

## Metropolitan



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing on 'Bangladesh at 21st century' at the Defence Services Command and Staff College in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Freedom fighters urged to join struggle for economic emancipation

Minister for LGRD and Co-operatives Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the freedom fighters to join the struggle for economic emancipation of the country waged by the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

"We are committed to ridding the nation of poverty and unemployment and your active cooperation will greatly help us in fulfilling our aim to bring smile on the faces of the teeming millions," he said while addressing as the chief guest a discussion on Victory day here.

The Sonali Bank branch of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad organised the discussion which was, earlier, inaugurated by Awami League president Amr Hussain Amu. State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf was the special guest while chairman of the Sangsad Col (Retd) Shaukat Ali MP was the main speaker.

Zillur Rahman said the present government had declared war against hunger, illiteracy, unemployment and poverty and urged all to extend cooperation to build Sonar Bangla, the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Bangladesh achieved its independence under the leadership of Father of the Nation and now we will have to jump into a war against poverty to achieve economic emancipation under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Referring to the historic peace treaty on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), the LGRD minister said national progress as well as integrity of national independence and sovereignty could not be expected keeping alive unrest in the CHT-one tenth of the country's total area.

"This treaty was signed to consolidate the national independence and sovereignty as well as to establish peace in the CHT on the basis of the spirit of war of liberation and to bring the area under the total development process," he said.

The night of peaceful coexistence of both hill people and the Bangladeshes was established by this treaty, he added.

Zillur Rahman referred to the widespread acclaim received from donors, international organisations, human-right groups and leading countries for the CHT treaty and said they had also expressed their

willingness to support and invest in various infrastructural development in the three CHT districts.

He asked the opposition to come to parliament and discuss any point which might, in their view, be contrary to the constitution or the national integrity. "What is the harm in discussing the matter in Parliament if you believe in the sovereignty of Parliament and rights of the people," he wanted to know.

The LGRD minister said the CHT peace treaty would not only pave the way for establishment of peace in the three hill districts but open up an avenue for greater development of the country in near future.

He urged all democratic and patriotic forces to unite and resist any conspiracy of the vested quarters who were now out to destroy the basis of peace already built by this historic treaty.

Amir Hussain Amu stressed for discipline and sincerity at all spheres of national life and urged officials and employees of the financial sector to extend their all-out cooperation towards the present government's relentless efforts to free the country from the clutch of poverty.

He urged the freedom fighters to show their spirit in the war against hunger and poverty waged by the present government as they did during the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Father of the Nation.

President of the Parishad of Sonali Bank branch Abdul Jabbar Sikder was in the chair while Abdus Sattar MP, Managing Director of Sonali Bank Mahbubur Rahman Khan, economist Dr Attur Rahman and Labour Leader Habibur Rahman Akond, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## Cattle-lifter arrested

In an overnight operation, an organised gang lifted 12 cattleheads from eight houses at Kulla Union in Dhamrai on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Local people, who later caught one of the cattle lifters, said the thieves lifted the cattleheads from Bardail Courtanagar and Kaiserchar areas, and sold them to a local butcher.

The following day, the villagers went to the butcher's shop at Kaiserchar and identified some of the cattleheads, and caught a man, Abul Hossain, 24, in this connection.

He was handed over to the local police.

## Need for awareness to save nation from malnutrition stressed

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday underlined the need for creating greater awareness to save the nation from the daunting malnutrition, reports UNB.

They called for utilising a comprehensive and integrated mass media approach to achieve the success in combating malnutrition, the country's major public health concern.

The daylong seminar, on the Role of Mass Media for Tackling the Problem of Malnutrition in Bangladesh, was organised by Press Information Department (PID) at a local hotel.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf attended the seminar as chief guest while State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed was present as guest of honour.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Health Minister said the current state of severe malnutrition in the country cannot present a healthy and worthy nation.

He urged all to put their concerted efforts in an integrated approach to remove malnutrition problem and build a healthy and prosperous nation. "Integration should remain at the centre of all activities," he said stressing the need for strengthening publicity and awareness programmes to motivate the people.

The minister called for building a social movement, if necessary, to bring positive changes in the attitude of people to safeguard them from the curse of malnutrition.

He said the present government has attached importance to implementation of the integrated nutrition project and extend it in future to every thana of the country.

Yusuf hoped that the donors would extend their support for successful implementation of the programmes.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed in his speech said sometimes the problem of malnutrition is projected with incorrect figures to highlight its critical state.

"We have the problem..... but I don't think that the problem is so severe. There is always a propaganda on this issue," he said.

The State Minister said the problem of malnutrition could not be removed due to lack of sincerity and commitment of those who are involved in the matter.

He said the women UP members, being elected this year for the first time in the country's history, could be involved in the process to fight the malnutrition.

Prof Sayeed called for creating greater awareness among the people about the problem and suggested that mass media could play a very important role in this respect.

Health Secretary Muhammad Ali and Team Leader of Integrated Nutrition Project Manjurul Karim also spoke in the inaugural session chaired by PIO Muhammad Makbul Ahmed. Dr AMM Anisul Awal presented the key-note paper.

In his paper, Dr Awal mentioned that the extent and magnitude of malnutrition are alarming and the level of malnutrition in Bangladesh is the world's highest.

"About 94 per cent children under the age of five are suffering from different grades of malnutrition," he said.

Quoting a UNICEF report, he said 70 per cent of the world's malnutrition is in the South-East Asia, and India and Bangladesh constitute it's 70 per cent in this region.

About 70 per cent population are suffering from Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) and 47 per cent population have goiter. Incidence and prevalence of night blindness and blindness due to Vitamin-A deficiency is also noticeably high.

Malnutrition adversely affects health, growth, survival, intelligence, cognitive function, learning capacity, working capacity and ultimately productivity of an individual and a community," Dr Awal said in his paper.

He said a malnourished community or a nation is intellectually inferior, physically stunted or short.

It has been estimated that the cumulative productivity loss of Bangladesh for malnutrition alone would be about 22.9 billion US dollar in next 10 years, he added.

Dr Awal further mentioned that two thirds of the under five deaths are associated, directly or indirectly, with malnutrition.

## Minister's call to help decrease population boom

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has urged the officials of Family Planning department to put in their best efforts in decreasing the birth rate to control the population explosion in the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at a two-day conference of the divisional directors and deputy directors of the Family Planning department at NIPORT auditorium yesterday.

Emphasising the need for visit by the field workers to individual couples to convince them in controlling birth rate, the minister has asked the concerned directors to visit thana health complexes regularly.

Chaired by Health Secretary Mohammed Ali, the conference was also addressed by Serajul Islam.

## Qulkhwani

By Staff Correspondent  
The qulkhwan of Major General Abdul Mannaf, a former senior defence personnel and an ambassador will be held today at the New DOHS Mosque at 3 pm.

General Mannaf, born in 1938, graduated from Dhaka University and was commissioned as an officer in the Armed Corps in 1958 and was a member of the Special Services (Commando) Group.

After liberation he raised the Bangladesh Military Academy and was its first Commandant.

He acted as GOC in Rangpur, Bogra and Chittagong. He became Chief of General Staff and later served as Commandant of Staff College in Dhaka.

He acted as the country's Ambassador to Thailand, the Philippines and Australia.

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

## The Asia Foundation has moved to a new office:

House #3/B, Road #50  
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We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause.

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**Government of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Madaripur  
**Short Notice Inviting Tender of RHD**

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited.

- Tender No : 33/E.E./MRD/1997-98 Eng.
- Name of work : Earth work for ditch filling in road embankment by carried earth at 1st KM from Ch. 0.00 M to 84.00 M of Bhanga-Bhatipara-Gopalganj-Mollarhat-Fakirhat-Nawapara road (Bhanga-Bhatipara portion) under Madaripur Road Division during the year 1997-98.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 8,19,555/-
- Earnest money : Tk. 16,391/-
- Time allowed for completion of work : 30 days
- Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "C" General Category, and "D" Class General Category of Faridpur Road Circle.
- Name of office where tender document will be available : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur/Faridpur/Gopalganj/Planning Division, Barisal/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Madaripur/Shariatpur/Bhanga/Asst Engineer, RHD, 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Madaripur.
- Name of office where tender will be received : Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Faridpur Road Circle, Faridpur/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring and Evaluation (P&D) Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka, Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur.
- Last date of selling of tender document : 04-01-98 Eng./21.9.1404 Beng. up to 12:00 Noon.
- Last date and time of receiving of tender : Up to 12:30 PM on 04.01.98 Eng./21.9.1404 Beng. and opening of sealed tender from box at 12:45 PM.
- Last date and time of opening of tender : At 10:00 AM on 05.01.98 Eng./22.9.1404 Beng. Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur in office room.
- Date and time for lottery. (If necessary) : At 3:00 PM on 05.1.98 Eng./22.9.1404 Beng.

**Md Abdus Sattar**  
Executive Engineer, RHD,  
Road Division, Madaripur

DDP-29443-28/12  
G-3195

**OFFICE SPACE**  
Office Space on 10th and 11th Floor (4000 Sft. in each floor) at J. K. BHABAN, 30 VIP ROAD, KAKRAIL, DHAKA is available for immediate rent. The Building is well equipped with two new Passenger Lifts, Electric Sub-station, Diesel Generator for emergency lighting and security with excellent Car Parking facilities. The Building is situated on the main VIP Road in between Hotel Sheraton and Bangladesh Bank Building and suitable for Foreign Companies, International Agencies, Banks, Insurance, NGO's and other large organisations. For details please contact  
**MR. HARUNUR RASHID.**  
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**STUDY IN USA**  
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**Shenandoah University**  
Winchester, Virginia  
Shenandoah University is currently enrolling students for MBA, MS in Computer Education, and in undergraduate programs for various disciplines (BBA, CSC, medicine etc.) for 1998 session.  
**University At a Glance:**  
Established: 1875, Location: Historic Winchester; regional population 70,000; 70 miles west of Washington D.C  
Setting: 60 acre campus in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Student/Teacher Ratio: 10 to 1. International Population: 9%. Student Male/Female: 35% men, 65% women.  
**Eligibility for Admission:**  
Masters - graduation + TOEFL 550 + GMAT Bachelors - 10+2 years, TOEFL 550 + SAT  
A Representative of the University will be conducting interviews and accepting applications at : House No. 33, Road 10/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka from 1pm - 6pm on 30th December 1997. Phone: 9126630 or 011861015  
Further information:  
Shenandoah University (Admissions Office)  
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Email: admit@su.edu Web site: www.su.edu

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29th December '97  
Venue: Sultana Kamal Women's Complex, Dhanmondi  
Time: 11AM-4PM, Gate Opens: 9AM  
Mr. Mukhter Ahmad Professor of Bangla, Notre Dame College Dhaka and the moderator of Notre Dame Debating Club, needs an immediate coronary by-pass surgery.  
Buy a ticket, Save a Teacher  
Ticket Price : Tk. 150/= only  
Tickets will be available at the following locations  
Ahmed Burger Shop, Laxmi Bazar, J. Apanjita Pushpa Kendra, Shantana Market, Narayanganj, J. Sauly's, Gulshan-2A, Dhanmondi, J. Dolce-Vita, Banani, J. Candy Flow, Gulshan-1, J. La Bamba, Dhanmondi, J. Film Fair, Dhanmondi, J. Big Bite, Hazipur, J. Golpes Burger, Baily Road, Prince Bakery, Mirpur-1 & Gabtoli, J. Book Palace, Mirpur-10, J. Path Finder, 34/8 DIT Road, Malibagh, J. Vawra Shahitta Kendra, Bangla Motor, J. Food Fair, Mohakhali, J. Pandora, Nurjahan Road, Mohammodpur, J. Geentajali, New Elephant Road & Rafin Plaza, Nilket  
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**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Cox's Bazar O & M Division  
WDB, Cox's Bazar  
**Notice Inviting Tender**

- Tender No. 9 of 1997-98 : Executive Engineer, Cox's Bazar O&M Division, WDB, Cox's Bazar.
- Name of work : Different works under Cox's Bazar O&M Division. Financed by EIP/163-IDFC during the year 1997-98.  
a) Construction of 900mm dia RCC pipe in Polder No. 65/A-1, Tk 12, 29, 208/=(EIP).  
b) Protective work at Nilla BDR Camp in Polder No. 67/B, Tk 15, 84, 531/=(163-IDFC)  
c) Repairing of guide bundh and bank revetment work of Matamuhuri River, Tk 16,63,301/-(163-IDFC)  
d) Repairing & re-sectioning of partition dyke in Polder No. 66/A, Tk 10,04,935/=(during the year 1997-98).
- Earnest money : 2% of the estimated cost but 1% of the estimated cost for fixed deposit holder.
- Time allowed : As mentioned in the statement enclosed with tender documents.
- Eligibility of contractor : A & B Class of BWDB enlisted contractor of 1997-98:  
Where tender documents will be available :  
1. Sonali Bank, Cox's Bazar Branch, Cox's Bazar.  
2. Sonali Bank, Bahadderhat Branch, Chittagong.  
3. Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
- Name of office for receiving & opening of tender :  
1. Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.  
2. Executive Engineer, Cox's Bazar O&M Division, BWDB, Cox's Bazar.  
3. Executive Engineer, Water Dev., Divn.-I, CERP, BWDB, Cox's Bazar.  
4. Executive Engineer, Chittagong O&M Division, WDB, Chittagong.  
5. Executive Engineer, Dhaka O&M Division-II, WDB, Dhaka.  
6. Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O&M Circle, WDB, Dhaka.  
7. Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong.  
7-1-98 up to 2-00 PM in all offices.
- Last date of selling of tender : 6-1-98, 7-1-98 up to office hours 8-1-98 up to 12-00 Noon in all offices.
- Date of receiving tender : 8-1-98 at 13-30 PM in all offices.
- Date of opening tender : 8-1-98 at 13-30 PM in all offices.

**Executive Engineer**  
Cox's Bazar O&M Division  
BWDB, Cox's Bazar.

PANI-239/97-98  
GD-468

**Square's help for Mukul's treatment**  
Kamrun Nahar Mukul, a third year student of Geography and Environment Department of Dhaka University was caught by thalassaemia, a dreadful disease known as type blood cancer. Square Pharmaceuticals in co-operation with the Trikeya Grey, a multinational advertising firm, took the initiative to help recovery of Mukul.

**Speakers condemn hartal, blockade programmes**  
Speakers at a press conference Friday sharply criticised the political programmes like hartal and blockade that result in immense sufferings to the common people and urged the political parties to refrain from such programmes, reports BSS.  
Held at the National Press Club the press conference was addressed by the president of Peer Mashaeq and Ulema Parishad Alhaj Moulana Shah AFM Wahid. It was organised by the Dhaka City Khanka Governing Committee of Kasherabad Darbar Sharif.  
Moulana Zahirul Islam, Moulana Abdul Kader Bhuiyan, Principal Gazi Shamsul Haque and Moulana Sirajul Islam were present in the press conference.

**Jamaat's rally tomorrow**  
Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a rally at Paltan Crossing and bring out a procession in the city on Tuesday, demanding steps to arrest the price hike of essential commodities and maintain the sanctity of Holy Ramadan, reports UNB.  
Party city unit will organise the programmes, said a press release.

**Dhaka adolescents working NGOs forum rally in the city recently organised by Actionaid, Bangladesh.**

## New Iranian envoy calls on Khaleda

The new Iranian Ambassador to Dhaka, Mohammad Sadeq Fayyaz, called on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at her Minto Road official residence yesterday, reports UNB.

Talking to Begum Zia, the ambassador recalled the steps taken during the BNP regime to expand relations between Iran and Bangladesh and said the Dhaka-Tehran air service has been started following those steps.

The bilateral relations, he said, were strengthened through the Bangladesh visit of former Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani during Begum Zia's tenure as Prime Minister, said a BNP press release.

Ambassador Fayyaz said his country had improved its relations and established friendly ties with the neighbouring Muslim countries, including Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Welcoming the Iranian ambassador to Bangladesh, Begum Zia wished him a successful and fruitful stay here and hoped that the traditional relationship between the two Muslim countries would be strengthened further in the coming days.

She discussed with the Iranian envoy matters of mutual interest and stressed the need for closer relationship between Bangladesh and the Islamic Ummah.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and former Bangladesh ambassador M M Rezaul Karim were present during the meeting.