

Dhaka Day by Day

In Search of Chotpoti

by Schrezad Joya Monami Latif

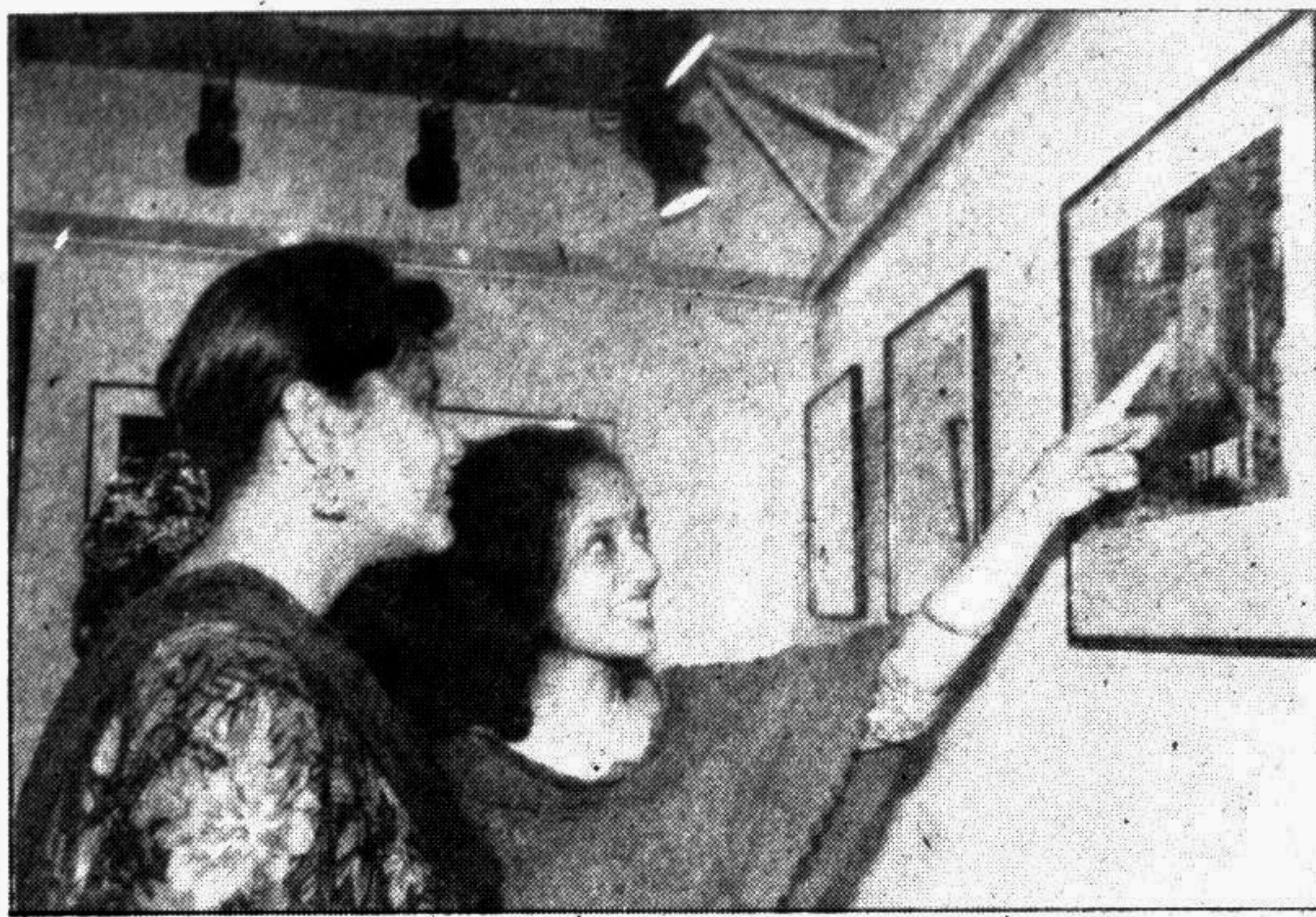
For a lot of Dhakaites *chotpoti* and *phuchka* are not novelties or top on their priority list as everyday grub. The 'burger and pizza' cravings have taken over many. And why not? Most burger joints sell their burgers, just a little over the price of a full plate of *chotpoti*. Still *chotpoti* and *phuchka* remain popular snacks to eat, sure, but no one gets *chotpoti* cravings as often as some recent returnees of foreign lands do. I get *chotpoti* cravings every other day. In the past when I used to visit Dhaka in my summer and winter holidays I would be the same way. But my relatives would always discourage me saying jaundice, cholera and every other water-borne disease known to men and women, were rampant on the rise that particular season.

Now that I live in Dhaka, nothing has changed. Every other disease is still on the rise, according to most of the people I usually beg and whine to, to take me *chotpoti* eating. Recently however, I discovered recent returnees such as myself who I get on famously with because we have things in common, are prodded with *chotpoti* craving every other afternoon.

The other day my girlfriend and I decided we had to have some *phuchka*. So we set off on a rickshaw 'looking for *chotpoti*'. It turned out to be much like 'waiting for Goddard'. As soon as we got on the rickshaw, it started drizzling, ever so slightly. We are, we thought that a little rain never hurt anyone and set off anyway, with the hood down. Our knobby kneed rickshaw puller drove us round and round Dhanmondi for about 45 minutes, while we searched for the blue *chotpoti* cart that usually lines-almost

every corner of Dhanmondi. One thing we'd failed to realise was that the carts were open air and were probably missing because of the drizzle and impending rain, which by this time was tampering our half-styles. After 45 minutes of search, after which we became more and more determined to get our *chotpoti*, we finally told our rickshaw puller what it was we were looking for. He looked at us like we were mad, and we were, I suppose. And promptly (well as prompt as one can be on a rickshaw, anyway), he took us to a lakeside where we had wonderful *chotpoti* and *phuchka*, in the rain. It was one of my most memorable afternoons. And although my stomach did moan and groan a little at the thought of where we were and what we were eating, neither my friend nor I suffered any after-effects.

Nowadays, we have discovered a regular hangout, which logistically becomes difficult to go to every afternoon but which we felt should be mentioned to the *chotpoti*-seeker. In Gulshan, opposite where the Royal Orchid used to be, is 'Shad', a *chotpoti* stall that advertises boiled water and serves the best *chotpoti* this side of the Meghna river. I have to note however, that the minute one enters the Gulshan/Banani area, you start seeing signs that advertise boiled water. I guess other areas don't deserve that kind of sanitary practice and the general feeling is that lake water should suffice for us mere mortals. 'Shad' is the best place to go to if one is looking for 'safe' delicious *phuchka*, *chotpoti* and apparently, they serve hamburgers as well. So, if you're ever 'looking for *chotpoti*', don't try it in the rain on a rickshaw, try 'Shad'.



Visitors at the photo exhibition by Ragnar Hansen which began at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday.

Hansen's photo show opens

By Staff Correspondent

An exhibition of photographs by amateur photographer Ragnar Hansen entitled 'House of Dream' circus in Bangladesh began yesterday at the Drik Gallery in the city.

The black-and-white photographs on display are mostly detailed and sensitive images of circus folks — the little known community living on the fringe of Bangladeshi society.

Hansen, a Norwegian engineer, has been taking photographs since his teenage years. He has been in Bangladesh for three years, working in Madaripur with the LGED, the engineering department of the LGRD Ministry.

The friendship he built up with the people of Madaripur is evident from the openness and intimacy of the photographs. All proceedings from the sale of photographs on show, will benefit local circus groups.

The show, Hansen's only one in this country — he leaves for Mozambique at the end of this month — was inaugurated by Mette Jorstad, First Secretary, Embassy of Norway. It will remain open daily from 3 pm to 8 pm till June 15.

Sircar awards BMA certificates

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar has said the nation will always remember the Bangladesh Army for their outstanding role during the 1971 Liberation War and natural disasters, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh Army has received appreciation not only in the country but also from abroad for their sincerity, honesty and skill," said the minister while he was addressing the degree certificate awarding ceremony to the cadets of 32nd BMA long course at BMA here on Wednesday.

The function was attended, among others, by 24 Infantry Division GOC Major General Azizur Rahman, BMA Commandant Brigadier Syed Mohammad Ibrahim and Director of Studies Col M Shafiqullah.

Hasina for flawless voter list

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, who is demanding a fresh voters list through easy method, said a flawless electoral roll is a precondition for a fair election, reports UNB.

Addressing a central committee meeting of Mohila Awami League at Dhanmondi office, she said the government has created such a situation with the voters' registration where all eligible voters would not be able to enroll them.

Neither the voting right nor life and property of the people is secure under the BNP government, the AL chief said, urging people to stand unitedly against corruption, loot and anti-people steps of the autocratic government.

Chaired by Ivy Rahman the meeting was also addressed by Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

Doctors off to Hong Kong

A 10-member delegation of the College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh led by its president Dr Mohammad Nurul Islam left Dhaka Wednesday for Hong Kong, to attend the 14th WONCA World Conference, reports BSS.

'Lions can help integrate women in dev process'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the Lions clubs should take more realistic steps to help make the women and unemployed educated youths economically self-reliant through self-employment opportunities, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the eighth annual multiple district convention of Lions Clubs International Multiple District 315 at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

President Biswas said the government had been making all-out efforts to alleviate poverty from society and integrate women in the mainstream of development process. "The Lions clubs should take more positive steps in this regard," he added.

Prem Chand Bafna, past international director, Lions Clubs International, attended the function as a special guest. Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, A K M Emdadul Huq, Lt Governor Fakir Ashraf, Lt Governor J L Bhowmik and Moslem Ali Khan, former lion district governor spoke among others on the occasion.

President Biswas referred to the current environment problem all over the world and said Bangladesh was no exception to it. "We have to put more emphasis on tree plantation to protect our environment," he said.



Death anniversary

The 22nd death anniversary of M Sabdar Ali, founding managing director of Agrabad Hotel will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and *mitad mahfil* will be held at Kadam Mobarak Mosque in Chittagong today.

He urged the members of the Lions clubs to actively take part in the country-wide tree plantation programme scheduled to be launched from June 13.

President Biswas said Bangladesh was confronted with various problems including illiteracy, poverty, malnutrition and natural calamities, he said the government alone could not solve those problems.

"In this regard, the voluntary organisations could play an important role," he said adding that the social welfare organisations and the Lions clubs along with the government could make positive contributions by taking up projects and implementing them. He urged these organisations to spread their activities to the rural areas of the country so that the poor masses could enjoy benefit from them.

Wishing all success of the convention, President Biswas expressed the confidence that the convention would take up realistic programmes to solve the various problems the country was confronted with.

Bafna urged the Lion members to help the less fortunate members of society with a feeling of obligation and brotherhood not merely as a charity.

Activities of CMP reviewed

CHITTAGONG, June 9: Additional Inspector General of Police AF Kabir today directed the police personnel here to be more alert in curbing criminal activities, reports BSS.

He made this directive while presiding over a meeting of police officials at Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters here today, a CMP press release said.

The overall law and order situation of Chittagong range was reviewed at the meeting. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chittagong range, Mohammad Salam, Commissioner of CMP Shahudul Haq, and all deputy police commissioners were present at the meeting.

Kabir asked the police officials to be more serious in arresting criminals, recovering arms and ammunition and checking smuggling, the press release added.

Weather

Rain likely

Moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office says light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Meantime, Barisal experienced the highest 45 mm rain during the last 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Rangpur had 28 mm rain, Rajshahi 25, Mymensingh 24, Sylhet 14, Rangamati 13 and Teknaf 6 mm during period.

Country's highest temperature 36.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at Satkhira while the lowest 25.6 degrees at Comilla and Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and town yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.4	27.8	75	68
Chittagong	36.0	26.8	70	78
Rajshahi	35.6	26.7	83	68
Khulna	34.8	26.7	81	67
Barisal	33.4	25.8	86	72
Sylhet	33.5	25.6	82	77
Cox's Bazar	33.6	26.0	72	73

First Nat'l Baul Festival begins June 14

A three-day first National Baul Festival will begin under the traditional banyan tree of the Ramna Green, in the city from June 14, reports BSS.

Several thousand baul singers and baul experts from all over the country will participate.

The baul festival will be inaugurated by elderly baul poet and singer Sarder Ameer Ali Chisti at 4 pm while Lt Col (ret'd) Nurunnabi Khan, Bir Bikram, the patron of the festival, will give his address of welcome.

The three-day festival includes seminars on baul philosophy and songs.

Three main papers on bauls of Traditional Bengal and Modern Poetry, Evaluation of Spiritual Songs and Baul Community and Sufism and Baul Philosophy will be presented by Mohammad Abdul Hye, Dr Rajiv Humayun, Dr Momen Chowdhury.

The seminars will be presided over by Dr Ashraf Siddiqy, Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury and Dr Mohammad Muniruzzaman respectively.

Musharraf Hussain Shahhan, State Minister for Water Resources, Sawkat Osman, Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Abdul Mannan Syed, Faruq Alamgir, Ali Ahmed, Fakir Mohammad Mutrib, Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr A N M Raisuddin, Satya Saha, Asad Chowdhury.



Mansoor Musa, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Khandaker Reazul Huq, Naren Biswas and Shahidul Islam will participate in the seminar.

Noted baul singers of the country will participate in musical sessions to be held every day.

New youth body floated

Several former members of JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League yesterday floated a new youth organisation, 'Ganotantrik Jubo Andolon' (Democratic Youth Movement), reports UNB.

However, the organisation will not be affiliated either with JSD or any other political party, said the organisers while formally launching the new youth body at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, at a convention at Biswa-Sahitya Kendra in the morning, delegates from across the country finalised the draft declaration of the Jubo Andolon and formed a 41-member central committee.

Mokhlesur Rahman, Mukul, Kazi Jamil Huq Raza and Morshedul Alam were elected convenor, member-secretary and member (co-ordination) of the committee.

Shafi Ahmed, a key initiator of the new organisation, told newsmen that the main objective of the Ganotantrik Jubo Andolon would be a discrimination-free Bangladesh based on the spirit of Liberation War and Bangalee nationalism.

"It will fight for the rights of youth, students and women, and against the anti-liberation forces, black money, terrorism, and the politics and politicians without principle," said Shafi, a former general secretary of JSD (Inu) Chhatra League, who played a pioneering role in the 1990 mass upsurge.

The organisers demanded trial of all political killings, including that of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Col Abu Taher.

The press conference was also addressed by Mokhlesur Rahman Mukul, Kazi Jamil Huq Raza, Morshedul Alam, Mohiuddin Sikder, Shabbir Ahmed, M Ali Jinnat, Syeda Yasmin and Sadiqur Rahman Parag.

Reception for Prof Innas

The Department of Physics, Dhaka University will accord a reception to educationist and scientist National Professor M Innas Ali in the first week of July. Innas had served the department with dedication for a long time, reports BSS.

The students, colleagues and well-wishers of Prof Ali have been requested to contact the chairman of the Physics Department by June 15, 1995 in this regard.

Hasina visits ailing poet

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina paid a visit to the ailing poet Mahadev Shaha at his Azimpur residence in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

She enquired about the condition of the poet who has been suffering from spondylitis for a long time. The disease has affected his right hand and he is unable to continue his literary and journalistic activities.

Poet Shaha, who is also the assistant editor of the Daily Ittefaq, is now under the treatment of Dr. Ruhul Huq of Pangu Hospital, family sources said.

The AL chief stayed at his residence for some time and prayed for the early recovery of the poet.

Mannan lays foundation of school

State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan underlined the need for spreading education to transform our vast population into human resource and make the country self-reliant, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of St Euphrasie's Girls High School at Bandura and annual prize giving ceremony of Hasnabad Government Primary School in Nawabganj, Dhaka yesterday.

The State Minister said the present government has attached top priority on education sector to eradicate curse of illiteracy from the society within the stipulated time.

Highlighting various effective measures taken up by the government during last four years, he said, despite resource constraints new buildings in different educational institutions are being built.

Abdul Mannan said, steps have also been taken to ensure qualitative changes in education sector by pursuing new methods in this regard.

Presided over by Arch Bishop Michael Rozerio, the function was also addressed by Ismail Khan, Abed Hossain and head mistress of the school. It was followed by a cultural show.

Later, the State Minister laid the foundation stone of the school and offered munajat.

HYGENIC CHOTPOTI

WE USE BOILED WATER
CLEAN PLATES
NO TOUCH OF HANDS

WE SERVE WITH
MINERAL WATER
GLOVES
SPOONS (SAVILON-WASHED)
SPICES FROM USA
SALT FROM UK

TOLD YOU OUR STOMACHS ARE NOT TUNED TO HYGENIC CHOTPOTI!

CHARIER '95

Kashipur team submits memo to President

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Monday called upon the people to work unitedly for developing their respective areas and thereby contribute to the overall development of the country, reports BSS.

The President was talking to a 70-member delegation of all-party development committee of Kashipur area of Barisal sadar.

The President said special care should be taken to achieve success in mass literacy programme, tree plantation and setting up of poultry and dairy farms for socio-economic development of the

country. In this connection, he mentioned about various steps taken by the government for improving country's economy and raising the standard of life.

President Biswas drew the attention of his audience to the environmental degradation and urged them to plant trees as much as possible which will help maintain environmental balance.

President Biswas advised them to make sincere efforts for eradication of illiteracy from Kashipur and assured of his help in this regard.

The delegation members submitted a memorandum to the President for acceleration

of construction of Barisal divisional headquarters and solution to some of local problems.

The speakers in their speeches lauded the development activities carried out by the government in Kashipur and other areas. They particularly mentioned about the setting up of new educational institutions and development of the existing ones, construction of roads and bridges, besides setting up of divisional headquarters, airport, radio station and a big dairy farm at Barisal.

They also appreciated the improvement of law and order situation in the areas.



A procession was brought out in the city on the eve of the Holy Ashura. — Star photo

UK to provide Tk 25 lakh for flood relief

Britain's Overseas Development Administration is to provide a cash contribution of Tk 25.6 lakh emergency relief funds to Bangladesh, says a press release.

This is a contribution to a flood relief appeal recently made by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The British Red Cross will provide a further Tk 12.8 lakh. The appeal is in response to the recent flooding in the coastal belt of Bangladesh.



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