# NEWS

### The Daily Star

# Admission quota system for children of expats

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children of expatriate Bangladeshis have been included in a recently introduced special quota system for admission to public and private educational institutes at the higher secondary level

The education ministry in a circular recently announced that children of expatriate Bangladeshis would be admitted to colleges under the special quota system that also provides for eight other such special groups to be eligible for college admission.

Students qualifying for admission under these nine quota categories will account for 20 per cent of new college entrants. The categories are: children of

freedom fighters, students from least developed areas, children of religious minorities, madrassah students, children of transferred government officials and employees, children of expatriate Bangladeshis, girl students from least developed areas, indigenous students and students belonging to ethnic minorities.

The rest 80 per cent of the students will be admitted on the basis of merit and performance

in secondary level public examinations.

The circular has been sent to all educational boards and district and upazila level administrations.

PM shocked at loss of lives in South Korea UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the loss of lives and property due to the floods and landslides caused by Typhoon Maemi that hit Southern part of Korean Peninsula recently.

In a message to the South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun, she said "On behalf of the govern ment and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I would like to convey to you and through you, to the victims and their families, our deepest condolence and sympathies." She expressed hope that the

South Korean people will have the courage to face this calamity with fortitude



The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal took out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to mark the Education Day.





#### PHOTO: STAR

The 11 Party stages a demonstration in the city yesterday to protest Israeli threat to expel and kill Palestinian President Yasser Arafat

# IT to help protect Hajj pilgrims from harassment

### Tarigul tells religious ministry function

#### BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday said the use of information technology (IT) would help protect the Hajj pilgrims from all sorts of harassment at home and abroad.

"Computer database will assist the religious affairs ministry officials to monitor the entire services for the Hajj pilgrims and provide solution to their problems instantly, he added. The information minister was

speaking at a function on the "Appraisal of Hajj Management

Information System" organised by the religious affairs ministry at the Hajj Camp in the city.

Chaired by State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan, the meeting was addressed by Information Secretary Nazmul Alam Siddiqi, Religious Affairs Secretary Syed Sajedul Karim and Prof Lutful Kabir of BUET. The Hatil IT, on behalf of the Hajj

information management team of the ministry, displayed the computer database. Tariqul said at least 50,000

pilgrims will perform Hajj next year

a press release

seized

French navy officer meets naval chief

#### UNB, Dhaka

sional interests.

occasion

PHOTO: STAI

The visiting French Navy Flag Officer of the Indian Ocean Zone Rear Admiral Richard Wilmot-Rousel called on Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba at Naval Headquarters at Banani vesterdav They discussed matters of profes-

French Ambassador Michel

Lummaux was also present on the

#### UNB, Dhaka

people

tion.

Coast Guard members in separate drives recently seized various goods coastal areas of Noakhali and Bhola. The Coast Guard members seized

Mohipur, Bailatali and its adjoining

of local fisheries officials and general

criminal from Paschhim Chandrabad of

These nets were burnt down in front

Besides, they arrested an identified

areas, says a press release yesterday.

nessed training activities there, saya

Goods worth

Tk 7.60 lakh

under the "Hajj policy 2004". Of them, 40,000 will go under the management of private agencies and 10,000 under the government man-

He said the government is planning to hand over Hajj management to the private sector from the next year. "It will bring open competition

among private Hajj agencies and pilgrims will enjoy comparatively low cost opportunity in plane fare, food and accommodation," he added.

Tariqul urged the media to disseminate the latest information about the introduction of the IT in Hajj management and other package facilities offered by the religious affairs ministry

Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan said pilgrims are now given audiovisual orientation before their departure for Haii

pulsory for all pilgrims to save them from the disease," he added.

introduction of the IT would provide solution to the Hajj-related problems including finding out the pilgrims missing abroad.

strate the IT on Hajj at district and thana levels to make the common man conscious

## Parliamentary democracy under threat, says Ershad

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the Jatiya Party Hossain Mohammad Ershad yesterday criticised the government for failing to contain crimes and said the parliamentary democracy is under threat

Everyday at least 15 people were being killed and various crimes such as kidnapping, rape and mugging hit the headlines daily, he said, adding that all these indicated government's failure in running the country.

Even the government was running parliament without the main opposition party, former president Ershad said at a 'meet the press' programme

"During the rule of the previous government, there were 10 killings a day, but now 15 killings take place a day," he said, adding that this is the basic difference between the two governments.

Italian envoy visits Dhakeswari Temple BSS, Dhaka

Italian Ambassador Pietro Ballero visited Dhakeswari National Temple and Mahanagar Puja Mandap yesterday.

Mahanagar Puja Committee President Swapan Kumar Saha and General Secretary Mongal Chandra Ghosh received the ambassador on the temple premises.

The envoy went round different parts of the temple and exchanged greetings with the devotes present there.

Death anniversary The 3rd death anniversary of Dr Mohammad Shahjahan, former vicechancellor of BUET and president of

Dhaka Samity, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

#### Hafizul Islam Khan

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Hafizul Islam Khan, son of Shamsul Islam Khan MP savs a press release. Hafizul died

while he was relief materials among the flood

ing committees. Otherwise, the JP The JP chief said the three factions of the party are going to be merged by this year. Talks are under he threatened

way to bring back the leaders who Ershad said the people have been losing their confidence on the judiciary as the ruling party was trving to politicise it.

ment was not interested enough to bring back the main opposition to parliament as the ruling party wants to bring parliament under its control. Howlader, Col (retd) Gaffar and He urged the government to Prof. Delwar Hossain were also induct all the members of the Jativa present.

party into the parliamentary stand-

members will guit the committees.

left the party, he added Ershad alleged that the govern-TIM Fazle Rabbi, GM Kader Karimuddin Bhorosa, Ruhul Amin

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad speaks at a 'meet the press programme' in the city yesterday.



#### **BCS Forum meeting**

The BCS Forum will hold a preparatory Academy Film Society will screen two meeting for its first reunion. Venue: films titled 'Hawa' and 'Lion in Winter'. Engineers' Institute. Time: 3.00pm. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Film show

Discussion

The Samaj-Rupantar Adhyan Kendra

organises an open discussion on the

'Impact of Indian river-linking plan on

Bangladesh', with Professor Siraiul

Islam Chowdhury in the chair. Venue:

Business Faculty auditorium, Dhaka

A two-day national workshop on 'Child

rights and law', organised by the

Kendriya Khelaghar Asar, will begin.

Venue: FPAB auditorium. Time:

University. Time: 4.00pm.

rights

3.00pm

Lecture

Workshop on child

#### Founding anniversary

Anupras, Dhaka city unit (South), an organisation of poets, will hold a discussion, poetry reading session and a cultural function to mark its 18th founding anniversary. Venue: 104/1 South Mugdapara. Time: 5.00pm.

#### Human chain

The Left Democratic Front will form a human chain to protest Israeli threat to expel and kill Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 11.00am.



#### A lecture on 'Law and Society' Film show

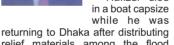
organised by Nazmul Karim Memorial Lecture Management Committee, will The Alliance Francaise will screen a film be held. Venue: Auditorium of the titled 'Buffet Froid' by Bertrand Blier. Business Studies Faculty of Dhaka Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium

"Vaccine for meningitis is com-

Nazmul Alam Siddiqi urged the Religious Affairs Ministry to demon-

A doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 63/5 Lake Circus. Kalabadan after Madhrib prayers. Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to attend the programme

The religious minister said



Samajtantrik Chhatra Front took out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to mark the Education Day.



The Rotary Club of Dhaka Central organised a medical camp for the acid victims at the Acid Survivors Foundation yesterday. About 42 acid victims received medical treatment.



### Light to moderate rain likely

#### UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6pm

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

Highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 24.6 degree at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Dhaka	31.7	25.2	79
Chittagong	32.3	26.0	68	73
Rajshahi	34.1	26.8	87	75
Khulna	34.0	26.5	90	-
Barisal	32.0	26.8	76	92
Sylhet	30.2	25.2	98	95
Cox's Bazar	33.2	25.4	76	85

Earlier, a smart contingent of BN personnel presented him guard of honour on his arrival at the Naval Headquarters.

Admiral Rousel also visited the

Ministry of Defence at Sher-e-Bangla PHOTO: STAR Nagar and called on Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Huq. He discussed matters of military

training and related affairs with the defence secretary. Meanwhile, a 40-member delegation of the visiting French Navy ship visited BNS Shaheed Moazzam, a training establishment of the Bangladesh Navy at Kaptai.

They went round different training sections of the institute and wit-

#### Obituarv 38 Bendi nets worth Tk 5.60 lakh from Nilganj, Tagashia, Hazirpur, Khepupara,

Abdul Majid, a social worker and veteran Awami League leader, died on Monday at the age of 110, says a press release.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Jhumki village in Dohar He is survived by five sons and

Bhola district and handed him to police. three daughters His qulkhwani will be held at his In another drive, the members of the residence in Dohar after Juma Coast Guard west zone seized 282 prayers tomorrow. cubic feet Sunduri timber worth Tk 2 lakh

Relatives, friends and welland arrested two people in this connecwishers have been requested to attend the gul

### Marine legal protection accord inadequate

compliance mechanism and lack of

uplifting of the fishing community

with a well designed package with

the support of eight NGOs. BELA

under the project provides legal

aid services to the coastal

fisherfolk, awareness raising

The ECFC project initiates to

### Speakers tell BELA orientation programme

awareness, they said.

Fishery is a major source of nutrition, employment, and income generation for the coastal people in eight upazilas of Cox's Bazar, says a press release.

Speakers at an orientation programme for Fisheries Officers of Cox's Bazar on 'The laws and Regulations in Relation to Fishries' said this on September 14.

Under the project of Empowerment of Coastal Fishing Communities for Livelihood Security (ECFC), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) organised the programme.

lobal Kabir. Shakil Ahmed Khan and Zahid Hossain of BELA were present as rsource persons. They discussed the existing laws and regulations on conservation and pollution control of environment. Marine fisheries, and bio-diversity and focused on invisible impact in the coastal fisherv systems.

Concluding session was chaired by Dr Mosleh Uddin Ahmed. National Project Director, ECFC project.

The speakers said the coastal resources have been subjected to depletion because of pollution, over-fishing, inadequate conservation measures and destructive fishing mechanism. It has a tremendous potential to contribute to uplifting of the community provided proper management is ensured,

they added. The legal protection activities and advocacy to accord is inadequate and mostly address the lacuna in legal and unimplemented due to lack of clearenforcement mechanism. cut policy direction, absence of

Fisheries officers, local journalists, and Marine Fisheries Officers participated in the programme. They made important remarks from their practical experiences which would help work to the policy level. The representatives from the fishing community also took part in the discussion



Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) organised an orientation programme for fisheries officers in Cox's Bazar recently.

victims in Singair Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul

Engineer Nazrul Islam The 32nd death

anniversary of Shaheed engineer Nazrul Islam, a freedom fighter, will be observed today, says a press release.

During the War of Liberation, he conducted an operation to blow up five power stations in Dhaka. He was also an adviser to the newly formed Bangladesh government in 1971.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence and at his son's business organisation at 204/A Tejgaon Industrial Area.

University. Time: 10.00am Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm. Study circle

**Bapa Rally** 

The Bigyanchetana Parishad will hold a study circle with Shishir Bhattacharya as the key speaker. Venue: Parishad's central office, Aziz Super Market. Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.

#### Inauguration

The United Airlines will inaugurate its new office, with US Ambassador Harry K Thomas as chief guest. Venue: Taj Marriot (5th floor), 25 Gulshan Avenue. Time: 6.00pm.

#### **Scientific conference**

The Bangladesh Academy of Ophthalmology organises its annual scientific conference, with Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: BCPS auditorium Time 4 00nm

seminar hall. Anti-tobacco rally Pratyasha, an anti-drug organisation,

The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon

(Bapa) will hold a rally demanding steps

to check environmental damage caused

by ship-breaking industry. Venue:

Shahbagh (opposite to National

The Swapnakuri, a literary and cultural

organisation, will hold a publication

ceremony of a novel by Khaleda Edib

Chowdhury. Venue: Mohila Samity

Publication ceremony

Museum). Time: 10.30am.

will arrange a motorcycle rally to press for its demand for a tobacco control law. The rally will start from the Central Shaheed Minar, Time: 11.00am.