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# The Daily Star

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## Six awarded Ekushey Padak '98

The government yesterday announced the Ekushey Padak for the year 1998, reports UNB. Six persons have been nominated for the padak for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields in the national life.

The nominees are: Literature — Ranesh Das Gupta (posthumous) and Akteruzzaman Elias (posthumous), Journalism — Rokonzaman Khan and Abul Kashem Sandwip (posthumous), Drama — Ferdous Majumder and Music — Mahabuba Rahman.

Each recipient will get Tk 20,000, a gold medal and a certificate.

## PM distributes Ekushey Padak '97

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to work for establishing the honour and prestige of Bangla in every sphere of life being imbued with the spirit of Ekushey, report UNB.

Addressing the Ekushey Padak '97 distribution ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Hall, Hasina said although Bangla is the language of 250 million people, but the 120 million people of this country has



President Shahabuddin Ahmed placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at 12:01 last night. — Star photo

## Ekushey back again

A grateful nation observes Shaheed Dibash today. People across the country will pay homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement and take a renewed vow to translate their dreams into reality.

On this day in 1952, Salam, Rafiq, Barkat, Jabbar and many other brave sons of the soil made supreme sacrifices for giving Bangla the status of state language of the then Pakistan and foil the attempt to make Urdu the only state language.

On that historic day, students were marching in a procession towards the then Provincial assembly, housed in the building that is now Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University. As they violated Section 144 to demand the status of state language for Bangla, the language of the majority, police opened fire on them.

Their sacrifices on 'Mohan Ekushey' (great February 21) ultimately led the Bengalee nation to a greater movement for self-determination which eventually culminated into Bangladesh's independence through a nine-month bloody war in 1971.

The day's programmes began with placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at one minute past zero hour last night by President Shahabuddin Ahmed. He was followed by

## 19 km rail track being set up to enable train service thru' JMB

Nineteen kilometres new rail track is being set up in the eastern and the western sections of Bangladesh Railway (BR) so that passenger trains also cross the Jamuna river when the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge is opened for traffic, according to official sources.

"The new rail track will enable train services through the bridge when it will be opened for traffic on June 23 this year", said a source.

Of the 19-km new rail track, five kilometres will be constructed over the bridge to accommodate both broad gauge and metre gauge trains, the sources said. The BR authorities have already pumped Tk 10 crore into the Jamuna Bridge Division for laying the track over the bridge.

A new railway station named Ibrahimabad will be set up three km off the eastern end of the Jamuna Bridge along the Joydevpur alignment while the

## Don't worry, says Khaleda 'Desertion by a few won't harm BNP'

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has asked her party deputies not to be worried and panicked at the desertion of two party lawmakers and the reported move for fresh defection.

Begum Zia was presiding the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban last night.

The BNP chief was quoted by meeting sources as saying: "Don't think about those who have already defected.... Desertion by a few won't harm the party. Many of us left to join the government in the past but our party suffered no loss."

In her brief speech, the Opposition Leader also advised the party lawmakers to remove mistrust among themselves and work together for further strengthening the party. "I promise to reward your good performance in future as I did

## 450 Shantibahini rebels lay down arms tomorrow

From Our Correspondent KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 20: Four hundred and fifty more Shantibahini guerrillas led by general secretary of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Major Tapas Chakma will surrender their arms on February 22 at Dighirpur in Dhinginala thana of the district.

Chief Whip and chairman of the NCCH, Abul Hasnat Abdullah and minister Kalpanjan Chakma, will be present at the arms surrendering ceremony.

Top PCJSS leaders, including Sudhasindhu Khisha and Raktatpal Tripura have been coordinating with the government officials to stage the ceremony successfully.

The Shantibahini guerrillas have already gathered at Talchhari and Shantala villages. They are expected to come to the transit camp at Baradham High School today.

Administration sources said that all preparations have been

## HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of Shaheed Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

## Inside Today Article

**Ekushey's nation-building message**  
**Education will be the Greatest Wealth Producer in the 21st Century**  
by Mahfuz Anam Page 4

## Supplements

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains one page supplement on Dhaka International Trade Fair '98 on Page 7 and an 8-page supplement on Shaheed Day on Pages 13-20



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia waving to party workers and supporters outside Zia International Airport on her return from Saudi Arabia yesterday. — Star photo

## Bangla Academy official found dead in his house

By Staff Correspondent A deputy director of Bangla Academy was found dead in his residence at Elephant Road in the city yesterday afternoon.

Dharmaditya police said the body of Mosharraf Hossain was recovered following his wife's return to the house after three days. The partially decomposed body was lying on a bed.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police and hospital sources said there was no mark of injury on Mosharraf's body.

Police declined to say anything more before getting the autopsy report.

Mosharraf's wife Shirin Afroz Khanam along with her daughter, Prokity, went to her

## Annan-Saddam talks likely today

BAGHDAD, Feb 20: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived in Iraq today in a visit many see as a last-ditch attempt to avert a US military strike, reports AP.

Annan arrived in Baghdad, where he will meet tomorrow Iraqi officials, likely including President Saddam Hussein.

His arrival followed a caution by an Iraqi government cleric that Annan should not present a peace formula so unacceptable that it gives the United States an excuse to strike Iraq in the standoff over weapons inspection.

"We need words that will meet all our demands," a top government cleric, Sheik Abdul Latif Humaim, said in a nationally televised sermon following Friday prayers.

Humaim did not elaborate, but the Iraqis have often said they want the United Nations to respect its national sovereignty and keep out of presidential palaces while searching for weapons of mass destruction. But the United States and its allies have demanded unfettered access and are planning punitive military strikes on Iraq.

Annan arrived at Saddam International Airport on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital aboard a private plane. He was greeted by Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's UN ambassador, and other Iraqi officials.

Annan was scheduled to meet with Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister on Saturday.

In a related development, UN weapons inspectors accompanied a three-man team of cartographers to some presidential sites today "with the full cooperation of Iraqi authorities," a senior UN official said.

The visit did not amount to any concession by the Iraqis; the official indicated that no real inspection was done. "I don't think we are trying to pretend this solves the basic dispute," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Still, this was the first time inspectors have entered presidential compounds since the dispute began last fall.

Annan said in Paris Thursday he is carrying "certain proposals" that Saddam will hopefully accept and avoid a military strike.

## Subsidy to fabric manufacturers burden on govt

By Inam Ahmed

But since then, the amount has been going up steeply, finance ministry sources said.

"Last year, we had to give about one hundred crore taka as subsidy on this count," said a finance ministry official. "This fiscal year, it had already exceeded Tk one hundred crore in the first six months. Our estimate is that this amount might rise to as high as Tk 200 crore by the year end."

But much to the boon of the fabric manufacturers, this has been putting a strain on the budget this year when the government's resource mobilisation is already under pressure, sources said.

The finance ministry has already

## Dist & sessions judges in CHT dists soon

By Mizan Ali

The government has decided to appoint district and sessions judges in the three districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), enforcing Act No 16 of the CHT Act 1989, official sources said.

Judicial functions in these districts have so long been vested with the administration under the CHT Regulation, 1900.

This decision was taken on February 15 at a high level meeting attended by representatives from law ministry, home ministry and special affairs division of the Prime Minister's secretariat. The meeting was held at the conference room of the law ministry.

The meeting decided that the judges will be posted in those three districts at the earliest, the sources added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already instructed the law ministry to take necessary steps to ensure functioning of district courts in the CHT as soon as possible, the sources added.

Earlier, the government had taken a move in 1988 for posting district and sessions judges in all the three districts of the CHT but it could not be done in the absence of a peace agreement with the tribal insurgents.

Necessary infrastructure like court building and residential accommodation for the judges in all the three districts was constructed at that time at a cost of Tk 15 crore.

At present the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong acts as the sessions judge to dispose of sessions cases and the addi-

**FORUM** বি জি এম টি এ বিবাহ '৯৮

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আগামী ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৯৮ইং বিজিএমইএ-এর নির্বাচন উপলক্ষে 'ফোরাম' মনোনীত প্রার্থীদের প্রার্থী-পরিচিতি সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

স্থান : উইন্টার গার্ডেন, হোটেল শেরাটন, ঢাকা।  
তারিখ : ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৮ইং।  
সময় : বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা।

সভাপতি : আনিসুর রহমান সিন্হা  
প্যানেল লিডার : আনিসুল হক

সম্মানিত সকল পোষাক শিল্পের মালিকগণকে উক্ত প্রার্থী-পরিচিতি সভায় উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

আনিসুর রহমান সিন্হা সভাপতি  
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Sharna Ad

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
ঢাকা  
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ সেলুলার টেলিফোন হ্যাভসেটের অবৈধ আমদানি ও সংযোগ প্রসঙ্গে

স্ব-কর পরিশোধ ব্যতিরেকে অবৈধভাবে সেলুলার টেলিফোন হ্যাভসেট আমদানির প্রবণতা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। কাষ্টমস্ এন্ট্রি মতে এরূপ আমদানি চোরালান হিসাবে পরিগণিত। অবৈধভাবে আনীত এরূপ হ্যাভসেট যার নিকট থাকবে, যিনি ব্যবহার করবেন, যিনি বিক্রয় করবেন, যিনি ক্রয় করবেন, যিনি সংযোগ দেবেন, যিনি সংযোগ নেবেন, এমনকি যিনি অবহিত থাকার সত্ত্বেও এ সংক্রান্ত তথ্য স্ব-কর কর্মকর্তার নিকট প্রকাশ করা থেকে বিরত থাকবেন, তারা সকলেই কাষ্টমস্ এন্ট্রি ভংগের দায়ে দোষী ও শাস্তিযোগ্য হবেন। এমতাবস্থায় এরূপ চোরালানকৃত সেলুলার হ্যাভসেটের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট না হওয়ার জন্য সকলকে সতর্ক করে দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

২। সরকার বিশেষ বিবেচনায় ইতোপূর্বে আমদানিকৃত অবৈধ সেলুলার হ্যাভসেট প্রযোজ্য স্ব-কর এবং ১০০/- (একশত টাকা) অর্ধদত্ত দিয়ে নিয়মিত করার জন্য একটি সুযোগ প্রদান করছে। যার নিকট এরূপ অবৈধ হ্যাভসেট আছে তিনি তা নিয়মিতকরণের জন্য ঢাকা স্ব-কর ভবনের শুক্রবার ৯.৩০-এর দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত সহকারী/ডেপুটি কমিশনার (চট্টগ্রাম) স্ব-কর ভবনের কেব্রে সহকারী/ডেপুটি কমিশনার, (প্রিভেটিভ)-এর নিকট উপস্থাপন করতে পারেন। এ সুযোগ ১৫ই মার্চ ১৯৯৮ অবসর ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত উন্মুক্ত থাকবে। উক্ত তারিখের পর এরূপ হ্যাভসেট এবং এর সাথে সম্পৃক্ত সকলের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। যদি স্ব-কর দিয়ে নিয়মিতকরণে কেউ কোন অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হন তা হলে তিনি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

৩। প্রত্যন্ত ও নিম্নমানের/কিটমুক্ত সেলুলার হ্যাভসেট আমদানি নিষিদ্ধ। এরূপ আমদানি থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সকল আমদানিকারক ও বিদেশ প্রত্যাপ্ত যাত্রীগণকে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

৪। সেলুলার টেলিফোন হ্যাভসেট ব্যাগেজ আইটেম নয়। বিদেশ প্রত্যাপ্ত যাত্রীগণকে এরূপ হ্যাভসেট সংগে না আনার পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। কোন যাত্রী যদি সংগে করে হ্যাভসেট আনেন তবে তার জন্য প্রযোজ্য স্ব-কর আদায়সহ আইনানুগভাবে অর্ধদত্তও আরোপ করা হবে।

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