

# 8 food godowns sealed off in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Eight government food godowns at Maheshwarpasha have been sealed off on charges of storing sub-standard rice. Each of these godowns has the capacity of storing one thousand tonnes of food grains. It is alleged that some corrupt officials of Maheshwarpasha central food godowns are involved in storing sub-standard rice. When informed, Regional Controller of Food Mohammad Mohsin Molla accompanied by the district controller of food and the

controller of movement and storage, went to Maheshwarpasha to visit the central godowns on September 13. They ordered immediate sealing off of seven godowns after finding rotten rice there. A committee has been formed to find out the persons involved in the scandal and ascertain the exact quantity of wet and rotten rice repacked after stealing the fine rice. Sources said another high level inquiry team from the Directorate of Food, Dhaka is expected to arrive in Khulna today.

# More funds for FP programmes urged

BSS, Dhaka

Population planners and USAID officials yesterday underscored the need for greater collaboration between the public and the private sectors for ensuring contraceptive security in the country. They said the government should allocate more funds for family planning programmes side by side allowing private sector in establishing contraceptive industries locally to minimise huge costs. This observation was made at a workshop on 'Market Segmentation Analysis for Contraceptive Security' at a city hotel yesterday. The Deliver Bangladesh, a project of the USAID, organised the workshop, where a number of field level family planning officials share their experiences. "The government should fund more in the family planning programmes as the donors' assistance is dwindling gradually," Nurul Hossain, chief of party of Deliver Bangladesh, said. The financial support from donors would become record low of Tk 300 core by 2010,

he added. As funds from the donor countries are shrinking, the government should take proper steps to meet the future demands and keep the population size within 180 million by 2018. This 180 million will reach up to 220 million by 2065 if the total fertility rate (TFR) can be kept at 2.2 from 3.3 by 2010. Last year, a total of 219 million condoms, 112 million pills, 10 million injections and 0.2 million IUDs were bought to control births, sources said. The government has decided to put more emphasis on sterilisation or permanent methods like vasectomy and ligation alongside the temporary ones. Susan Scribner of USAID said the government should charge money for contraceptives instead giving those free of cost, a proposal denied by the family planning officials. She also laid stress on reducing system loss in contraceptive distribution and taking measures to make contraceptive available to unmet groups.



Leaders and activists of the Left Democratic Front march in a procession during the hartal hours in the city yesterday.

# Highest allocation to depend on performances

Iqbal Hassan tells REB meeting

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood yesterday said the Rural Electrification Board (REB) would get highest development allocation in future provided the Pali Bidyut Samities (PBSs) further improve their performances. "Highest allocation and other necessary supports for the REB like this year will continue in future. But the managerial efficiency and customers service must be improved further," he told the performance target agreement (PTA) meeting of REB at its Joarshahara headquarters here. REB Chairman Ziaul Islam Chowdhury presided. REB members and the general managers of all the PBSs attended. The target of each PBSs for the fiscal 2003-04 was approved in the meeting. REB is the financing and supervising body of the 67 PBSs that are distributing electricity in the rural areas under cooperative concepts. Launched in late eighties, the REB has already provided power connection to 38,414 villages ensuring access to electricity of 47,08,488 subscribers across the country. Though REB is entrusted with the responsibility to distribute electricity to the rural areas, recently it has taken task of supplying power to some urban areas, especially where the system loss is very high. REB has already set a record of bringing down system loss at 15 per cent, lowest than other distributors like BPDB, DESA and DESCO, power ministry sources said. Iqbal Mahmood asked the general managers of PBSs to ensure better customers service. "If

needed, snap illegal connections," he directed them. Referring to the last week's fire at two separate sub-stations at Mirpur in the capital and Jamalpur, he asked the GMs to take precautionary measures to avoid any untoward incidents. He also asked them to create awareness among the masses to check theft of equipment, including transformers. 'Drop Farazi's name from charge sheet' STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Ittefaq unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists yesterday demanded the name of Farazi Azmal Hossain, vice-president of BFUJ and senior journalist of the Ittefaq, to be dropped from the supplementary charge sheet of the murder case of Shamsur Rahman, former Jessore correspondent of the Janakantha. At a meeting in the news room of the Ittefaq, the speakers termed the implication of Farazi as an ill-motive conspiracy to divert the case to a different direction. The meeting was presided over by DUJ Ittefaq unit Chief Alamgir Hossain.

## 1,471 more held

Police arrested 1,471 people, including seven listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday. During the drive, police recovered four firearms, one other arms and 11 bullets, and filed three cases against six persons under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

# BCS medical test begins on Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medical test of temporarily selected candidates of 22nd Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination will be held from October 1 to 22, says a press release. The test will be held at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salmullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital, National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Hospital, National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation, Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital, and Chest Disease Institute and Hospital, Dhaka. All candidates will have to deposit Tk 50 as fee for the test through treasury challan.

# Appeal for Help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sabina Akhter, 15, who has been suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia, seeks financial assistance from the generous people for her treatment. She is now fighting for her life at Tata Memorial Hospital in India. Her father Monsuruddin Ahmed of Netrakona, a teacher, cannot afford the expensive treatment of his daughter any longer. To raise funds for her treatment, the Social Centre for Opportunity & Optimistic Programmes (SCOOP) in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Uttara has organised a grand walk-a-thon on September 19. L. Gen. (ret.) Nooruddin Khan and Ambassador AHG Mohiuddin will lead the walk-a-thon beginning at 7:30am from the Dhaka Club gate to the National Press Club. The first 100 walkers assembling at the Dhaka Club gate will get early-bird prizes and the highest donor will be honoured with the SCOOP/Rotary crest. The SCOOP and the Rotary Club called upon all to extend a helping hand to save the life of Sabina. Contributions can also be deposited with the following account: Account No. 'SCOOP' Shasthya Hishab S-356, Sonali Bank, Viharunnisa Noon School branch, Dhaka.

# DU urged to meet demands of officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Officers' Association yesterday urged the university authorities to meet its 16-point demand immediately. The demands include representation of the officers in different bodies including the senate and syndicate, amendment to the officers' pay scale and removal of all forms of inequality. At a general meeting, the leaders also protested the restrictions on promotion and recruitment of officers, imposed by the education ministry and the University Grants Commission. President of the association Abdul Latif presided over the meeting held at the Teacher-Student Centre. The meeting also expressed solidarity with the five-point demand of Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Federation.

# BMA gets WMA membership

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) has earned full membership of the World Medical Association (WMA) at the plenary session of its 65th annual conference. The 65th annual conference of the WMA was held in the Finnish capital of Helsinki recently. The membership will give the BMA an opportunity to exchange opinion with developed and developing countries on management of health services, a BMA press release said yesterday. A two-member BMA delegation led by its secretary general Dr AZM Zahid Hossain joined the conference.

# Death anniversary

The third death anniversary of Ayesha Siddiqua (Baby), wife of Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan, income tax commissioner of Dhaka, will be observed today, says a press release. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Kazi Mosharrar Hossain



The 30th death anniversary of Kazi Mosharrar Hossain, a social worker and cultural activist, will be observed today, says a press release. A milad mahfil and feeding of the destitute will be held at his family residence at Kawnia Branch Road in Barisal after Zohr prayers.

# DHAKA TODAY

- Exhibition**  
The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of Naksi Kantha by Neelanjana Ghose, organised by essentials, will be held with Michel Lummaux, French Ambassador in Dhaka, as chief guest. Madhobi Mukherjee will attend the function as special guest. Venue: House-30, Road-42, Gulshan-2. The exhibition will remain open till September 24 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.
- WDC seminar**  
A seminar on 'Shishu Odhikar: Somokalin Prekshaprot', organised by Work for Deprived Children (WDC), will be held. Venue: ICMAB auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 5.00pm.
- Training workshop**  
The inaugural session of a training workshop on 'Grameen Bitek Technology in load shedding' will be held. Venue: Grameen Bitek office, West Panthapath. Time: 4.00pm.
- LGRD workshop**  
The inaugural session of a two-day workshop on 'Rural Development Project; Infrastructure development: 26(RTIP) will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.
- Seminar**  
A seminar on 'Women's involvement in social work and leadership in Bangladesh', organised by Lions Club International District-315 B1, will be held with Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 4.00pm.
- Training course**  
The inaugural session of a training course on 'Performance measurement of financial institutions, a credit rating perspective', organised by Credit Rating Information and Services Limited, will be held.
- Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5.00pm.**
- Discussion**  
On the occasion of National Education Day, Jatiya Chhatra Samaj organises a discussion. Venue: Central Office premises, Tophkhana Road. Time: 3.00pm.
- Certificate awarding ceremony**  
The certificate awarding ceremony of the training course on 'Internal quality audit on ISO 9000:2000 Quality Management System', organised by Engineering Staff College, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: IEB seminar room. Time: 5.00pm.
- Meeting**  
A meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre will be held. Venue: 9/G, Motijheel Commercial Area. Time: 4.45pm.
- Orca blood**  
Orca blood for life organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Bhuiyan Computers Uttara Branch. Time: 9.00am.
- Blood donation**  
Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Pir Eyamini Market. Time: 12.00 noon.
- Film show**  
Academy of Cinema will screen a film titled '5/12' today. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.
- Rally**  
Jatiya Chhatradhara organises a rally on the occasion of the National Education Day. Earlier, a procession will be brought out. Venue: DUCSU office. Time: 12.00 noon.



The UCEP-Bangladesh organised a blood donation camp at its school at Nayatola, Maghbazar, on Monday to mark the 17th death anniversary of its founder Lindsay Allan Cheyne.

# 'Steps to be taken to celebrate Durga Puja peacefully'

The trust members expressed their satisfaction over the government role in maintaining peaceful atmosphere during the last puja festival.

# Newborn baby rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued a newborn baby from the city's Segun Bagicha area on Monday night. On an information from the locals, ASI Md Selim of Ramna police station rescued her at 8.30pm. Being wrapped with a yellow towel, the baby was lying on the road. The police officer took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and got her admitted there. She is now under treatment at ward number 11.

## WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sayedpur and the lowest of 24.7 degree at Dhaka. The sun sets in the capital at 6:00pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow. The 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	32.0	24.7	86	69
Chittagong	32.6	26.0	75	73
Rajshahi	33.4	26.3	90	79
Khulna	34.3	26.1	86	-
Barisal	32.2	26.6	74	80
Sylhet	32.7	25.4	88	82
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.5	90	78



PHOTO: STAR

The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) took out a procession in the city during the hartal hours yesterday.