METROPOLÍTAN/NEWS

Govt blamed for delay in submarine cable link

A particular group is controlling the illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) business, they said, adding that the illegal business flourished in the last four and half years due to the lack of will on

in the city. Syed Marghub Morshed, former chairman of the BTRC, moderated the roundtable.

cism, Md Monwar Hossain, proiect director of Bangladesh Submarine Cable Project, admitted that the BTTB incurred a huge revenue loss due to illegal voice transfer and call termination.

"It has been possible due to opening up V-sat in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the only country in the world that opened up V-sat," he said, adding that the government should find out why VoIP has

The BTTB is facing limitation in making necessary investment despite the fact that it earned Tk 1,400 crore last year, Monwar mentioned.

He said many countries have

countries, including India and Pakistan, are ahead of us and Bangladesh is among the very few countries in this area that is still at the conservative stage, he

Monwar said the prime minister would formally inaugurate the submarine cable line early next month. Barrier to high-speed data transfer will be eliminated with linking the country with the information superhighway. "Circuits are now working on test basis and the total system can be commissioned by March," he mentioned.

Syed Marghub Morshed med the telecom policy 1998 very liberal, saying that Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) should determine all new tariffs.

"It needs to be clear whether BTTB will exclusively manage the submarine cable or others should be involved in it," he said, adding that there is monopoly about international traffic that is not

Dr Ananya Raihan, executive director of D.Net, said illegal VoIP business is serving the interest of a particular group.

The government is in the last year of its mandate but could not make a headway in the last four and half years," he said, expressing concern over the control of submarine cable project.

"There is a lack of goodwill and we should be careful from now on so that this particular group cannot snatch the benefits of submarine cable." Raiham warned.

Ahmed Hasan Jewel, former secretary general of Bangladesh Computer Samity, termed the BTTB an inefficient organisation, saying that it could not keep pace with the changing scenario and the cell phone service of BTTB

"But we, the private sector, have also failed as a whole. There is no significant achievement in the last 10 years in the ICT sector." he mentioned.

Sumon Ahmd Sabir, general secretary of ISP Association, said giving licences to 200 ISP operators has led to illegal VoIP busi-

"There are a handful of companies that are genuinely providing Internet service but most of the operators are in fact doing illegal VoIP business." he explained.

Blaming the government for creating uneven field for the local private sector, Mohammad Abdus Salam, vice-president of ISP Association, said the BTTB is coming as a competitor to the private sector. "But it is not possible for small

ISPs to compete with BTTB or the mobile phone operators representing global giants," he noted.

Mia Mustak Hossain, secretary of the Science and Information Communication Technology Ministry, said dialogue between the public and private sectors would help resolve many issues. "We have already wasted time in reaching the information superhighway. But now having access to the submarine cable will definitely help us move forward.

Reza Salim, associate director of BFES, said no policy has been formulated until now about how the nation can benefit from the information superhighway.

The submarine cable will be formally inaugurated soon, but we are worried about progress in other aspects such as pricing policy, management and developing infrastructure to utilise the benefit of it, he added



Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman speaks at a prize giving ceremony of the book reading programme of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra in the city vester. day. Sitting from left are Anisul Haque, ASM Shajahan and Prof Abdullah Abu

Rule nisi on Ctg mayor, 3 other CCC officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Supreme Court has served a rule nisi upon Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) asking its mayor and three other officials to restrain themselves from filling the pond and land of a cattle shed belonging to the Animal Protection Society

A High Court bench of Justice Md Awlad Ali and Justice Zinat Ara issued the rule nisi on February 12 following a writ petition filed by Binod Bihari Chowdhury, general secretary of the

Society, said a press release yesterday. The court asked Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, three other CCC officials and the Chittagong

Metropolitan Police commissioner to show cause within next four weeks as to why their action of filling the pond and land at Muradnagar for setting up a health care centre would not be declared 'illegal'. It also asked the respondents to

show cause as to why they would not be restrained from interfering with the peaceful possession of the land by

The court also directed them for not changing the nature and character of the land in any manner for a period of four months.

The other respondents are CCC chief executive officer, chief medical

officer and chief revenue officer.



Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Rangpur, Bogra, Tangail and Mymensingh in the next 12 hours till Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere

over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

Highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 16.4 degree Celsius at Rajshahi

The sun sets in the capital at 5:56pm today and rises at

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

City/Town Humidity in Temperature in Celsius percentage Max Morning Evening Dhaka 31.2 23.2 75 75 52 54 68 Chittagong 30.2 20.5 72 16.4 Raishahi 33.6 Khulna 32.6 22.2 85 Barisal 31.5 22.5 Sylhet 29.4 19.4 91 Cox's Bazar

14-party plans biggest ever showdown in Ctg March 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine plans to make its March 1 grand rally here one of the biggest ever showdowns with a view to impressing the electorate for the next general election.

A preparatory meeting of the divisional representatives of the alliance at a local community centre yesterday decided to gather at least five lakh people at the rally at Outer Stadium, sources said.

To make the rally a grand success, a coordination committee was formed at the day-long meeting with Chittagong City Awami League General Secretary and City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury its chief coordinator and presidents and general secretaries of each district unit of the opposition parties the committee members.

The meeting decided that all aspirant MP candidates for next narliamentary election will bring at least 10,000 people from their respective constituencies while each ward leader of Chittagong city will bring at least 5,000 people from his

Reception cells equipped with video cameras will be set up at different points of the venue of the rally on March 1 to monitor the presence of the people, sources said.

"We will take video footages to see whether the decision of the meeting is implemented or not. All candidates who are looking forward to contest the next parliamentary election must follow this instruction." said Mohiuddin Chowdhury at the

AL Presidium Member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser presided over the meeting attended by AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal central leader Moinuddin Khan Badal, Bir Bahadur MP, Gonotantri Party leader Nurul Islam, Gonotantrik Majdur Party leader Zakir Hossain and AL leaders Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu

Razzak protests Bhuiyan's remarks on CG

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak in a statement yesterday protested the remarks of LGRD and Cooperatives minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan regarding nonavailability of neutral person for the next caretaker government.

At a rally in Savar on Friday, Bhuiyan said the opposition wants to have an acceptable person as the head of the caretaker government. "But Sheikh Hasina would raise question about the neutrality of the caretaker government even Abdur Tofail Ahmed is made its

Sharply reacting the remarks, Razzak said the ruling party leaders, including Mannan Bhuiyan, are always on horns of a dilemma over the concept of neutral caretaker government as they are unable to find any neutral person.

"That's why they have completed all preparations to make the former BNP international affairs secretary and former chief justice the chief adviser of the caretaker government extending the age limits of the judges of the Supreme Court," Razzak said.

People from all walks of life have taken stance against this conspiracy of the BNP-Jamaat coalition, he said.

The AL leader said they want reforms in the caretaker government and election commission systems to ensure a free and fair election. But the coalition government is opposing the reform proposals to cling to power in an illegal way.

Women urged to be careful about breast cancer

Doctors at a seminar in the city urged women to be careful about breast and uterus cancer that are most prevalent among them, says a press release.

Bangladesh Cancer Foundation (BCF) organised the seminar on Women's Reproductive Health and Cancer' at its Muhammadpur Fertility Centre yesterday

Dr Md Habibullah Talukdar, director general of BCF, presented a keynote

He said, prevalence in the family members, marrying or taking first child after the age of thirty years, non-breast feeding and obesity are the prime reasons for developing breast cancer.

Marriage in tender age, frequent pregnancy, lacking personal hygiene, polygamy, malnutrition and infection of HIV virus are primary causes for developing uterus cancer, he added.

Dr Syed AKM Hasan Alam, director of MFC, Dr Parvin Haque Chowdhury, deputy director of MFC, Dr Parvin Haque Chowdhury, Dr Shamsunnahar, Dr Shamima Akhter, Dr Jebunnesa Hossain, Dr Hosne Jahan and Dr Neena Humayra also spoke in the seminar



memorandum to Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) with demand for minimum wages of Tk 2000.

Routes to Shaheed Minar, Azimpur on Ekushey

BDNEWS. Dhaka

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken up special arrangements to control movement of traffic as well as people from 6:00pm on February 20 to 2:00pm February 21 in observance of the Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day.

People coming through Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani Nazimuddin Road, Babupura Road, College Road and Topkhana Road have to go to the Azimpur graveyard through gate no-1 of New Market via Dewan Bazar Road, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, TSC crossing, Nilkhet Road, New Market crossing and Pilkhana Road, a DMP press release said.

It said people coming from Lalbagh, Azimpur, Palashi, Chakbazar, Bakshi Bazar, Urdu Road and Dhakeswari area have to travel through the new gate of the graveyard beside Gate No-1 of New Market via Azimpur Road, New Market crossing and Pilkhana Road.

Dwellers of Buet and Dhaka Medical College area have to go through the new gate of graveyard beside Gate No-1 of New Market via Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, TSC crossing, Nilkhet Road, New Market crossing and Pilkhana Road.

Besides, people have to go to the Shaheed Minar through the roads in front of Sir Salimullah Hall, Jagannath Hall, High Court, Doyel crossing, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, TSC crossing, Nilkhet crossing, New Market, Old Railway Road, Azimpur Road, Azimpur Baby Ice-cream crossing and Palashi crossing. But they will not be allowed to use the same road to go to the Azimpur graveyard.

Movement of all types of vehicles will remain suspended on these roads from 6:00pm February 20 to 2:00pm February 21. Besides, vehicle movement will remain suspended on the roads in front of the Shaheed Minar from 10:00am February 20 to 2:00pm February 21.

Workshop on basic life support for schools held

A daylong training workshop on basic life support for schools in Bangladesh ended at Birdem in the city yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 20 representatives from ten schools participated in the workshop, which was inaugurated by Professor Mirza Mazharul Islam, director general of Birdem. The event was organised jointly by Shabab Murshid Foundation and the Department of Critical Care Medicine, Birdem. In his inaugural speech

Professor Islam noted the significance of the training workshop and congratulated the organisers for taking the first step in introducing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in schools

Dr Omar Faruk, head of Critical Care Medicine at Birdem said despite their best intentions, heavy workload prevented them from reaching out to the wider community. The initiative taken by Shabab Murshid Foundation (SMF) therefore is a welcome initiative.

Dr Faruk promised to continue the technical support needed to create awareness and knowledge about CPR in the community. Chairperson of SMF, economist

Dr KAS Murshid explained that the mission of the Foundation was to spread CPR to every school in Bangladesh and to raise awareness about its importance amongst all sections of society. CPR, he observed can mean the

difference between life and death. CPR stands for cardiopulmonary

resuscitation, a combination of rescue breathing (mouth-to-mouth resuscitation) and chest compressions. If a child (or adult) is not breathing or circulating blood adequately, CPR can restore circulation of oxygen-rich blood to the brain.

Coordinated efforts a must for uniform Bangla software

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Computer experts at a conference stressed the need for coordinated efforts of linguists, software developers and electrical engineers to develop uniform Bangla software and interfaces worldwide, especially in Bangla speaking regions.

Spreading Bangla language in this fashion will be the best way to pay tributes to the language martyrs and enrich the language through research and development. The conference on 'International

Conference on Computer Processing

ZIA KILLING

Book on court martial hits **Ekushey Fair**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly published book on the court martial that took place after the killing of President Ziaur Rahman has arrived at the Ekushey Book Fair being

held at the Bangla Academy in the city. The book titled 'Zia Hattyakando: Neel Nakshar Bichar' by journalist Julfikar Ali Manik is based on investigative reports that show that the court martial was a farce

Somov Prokashan has published the book.

The book contains some exclusive photographs and details of the trial as told by a witness who appeared before the court to defend the accused.

The investigative report by Manik who is now a reporter of The Daily Star, won the 'PIB-Sohel Samad Award' in 2000 as the best investigative report.

of Bangla (ICCPB)' organised by Independent University, Bangladesh took place on its Baridhara campus in the city yesterday.

The conference aimed at providing platform for IT scholars, researchers. engineers, and linguists for exchange of research outcomes and ideas.

Prof M Lutfor Rahman of Dhaka University and Syed Akhter Hossain of East West University presented a paper on 'Research on Bangla Computational Linguistics in Bangladesh' while Prof BB Chaudhuri of Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata presented another paper on 'Design of Efficient Spell-checker for Bangla Language' In the conference, a total of thirty-

one papers were presented that dealt with English-Bangla automatic translation, text-speech conversion, automatic Bangla handwriting recognition, problems relating to compound letters in Bangla and issues related to Speaking as the chief guest, Prof

Morshed said the responsibility should not be left with the government, rather concerted effort of all concerned is

Shamsuzzoha Day observed

RU CORRESPONDENT

Shaheed Dr Shamsuzzoha Day was observed at Raishahi University (RU) yesterday in a befitting manner. The RU authorities marked the day

as 'Teachers' Day' Dr Shamsuzzoha, then proctor and

associate professor of chemistry department, was killed on February 18 in 1969 by Pakistani military in front of the university's main gate as he tried to protect the students demonstrating against the Ayub regime.

Memorial meeting A memorial meeting will be held to mark

the 28th death anniversary of Abdus Salam, former editor of Bangladesh Observer, Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:30pm.

IBA Career Fair IBA will hold a two-day Career Fair for its

graduates. Venue: IBA premises.

Seminar Modern Herbal Group of Companies will

hold a seminar on 'The importance of herbal medicine in the new century' with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Institute of Engineers.

Dialogue Three NGOs- RHSTEP, BWHC and

BAPSA organise a dialogue on 'Role of National MR Programme for the promotion of reproductive health and rights in Bangladesh'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 2:30pm

Publication ceremony The publication ceremony of a book of

lyrics titled 'Dinosaurer dimta' (The Egg of a Dinosaur) by Naziya Jabin will be held Venue: TSC Cafeteria. Time: 4:00pm



Unitrend Chairman Muneer Ahmed Khan and Managing Director Zulfigar Ahmed hand over a crest to TV personality Shykh Seraj at a ceremony in the

Kidnapped Bangladeshi dies in India

UNB, C'nawabganj

A Bangladeshi youth, who was kidnapped by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from Shibgani border on Thursday, died from bullet wounds at Maldah Medical Hospital of West Bengal yesterday.
Villagers and Bangladesh Rifles

(BDR) officials said Saheb Ali, 20, of Sishadanga village under Gomostapur upazila, was engaged in earth filling near Sonamasjid border on the day. The BSF personnel of Mohodipur outpost entered Bangladesh territory and took Saheb to their camp. On Friday, the BSF men fired on

Saheb as he tried to escape. Fatally wounded Saheb was admitted to the hospital where he died yesterday

Unprovoked firing by the BSF left at least three people dead on Chapainawabganj border this month.

Int'l Youth Summit begins today

A five-day Beyond Borders International Youth Summit will begin in the city today.

'Beyond Borders' is a regional

project of the British Council's global initiative called 'Connecting Futures', which aims to build mutual understanding, learning and respect among the youths aged between 18 and 22 years in the UK and South Asia.

The British Council, Bangladesh in collaboration with DemocracyWatch has organised the summit, said the organisers at a press conference in the city yesterday.

President lajuddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the programme at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The theme of Bangladesh summit

is 'Love, Live, Express, Access'," said Executive Director of DemocracyWatch Taleya Rehman. This year the Youth Summit aims at engaging with young people of South Asia to explore identity, diversity and active citizenship.

Under the project, a series of festivals, conference and summits have been taken place in India in November 2005, in Pakistan in January 2006 and the third one is being held in Bangladesh. The UK and Sri Lankan festivals will be held in March.

The summit has been designed with various innovative and inspiring events for young people such as development theatre, interactive dialogues on sex health education and equality and diversity, and visit to other community-based social projects implemented by the core group mem-

Ex-JCD leader Mamun dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

bers of 'Beyond Borders'.

Former Dhaka University Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Mostafizul Islam Mamun passed away due to cardiac arrest at a city hospital last night at the age of 34.

Family Hospital from his Dilu Road residence at around 7:00pm as he fell sick, where doctors declared him

He was rushed to the Holy

Later, his body was taken to his village home at Rupganj in Narayanganj for burial.

Mamun was released from the iail on bail around a week ago in a case filed under Arms Act.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested him along with two other former JCD leaders Harun ur Rashid Shishir alias 'Kutta' Shishir' and Ashraf Hossain with a pistol and ammunition from Shishir's office at Aziz Super Market at Shahbagh in

the city on August 6 last year. Mamun, a student of law, was the general secretary of the DU unit JCD in 1999. He was accused in a

Shykh Seraj honoured

Unitrend Ltd., an advertising agency, honoured TV personality Shykh Seraj as the 'Son of the Soil at a ceremony at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city recently, says a press release.

With a single television programme the heart of the soil can be touched -- 'Mati-O-Manush' of Shykh Seraj is the only testimony to Unitrend Chairman Muneer

Director Zulfiqar Ahmed handed over a crest and a cheque to Shykh Seraj at the programme Thanking Unitrend Ltd, Shykh Seraj said such initiative would

Ahmed Khan and Managing

inspire anyone to excel Zulfigar Ahmed said the contribution of Shykh Seraj to rebuilding and developing the country is truly remarkable

Muneer Ahmed said the mass media is extremely powerful and Shykh Seraj has shown how a country can benefit from the media.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders and telecom experts at a roundtable yesterday strongly criticised the government for delaying in linking the country with submarine cable and allowing operators to do illegal VoIP business for a long time.

the part of the government. Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES) organised the roundtable on 'What do we expect from submarine cable line?' in cooperation with the Association for Progressive Communications at Brac Centre

Responding to severe criti-

not been legalised.

liberalised their telecommunications sector and went ahead in the area of Information and Communication Technology. Even some of our neighbouring

BOOK READING PROGRAMME

receive prizes STAFF CORRESPONDENT

2000 more

students

programme for 2005.

Over 2000 students of different schools in Dhaka city received prizes yesterday, the last day of prize giving ceremony of a book reading programme organised by the Bishwa Sahitva Kendra.

About 24,000 students of 100

The two-day prize giving cere-

mony was held on the ground adja-

schools in the capital took part in the

cent to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the Speaking on the occasion, former advisor to a caretaker government ASM Shajahan called on the winners

country Congratulating the students quardians and teachers, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said the unity of the enlightened people is the

to help build a happy and prosperous

source of all our hopes and aspira-Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman, writer Anisul Haque, Chairman of Singer Bangladesh Mahbub Jamil, Director of Grameen Phone Khalid Hasan and founder of

the Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu

Sayeed also spoke. Power crisis worsens as 3 transformers

stolen in N'gani OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Three electric transformers were stolen from different places in Narayanganj within eight days from February 5 to 12, worsening the power crisis in the region. Sources at Dhaka Electricity

Supply Authority (DESA) said an

organised gang is involved in

stealing the transformers worth about Tk 1.5 lakh Two transformers, one at Kayempur and another at Aliganj, Dapa, on Dhaka-Narayangani road in Fatulla, were stolen on February 5 and 12 and the other transformer on Dhaka-Chittagong road at

connection, but the police could not recover any transformer or arrest anybody as of yesterday DESA officials said the incidents

of stealing transformers have aggravated the power crisis in the They are also facing trouble in

Painadi, Siddhirgani, was stolen on February 10. DESA filed three cases in this

procuring new transformers, they said, adding that raising mass awareness can help prevent such

