

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Creepy Crawlies that Bug You

by Fayza Haq

If there was a fly in the ointment in my grandfather's house that I visited with such pleasure it was the monstrous many coloured spiders that I found on the bathroom walls.

I admit they were not as venomous as the species one gets even in some households in Australia or the redback types that line the outback toilets downunder, but they are nothing inviting.

There was the case of the young bride dying outright from the bite of the widow spider in Dhaka not long ago. I remember the terrifying experience of finding a spider in my armpit while putting on a freshly laundered dress, as a child.

There are stories that the Prophet Mohammed (peace be on him) was saved by the web of a spider and so we should not go on a rampage and kill all these ugly eight legged creatures.

But what would ensue if we permitted these creatures to flourish on an unchecked basis? There are cobwebs on the desks and shelves if you have not dusted them for about a fortnight.

Spiders, I understand, are found everywhere in the world. There are spiders that live at sea level and in the hills, in trees, and on the ground. A lot of them live in people's houses and gardens. But mostly they are found in warm countries like Bangladesh. In places where the diet lacks proteins, people eat spiders just as they do cockroaches and ants.

If the electricity is off by chance or the bathroom switch is not working, stepping on a spider or sitting on one on the commode would be no picnic.

The other insect that bothers me greatly in Dhaka is the mosquito. They say that the male mosquito is harmless and only the female anopheles mosquito carries malaria. You can hardly enjoy a TV programme or an evening chat without the mosquitoes biting your very life away. This happens even in the houses in Dhanmandi and Banani with fly screens. You can barely get a good sleep without a mosquito net or burning a coil or the electrical "mat" or by spraying the place with insecticides, which I suspect harms the lungs and other organs of the body.

When I used to work in my old office, my feet were practically covered with the mosquitoes and pyjama, and yet I got thoroughly bitten by the "mosses" in the daytime. "Wait till the rainy seasons come," my boss com-

mented. "Your feet will be chewed to smithereens." To this day I am not sure if the insects biting my feet were mosquitoes or fleas as well.

Fleas can drive you insane if they get into your furniture or bedding. But this does not often happen, fortunately, among the average middle-class life in Dhaka.

The lice that the servant women and serving girls bring, however, can very easily creep into the hair of the members of the house. Then you are left dousing your hair with Dettol and Savlon and even chopping it off in sheer disgust. Servant girls coming from the villages are potential carriers of lice.

There is then the silver fish. This is a wingless insect. It eats into books and clothes to get the starch from the cloth. The fleas and lice that I mentioned earlier, are also wingless insects.

As for the red and black ants and green and grey houseflies, with the rain and heat they are a perpetual nuisance. Food has to be covered and meat or vegetable containers must be put on clay pots of water, where there are no refrigerators or meat safes, so that the wretched insects do not get at them. Try leaving your sugar bowl unprotected, you will have endless flies, ants and roaches. With the present heats the roaches fly and even attack human beings while they are asleep.

It is fortunate that we are not infested with tsetse flies of Africa and Sri Lanka which cause sleeping sickness and elephantiasis.

You would believe that the cabbage butterfly in your garden is harmless. But they lay eggs on the cabbage plants. When the larvae hatch out they feed on the plant leaves.

As for the centipedes and millipedes, they are as venomous as any creatures can be. They subtly hide between pillows and sheets if one is not careful.

Although insects swarmed the earth as long ago as 200,000,000 years before the first man was anything like he is today it is interesting to know that the first study of insects was done by Pliny the Elder although he copied a great deal from Aristotle. The first book devoted to insects was in 1602 by a professor from the University of Bologna and he described 80 different insects and their habits. By 1850 the London Museum published a list of insect study that stretched to 20,000 pages.

## Wills Little Flower School team calls on Khaleda, Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

A representative group of teachers and guardians of Wills Little Flower School on Saturday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the Parliament and urged them to allot a land for the school permanently, a Press release said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia assured that their demand would be implemented and directed Statement Minister for Land Jamiruddin Sarker for taking necessary steps.

Sheikh Hasina termed their demand legal and said present government should allot the land in favour of the school. Deputy Speaker also supported their demand. The group includes Reazuddin Ahmed, Sayed Hasan Imam, Prof Jubaida Gulsan Ara, Mohammad Shah Alam, Al-Haj Sayed Mohammad Hossain, journalist Showkat Anwar, Saidur Rahman, Begum Salam Rahman Sulty, Ferdousi Majumdar, Durre Shahoarinasim, Nur Nahar Chowdhury, Sri Asit Baran Chakrabarti, Advocate Fazlul Haq, Bazlur Rahman, Razia Altin and Enamul Haq Chowdhury.

## Jamaat meet today

A meeting of Central Mujlishe Sura of Jamaat-e-Islam begins today (Sunday) at 10 am and will continue till April 30, a Press release said.

Organising Secretary, Zila Ameer and Jamaat MPs will attend the meeting.

# Tk 1 crore plan to publish books on higher studies

By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy will launch a Tk one crore project for publishing text books on higher studies in the next fiscal year. The Academy has also submitted a Folklore Research Centre proposal to the government.

Professor Mohammad Harun-Rashid, Director General of Bangla Academy said this in a press briefing on Thursday on the eve of a week-long Baishakhi Folk festival and book exhibition held from Friday.

He also said that a local bank has agreed to support a project on formulating a Zila-based cultural history of Bangladesh. He said the book fair to be held from today is aimed to reach books at a subsidised price to the readers.

The Fair will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 10:30 am. Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Education and Culture will

also address the inaugural session. An article on "Bengali year and its history" will be presented by Shamsuzzaman Khan at 4:30 pm and it will be discussed by Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Dr Ahmed Rafiq and Attar Rahman. The session will be presided over by Foyze Ahmed.

Cultural programmes will be held in the evening. Books will be sold at a discount of 60 per cent during the fair.

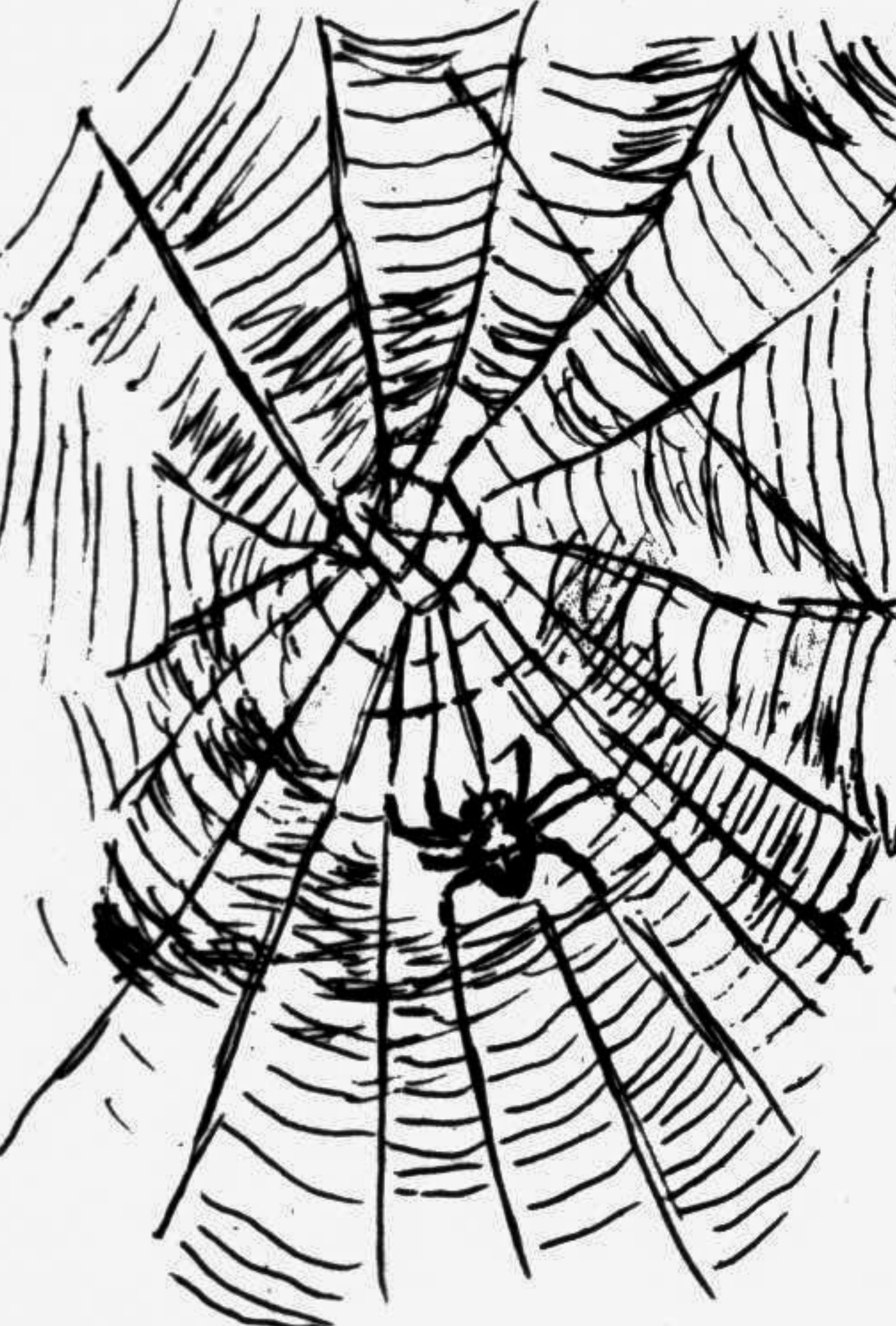
## FBCCI hails decision to cut plane fare

By Staff Correspondent

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry has hailed the Government decision to reduce plane fare for the ballottee hajees from Taka 48,147 to Taka 40,000.

The FBCCI has also welcomed the proposal to reduce labour fare in Dhaka - Jeddah-Riyadh routes of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudia. Federation hoped the reduction of labour fare would boost export of manpower.

The Federation also urged the Government to introduce special reduced fare for the non-ballottee hajees.



Artistes of Geetabitan Shilpi Gosthi rendering songs in chorus at the Tagore Song Festival at Shilpakala Academy on Saturday.

## 69,247 applications for new phones in city

The State Minister for Post and Telecommunications, Shamsul Islam, informed the Jatiya Sangsad Saturday afternoon that 69,247 applications for telephone connections in Metropolitan Dhaka, including Tongi and Narayanganj, were lying under consideration of the authorities, reports BSS.

## PROGRAMME

**Lions Club meet**  
The second regular monthly meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Golden will be held today (Sunday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon.

**Sharisha Bari Samity**  
An emergency meeting of the executive committee of Sharisha Bari Samity in Dhaka will be held today at 5.15 p.m. at Pallima Sangsad Auditorium, Malibagh Chowdhury Para in the city, a press release said.

All members have been requested to attend the meeting in time.

## Observer-Chitrali Workers Union executives

By Staff Correspondent  
Md. Abbas Sattar and Md. Salimuddin Selim have been elected President and General Secretary of the Observer-Chitrali Workers Union for the year 1991-92.

The other office bearers of the union are Md. Jamal Ullah-Treasurer, Md. Abdul Wahab-Organising Secretary, Md. Ahsanullah Bhuiyan-Office Secretary.

The election was held through secret ballot on Saturday in the annual general meeting of the union.

## Drama training course begins today

By Staff Correspondent  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a 45-day-long drama training course beginning today (Sunday).

Gulam Sarwar from National School of Drama, India will conduct the course. Persons intending to participate in the course have been requested to contact Shilpakala Academy by 10 am.

The course will include all aspects of acting and production of drama.

## Trade team to visit US

An investment mission from the private sector will leave for the United States in the first week of June headed by a senior government official, according to a message received in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

The itinerary of the mission finalised by the sponsors - Bangladesh United States Business Council, is scheduled to visit Washington DC on June 11, New Orleans, Louisiana on June 13, and San Francisco, California on June 17.

Addressing a meeting Thursday in Washington, called to discuss the planning and organisation of the council's June investment mission, speakers emphasised the importance of increased foreign direct investment in the economic development of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States AHS Ataul Karim, Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Asia and Private Enterprise, USAID and Executive Director of the Bangladesh US Business Council M. Osman Yousuf addressed the meeting.

Representatives from US departments of Commerce, State and Treasury, Export-Import Bank, World Bank, UNIDO and USAID attended the meeting.

Osman Yousuf called on these agencies to provide assistance and support for the investment mission which was duly reciprocated by their representatives.

## Anniversary of Tagore's birth to be celebrated at national level

The Government has decided to celebrate the 25th Baishakh, birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at the national level in a befitting manner, reports BSS. It was further decided that the birthday celebration of Tagore will also be observed at Shahzadpur, associated with the memories to Tagore, at the national level from next year, an official

handout said in Dhaka on Saturday. Arrangements would also be made to celebrate anniversary in other places like Shilaidaha, Shahzadpur on the national level. The committees comprising the representatives of government and no-government level have already started functioning in this respect, the handout added.

## Huge arms recovered, 125 arrested in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered huge arms and ammunitions and arrested 125 persons from different parts of the city in last three days.

Police arrested Moslem Uddin (21) from Sukrabad area on Friday. One SMG, two magazines and 19 bullets were recovered from him.

Kotwali police arrested Abul Khair (28) and Jahangir (26) and recovered one VCP, one table fan and one iron from their possession.

Sutrapur police recovered one country-made pipe gun, one bullet and one hockey stick from 19, Mahajanpur Lane of Banaganur on Thursday.

Mirpur police on Saturday arrested Selim Haider and Anwarul Azim from 281 Moghbazar Malek Mia's mess and recovered a revolver and

one round bullet. Motijheel police recovered one two barrel gun (UK made) from an abandoned gunny bag from in front of a studio Challenger in north Shahjahanpur.

Mohammadpur police on Friday arrested Abul Kalam Azad Alisa Abul Kalam and recovered on stolen watch from him. Kalam is a member of a gang of car lifters.

Mohammadpur police on Friday arrested one person from Agargaon slum and recovered one car cassette player from him.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Friday arrested 119 persons from different slums of the city. The arrested persons include fugitive accused persons, mastaans and suspected persons.

# 'Foreign media helped set up a democratic govt'

The State Minister for Information, Mohammad Nurul Huda, said in Dhaka that the foreign media had played a vital role helping Bangladesh attain a democratic government after a nine-year long movement against autocracy, reports BSS.

The State Minister was speaking at a meeting of the Correspondents of the foreign newspapers and news agencies

at the conference room of the Ministry Saturday.

Recalling the dependence on the foreign Radio news to know the day to day political development in ousting the autocrat, the State Minister said, "It is you who were with us through your pens during those turbulent days."

He said, "I believe you will now focus the present economic condition, activities on

the conference room of the Ministry Saturday.

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## Pilgrims warned against carrying extra passport

The Government has cautioned against carrying additional passport other than one's own while going to perform Haj or Umrah in Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

The violators will be dealt with severely, an official hand-out said in Dhaka on Saturday. The Government has been informed through the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka that many Haj or Umrah performers carry more than one passport other than their own.

When the Saudi security officials ask these persons about the matter, they say that those passports belong to the persons known to them or were being carried wrongly. But, to carry additional passports other than own's is completely prohibited by the Saudi law, the handout said.

## Stipend

By Staff Correspondent  
Monohardi Upazila Youth Welfare Association will offer stipends worth Tk 100 each to ten meritorious students of different colleges and universities of the country from this current year (1991). Students have been asked to contact the General Secretary of the Association MA Asad Bhuiyan at H & H Company, 56/57 Motijheel C/A with bio-data, previous academic records and two copies of pass port size photographs by May 14, the latest.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Artist's need
- Leather belt
- Laboring person
- Balanced
- At home
- Praying
- Neon symbol
- Fruit drink
- Forays
- High card
- Sand bar
- Born
- Enthusiastic
- Out-and-out
- confirmed
- Reputable
- Anger
- Equality
- Welcomes
- Pittsburgh player
- Defeat
- Neither
- Matures

DOWN

- Meditate
- Three-toed sloth
- Sick
- Close
- One who shirks duty
- Kind of trying pan
- Measures of weight
- Outfit
- Equally
- Writing implement
- Crown
- Acts
- Expire
- Most uncanny
- Mean
- Journeys forth
- Armadillo
- Swamp
- Slender
- pinnae
- Gaze
- Courses to be travelled
- Trapped
- Impressions
- Cost car
- Ancient chariot
- Unit of Norwegian currency
- Top of head
- Pack away
- Church
- Swamp
- Feetion
- Concerning
- Sun god

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	R	A	N	T	P	A	I	N	T	
L	A	B	O	R	S	B	A	N	T	
A	D	W	E	T	E	S	T	A	E	
S	I	R	T	O	R	T	S	O	R	
S	U	E	S	P	I	T	S	P	E	
M	A	T	S	P	O	R	T	E	R	
S	A	A	R	R	E	A	R			
M	O	N	D	A	Y	D	R	A	G	
S	A	N	D	N	A	B	S	T	A	
H	I	S	O	G	R	E	S	E	R	
O	D	A	M	E	N	D	E	N	A	
P	E	P	P	E	R	S	W	I	P	E
S	N	E	E	R		S	N	O	R	E

## Weather

### Cyclone may intensify further

A severe cyclonic storm over the central Bay and adjoining South Bay is likely to intensify further and move towards the north and north-easterly direction, Met office said Saturday evening, reports BSS.

The storm centered about 1060 kms south and south-west of Chittagong Port at 3 pm Saturday. The maximum sustained wind around 64 kms of the storm centre is 90 kms per hour which is rising to 115 kms per hour with gust and squalls, the Met office said.

The maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist distant signal number 2 and fishing boats and trawlers over the North Bay have been asked to remain close to the coast so that they could take shelter at short notice.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Dhaka.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Day temperatures likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Weather remained dry over the country except Sylhet and Srimangal where it was record by 2 to 5 degrees Celsius. The highest temperature on Saturday recorded in Rajshahi was 38.5 degree Celsius and the lowest in Comilla was 23.0 degree.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activity likely to increase. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.26 p.m. and rises on Monday at 5.27 a.m. The temperature and humidity of some cities/towns of the country on Saturday were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	35.2	24.4
Chittagong	33.2	26.0
Rajshahi	38.5	24.9
Khulna	35.4	23.6
Cox's Bazar	31.5	26.0
Rangpur	34.0	23.2
Bogra	34.8	25.0
Rangamati	33.0	24.0
Dinajpur	35.6	23.7
Barisal	34.0	24.4
Iswardhi	37.0	24.5

## Dateline Khulna

### Death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla observed

KHULNA, Apr 27: The 29th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq was observed here today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions chalked out elaborate programmes on the occasion.

A discussion on the life and works of Sher-e-Bangla marking his death anniversary was held today at the city office of the CPB with Sheikh Abdur Rashid in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by Advocate Firoz Ahmed, Ashim Ananda Das, Amal Shah, Sarder Hossain Prince and Amal Halder.

Speakers at the meeting paid tributes to the Sher-e-Bangla for his contribution to the improvement of the lot of the common people particularly the peasants.

## Govt hailed

Mongla Port Users Coordination Committee has congratulated the government for starting the capital dredging work of the port to increase its navigability. In a statement the committee demanded installation of a dredging unit for the port in order to make the port channel free from occasional siltation due to erosion at the

## Death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla observed

mouth of the Pudur river. The Port Users Coordination Committee also expressed satisfaction at the working of on-going water supply project for the supply of drinking water at the port site which is expected to be completed within the next two to three months.

The statement demanded of the government to construct a bridge over the river Rupsha and railway link upto Mongla Port.

It also demanded completion of Khulna-Dhaka road via Mawa and Modern Hospital at Mongla Port.

## Lecture series begin today

A two-day second lecture series of Justice Ibrahim Memorial Lecture Foundation will begin in Dhaka today at the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) at 10 am, reports BSS.

National Professor Abdur Razzak will inaugurate the memorial lecture.

Professor Muhammad Afsaruddin, Department of Sociology of Dhaka University, will speak on the occasion. Muhammad Muniruzzaman Meah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will preside.