



PHOTO: STAR
Mohila Awami League President Ashrafunnesa Mosharrar speaks at a press conference at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office in the city yesterday demanding punishment to those responsible for the attack on its activists during Saturday's hartal.

Congress on cerebral palsy begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mentally and physically challenged children should be treated in the light of their abilities instead of highlighting disabilities, speakers said at a National Congress on Cerebral Palsy in the city yesterday.

"Early diagnosis of cerebral palsy is vital as these children

require early intervention involving parents, therapists, and special educators," said convener of Shishu Bikash Network Dr Shamim Ferdous.

"In a 10-year data of the Shishu Bikash Clinic of the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation, 70 per cent disabled children were diagnosed to have cerebral palsy," she said.

The Shishu Bikash Network and the Academic Link Programme of the British Council organised the two-day congress.

One of the main objectives of the congress is to highlight the importance of early diagnosis of cerebral palsy and its prevention, said Dr Shamim Ferdous.

The Network Chairperson Prof. Naila Z Khan said that her organisation is working for the children who are usually considered disabled.

"Extensive study has shown that most of the children brought to the service centre for treatment have been suffering from disabilities due to cerebral palsy," she said.

"Let's measure the ability of the children and not their disability," said Prof. M. A Mannan, president of Bangladesh Paediatric Association.

"Every seven children per 1000 in Bangladesh have either physical or mental or both kinds of retardation," he said.

Majority of the disabled children has no access to health services and the health professionals often fail to provide useful diagnosis, advice and counselling for the parents of mentally challenged children, the speakers said.

Director of the British Council June Rollinson, Dr Karin Nelson of the National Institute of Health, USA, and Prof. Veena Kalra of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, also spoke.

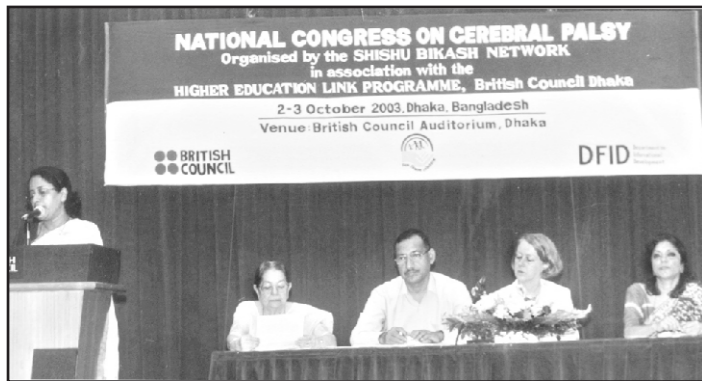


PHOTO: STAR
A two-day National Congress on Cerebral Palsy began at the British



DUJA reception

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) celebrates its 19th founding anniversary and organises a reception with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a group art exhibition, organised by Ankan Art School Students Association, will be held with Prof Jahan Ara Begum, advisor to prime minister for primary and mass education, as chief guest. Venue: Exhibition hall of the Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till October 8 from 3.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Art competition

On the occasion of the 54th founding anniversary of People's Republic of China, Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre organises an art competition for the children. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 9.00am.

Woodcut print exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a solo woodcut print exhibition of Selina Chowdhury Mili, organised by Alliance Francaise, will be held. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till October 14 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily except on Saturday from 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Amelie' and 'Bruce Almighty'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

French film show

Alliance Francaise will screen a film titled 'Le Bonheur est dans le pre' directed by Etienne Chatiliez (1995). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Movie show

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'The Bicycle Thief' directed by De

Sica. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Stamp auction

Bangladesh National Philatelic Association organises an auction of postage stamps. Venue: GPO auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Lions rally

On the occasion of World Lions Service Week, the International Association of Lions Clubs Multiple District 315 organises a rally with State Minister for Finance and Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukdar as chief guest. Venue: Manik Miah Avenue. Time: 8.00am.

Discussion

Sruti Nandan, a music home for the children, organises a discussion on its future programme and planning. Venue: House-15, Road-10, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Tree plantation

A tree plantation programme, organised jointly by Uttarbanga Janakalyan Samity and Sabujbagh Thana Zone, will be held with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: Jhilpar new road section. Time: 10.00am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of a handicraft shop named Anupam will be held with Prof S M A Faiz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, as chief guest. Venue: House-D/121, Road-44, Gulshan-2. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion on Child Rights Week held

The Centre for Child Life and Health Research, Bangladesh held a briefing session recently on the occasion of Child Rights Week 2003, says a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the centre Prof. Manzoor Hussain said the objectives of the centre conform to the aims of Child Rights Week.

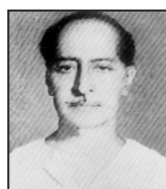
The week is being observed to raise awareness about child rights.

Prof. Manzoor Hussain, also a paediatrician, said the children constitute 45 per cent of the population. He called for concerted efforts to ensure the rights of children so that they can grow up as worthy citizens.

He also called for eliminating poverty, illiteracy, child labour and gender discrimination to protect the child rights.

The centre has been formed to highlight the issues affecting the children through dialogue and interaction with similar organisations.

Death anniversary



The second death anniversary of renowned classical vocalist Barin Majumdar will be observed today, says a press release.

Founder of the only music college in the country, Barin received many awards and accolades, including Ekushey Padak.

He died in the Holy family Hospital after a prolonged illness in 2001.

Reaz Uddin Ahmed

The 10th death anniversary of Reaz Uddin Ahmed, founder general secretary of Bogra Press Club, will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Jalashwaryatala, Bogra, after Asr prayers.

Reaz Uddin Ahmed had started his career in 'The Statesman' in 1949. He joined the daily Azad in 1950.

He was also the president of Bogra Press Club from 1961 to 1970.

Primary teachers announce action programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Association (BNPTA) yesterday announced an action programme to realise the demand for nationalisation of their job.

According to the programme, a memorandum will be submitted to the prime minister on December 30 urging her to meet their one-point demand.

The association will also stage countrywide demonstrations and observe hunger strike from December 30 to 31 to press for the

demand.

The action programme was adopted at a joint meeting of the central and district level presidents and secretaries of the association in Dhaka, a press release said yesterday.

Leaders of BNPTA will also meet the lawmakers to raise the issue in parliament between November 1 and 15.

They will also exchange views with members of different professional organisations including four-party alliance leaders between November 16 and 30.

Police attack on teachers' condemned

DU CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and fifty teachers of Dhaka University yesterday condemned the police attack on teachers' procession in the city on Wednesday.

In a statement, they termed the police action as inhuman and barbaric.

The DU teachers demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack.

Police swooped on a procession of Bangladesh Shikshak Karmachari Front (BSKF) near Doyel crossing of Dhaka University leaving at least 50 teachers injured.

The DU teachers also expressed their indignation at police atrocities on female activists of Jubo Mohila League.

The signatories to the statement included Prof Khandaker Bazul Haque, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Prof Shahid Akhter Hossain, Prof Durgadas Bhattacharya, Prof Mostofa Chowdhury, Prof Sultana Shafi, Prof Mezbahuddin Ahmed and Prof Mohammad Shahadat Ali. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) has also condemned the police attack on the teachers' rally.

In a statement, JSD President Nur Alam Ziku and General Secretary Abdul Malek Raton demanded compensation for the injured teachers.

They also urged the government to meet the teachers' demand and said repression cannot stop movement.

'Diversified use of jute can regain its past glory'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for diversified use of jute to regain its past dominance in the national and international markets.

Use of jute in the packaging

Prof Enamul appointed pro-vc of JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Enamul Huq Khan of history department has been appointed pro-vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) for a four-year term.

President and Chancellor of JU Prof Iajuddin Ahmed made the appointment under section 13(1) of 1973 JU act.

The appointment order came through a faxed message signed by Md Shahidul Alam, secretary of the education ministry.

Prof Enamul Huq became the second pro-vice-chancellor of the university as Prof Imamuddin Ahmad has been working as pro-vice-chancellor since one and half year.

With this appointment, there will be two pro-vice-chancellors at the university.

Prof Enamul Huq took over the office at 4.00pm yesterday.

industry, instead of plastic materials, will help bolster the jute sector, they said.

The Jute Diversification Promotion Centre of Jute ministry organised the discussion in collaboration with the International Jute Study Group.

The speakers pointed out that obsolete technology and lack of proper management and credit are the major obstacles to diversifying the jute products.

They also said that negligent attitude of the successive governments to the jute sector over the years had brought the sector on the verge of ruination.

"The jute sector could not contribute to the economy significantly due to lack of proper management and proper attention over the years," said State Minister for Jute Lutfur Rahman Azad.

President of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Abdul Awal Mintoo urged the government to declare jute enterprises as agro-based industries.

In a keynote paper titled 'From jute industry to diversified jute industry', Managing Director of Alpha Group Limited Samsul Huda Ahmed said that high interest on bank loan was one of the major obstacles to developing the diversified jute industry.

"Jute is not only economically viable for the country but also eco-friendly," he said.



PHOTO: PID
Former vice-president of World Bank Miekko Nishimizu called on Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at his office in the city yesterday.

87.06 acres to be acquired for different projects

BSS, Dhaka

The Central Land Allotment Committee yesterday approved proposals for acquiring 87.06 acres

3000 Bangladeshi troops to join UN mission in Liberia soon

UNB, Dhaka

A contingent of over 3,000 Bangladeshi troops will soon join the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia.

Bangladesh agreed to send the troops to Liberia after a request from the Department of Peacekeeping Office of United Nations, says an official release yesterday.

of land for different projects.

The land was allotted for construction of Khilgaon fly-over, Rupsa bridge, container terminal of Chittagong Port Authority and Dhaka north power station and establishing fantasy kingdom with hotel.

The approval was given at the 61st meeting of the committee held at the secretariat with Land Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair. Deputy Minister of Land Advocate Ruhul Qudus Talukder Dulu was also present.

The land minister said per capita land area is very low as the country is densely populated. He asked the officials concerned to keep this in view while acquiring land and advised them to do it not more than the actual requirement.

He also stressed the need for attaching map of the place with

acquisition proposal.

Land Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin, Secretary of Power Division S M Shamsul Alam and senior officials of the ministries concerned were present.

US Embassy closed on Oct 5

UNB, Dhaka

The office of American Embassy in Dhaka will remain closed on October 5 on the occasion of Durga Puja.

The offices of American Centre, Information Resource Centre and Student Counselling Service will also remain closed on the day, says a press release.

WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and the lowest 22.9 degree at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:44pm today and rises at 5:51am 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	28.0	24.0	97	83
Chittagong	31.0	26.7	69	73
Rajshahi	32.2	25.0	92	92
Khulna	35.5	27.6	77	98
Barisal	33.0	26.2	83	89
Sylhet	30.5	23.4	95	83
Cox's Bazar	34.2	25.0	72	86

Morshed meets Myanmar, Thai FMs

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Win Aung at the United Nations on Tuesday.

According to a message received here yesterday, the two ministers discussed matters of bilateral relations including cooperation in the communications infrastructure.

The foreign minister also met with his Thai counterpart Surakiart Sathirathai on Tuesday evening.

They covered a wide-range of issues including Bangladesh trade relations with South East Asia, SAARC-ASEAN relation, BIMSTEC and matters pertaining to Asian Regional Forum (ARF).

Jail guard injured in bomb explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A jail guard was injured seriously when unidentified miscreants threw two powerful hand bombs inside the boundary wall of the district jail on Wednesday night.

Mizanur Rahman, 50, was working in his office when the bombs went off at around 8.00pm.

He was admitted to jail hospital with severe injuries in his legs, Jail Super said.

Security guards of the jail have been put on high alert after the incident.

More than 200 outlaws and other top criminals including Ershad Shikder are staying in the jail.

One killed in Natore road accident

BSS, Natore

One person was killed and another injured in a road accident in Singra bus stand area of the district on Wednesday night.

Police said a speeding mini-truck knocked down the two young men when they were crossing the road.

Local people rushed them to Natore hospital. But one of them died on the way. He was identified as Hamidul Alam, 35, son of Safiqul Alam of village Serkol under Singra upazila.

1101 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,101 people, including three identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

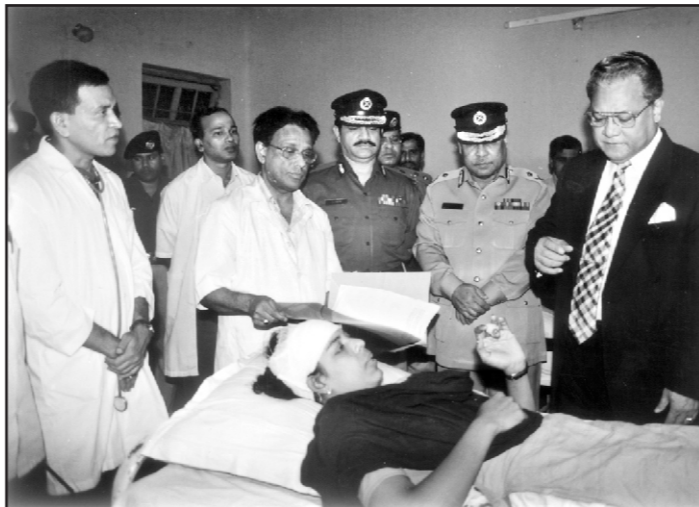


PHOTO: STAR
Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury visited Razarbarg Police Lines Hospital yesterday to see the policewomen injured in Wednesday's road accident.