The launch of an audio CD and cassette titled 'Sarthak Janam Amar' by Akhtar Jahan will be held. Venue: Natmondol of Dhaka University. Time: 7.00pm.

**Orientation ceremony**  
The orientation ceremony for the new students of IUB-MSM joint MBA Programme (the Netherlands) will be held. Venue: IUB premises, Baridhara. Time: 4.00pm.

**Lecture**  
A lecture on 'Micro-credit and the changing social dynamics in Bangladesh', organised by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the society, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 5.00pm.

**Workshop**  
A motivational workshop on 'Jaundice is not a disease: it is only symptom of disease', organised by Bangladesh Association for Prevention and Treatment of Liver Disease, will be held. Venue: Association office, Elephant Road. Time: 4.00pm.

**Seminar**  
A seminar on 'Possibilities of earthquake, possible damages and our role', organised by Volunteers Against Disasters (VAD), will be held. Venue: Geography and environment department of Dhaka University. Time: 12.00noon.

**Sufi conference**  
A grand conference of Bangladesh Sufi Mojlish will be held with Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

**Meeting**  
A coordination meeting of Rajshahi University Old Students Association will be held. Venue: Conference room of Manpower Employment and Training Bureau, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.

**Sit-in**  
Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance organises a sit-in demanding enactment of anti-tobacco laws in the light of FCTC. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 10.00am.

**Blood donation**  
Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Dhaka College campus. Time: 10.00am.



**Sculpture exhibition**  
The inaugural ceremony of first solo sculpture and painting exhibition of Jahannara Abedin will be held. Venue: Shilpanjali Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till September 21 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.

**Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'The Real Cancun' and 'Manhattan'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.