HE UP officials were

tutional weaknesses of the

NGOs. Surprisingly enough,

about 58 per cent of the respon-

dent UP leaders opined that as a

whole NGOs are making the ru-

ral people thoroughly depen-dent upon the NGO than that of

their own potential and ability.

Instead of making the project

beneficiaries self-reliant, NGOs

support and projects have cre-

ated a condition of perpetual

dependency among the rural

that NGOs at the operation level

do not have perspective plans

and, consequently, most of

their projects are designed on

ad-hoc basis and thus are not

sustainable in the long term.

Because of strict target group

approach. NGOs have also

failed to get popular support

and cooperation from other sec-

tions of the rural society. Ac-

cording to the UP officials, the

overall morale of the field level

staff is not very high. Such low

morale and motivation, conse-

quently, result in frequent

turn-over of field staff which

again hampers the implemen-

tation of the projects. UP lead-

ers also noted that the NGOs do

not get adequate support from

the national government

There is a popular notion that NGOs are wakening the lo-

cal bodies in deliberate fashion.

In this study the researchers

wanted to tap the opinion of the

UP officials about such notion.

About 70 per cent of the UP offi-

cials are not concerned about

the rapid expansion of the NGOs

and do not feel threatened by

the NGO activities in their re-

spective areas. However, about

21.42 per cent of the UP offi-

cials cautiously noted that the

NGOs, in effect, are wakening

the local government bodies.

They consider that the NGOs are

"forcefully" encroaching into

the functional areas which,

otherwise, would have been

taken care of by the UPs or a

higher level local government

ORGANISED BY :

NZ Governor

General, PM

Ahmed has felicitated Sir

Michael Hardie Boys, Governor

General of New Zealand on the

occasion of his country's na-

In a separate message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has fe-

licitated Prime Minister Jenny

Shipley of New Zealand on the

BELA's concern

By Staff Correspondent

Lawyers' Association (BELA)

has expressed concern over al-

leged irregularity in releasing

twelve thousand tons of inedi-

ble rice as reported in a Bangla

daily yesterday, said a press re-

posed serious threat to public

health and safety. It called upon

the statutory authorities to per-

form their legal obligation in

preventing such connivance or

unlawful dealing endangering

rice was being released from a

ship in Chittagong which trav-

elled through a few countries

which refused to unload the

merchandise on the ground of

its inedibility, the release said.

The consignment of inedible

public health.

BELA said the situation

Bangladesh Environment

same occasion.

tional day today, reports BSS.

President Shahabuddin

institutional strengths.

which, in effect, cut down their

UP officials also regarded

asked to identify some of

the functional and insti-

NGOs and UPs

Towards an Effective Partnership

by Dr Salahuddin Aminuzzaman

The Task Forces Report of 1990 duly recognised NGOs as "a positive force in national development" and advised the GOB to consider and recognise the NGOs as a constituting and distinctive sector and "create a conducive and congenial policy environment ensuring an uninhabited operation of the NGOs to enable them to contribute effectively to national development".

parative picture of advantages and disadvantages of institutional linkages and collaborative projects between UPs and NGOs. Almost all NGO officials, both at the headquarters and local level, noted that they would prefer to work independently out of the UPs. Their arguments for not working

Observations of the

NGO officials

tap the opinions and impres-

sions of the NGO officials re-

garding the institutional and

functional/operational link-

ages and collaboration between

the NGOs and the UPs. A total of

37 NGO officials, 15 from the

headquarters level and 22 at the

field fevel, were interviewed for

this purpose. During the inter-

views the researchers asked the

NGO officials to present a com-

The researchers wanted to

closely the UPs are as follows: i. NGOs are target group-oriented, while UP is supposedly a wide-based participatory insti-

tution. ii. NGOs do not have any political goal or motive. UP decisions are generally politically guided or influenced.

iii. NGOs' planning is based on need assessment, feasibility studies and in line with project management. Union Parishad's decisions are mostly based on political interest and haggling.

iv. Union Parishads are mostly faction biased. UP decisions are motivated by gushti interest, vote banks and other socio-political consideration. v. UP leaders tend to influence project site and beneficiaries for their own political in-

vi. There is a wide scale corruption in the distribution and

management of UP resources. The advantage of UP-NGO institutional linkages and collaborative projects have potential to enhance political support for the NGOs, make the NGOs more acceptable to the clientele groups and create a condition for broader participation. On the negative side,

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Prof A K M Nurul Anwar (C), Director General of Health Services, speaking at a press

briefing organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO at a city hotel

yesterday following a donors' meeting on the National Leprosy Elimination Campaign (N-

LEC) in Bangladesh. Also present were (L to R) Dr W Hardjotanojo, WHO Dhaka Mission

Chief, Dr SK Noordeen, Director of WHO Global Action Programme for Elimination of Lep-

rosy, Khondakar M Rahman, Joint Secretary of Health Ministry and Dr A K M Ahsan Ali,

President, PM greet | ICDDR,B to establish

The International Centre for

Diarrhoeal Disease Research.

Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) will es-

tablish five more centres of ex-

cellence to involve all existing

scientific divisions for inte-

grating their work on research

tor of the centre, said this while

briefing newsmen yesterday. He

joined the new post a couple of

weeks ago succeeding Dr De-

missie Hebte. Dr Istiaque A

Zaman of the centre was also

present during the briefing ses-

press briefing to mark the pub-

lication of a booklet named

"partnership in progress" which

operation between the centre

and the Bangladesh govern-

ment in different areas of work

ICDDR,B was also looking for-

ward to undertaking new re-

search projects along with sim-

ilar institutions of the world on

a number of diseases including

dengue fever, anti-microbial

sion, the new director of the

centre stressed the need for

maintaining proper nutritional

status of all, especially the

A pediatrician by profes-

resistance and pneumonia.

Dr Suskind said the

in the health sector.

dwelt at length on the close co-

The centre organised the

Dr Rober M Suskind, direc-

and treatment, reports BSS.

GOVT. OF BANGLADESH

Project Coordinator of Leprosy Control Programme.

this might enhance political interference, delay the implementation of projects and result in undue pressure by the UP functionaries to use NGOs resources for their personal and political benefits.

However, NGO officials noted that had the UP officials approach. NGOs can extend considerable help and support to the UPs in following areas:

i. Planning and appraising projects for the UPs. ii. Provide technical support

in project implementation . iii. Help in designing and implementing income generating activities and projects of the

iv: Help in social development projects like health, family planning, education and nutrition etc.

Based on the findings of the survey the following broad observations may be drawn:

i) Under the present set-up there is no link between the Local Government (UPs) and NGOs. There exists no institutional mechanism or frameworks for such collaboration and support. Moreover, the existing legal frameworks that govern the role and function of NGOs in Bangladesh do not have any provision which encourage the NGOs to work in collaboration with UPs or any local government bodies. This isolation necessarily affects the performance of both NGOs and

ii) From the observations, the researchers have a got mixed picture. In some instances. NGOs have resisted the influences of the local power elite who attempted to influence

= Metropolitan =

five more centres

the NGO programmes at the local level. On the other hand, there are also instances where. the NGOs have to compromise with the local elite and the members of the power structure to manage their projects. In fact, the NGOs have been very much tactful in managing the local power structure.

tiil There are certainly some rooms for mutual cooperation and support for both NGOs and UPs. UPs would possibly be more benefited from such kind of linkages. Support from NGOs can positively enhance the programme development and project management capabilities of the UPs.

iv) Too much dependence,

especially the bulk majority of the rural poor, has lead to a condition of "NGO takeover" in the rural areas. Indigenous social institutions have become weaker and are gradually disappearing. In the NGO infested areas, rural people, especially the poorer sections now look for the intervention of the NGOs for any socio-economic issues. The UPs as a local participatory body thus become merely symbolic institution with practically no programme for socioeconomic upliftment of the rural poor. NGOs, through their effective delivery system, management and responsive programme packages, have practi-cally pushed the UPs to the sideline and made the rural poor more dependent upon their intervention.

v) Given the present trend and policy shift of the GOB as regards to the NGOs, the role and scope of the UPs activities are further getting squeezed and which would eventually jeopar-

Strength of city

traffic police

inadequate

As the present strength of traffic police was found to be

too inadequate to control the

city's vexing traffic system.

Metropolitan Traffic Police has

called for increasing traffic po-

lice at least by three-fold, re-

lice presently has 1567 traffic

police. But the number is not adequate to control the city's

To cope with the situation,

the Metropolitan Traffic Police has put forward a demand to the

authorities concerned for in-

creasing the number of traffic police and providing necessary

sain Khan told UNB on Wednes-

day that they have demanded

553 wireless sets, 2228 reflect-

ing jackets. 514 motorbikes,

1675 bicycles, 35 jeeps, 14 speed

detectors, 14 smoke detectors

Traffic Police have only 70

wireless sets, 230 motorcycles

(44 out of order) and eight jeeps.

smoke and alcohol detectors

Police also called for increasing

the number of police by recruit-

ing 3500 policemen for the capi-

tal city alone, according to a

300 more traffic sergeants is

underway for an immediate so-

The process for recruiting

But they have no speed,

The Metropolitan Traffic

At present, Metropolitan

and 100 alcohol detectors.

and reflecting jackets.

source at DMP.

lution to the crisis.

DC traffic Mushtaque Hos-

increasing traffic volume.

equipment and vehicles.

According to a source at DMP. Dhaka Metropolitan Po-

ports UNB.

-Star photo

children, as he said, "malnutri-

tion kills the potential of a

contribution of the centre to-

wards lowering the malnutri-

tional level in Bangladesh but

said a sizeable number of chil-

centre and the government has

been described in the publica-

tion as a highly commendable

cooperation which has helped

ICDDR.B demonstrate the im-

portance and effectiveness of

research operations and design-

ing family planning interven-

cholera hospital provides free

treatment to over 100,000 diar-

centre in Dhaka and Matlab

treated over two million

Bangladeshis over the last 18

years, during its 38 years of ex-

istence, the centre has con-

The centre's Mahakhali

tions in Bangladesh.

aque A Zaman said.

The partnership between the

dren were born under-weight.

He described as excellent the

child as well as a society.'

dise the process of democratic governance at the grassroots

NGOs and the Local **Bodies: Focus on** Relationship

Considering political sensitivities and economic realities. NGOs involvement in develop ment interventions can not be ignored. Their role has now assumed much greater significance in the light of recent concerns to strengthen democratic institutions and promote civil society.

Experiences have established that the NGOs have demonstrated particular strengths in their works with the disadvantaged groups in:

a. devising management practices adapted to difficult areas and client groups; b. devising technology that meet the needs of the rural poor and particularly rural women; c. designing linkages with input suppliers and the local groups; d. delivery of inputs and services either of their own or being contracted out by the GOs; e. developing new technologies and methods; f. developing new

social innovations which bear on technological changes; g lobbying for specific projects at the local level; and h. mobilising disadvantaged groups for empowerment.

Moreover, NGOs can also help the local bodies in the fol lowing areas: Development and Operation of Infrastructure: NGOs can help the Local Bodies including the UP to design and develop local level small scale infrastructure projects, operate and maintain infrastructure such as irrigation schemes conservation of natural resources and environment etc. Facilitating Development

Communication: NGOs can assist the local bodies in establishing effective communication with the local level bureaucracy, banking institutions and the functionaries of the donor agencies to develop programmes and projects.

Technical Assistance and

Training: NGOs can also provide technical assistance and training to the officials of the local bodies in designing projects and its implementation. Conclusions

From a theoretical perspective expanding role of the NGOs

in Bangladesh can be justified by both Public-Good theory and Contract Failure theory. NGOs, to a great extent, have proved their worth as a force for democracy, poverty alleviation and efficiency enhancement. NGOs in Bangladesh have, by now, been recognised as the third sector in development management. The Task Forces Report of 1990 duly recognised NGOs as "a positive force in national development" and advised the GOB to consider and recognise the NGOs as a constituting and distinctive sector and "create a conducive and congenial policy environment ensuring an uninhabited operation of the NGOs to enable them to contribute effectively to national development".

Nevertheless, there seems to be a noticeable ambiguity in the policies of the GOB on the role and scope of the involvement of the NGOs in Bangladesh. NGOs, to a great extent, are working in isolation, confusion and suspicion. Empirical evidences have widely established the fact that the Local Governments are structurally and functionally very weak and lack capabilities to design, organise and manage development programme. Comparative studies provide evidence of relative superiority of the NGOs over the Local Governments in project design and management suitable to local conditions of rural Bangladesh.

The scope for initiatives and innovative activities by the NGO community depends considerably on the nature of the relationship with the state. Closer understanding and

greater confidence between the government both at national and local level and NGO sector would be most helpful for making NGOs' programmes and objectives more effective.

At present, there is practically no relationship between the UPs and the NGOs. NGOs tend to "mistrust" the UPs and maintain a distance from the UPs. UPs, on the other hand. also have a kind of "suspicion" about the role and motive of NGOs. An objective assessment of the development dynamics specially at the local areas however suggests that an institutional arrangement needs to be designed so that a partnership relations could be developed between the local NGOs and the UPs. Findings of the study indicate that there are some areas where NGOs and local government, particularly the UPs, can enter into effective partnership.

Presently, the GOB is in a process of reviewing and reorganising the Local Government system in Bangladesh. The donor community is also strongly advocating the meaningful participation of the NGOs in the overall development process. Keeping in view the issue of popular participation and accountability and mutual support, appropriate measures should, therefore, be taken to development required legal and institutional means to establish such institutional linkages between the Local Government and the NGOs.

The author is a Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka.

Indian Sex Workers Allege Denial of Right to Vote Issuing of voter identity cards to sex workers will go a

EX workers in India have charged the government with denying them their fundamental right to vote.

Just about 25 per cent of the over two million sex workers in the country are registered voters and even fewer possess voter identity cards issued by the ing the flesh trade." Khairati Election Commission, volun- Lal Bhola, who heads the Bhartary agencies working with atiya Patita Uddhar Samiti these women claim.

ing of voter identity cards to sex cipation of fallen women, said. dian law.

that minor girls make up at Sex workers have demanded Gi Dillii

long way in preventing the entry of minor girls into prostitution.

"The issuing of photo-identity cards will help in regulat-(BPUS) which translates into Some activists say the issu- Indian society for the eman-

workers will go a long way in "Due to non-availability of preventing the entry of minor the cards as well as non-inclugirls into prostitution. The sion of their names in the votminimum age for voting is 18 ers' list, we are unable restrict years, which is also the mini- new entrants in the profession," mum age of consent under In- Bhola, who is a member of several welfare-related govern-Voluntary agencies estimate ment panels

least 40 per cent of sex workers. that they be given their identity if not more, in India. There are cards before the general elecan estimated 270,000 brothels tion next month and have acand 11,000 red light districts in cused the government as well as the Election Commission of be-

Intervening, the judge told

"But you should know this

the witness that he should

know it. "I was abroad at that

wherever you stayed", insisted

the judge. At this the witness

said: "Yes, a court martial was

foreign posting after August 15

and later inducting in the cabi-

ties given to me. I was not en-

Q: Were you not favoured by

A: I only discharged my du-

Q: Had you control on your

A: I had control until my res-

Q: Did the army use heli-

A: Yes, occasionally, when it

Q: Was it possible of shelling

Q: Where operation bases in

A: The operation base was in

Q: What you were during the

A: Deputy Chief of Staff of

Q: Did navy and army took

Mukti Bahini. General Osmany

part in the liberation war under

the Mukti Bahini? Or were they

A: They were under the same

Q: Were you not lucky person

to know officers of navy, army

and air force during the libera-

A: I didn't know all. I knew

Q: Did you work in Foreign

Q: Did you observe a civil

A: I saw 15 to 20 officers in

Q: Were the Army Headquar-

war-like atmosphere in the

an excited and tense mood. Our

resistance could have led to a

ters under your command on

under a separate command?

command of Mukti Bahini.

Dhaka, Chittagong and Jessore

Dhaka. However, flying was

possible from Chittagong and

copters which were in Chit-

time", said Khandaker.

held".

joying favours.

force on August 18?

tagong air base?

from the helicopter?

was needed.

A: Yes.

at that time?

Liberation War?

was the Chief.

tion war?

civil war.

August 15?

some of the officers.

Ministry under pressure?

cantonment on August 15?

A: Yes, except a few.

Jessore.

ignation was accepted.

ing sluggish in issuing the cards

Of the estimated 2.3 million sex workers and their 5.1 million children, only 25 per cent are registered voters holding identity cards, according to

This is the case despite the Election Commission's directive in 1994 that all these women be registered as voters, Bhola claimed

The denial of the voters' cards, which are now referred to by government agencies dealing with welfare projects as proof of identity, also means that these women are often not given access to food rations and healthcare facilities, he added. Bhola noted that a recent

government draft report on prostitution recommended that sex workers be given photo identity cards along with other welfare benefits. But he expressed doubts about the government actually implementing the suggestions. The draft was recently discussed by a committee headed by Prime Minister I.K. Gujral. According to a report in the

Hindustan Times, the discussions on the same 1 centred mound it prostitu tion rather amination which it was agreed was an unachievable objective.

Some activists are even calling for legalisation of prostitution and recognition of them as workers under labour laws. This has led to a heated social debate, with others saying that such a move would only encourage prostitution rather than regulate it.

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of 48th Prosecution Witness

Former Air Chief AK Khandaker, PW-48 in Bangabandhu murder case was cross examined by the defence lawyers on Wednesday.

Following are the excerpts of the examination by Advocate Abdul Wahed, state defence counsel for absconding accused Major (retd) Shariful Haq Dalim:

Q: Were the army disciplined on August 15?

Q: Was the body of Bangabandhu taken to Tungipara by

helicopter? A: Yes.

Q: Was the helicopter used on your order? A: Yes, but my permission

was not taken earlier. Q: Did you and Army Chief Shafiullah take instant decision of punitive measures against the those who killed

A: The situation was not favourable. Q: Did you not resign as in protest against the appoint-

ment of Tawab the Chief of Air Staff?

A: This is not true.

Bangabandhu?

Cross-examination by advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman:

Q: Had you control on your establishment on August 15? A: Yes.

Q: Was there any proposal for instituting a court of inquiry at the meeting on August

Q: You expressed allegiance on August 15 to the new government. Why did you resign later? A: I told it in my deposition.

Q: When were you driven by your conscience? A: I couldn't accept the inci-

dent from the very beginning. I left Bangabhaban and later on August 18 tendered the resignation. I was driven by conscience as soon as I came to know the sad news.

Q: Was the resignation a protest or a response to conscience?

tial law of Ershad.

man?

A: I can't recall.

A: I can't recall.

Q: Was there any resentment A: Both. in the Headquarters over the Q: When did you take retireincident? ment from Foreign Service? A: Many were deeply A: In 1986. shocked.

Q: Did you become a minister Q: Was not the entire force after retirement? inactive? A: Yes. A: The armed forces were ac-Q: And then there was martive. But they could not go for

any action without the order from the chiefs. Q: Was any court martial af-Q: Did all the three chiefs ter the killing of Ziaur Rahmet on August 15 morning to decide that the new government should be formed with civilA: This is not true. There was

no such discussion. Q: Did you not express opinion in favour of a government of army personnel? A: This is not true.

Q: Were shocked as the government was formed by civilians and that is you resigned? A: This is not true.

Q: Was there possibility of a civil war because of conflicting opinions in the armed forces?

A: No. Q: Is it not true that Gen Os-

many intervened to avert civil A: This is not true.

Q: Was the chain of command in the three services OK on August 14 and August 16? A: Yes, except two units of

Q: Was there any link in the chain of command between the army and the air force?

A: The chain of command of the three services were maintained separately.

Q: Is it true that you had no conception about the chain of command of the army? A: As the air chief, I had an

overall conception. Q: But as the air chief, did you have any conception about the reality of internal chain of command of other forces?

A: It depends, one chief may have conception on various as-

Q: Did you have conception about the chain of command of other forces on August 14. A: Yes, I had no conception.

Cross-examination by Advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan, defence lawyer for accused Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriaar Rashid Khan: Q: Who did represent air

force in DGFI on August 15? A: I can't say. Q: Did you want to know

from the DGFI about August 15 incidents as the air force representative failed to inform you? A: It was not my responsibility.

Q: Was there any intelligence agency in the air force? A: Yes.

Q: Was their office in the cantonment on August 15? A: Yes.

Q: Were the fighter aircraft of the air force at Tejgaon airport?

Q: Did you also know about tank movement on August 15?

Q: Did all tanks returned to the cantonment by 10 am on

that day. A: I am not aware. Q: Is it not true that the tanks again moved to the city on orders of three services

chiefs?

- India Abroad News Service

A: This is not true.

on August 15 as demanded by Khaled Mosharraf and ordered by you?

A: No helicopter flew on that

Q: Is it that helicopters flew

Q: Did any fighter plane go in action in between August 15 and August 17? A: Fighters flew after August

Cross-examination by Advocate TM Akbar, counsel for accused Lt Col Muhiuddin (artillery):

15 for training.

Q: Did Gen Osmany intervened to overcome the conflict among the three services chiefs over the seat of power? A: This is not true.

Cross-examination by Advocate Sharfuddin Mukul, lawyer for former state minister for Information Taheruddin Thakur:

Q: Was Ershad senior to you or junior? A: Contemporary. Perhaps we were commissioned on the

same day. Q: How long you were a min-

ister of Ershad? A: Till March, 1990. Q: Was there a mass move-

ment against him at that time. A: No, the movement began

Q: What is your present occu-A: Now I'm the chairman of a private airline. Air Parabat.

Q: Who was the commanderin-chief of the armed forces on

August 14? A: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Q: Were you responsible to protect the President, the people

as well as the state? A: Our main responsibility was to protect the territory and

sovereignty of the country. Security force of the President was primarily responsible to protect Q: Did armed forces super-

vise the President's security A: They were under the surveillance of the force from

where they came. Q: Did you not fail to protect the life of the President? A: Those who were in charge of his security have failed. Q: Did not the armed forces

you were given SOS. A: I didn't get any SOS. Q: Did not the Army Chief Shafiullah send SOS to you?

failed to protect his life despite

A: No. -UNBFurther texts of cross examination will be published as and when received.

দুবাই শপিং ফেস্টিভ্যাল্-৯৮

আগামী ১৯ মার্চ-৯৮ হতে ১৮ এপ্রিল-৯৮ পর্যন্ত দুবাই গ্রোবাল ভিলেজ-এ আন্তর্জাতিক দ্বাই শপিং ফেণ্টিভ্যাল্-৯৮ অনুষ্ঠিত হতে বাচ্ছে। উক্ত ফেণ্টিভ্যাল্ -এ বাংলাদেশ भगाष्ट्रियन->৮ (Country No-18) वदास्थां इरवरह। धमर्मनीर्छ। वाश्नाप्तनी रुष्ठ ७ काक, हायजा, निवायिकन, खेकिशवारी व कान भना अवर बावाव প্রস্তুত ও বিপননকারী সংস্থাসমূহ অংশ গ্রহন করতে পারেন। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য আগামী ১২ কেব্রু-১৮ এর মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানার যোগাযোগ

MAR 19 - APR 18 0 - DI 11- 119

করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল न्याननान विज्ञत्नम् कर्लाद्रमन বাড়ী-৫, রোড-৯, সেষ্টর-৪, উত্তরা, ঢাকা। द्यान १ ०३४-२३२७४१, ४७९९९३

OECF meets Alamgir

the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan, Tomio Utchida, called on State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

gions of Jessore and Kushtia.

tributed to the betterment of health services to millions of people in the developing countries including Bangladesh. Vice president of

Visiting Vice-President of

Int'l seminar on rhoeal patients every year, with a progressive increase in the number of patients over the Sylhet Feb 11-13 years, "all patients seeking treatment here are provided By Staff Correspondent services free of charge." Dr Isti-He said two hospitals of the

The second international regional seminar on "Sylhet: History and Heritage" will be held in Sylhet from February 11 to 13 under the aegis of Bangladesh History Associa-

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashid Chowdhury will be the chief guest at the inaugural function to be held at 10 am on Feb 11 at Sylhet Auditorium, says a press

As part of the seminar a cultural function will also be held at 7 pm on Feb 12 at Sylhet Auditorium.

Suranjit Sengupta, Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, will be present as chief guest at the function, to be chaired by Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury of Dhaka University History Depart-

Weather

Dry weather forecast Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky across the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met Office said night temperature may fall by 1-3 degrees

Celsius over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the re-

Country's highest temperature was recorded yesterday 29.6 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 11.0 degrees at Rajshahi and Rangpur. The sun sets today at 5:48 pm and rises on Saturday at 6:37