

## Opposition for meaningful talks on electoral reforms

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Leaders of the 14-party opposition combine yesterday said they are ready for a meaningful discussion on electoral reforms.  
"We are ready to discuss the issue for the sake of national interest despite repeated torture on us by the alliance government," said Tofail Ahmed, a senior leader of the combine, at a rally in front of the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.  
The rally was organised to protest police action on opposition workers during Thursday's sit-in

programme.  
Around 100 workers, including city coordinator of the combine Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Haji Mohammad Selim, were injured as police charged baton and fired teargas shells during the programme.  
The 14-party will stage country-wide demonstrations and rallies today protesting the police atrocities.  
Tofail said the alliance government has been hatching conspiracy to return to power through a manipulated election.

But the countrymen would not allow any election before reforms are brought to the caretaker government system and the Election Commission, he added.  
Awami League leader Obaidul Quader demanded of the government to create a favourable environment for meaningful discussion on the reform issue.  
The 14-party leaders Syed Zafar Sazzad, Anisur Rahman Mallik, Advocate Shahara Khatun, Omar Ali, Habibur Rahman Molla, Kazi Mostak, Qamrul Ahsan, Shafiqur Rahman and Faizuddin Mia also spoke.

## KITE FESTIVAL Sky over DU turns colourful

**DU CORRESPONDENT**  
The blue sky over Dhaka University (DU) wore a different look and colour yesterday afternoon as hundreds of kites were flying in the entire sky during a traditional kite festival at the DU playground.  
Amid enthusiasm and zeal, several kite groups and youths participated in the festival organised by Dhakabashi, a socio-cultural organisation of old Dhaka, and sponsored by Nestlé Bangladesh Limited.  
Kites of different sizes and shapes like flower, fish, bird and snake were flying in the sky as a good number of eager spectators looked at them with wonder and thrill.  
Besides, the audience enjoyed the songs of Old Dhaka's famous band group Kalachand Band Party, bugle playing of Abdul Kader, riding of horse carts, colourful feasts and different cultural programmes.  
According to the shapes, the kites were given interesting names such as Kalapahar, Lalpahar, Dovas, Churidar, Petkata, Chumki, Pankhiraj and Prajapati.  
Bangladesh Kite Federation, Dhaka Kite Club, China Embassy Kite Group, Kayektuli Kite Group, Keraniganj Kite Group, Mehedi Kite Group, Ganaktuli Kite Group, Kite Group of Jahid of Dhupkhola and Bangladesh Writers' Club, among others, took part in the festival.  
Earlier, Chairman of Privatisation Commission Inam Ahmed Chowdhury inaugurated the festival where Dhakabashi President Shukur Saleq, Secretary General Sheikh Khodabakhsh, adviser Mahbul Alam and Nestlé official Mirza Golam Hossain attended.  
A kite-flying competition for the school students was also held in the festival.



US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Gastright calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

## JU ZOOLOGY DEPTT Irregularities in admission seekers' list alleged

**JU CORRESPONDENT**  
The central admission committee of Jahangirnagar University (JU) has ordered to stop admission of students at zoology department from the waiting list under 2005-06 academic session following allegations of irregularities in preparing the merit and waiting lists from the primary list.  
The order was issued on March 28, which was the last date of admission from the waiting list, after Nazia Zaman, a waiting-list candidate bearing roll No. 405862, submitted a written complaint against the department admission committee about irregularities in the lists.  
Abu Bakar Siddique, secretary of central admission committee, confirmed the issuance of the order.  
"We have asked the department to explain the incident," he added.  
The departments usually prepare merit and waiting lists from the primary list after taking viva-voce examination of the students.  
A student can be excluded from the primary list if he remains absent or turns unqualified in viva-voce examination. But the serial of primary list must be maintained.  
In her complaint, Nazia alleged that one Munia Jahan bearing roll No. 409425, whose serial was 126 in primary list, was placed on the waiting list before her name. Nazia's serial was 116 in the primary list.  
An investigation by this correspondent also found similar irregularities in merit and waiting lists.  
Anika Raihan Tanwi bearing roll No. 405814 became 15th in the merit list though she was supposed to be at the 18th position in the waiting list.  
Smriti Biswas with roll No. 405227 emerged first in the waiting list, but she ought to be placed at the 20th position in the merit list.  
Similarly, Ashrafi Anwar bearing roll No. 405817 downgraded to 25th in the waiting list instead of 6th position, and Mithun Chakraborty with roll No. 406630 was upgraded to 39th in the waiting list while he was supposed to be at 58th position.  
"The lists were made unanimously. Changes might occur if someone gives wrong information in admission forms," said Dr Md Mafizul Kabir, chairman of departmental admission committee.  
Kabir was made chairman of the committee for the third time consecutively this year giving rise to the question about the transparency of the committee.  
Confirming the receipt of order from the central admission committee, Prof Mohammad Mustafa Feroz, chairman of the department, said, "If the serial is violated, we cannot enrol students."



Seven indigenous freedom fighters pose with the guests at a reception ceremony for them at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon and Research and Development Collective (RDC) jointly organised the event.

## Bangla e-mail service launched in Chittagong

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong**  
A Unicode-based Bangla e-mail service, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country, was launched in the port city yesterday.  
Nutan Bangla Dot Com, a joint-venture project of Internet service provider Global Information Network and software manufacturer Soft Valley Private Limited, introduced the new e-mail service.  
Some former students of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) working at Nutan Bangla Dot Com developed the new service.  
With this, it would now be possible to send e-mail in Bangla to any Unicode-supported computer at any part of the world using the [nutanbangla website](http://www.nutanbangla.com) <http://www.nutanbangla.com> or [http://mail.nutanbangla.com](mailto:mail.nutanbangla.com).  
The e-mail service was launched through sending e-mails to different newspaper and institute offices using the nutanbangla website from the server room of Global Information Network office at Southland Centre at Agrabad at 5:00pm.  
Managing Director of Global Information Network Engineer Ali Ashraf said that the new service would help one to send e-mail written with Bangla fonts directly without going for file attachment.  
The recipients on the other ends would not require any software of Bangla fonts like 'Bijoy' to open and read the e-mails, he said.  
"We used the UTF-8 character format in this site so that any UTF-8 supported web mail reader can open and read the mails," Ali Ashraf said.  
"Anyone can use the site free of cost until April 30 this year and after that we might think of extending the time," he added.

## Indigenous freedom fighters neglected Speakers tell discussion

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Thousands of indigenous freedom fighters played a vital role in defeating Pakistani occupation forces during the liberation war but their contribution has been neglected in the history of the war, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.  
They said many indigenous people along with Bangalee freedom fighters fought against the occupation forces but their names are not included in most of the history books on liberation war including the government-published 15 volumes of documents on the war.  
The discussion titled 'Contribution of indigenous people to the liberation war' was organised jointly by Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon and Research and Development Collective (RDC) at the National Press Club in the city.  
Seven indigenous freedom fighters were given crests for their contribution to the liberation war at the discussion.  
Speaking as chief guest Nasir Uddin Yusuf, a freedom fighter and president of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, said indigenous people have become marginal ones due to ethnic discrimination, but they made significant contribution to the war.  
He said the struggle of the indigenous people to establish their right to land has not come to an end though it started during the British rule.  
In a keynote paper, Mesbah Kamal, associate professor of Dhaka University, said the government should take effective measures to prepare a list of real freedom fighters specially the indigenous freedom fighters and honour them for their contribution to the liberation war.  
"A lot of indigenous people were killed or critically injured in their fight against the Pakistani forces but we have failed to give honour or mention their names in our history of liberation

war," he said.  
Presiding over the discussion, Prof HKS Arefin of Dhaka University and Chairman of RDC, said indigenous people sacrificed their lives for the independence but they are now living as aliens in their own country.  
Jote General Secretary Golam Kuddus, RDC Research Officer Zannat-a-Ferdousi and Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon Central Organiser Kerina Mumu also spoke.

## Rare example of honesty

**UNB, Goalanda, Rajbari**  
Babu Rajak, laundry businessman of Goalanda Bus Stand bazaar, has set a rare example of honesty by returning Tk 62,000 to his client, which he found while ironing the client's trousers.  
Local people said Momin Sheikh, a small trader, brought his two shirts and trousers into Babu Laundry at about 11:00am on Thursday to have those ironed.  
During the ironing, laundry owner Rajak, 36, found the money in the trousers' pocket to his surprise.  
Later, Rajak informed Momin about it and returned the money to him.  
A grateful Momin then gave Rajak some money to buy sweets.

## Domestic help found dead in Tangail

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**  
A teenage domestic help was found dead in Biswas Betka area in Tangail town yesterday morning.  
The victim was identified as Rina, 15, who worked at the house of Mohammad Selim, a leader of Tangail District Road Transport Federation.  
Receiving information, the police recovered the body from in front of the house of Abdus Samad, brother of Selim.  
Selim said Rina went to bed at midnight on Thursday after completing the household chores.  
He also said that he received the news of her death from local people in the morning.  
S Alam, officer-in-charge of Tangail Sadar Police Station, suspects that Rina was strangled as her neck was broken.  
The police brought the body of the victim to the police station. No case was filed in this connection as of yesterday evening.

## 'Global warming threatens people in South Asian region'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Global warming and massive intervention of the sub-continental river systems are threatening the existence of a large section of people in the South Asian region, said the leaders of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation of Architects (Saarch) yesterday.  
Expressing concern over the environmental degradation and man-made disasters they said proper laws regarding building construction and other development activities should be enacted keeping in mind the environmental issues.  
The Saarch leaders were speaking at a press conference at Brac Centre Inn in the city before a conference being held today and tomorrow.  
"We may raise the issues of changes in the river system as well as global warming at the two-day conference to take them to the leaders of Saarch countries," said Architect Khadem Ali, president of the Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB), adding that the issues however requires greater consensus within the architects' own body.  
He stressed for collective efforts and cooperation to check man-made disasters.  
Architect Shakur Mazid, executive member of the IAB, said there are already legal frameworks, but lack of maintenance and regulation by the government agencies lead to many disasters.  
Indian Architect Balbir Verma said hundreds of thousands of buildings are being constructed giving the urban areas of the region a very different shape. As a regional association, architects must be aware of the future picture and play their due role in this regard.  
Saarch Chairman Arshad Abdulla and architects Syed Akeel Bilgram of Pakistan, Rukshan Widyankara of Sri Lanka, Rebecca Gurung of Bhutan and Binod Neupane of Nepal were present on the occasion.

## FFs vow to save country from anti-liberation forces

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Freedom fighters at a rally yesterday vowed to save the country from the clutches of anti-liberation forces like Jamaat-e-Islami and their accomplices.  
They said the government has been patronising the anti-liberation forces whereas freedom fighters are being ignored and deprived.  
Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council organised the rally at Muktangan in the city to mark the Independence Day.  
Freedom fighters today pull rickshaws, beg and even die with-

out food, which is a shame for the country, and no government since independence has done anything for the welfare of the freedom fighters, the speakers said.  
The goal of the liberation war that everyone will enjoy equal rights and financial freedom is yet to be achieved, they added.  
The freedom fighters said the Razakars (collaborators of the Pakistan army) are seen in the Independence Day's programmes while freedom fighters are ignored. Bir Shrestha Capt. Mohiuddin Jagangir's family members were not invited in an Independence Day programme in Barisal recently,

they added.  
Presiding over the rally, Council Chairman Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury urged the government to accept the reform proposal of the 14-party to resolve the present political crisis.  
Dr Neem Chandra Bhowmik, Sultan Uddin Ahmed Raja and Humayun Kabir also spoke at the rally.  
Later, they brought out a colourful procession that paraded through different city streets and ended in front of 'Shikha Chirantan' at Suhrawardy Udyan.



Save the Environment Movement form a human chain in Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding immediate steps to resolve water crisis.

## Women-only buses hit Ctg city roads today

**DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong**  
Special City Bus Service for women is hitting the city roads from today to facilitate hassle-free movement of female passengers.  
Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury is scheduled to inaugurate the service at a function to be held at the city's Anderkilla intersection at 10:00am.  
Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) is introducing this city service exclusively for women, which has already been hailed by different women organisations as well as female passengers terming it a noble gesture towards women.  
CCC sources said the service would start with 10 buses to operate in four routes of the city while the number of the buses would be raised to 40 or more gradually.  
In Route No. 1, the buses will ply from Bahaddarhat to Airport on route Muradpur, GEC, Tigerpass, Agrabad, Customs, EPZ and Sea Beach.  
Buses of Route No. 2 will run from Bahaddarhat to Airport through

Chakbazaar, Anderkilla, Newmarket, Tigerpass and Agrabad.  
Route No. 3 buses will travel via Fouzdarhat-Colonelhat-Foyez Lake-GEC-Tigerpass-Agrabad Access Road Baropole -Nayabazaar-Alankar-Fouzderhat.  
Buses of Route No. 4 would ply from Nandirhat to Airport via Oxygen-Solashahar-GEC roads.  
Concerned CCC Executive Engineer Rafiqul Islam said female passengers could board the buses and avail themselves of tickets at 85 counters already set up at different points of the four routes.  
There will be an equal number of passenger sheds with sitting arrangement beside each of the counters. Forty-one of such passenger sheds have already been constructed while the rest 44 would be completed soon, he said.  
However, it has been reported that the price of tickets for the special service buses would be one and a half times higher than that of the existing city special services buses, which evoked some criticism.  
Besides, ticket counters and

passenger sheds were erected in an unplanned way occupying the whole width of the footpaths at many places.  
Meanwhile, Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association (BNWLA) Chittagong Divisional chief Advocate Wahida Idris while talking to The Daily Star observed that the introduction of the female special city service buses was a good initiative.  
It will help the female passenger get rid of harassment they face while travelling in the general city buses, rangers and tempos everyday, she added.  
Samajtantrik Mohila Forum leader Syeda Parveen Akhter welcomed the move saying it was a crying need for the female passengers of the city.  
She, however, demanded fixing the fare of the buses taking into consideration the financial capacity of female passengers.  
Sarah Afroze, a student of Government City College, also came up with the same demand.

## Greater Dhaka Journalists' Forum executives


A 19-member executive committee of Greater Dhaka Journalists' Forum for 2006-08 was formed yesterday with Shafiqul Kabir of the daily Ittefaq as its president and Ahmed Selim Reza as general secretary, says a press release.  
The committee was formed at the Forum's general meeting and get-together at the National Press Club.  
Convener of the forum Selim Reza chaired the meeting.  
Other office-bearers of the committee are Biman Bhattacharya (Bangladesh Observer), Monwar Hossain (freelance), Nuruddin Ahmed (photojournalist), Syed Mesbah Uddin (Janapad) and Obaidul Kader Mollah (Janakantha) - vice-presidents, Monir Hossain Liton (Shamakal) - joint-secretary, Ataur Rahman (Mukta Kantha) - treasurer, Manjurul Islam Manju (Naya Diganta) - office secretary, Vanu Ranjan Chakravarti (ATN Bangla) - welfare secretary, Shirin Sultana (Financial Mirror) - cultural secretary, and Humayun Kabir Badal (News Today) - publication secretary.  
The members are Hasan Hafiz (Baishakhi Television), Swapan Das Gupta (Jugantor), Shafiqul Alam Ratan (News Today), Ashish Shaikat (Prothom Alo), Shaheen Chowdhury (Ajker Gagoj) and Md Momin Hossain (BSS).

## Chehlum

  
Chehlum of Amena Hakim, mother of industrialist SM Nuruzzaman Babul, will be held today, says a press release. Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and feeding of the destitute have been arranged at Sohag Community Centre in the city.  
Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad to be held after Zohr prayers.



GrameenPhone Managing Director Erik Aas poses for photograph with the members of GP's customer services centres at a function in Dhaka yesterday.



### WEATHER TODAY

## No change in temperature

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with partly cloudy sky during the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.  
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.  
Yesterday's highest temperature of 38 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 18 degrees at Rangpur and Sayedpur.  
**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises at 5:50am tomorrow.**  
The 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	36.0	26.4	64	49
Chittagong	33.0	23.6	92	67
Rajshahi	36.5	19.6	92	27
Khulna	34.8	22.0	80	49
Barisal	35.0	21.8	92	62
Sylhet	35.7	19.6	36	41
Cox's Bazar	32.6	23.7	68	77



### DHAKA TODAY

## Seminar

Prosperous Bangladesh Movement organises a seminar on 'Role of the politicians in protecting democracy'. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha. Time: 10:30am.

## Job fair

Inpace Management Services Limited organises a two-day job fair. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

## Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

## Rotary Dhaka North West

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.