



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia takes part in Akheri Munajat (final prayers) of the three-day Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims, at Tongi yesterday.

### 3rd Int'l Film Festival begins in city Mar 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third International Film Festival of Bangladesh begins in the city on March 1.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the four-night-long festival at Shilpakala Academy.

A total of 150 films including 120 foreign films from 55 countries will be screened at different auditoriums and cinema halls in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Chittagong during the festival.

The festival has been organised by Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) in association with Bangladesh Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association,

### Matin, Kajol elected KUJ president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Syed Abdul Matin of the Dainik Probaho and photojournalist Anwarul Islam Kajol of the Dainik Purbanchal have been elected president and general secretary of Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) yesterday.

Forty-eight voters, out of 52, cast their votes to elect the two leaders of the seven-member committee.

Five other members, including vice president and treasurer, were elected unopposed on January 19.

### JU opens four new depts

UNB, Savar

Four new departments have been opened at Jahangirnagar University to meet the increasing demands for launching more time befitting courses for higher education.

The departments are Public Administration, Accounting/Finance and Banking, Microbiology, and Information and Communication Engineering.

The decision was taken at the 255th meeting of the university syndicate recently, says a JU press release.

### Khulna Jubo Dal leader threatens journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Md Amjad Hossain Golder, president of Paikgachha upazila Jubo Dal, threatened the journalists with dire consequences if they do not stop writing on his trip to the Sunderban with the OC of Paikgachha Police Station.

Denying the allegation of killing nine deer at Sunderbans, Golder said journalists are 'mischievous elements of the society and liars.'

Later, the Jubo Dal leader at a press conference at Khulna Press Club yesterday said the reports published in different dailies of Dhaka on killing of deer are baseless and motivated.

Defending OC Enamul Haq for his trip to Sunderbans, he said he is not supposed to tell newsmen what is right or wrong. No deer was killed at all. It is my private matter to accompany the OC or anybody elsewhere to the Sunderbans or anywhere in the country, Golder said.

### Develop new varieties of rice to expand HYV

Minister asks BRRRI scientists

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar asked the scientists of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI) to develop appropriate varieties of rice to expand HYV cultivation in fair weather or foul.

He emphasised expansion of extension work of the developed varieties at the paddies of farmers, as vast acreage remained out of modern farming.

The Minister, also Convener of the Governing Body of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), was presiding over the GB's meeting at its auditorium in the city yesterday.

Mia Golam Parwar MP, Agriculture Secretary Kazi Abdul Kashem and other members of the GB attended the meeting.

A report was placed at the meeting that showed that some 70 per cent of the total paddy-crop area in the country are being brought under cultivation of the High-

Yielding Varieties (HYV) of paddy developed by the BRRRI.

The rest of the land is still out of farming modern varieties due to traditional practices, unsuitability and non-availability of drought- and flood-resistant appropriate HYV.

BRRRI has so far developed 46 modern varieties of rice, including one hybrid, and developed 19 agricultural machinery and equipment, the meeting was told.

Another report on the research mandate of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute was placed by BARC member Dr Jahangir Alam in which a set of 12 recommendations has been forwarded, including one for improving the quality and post-harvest technology of tea.

The Minister asked the authorities concerned to compare domestic yield with that of other tea-growing countries and make recommendation for increasing the yield to sustain on the global tea export.

### Report on Censorship of Films (Amend) Bill placed in JS

BSS, Dhaka

A report of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of information on "The Censorship of Films (Amendment) Bill 2005" was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Chairman of the committee Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury placed the report which proposed making the current censorship of Films Act, 1963, time-befitting to save the film industry from vulgarity and bad influences.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam while piloting the bill in the House of September 18 observed that vulgarity in films had been increasing alarmingly. He said in absence of a stringent law, a section of unscrupulous filmmakers had been using vulgar scenes in the films for making more profits.

Shamsul Islam said the new bill was placed to ensure healthy and decent amusement for the members of public.

### Quality education a must for skilled manpower

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not only the spread of education but also its quality is equally important, said Vice-chancellor of National University Prof Wakil Ahmed yesterday.

He said it is time to pay special attention to improve the quality of education as country's literacy rate reached 70 percent in recent past.

Prof Wakil said properly trained and motivated teachers can ensure the quality of education.

He said the country is in need of quality education to help create skilled and enlightened manpower for its development.

Prof Wakil was speaking as chief guest at the prize giving ceremony of the week-long literary, cultural and sports competition of Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Teachers' Training College in the city.

He laid emphasis on women's education and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the

sector in recent past.

He said late Khanbahadur Ahsanullah whose name the college bears was a great man with many qualities and his contributions to education and other sectors are never to be forgotten.

Principal of the college Prof Ashraf Ali and Director of Public Relations of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Prof Nurul Islam also spoke.

Former chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Muhammad Eltajuddin presided over the programme.

Later, Dr Wakil distributed prizes among the winners at the college auditorium at Shyamoli.

Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Teachers' Training College was established in 1992 as the country's first Teachers' Training College in the private sector to create quality teachers to provide better education.



Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina addresses a function marking independent lawmaker Shamsuddin Ahmed's joining Awami League at the Engineers Institute Bangladesh in the city yesterday.



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