

## Nat'l security at stake due to politicisation

Speakers tell Mujibnagar Day discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for strong unity of people to save the country by toppling the alliance government. They said the people at Kansat have given us the direction how to achieve legitimate demands. The discussion titled 'National unity for national security' was held at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh in the city to mark the historic Mujibnagar Day. Gonoforum and Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain said the government will have to seek pardon from people for its misrule across the country in the same way as it did at Kansat. He said due to politicisation of

constitutional posts, national security is now at stake. Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Abdul Hamid said, "If we can take financial statement of all lawmakers since the independence, we can eliminate 50 percent corruption from the country." He said mere change of government is not enough to free the country from corruption, the mentality of the government has to be changed first. With reference to the killings at Kansat and attacks on journalists in Chittagong, Vice-president of Bangladesh Bar Association Barrister Rakan Uddin Mahmud said there is no rule of law in the

country. "If the government prevents us from laying a siege to Prime Minister's Office on April 19, there will be another Kansat in the capital," said AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed. General Secretary of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan said the brutality of police at Kansat has surpassed the brutality of Pakistan military junta in 1971. President of Workers' Party Rashed Khan Menon, President of Bangladesh Economic Society Dr Kazi Kholiquzzaman and President of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari also took part in the discussion.

## KANSAT KILLINGS Punishment to culprits demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) teachers yesterday demanded punishment to those responsible for the killing of 20 people at Kansat, Chapainawabganj, and compensation to the families of the victims of police atrocities. The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) took out a silent procession on the campus and later held a protest rally at the Central Shaheed Minar. Duta President Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, former Duta president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Amnur Rashid, Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, Prof Akmal Hossain, Prof Nazma Shaheen and Prof Mesbah Kamal joined the procession. At the rally, Prof Sharif said the government has killed the innocent people who were demonstrating for their just demands. The administration, local law-maker and Rajshahi City Corporation mayor are responsible for the killings, he added. In a statement, Duta also demanded exemplary punishment to the policemen who attacked photojournalists at Chittagong stadium on Sunday. Our RU correspondent adds: The Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) of Rajshahi University held a rally in front of Senate building yesterday in protest against the killings of 20 people at Kansat. At the rally, the speakers demanded immediate arrest of and punishment to those responsible for the killing of farmers who were demanding uninterrupted power supply for irrigation purposes. They also demanded withdrawal of 'false' cases against the villagers and compensation to the families of victims. The rally was addressed by Prof Muhammad Nurullah, former RU VC Prof Saifur Rahman Khan, Prof Ananda Kumar Saha, Prof Zulfiqar Matin and Prof Shamsuddin Ilyas.



Dhaka Union of Journalists stages a sit-in in front of the National Press Club yesterday in protest against Sunday's police action on photojournalists in Chittagong. Leaders of 14-party opposition combine and former sportsmen joined the demonstration to express their solidarity.

## EDUCATION WATCH STUDY 2005

### Less than 45 pc of eligible children enrol in secondary schools

Madrasa curriculum lacks basic skills, knowledge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Among the major types of secondary level institutions, approximately 1.6 million students were enrolled in madrasas in 2005 where the curriculum lacks basic skills and knowledge, a study revealed yesterday. The number of madrasas at the secondary level rose more rapidly than the general secular institutions in the last decade. Meanwhile, the government subvention and per student spending are higher in madrasas than in general non-government schools, said Dr Manzoor Ahmed, principal researcher of Education Watch Study 2005. Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) organised the launching ceremony of the Education Watch

2005 Report titled 'The State of Secondary Education: Progress and Challenges' at the LGED auditorium in the city. "This is a matter for concern because the curriculum and teaching quality in these institutions (madrasas) do not groom young people as productive citizens," said Chairperson of Campe and founder Chairperson of Brac Fazle Hasan Abed. He asked the government to get the madrasas to accept the core curriculum of the education board to provide proper education to the large number of students. He also urged to bring drastic changes in education system including quality of education, proper management in higher secondary schools and strict monitoring systems. The study was carried out in 600 secondary level educational institutions covering 23,971 households from 1,088 villages of the country. It also revealed that less than 45 per cent of the eligible children enrol in secondary schools. Moreover, only one out five, who starts studying in class six, survives up to class ten and pass the Secondary School Certificate (SSC). Besides, rural-urban gap, socio-economic gap, learning facilities deficit, low academic education of teachers, and lack of accountability

of the school management committee are also barriers to quality education, revealed the report. To find ways of combining growth with quality improvement is important, the speakers suggested adding that elements of quality improvement, including teachers, curriculum and learning materials, learning facilities, assessment of learning and school level management have to be built in as integral parts of plans and strategies for the expansion of the system. Admitting the problems in secondary institutions, Education Minister M Osman Farruk, who attended as chief guest, said it is not possible to change the situation in a day. "It needs continuous effort and the government is trying to resolve the problems. A total of 2,000 more schools are renovated this year with gender friendly structure," he said. Director of Campe Rasheda K Chowdhury, Chairperson of Education Local Consultative Sub Group (ELCG) Tahsinah Ahmed, Member of Education Watch Samir Ranjan Nath, Advisor to former caretaker government Kazi Fazlur Rahman also spoke at the function.



Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a discussion on Mujibnagar Day at the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

## INDECENT BEHAVIOUR Removal of DU teacher demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of fisheries department of Dhaka University (DU) submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor yesterday demanding removal of a teacher. In the memorandum, they alleged that Mohammad Mamun Chowdhury, a lecturer of the department, behaves badly with the students and forces them to remain standing at classroom holding their ears and make apology by touching his legs. He also threatens to give lower marks in examinations, the students complained. They also alleged that he sends filthy SMS to the female students. In absence of VC Prof SMA Faiz, Pro VC AFM Yusuf Haider received the memorandum and assured them that he would look into the matter. Earlier, the demonstrators brought out a procession on the campus and paraded different roads of the university. They also staged a sit-in programme in front of the administrative building. Meanwhile, female students of the department filed a general diary with Ramna Police Station for security reasons, as they fear the teacher may unleash criminals on them.

## JCD leader appears at exam from sick bed violating rules

RU CORRESPONDENT

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of Rajshahi University (RU) appeared at his MBA examination from sick bed on Sunday last violating university rules. Sources said RU JCD Joint Convener Masudur Rahman Rana, a second semester student of Management department, appeared at the examination from a sick bed of the university medical centre without any illness. University Chief Medical Officer Dr Nadira Begum informed the university authorities and department chairman in written that Rana has no infectious disease and as such he needs no sick bed to appear at the examination. The second semester examination began on April 15 and the JCD leader is appearing at the examination without the presence of any teacher or office staff of the controller

of examination, sources added. A medical staff told newsmen that JCD cadres guarded the room and provided Rana with books and notes to write answer scripts. On April 16, Proctor Prof Enamul Haque personally collected question paper and other materials from the department for Rana after one and a half hour of the scheduled time of examination. Prof Enamul informed the chairman of the departmental examination committee that RU VC had given Rana special permission to appear at the examination from the sick bed. When contacted, Dr Nadira said the VC, Pro-VC and proctor forced her to permit Rana to appear at the examination from the sick bed. "We allowed Rana to avoid any violence on the campus," said Prof Enamul. VC Prof Altaf Hossain was not available for his comment.

## Trust Bank-Daily Star debate begins today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong debate competition titled 'Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star 6th Inter-School English Debate' begins in Chittagong today. Different rounds of the contest, organised by Drishty, a cultural organisation, will be held at the Shilpakala Academy and the Theatre Institute, Chittagong. Former vice-chancellor of Chittagong University (CU) Dr Alamgir Muhammad Siraj Uddin will inaugurate the competition at 10:00am at Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Associate Professor of CU marketing department Ahsanul Alam Parvez, Principal of Ispahani Public School and College Hasina Zakaria and Senior Vice-President of Mutual Trust Bank Khorshedul Alam will be present as special guests. Ten English medium schools are taking part in the competition. The participants are Summer Fields School & College, Bay View School, Oxbridge International School, Bangladesh Elementary School, Green Valle School, William Carry Academy, Mastermind International School, James English Medium School, Child Heaven School and Radiant School. Five debate sessions will be held on the first day.

## Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in Sirajganj and Gazipur districts in the last two days. Our Correspondent in Sirajganj reports: Two persons were killed and three others injured a speeding truck rammed a rickshaw-van on Sirajganj-Enayetpur road at Nagbari in Belkuchi at around 10.30pm on Sunday. Police and witnesses said Abdul Hai, 35, of Shameshpur village died on the spot while another unidentified man, aged about 65, died on the way to hospital. Police sent the bodies to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue. A case was filed with Belkuchi police station. UNB adds: A trader was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Latifpur in Kaliakoir, Gazipur yesterday. The victim was identified as Ibrahim Khalil, 45. Sources said Khalil was going to Chandra from Kaliakoir by his motorcycle, but he fell down when the truck hit his two-wheeler.

## Obituary

Shamimuzzaman Chowdhury, a banker and businessman, passed away in England on March 13, says a press release. He was laid to rest at Binsteed Cemetery in the Isle of Wight where he spent the last few years of his life with his family. He hailed from Sylhet city. He was the eldest son of former MP Mina Zaman Chowdhury and Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, ex-chairman of Rajshahi Education Board. He left behind his wife, three daughters, mother, brothers, sister and relatives to mourn his death. Shamimuzzaman served as a manager of Uttara Bank branch in London before joining the BCCI. Later, he set up his business at Buckinghamshire. Shamshunnesa Chowdhury Begum, wife of Alhaj Rafiq Ahmed Chowdhury, passed away at her Subid Bazar residence in Sylhet on Thursday at the age of 91, says a press release. Shamshunnesa, mother-in-law of ex-additional home secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, was laid to rest on Friday and her qulhwani was held at her residence yesterday. She left behind her husband, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

## Woman strangled in city

A housewife allegedly killed her mother-in-law at Kalyanpur in the city yesterday over a property dispute. Roushan Ara Begum, 60, died at around 9:30am as her daughter-in-law Monowara Begum strangled her with rope. On information by locals, police recovered Roushan's body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy. They also arrested Monowara for her involvement in the killing. Shah Alam Sardar, son of the victim and husband of the killer lady, told The Daily Star that he was not at home when the incident took place. "When I came back home, my four-year-old son Imran told me 'my mother strangled grandmother with a rope'", Alam said. Monowara, however, denied the allegation, Alam added. Alam further said his wife had an uneasy relationship with his mother as Roushan had given away her inheritance money to his sister's husband one year ago. Morgue sources said the victim had marks of strangulation around her neck.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Office said. Yesterday highest temperature of 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 18.4 degrees at Sylhet. The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:34am 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	34.1	26.5	73	51
Chittagong	33.2	26.0	73	77
Rajshahi	37.0	24.2	64	47
Khulna	34.6	25.4	83	56
Barisal	34.0	26.4	84	--
Sylhet	30.5	18.4	96	72
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.0	66	93

## Expat pledges Tk 20 lakh to cancer hospital

Hena Ahmed, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in London, yesterday pledged to donate Tk 20 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH), says a press release. She handed over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) as part of her commitment at a simple function at the Mission's Dhanmondi office in the city. The rest of the money will be paid in instalments soon, Hena said. As recognition of the donation, a 5-bed ward of the 500-bed cancer hospital will be named after Hena's youngest sister late Mina Haider, wife of renowned cricketer Wasim Haider. Donors may dedicate beds, wards or wings of the hospital in memory of their beloved ones by paying specific amounts of money ranging from Tk 5 lakh to 40 lakh. While receiving the cheque, DAM president urged the Bangladeshi expatriates to extend their generous hands for the establishment of the country's largest cancer hospital in private sector.



Hena Ahmed, a Bangladeshi expatriate, hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at a simple function at the Mission's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

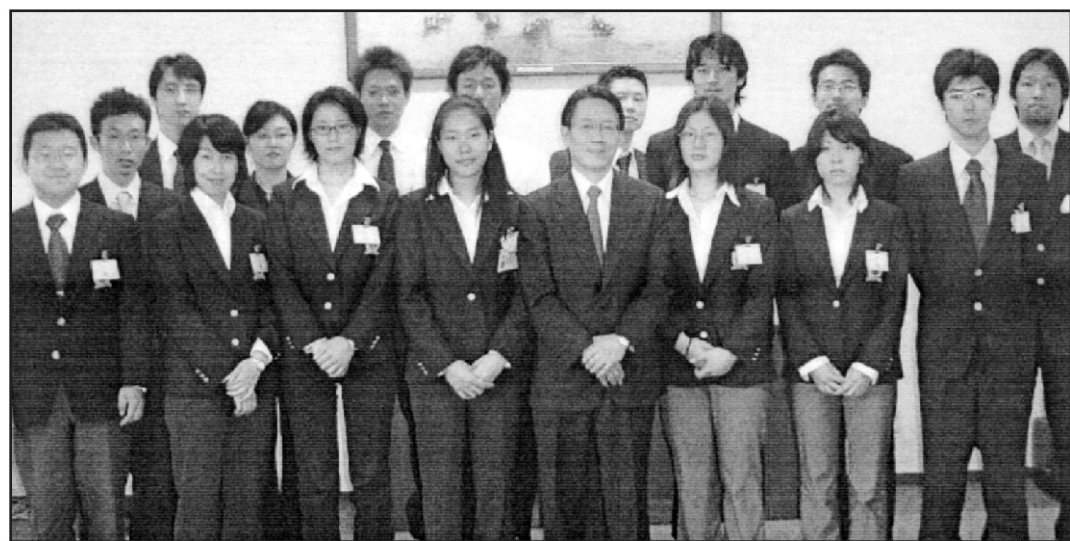
## 16 Japanese volunteers arrive

Sixteen new Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) arrived in Bangladesh yesterday to extend cooperation in different sectors such as community development, primary education, physical education, computer technique, vocational training and tourism, says a press release. They will work in different public organisations for the next two years. Since March 1973, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has sent a total of 884 JOCVs to work in various fields - agriculture, forestry and fisheries, processing, maintenance and management, civil engineering and construction, health and hygiene, education, culture and sports. At present, there are as many as 58 volunteers engaged in various activities across the country, all speaking Bangla. The new JOCV members called on Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi at the chancery yesterday. The ambassador said: "I wish you to fully demonstrate your talents and skills for the benefit of the people of Bangladesh."

## ASSAULT OF MOBILE COURT MEMBERS None arrested yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police could not arrest any employee of Nabisco Biscuit and Bread Factory yesterday in connection with the assault of the members of a mobile court and two photojournalists. Sub-inspector Asaduzzaman of Tejgaon Police Station filed a case against around 500 workers and six officials of the factory on Sunday night as they assaulted the members of the mobile court during a drive against food adulteration and unhygienic condition on the day. The police raided the factory and some officials' houses several times, but no one was arrested, said SI Monsur Habib, investigation officer of the case. They will work in different public organisations for the next two years. Since March 1973, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has sent a total of 884 JOCVs to work in various fields - agriculture, forestry and fisheries, processing, maintenance and management, civil engineering and construction, health and hygiene, education, culture and sports. At present, there are as many as 58 volunteers engaged in various activities across the country, all speaking Bangla. The new JOCV members called on Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi at the chancery yesterday. The ambassador said: "I wish you to fully demonstrate your talents and skills for the benefit of the people of Bangladesh."



Sixteen newly assigned Japan International Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) pose for photograph with Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi at the Japanese embassy in the city yesterday.

## DCC blamed for selling tenders without public notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has been accused of selling tender schedules to a section of contractors without public notice. Some aggrieved contractors made the accusation at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium yesterday. They said the DCC sold four major work tenders worth Tk 150 crore since the beginning of this year without any notice. Besides, tender for another project worth Tk 10 crore was sold on Saturday which is a public holiday, they said, adding that as a result many contractors could not buy the tender and became frustrated. The aggrieved contractors also alleged that the official concerned allocated the job of repairing city roads damaged by floods and heavy rains to a section of contractors of his own choice in this way. They said the syndicated group of contractors also grasped crores of taka with the connivance of DCC officials. The aggrieved contractors also placed their eight-point demand that include suspension of the director responsible for flood-damaged project, investigation of all works conducted by him, identification of all syndicated contractors and cancellation of new tender process in the name of PPR-2003. The press conference was addressed by S M Enamul Haque of Utech System. Some other contractors were also present at the conference.



Shamimuzzaman Chowdhury, a banker and businessman, passed away in England on March 13, says a press release. He was laid to rest at Binsteed Cemetery in the Isle of Wight where he spent the last few years of his life with his family. He hailed from Sylhet city. He was the eldest son of former MP Mina Zaman Chowdhury and Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, ex-chairman of Rajshahi Education Board. He left behind his wife, three daughters, mother, brothers, sister and relatives to mourn his death. Shamimuzzaman served as a manager of Uttara Bank branch in London before joining the BCCI. Later, he set up his business at Buckinghamshire. Shamshunnesa Chowdhury Begum, wife of Alhaj Rafiq Ahmed Chowdhury, passed away at her Subid Bazar residence in Sylhet on Thursday at the age of 91, says a press release. Shamshunnesa, mother-in-law of ex-additional home secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, was laid to rest on Friday and her qulhwani was held at her residence yesterday. She left behind her husband, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

## Nurjahan Begum

Nurjahan Begum, mother of Dr Ainal Hoque, managing director of Equity Property Management Ltd, passed away due to brain haemorrhage on Sunday at a clinic in Chittagong at the age of 78. She left behind her five sons, five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. She was buried at the graveyard at her village home at Rampur under Companiganj upazila in Noakhali yesterday. Her qulhwani will be held prayers at her Rampur's residence after Juma prayers on Friday. Awami League acting secretary Obaidul Kader in a condolence message expressed deep shock at the death of Nurjahan and expressed sympathy to the bereave family members.

Chehlum Rezia Rahman, wife of former deputy secretary Mafizur Rahman, will be held today at La Cottege, 4/2 Momenhagh, Rajarbagh in the city, says a press release. She died on March 9 due to a cardiac arrest. Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.