

## Unemployed, student nurses' strike from Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Diploma Unemployed Nurses Association (BDUNA) and Bangladesh Diploma Student Nurses Union (BDSNU) will go for indefinite strike from Tuesday protesting the health ministry's decision to recruit nurses from private institutions in government hospitals.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, leaders of the BDUNA and BDSNU alleged that the health service directorate of the ministry is going to recruit 350 nurses out of 2,000 from private nursing institutions.

They said the cabinet took a decision on September 1 with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair that 2,000 nurses would be recruited in government hospitals under the previous system.

But the current recruitment process of the health service directorate goes against the decision of the government, they claimed.

"A section of top officials of the health ministry are violating the

cabinet decision in recruiting 2,000 nurses in exchange of money," said SM Azad, secretary general of BDUNA.

"If nurses are recruited from private nursing institutions, it will create anarchy in the whole nursing profession," he added.

The leaders said six thousands nurses, who passed form 38 government institutions, are now unemployed.

They said after passing from government institutions, the nurses submit their applications to health service directorate to be included into its panel for appointment in government hospitals.

"But these 350 nurses from private nursing institutions are being recruited without any valid application from them," they alleged.

They urged the authorities concerned to go by the cabinet decision regarding the recruitment of nurses in government hospitals.

BDUNA President Slama Khatun, BDSNU President Lima Raudrix and Secretary General Muhammad Shaninur Rahman were present at the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

The entrance of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre has been decorated with Shapla, the national flower of Bangladesh, on the occasion of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference.

## Every village to be eco-village

Bhuiyan tells IUCN workshop

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday expressed the hope that each of the villages would be turned into an eco-village for the protection of biodiversity.

"I hope that ministries concerned would take initiatives to make each village into a biodiversity conservation area or an eco-village involving the local government institutions," he said at a workshop.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organised the workshop to share opinion in formulating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in the auditorium of BIAM here.

The national plan will be formulated by March 2004.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is providing funds for formulation of the strategy. The government has given responsibility to IUCN to draw up the plan, which would provide future course of action for conservation of biodiversity in the country.

IUCN has so far held six workshops on the issue at all the divisional headquarters to take opinions and sharing of experiences from a cross section of people including the environmentalists.

The discussions have covered the areas of conservation of species, ecosystem management, legal

and regulatory and policy issues, education training and awareness raising, and institutional issues.

Population pressure and poverty coupled with lack of awareness have been identified as the major threats to biodiversity in Bangladesh.

Over exploitation of natural resources especially forest and water bodies, unplanned development, inadequate legislative measures and weak institutional capaci-

ties are other threats to biodiversity, sources said.

"Biodiversity protection is one of the major agenda of the present government," Bhuiyan said adding that steps have been taken for massive afforestation across the country.

The local government bodies and the Gram Sarkars would be involved in the process to make the programme a success, he added.

State Minister for Environment

Jafrul Islam Chowdhury expressed his concern over the depleting fish resources including the delicious Hilsha in the country.

He underscored the need for adopting an integrated plan of action to check the degradation.

Chaired by Environment Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, the function was also addressed by IUCN Country Representative Dr. Ainun Nishat and Project Director of the NBSAP Monowar Islam.

## 'DNA50' begins tomorrow

A weeklong exhibition titled 'DNA50' begins at the British Council tomorrow to commemorate the scientific anniversary of the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will attend the inaugural session of the exhibition as chief guest while British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr David Carter as special guest.

The inaugural session will begin at 10.00am.

The British Council with the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British High Commission is organising the exhibition, says a press release.

Two young scientists Francis Crick and James Watson in Cambridge discovered the structure of DNA in 1953, perhaps the greatest scientific discovery of the 20th century.

On this occasion, British Council will arrange two presentation sessions titled 'Celebrating the miracle of the DNA molecule in our lives' by

the genetic engineering and biotechnology department of Dhaka University at 3.00pm on October 7 and 8 for the invited students of different schools, colleges and universities.

Besides, there will be an exciting array of visual display generated by Professor Haseena Khan and Nadeem Ashraf, research associate of Dhaka University.

The British Council Cyber Centre will also help interested students to browse the DNA portal <http://dna50.britishcouncil.org> from 10.00am to 6.00pm on October 6, 7 and 8.

Two science fairs will also be held from 10.00am to 4.00pm on October 11 and 13 on the British Council premises.

The best science project at the fairs will be awarded with the Futures Cup Trophy of the British Council.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 10.00am to 7.00pm till October 13.

## Orientation programme

The orientation programme of 15th batch MBA students of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) Dhaka campus was held at The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel recently, says a press release.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) was present as chief guest.

Professor Dr. A K M Azharul Islam, (IIUC) Vice-Chancellor was present as special guest. Former Secretary and Chief Advisor of IIUC, Shah Abdul Hannan and Executive Director of American Chamber, Abdul Gafur spoke on the occasion.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Loqman, Chief IIUC Dhaka Campus presided.

## PM to lead team to OIC summit

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the 10th Session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit beginning on October 15 at Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur.

However, officials from OIC countries begin their pre-summit meetings from October 11 to prepare the draft recommendations to be placed before the OIC foreign ministers who will meet on October 13-14.

The foreign ministers, during their two-day meeting will finalise the draft resolutions and place them before the heads of state and government attending the summit meeting for adoption.

The focus of Bangladesh at the summit will be on the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah and Islam following the September 11, 2001 incident in the USA.

The leaders of OIC countries are expected to take stock of the current situation in the Islamic world and explore together what the organisation can do for the member countries, a diplomatic source said.

During the summit, Bangladesh is expected to try its best to win support from other member countries to ensure victory of its candidate Salauddin Qader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs advisor to the prime minister for the post of OIC Secretary General for the next term.

The issue of granting observer status to the Russian Federation as well as Iraq issue are likely to be discussed during the Summit, the source said. This will be the first regular OIC Summit following the September 11 incident.

This time the Summit leaders will discuss ways and means to revitalise and reorganise the OIC and to

## Gas transmission to western region brought under SCADA

UNB, Dhaka

Gas transmission to western region across the Jamuna River was yesterday brought under the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

"From now on officials at Demra and Ashuganj can see gas pressure and volume being supplied to the western region," a senior executive at GTCL said.

The Gas Transmission Company Ltd. official said the transmission from Elenga to the region over the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge had so far been monitored manually.

"With bringing it under SCADA now we'll be able to monitor it centrally. It was very important with growing gas supply to the region," he added.

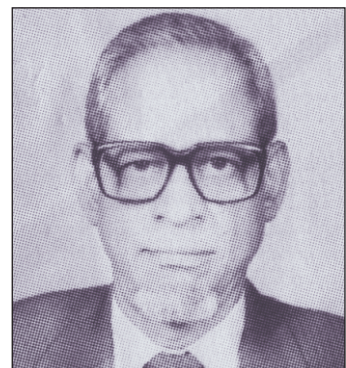
make it a strong and effective forum.

Pakistan is learnt to have put forward some proposals to formulate recommendations for reforms and revitalisation of the body through formation of a head of state/head of government level commission. Pakistan, a knowledgeable source said would try to win support for its proposal.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the ministerial preparatory and committee meetings before the Summit.

He will also participate in brainstorming sessions during the ministerial conference devoted to themes like revitalisation of OIC, science and technology for industrial development of Muslim countries, ICT for development of Ummah and use of gold Dinar in multilateral trade. On the sideline of the Summit, events like business forum, Asian strategy and Leadership Institute, OIC Expo-2003, seminar on science and technology and international conference of Muslim youth leaders will be held from October 14 to October 16, an official source preferring anonymity said.

Foreign Secretary Shamsher M Chowdhury will lead the Bangladesh team to the official level meeting.



## Obituary

Professor Abdul Gani Mahmud, a noted litterateur, died of cardiac arrest yesterday at the BIRDEM hospital at the age of 76, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Prof Gani was the father of Inteykhab Mahmud, Additional General Manager (Marketing) of Grameen Phone Limited, Biman official Iftekhar Mahmud and politician Yeahea Mahmud Khokan.

Prof Gani worked with the Adamji Jute Mills Limited, Khulna Textile Mills, Tabani Beverage, and Coca Cola Co. He wrote many short stories, essays, soliloquy and biography.

His qulqhwani will be held at the Shaheed Nabi High School at Tikatuli on October 7 after Asr prayers.

## Widen trade ties

President urges Russian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

The newly appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation Oleg S Malginov presented his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the ambassador President Iajuddin recalled the existing friendly bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Russian Federation. He hoped that there is ample opportunity to widen the trade relations between the two countries adding that the two countries may cooperate in technological fields like IT and engineering.

The president said cooperation in the field of education, particularly in the university level, would benefit both the countries. In this connection he stressed much on cooperation among the university teachers. He, however, appreciated the Russian government for offering annual scholarships to Bangladeshi students both graduate and undergraduate levels.

Ambassador Malginov appreciated Bangladesh's efforts for ensuring peace and development regionally and internationally. He stressed

much on people-to-people contact and wider cultural and economic cooperation between the two countries. He hoped that the existing friendly relations would be widened in the years ahead.

Earlier, on his arrival at Bangabhaban, Malginov was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard regiment. He took the salute and inspected the guard.

Secretary to the President M Anisul Huq Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury and MSP Major General Abdul Matin were present on the occasion.

## 1237 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,237 people, including three identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered six firearms, two other weapons and nine bullets.