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Finance Minister S A M S Kibria exchanging views with representatives of various donor agencies at NEC auditorium in the city yesterday. — PID photo

**All steps to make port city commercial capital undertaken**

CHITTAGONG, June 24: Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury yesterday said that present government has undertaken all necessary steps to make the port city as full-fledged commercial capital of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a big rally at Shaheed Minar premises here the mayor said present government has attached priority to overall development of the port city as it is the economic life-line of the country.

Held in observance of the one-year completion of the present government of national consensus the rally was chaired by vice president of the Awami League city chapter Abul Kalam Sawdagar.

Organised by city chapter of Awami League, the rally was addressed, among others, by central Awami League leader Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, local leaders A K M Belayet Hossain, Kazi Enamul Haq Danu, Dr Aferul Ameen, Alhaj Badiul Hossain Babul.

Citing out various success of the present government during the past one year city mayor said it had already signed Ganges Water Treaty with India, repatriation and proper rehabilitation of the tribal refugees and repealing of Indemnity Ordinance.



Happy Birthday FAROOQUE BHAI

**Govt has plan to include Sundarbans into tourism industry, PM tells JS**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the present government had a plan to include the Sundarbans, world's largest mangrove, into the tourism industry, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Treasury Bench member Kazi Sekandar Ali from Khulna, she said...

**Children's Ward opens at BIRDEM**

A Children's Ward has been added to the BIRDEM hospital in the capital, reports UNB.

Child patients are being admitted in the new ward of the hospital soon after its inauguration yesterday.

President of the Bangladesh Diabetic Association (BDA) Prof Wahid Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the Children's Ward at a simple ceremony.

The inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by BDA Secretary General Dr Fashuddin Mahtab, Director General of BIRDEM Prof Fariduddin, Prof Hazera Mahtab, noted child specialists Prof Maleka Khatun, Prof Nurul Islam, Prof Nazmun Nahar Wazed and Dr Kishowar Azad.

Meanwhile, the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) has been treating the new born babies referred to it from different hospitals and clinics since 1995. The child patients were also being treated at the outdoor of BIRDEM for the last three years.

**IGP tells HR activists Steps taken to sensitise police to human rights**

Police department is aware of the human rights declaration and steps are being taken to sensitise the grassroot level force through training, Inspector General of Police M Azizul Haq said yesterday, reports UNB.

Besides training on human rights in police academy and four regional training centres, circulars relating to human rights are being distributed among all the members of police, the IGP said.

He said this while talking to some foreign and local human rights activists when they called on him at his office in the city.

They are, Ole S Storm and Lone Lind Holt of Danida Pre-identification Mission and, ANM Aminul Islam and Kazi Ataur Hossain Arman of BSEHR.

In response to a query, the IGP informed that there are presently 500 women police in the country and more will be recruited in future. He also praised the role of NGOs, specially the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights and CCHRB in protecting human rights.

**Analogue phone bills: Last date for payment June 30**

T&T Board has mailed the analogue telephone bills for the month of May to the subscribers of Dhaka Multi-Exchanges on June 15, reports UNB.

The deadline for payment of bills is June 30, said an official handout yesterday.

The telephone bills can be paid to the specified branches of Agrani, Krishi, Janata, NCC Bank Ltd, BASIC BD Ltd, Prime Bank Ltd and City Bank Ltd.

In case of non-receipt of bills by June 25, the subscribers have been requested to collect the duplicate copies from concerned telephone revenue offices to make the payment within the stipulated time.

**One commits suicide**

A septuagenarian man allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself at his residence in the city yesterday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Quoting family sources, police said Samiruddin, 72, shot himself with a licensed gun at his bathroom at around 4 am.

Samiruddin, son of late Shukurullah, used to reside at House no. 4/6, Block B, Lalmitia in Mohammadpur thana in the city.

**Rickshawpuller held for trying to jump before PM's motorcade freed**

Police yesterday freed the man who tried to jump before the Prime Minister's motorcade, without bringing any charge against him as he had no ill motive, reports UNB.

Amir Hossain Birbal was arrested from near the High Court main gate as he rushed before the PM's motorcade while she was returning office from a public rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club at about 6:30 pm on Monday.

Psychiatrists and police officials who interrogated Birbal, 38, said he had no ill motive, nor was he suffering from any mental disorder.

"He, however, is totally a frustrated man," said Rahmatjan Sikder, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (South), who interrogated him at Ramna thana.

He said Birbal, a rickshawpuller, who first identified himself as Nooruddin, was handed over to his wife Angura following a prayer from her in the morning.

Sources said immediately after the incident, officials from the Prime Minister's Secretariat asked the police officials to handle the matter cautiously.

Birbal told police that he had participated in the Liberation War when he was only 12, but was not awarded with anything. He was not given even a freedom fighter's certificate.

"I just wanted to inform the honourable Prime Minister of the sufferings of a freedom fighter who is now a rickshawpuller," he told police and psychiatrists.

Birbal, who has a three-year-old son, hails from village East Bhagalpur of Bajitpur thana in Kishoreganj district.

**What's on today . . .**

**Seminar:** Uchhatara Manabiddya Gobeshana Kendra of the Dhaka University will hold a seminar. A paper on 'Redefining Bangladesh's India Policy' will be presented by M Nuruzzaman, an asstt professor of the Deptt of International Relations. Venue: Seminar room of the centre (lecture theatre room No 434). Time: 11 am.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka North West:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: 421 Siddeswari Crystal Garden. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Certificate awarding ceremony:** Certificates will be distributed among the 7th batch students of an acting course run by Theatre School. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 7 pm. Chief guest: DU VC A K Azad Chowdhury. It will be followed by a presentation of 'Macbeth' by the students.

**Discussion:** VHSS and NCCADN have arranged a discussion on the occasion of World Anti Drug Day. Venue: VIP lounge, National Press Club. Time: 10 am.

**Science fair:** A 3-day annual science, art and scrap book exhibition of St Joseph High School will begin. Venue: School premises, Mohammadpur. Time 9 am-6:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka South:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Tower International Cuisine, 20th floor, Jiban Bima Tower, Dilkusha C/A. Time 7-30 pm.

**One held without trial for 5 yrs freed on bail**

Babul Mia, held without trial for the last five years at the Dhaka Central Jail, was released on bail on Sunday, said a press release of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangstha (BMS).

The BMS campaigned for the release of Babul Mia, when its secretary general M R Mahubb came to know about Babul losing his eyes for lack of proper treatment in the jail.

The Assistant Sessions Judge, Special Tribunal-20, Nur Mohammad Jahangir, granted bail to Babul Mia, the press release said.

**Weather**

**Light rain, gusty wind likely**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at most places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet and many places of Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office also forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers at one or two places of Rajshahi and moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country. Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest 22.3 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 6.50 pm and rises on Thursday at 5.13 am.

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