



Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury addressing the inauguration of 'Encyclopedia of Bangladesh Project' organised by Bangladesh Asiatic Society at its auditorium yesterday.

Bangabandhu Bridge 'Rate of tolls fixed keeping in view repayment of loans'

The rate of tolls for vehicles to cross the Bangabandhu Bridge has been fixed keeping in view the repayment of huge foreign loans with interest and its maintenance, reports UNB. This was stated by Communications Minister Anwar Hossain while replying to a call notice in Parliament yesterday. Moving his notice, Fazle Rabbi (JP) said that the rate of tolls was high and called for a reduction. The minister said he had talks with the bus-truck owners' associations and will hold another meeting with them on June 16 about their demand to slash the rates. "I can't say anything about re-fixing of tolls now," the minister said and added he will take up the matter with the Prime Minister. He said the government took foreign loans amounting to Tk 2,400 crore out of total cost of the bridge of Tk 3,850 crore. Compared to the hassle and time consuming crossing the river by ferry, the tolls fixed are not very high. The tolls for buses has been kept below what

Call for awareness about more care for disabled

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to incorporate issue of disabled into all the basic development programmes and called for an all-out concerted effort to build awareness among people for more care and attention of the disabled people. Addressing the publication ceremony of a study report on "Need Assessment of Development Programmes Relating to Disability" at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday, they said that the issue of disabled should not be considered an isolated one if our planners want to ensure development for all. Presided over by eminent industrialist Shafiq Ahmed Chowdhury, the programme was organised by Impact Foundation of Bangladesh. State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir attended the programme as chief guest while Social Welfare Secretary Mohammad Nurul Abedin, Director General of NGO Bureau Gias Uddin Pathan, Executive director of PRIP Trust, Aroma Goon, Prof Bashira Mannan of Dhaka University, H Noman Khan of Centre for Disabilities in Development and Khondakar Jahurul Alam and Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury of IFB spoke on the occasion. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir said disabilities can be eliminated "if we play our social and familial role properly." Underlining the need to stop marriages between close relatives, the minister said more emphasis should be on care for children and mothers so that they do not fall victim to disabilities due to lack of nutrition or because of diseases. He said that with the view of treating disabled persons as a burden, the government has launched an "Adult Benefit Programme" to aid disabled people. Mohammad Nurul Abedin said that the Ministry of Social Welfare was shaping a draft document on legal rights of disabled persons and it would be placed before the House after necessary scrutiny at the Law Ministry. He informed that the issue of the disabled has been given necessary importance in the fifth five year plan and a total of Tk 158.7 million has been allocated to address this problem. Gias Uddin Pathan alleged that the problems facing disabled people have not been addressed to properly through the government and the NGOs undertook several programmes to improve their condition. Aroma Goon urged the government to organise a series of dialogues to formulate action plans to address this problem properly. Khondakar Jahurul Alam said that his study revealed that most of the NGOs showed interest to incorporate issues of the disabled in their development programmes. Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury said that the country cannot develop without addressing the problems of the 120 crore disabled people.

Prof Sayeed tells Jatiya Sangsad Steps being taken to enact laws to check yellow journalism

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said the government is taking steps to enact laws with provision of punishment to check yellow journalism and influence of alien culture in the country, reports BSS. Replying to a call attention notice from Prof Panna Kaiser (AL-Comilla-Chandpur), he said existing laws would be amended and improved to sternly deal with yellow journalism and alien culture. "In this respect, there is necessity of all-out cooperation of all members of parliament," he said adding various measures undertaken by the present government against yellow journalism and alien culture have already started yielding positive results in the country. Prof Abu Sayeed told the parliament that leaders and activists of various women's organisations have already expressed their strong protest against yellow journalism and obscene news magazines which is a manifestation of widespread social awareness. "We strongly feel that people are the source of all powers. Yellow journalism can be stopped if protest comes from the people themselves," he said seeking active cooperation of all sections of people. Agreeing fully with the contents of the call attention notice raised by Prof Panna Kaiser, Prof Abu Sayeed expressed his firm belief that each and every one of the society was against yellow journalism. Some people in the name of journalism are engaged in spreading slander about famous artists and personalities to serve their own heinous purposes. Prof Abu Sayeed further said that mass media, specially better and television, were broadcasting programmes to create public awareness against yellow journalism. "Various news items, articles and features are also being published in the newspapers against yellow journalism," he said. The State Minister for Information urged members of the parliament to stand with the journalist community as well as other conscious sections of people to resist this practice.

During Jan to May period Bangladesh received more water from Ganges than agreed in treaty

Bangladesh has received more water from the Ganges river during January to May period than what was agreed in the water treaty, reports UNB. This was stated by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak in parliament yesterday in a written reply from Ziaul Huq Zia (BNP). Giving a breakup of waters available, the minister said during first 10 days of January Bangladesh received 182,286 cusecs of water as against the agreed quantum of 67,516 cusecs. From January 11-20, 154,292 cusec water flowed down the Farakka barrage as against the agreed quantum of 57,673 cusec. 118,313 cusec in between January 21-31 against 50,154 cusec. The country received 88,363 cusec water during the first ten days of February as against the agreed quantum of 46,323 cusec. 73,584 cusec during February 11-20 against 42,859 cusec and 54,242 cusec against 39,106 cusec during February 21-28. In the month of March, the country received 46,686 cusec of water against the agreed quantum of 35,000 cusec during March 1-10, 40,960 cusec against 35,000 during March 11-20 period and 38,685 cusec against 29,688 cusec during March 21-31 period. During April 1-10 period, the country received 43,960 cusec against 35,000 cusec, 53,241 cusec against 27,633 cusec during April 11-20 period, 53,627 cusec against 35,000 cusec during April 21-30 period. In the month of May, the country received 74,885 cusec of water against the agreed quantum of 32,351 cusec during first ten days, 92,039 cusec against 35,000 cusec during May 11-20 and 84,965 cusec against 41,854 cusec during May 21-31 period.

Zillur at workshop Poverty alleviation most vital part of development

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said the government is committed to evolving a permanent, and fruitful method of service system to improve the condition of the rural poor, reports BSS. "Poverty alleviation is the most vital part of our national development policies," he said while inaugurating a two-day workshop on "Strategies for Poverty Eradication" at a hotel in the city. Chaired by the Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Marghub Morshed, the function was addressed, among others, by the State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Birbikram and Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Mufazzal Hossain. The LGRD minister said reduction of poverty will be achieved through expansion of productive employment and income generating activities, human resources development and skill formation, greater participation of women and youth in the development process. In fact the fifth five-year plan takes a comprehensive view on rural poverty, he said. Zillur Rahman said the government has allocated Tk 87,000 million for rural development in the fifth five year plan where as Tk 19,600 million was allocated in the previous five year plan. He said the gigantic task of rural development requires well-defined strategies and concerted efforts by efficient organisations, such as ministries as well as other government and non-government agencies. The LGRD Minister said more than one third of the world's population live in absolute poverty and in Bangladesh half of its population is still living below the poverty line. He said our first government under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started poverty alleviation movement immediately after liberation of the country. The minister said we feel encouraged to see that food production has reached almost to the level of self-sufficiency, population growth has slowed down, access to safe drinking water has increased, primary education is expanding rapidly with significant increase in literacy rate and rural women are gaining economic and social freedom. These have been achieved through decades of endeavours by both government and non-government organisations, he added. State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said an integrated effort is required to fight against poverty. "He said we have to utilise the resources of the country carefully for developing the lot of the rural people. Maya further said that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has laid emphasis on the programmes for eradicating poverty. A total of 34 officers from different government, non-government and donor agencies are participating in the workshop. Qamrul Islam Siddique, chief engineer, LGED and Brian Grover, programme manager UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme signed a MOU on water and sanitation programme yesterday at the LGED headquarter in the city.

Govt to take steps to compensate flood-hit people

SYLHET, Jun 14: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said the government is committed to taking necessary steps to compensate the flood-affected people and resolve flood problems, reports BSS. He said this while addressing a district development and disaster management coordination meeting in the conference room of the deputy commissioner here yesterday. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukdar Abdul Khaleq attended the meeting as special guest. The foreign minister said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working for the welfare of people, ensuring the best use of public resources. The efforts of the government are aimed at changing the lot of the people economically through ensuring the politics of transparency, he said. The minister said the government has achieved the confidence of the foreigners, including donor agencies by infusing dynamism in decision-making. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukdar Abdul Khaleq directed the concerned officials to prepare an appropriate list of the flood-affected people. He said VGF cards will be given to each of the flood affected family for two months, a rehabilitation programme will be taken for the flood-affected people, he assured. Later, the minister visited eight thanas, affected by floods, to see the condition of the distressed people.

BCIC incurs Tk 105 cr loss in this fiscal

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed on Saturday urged the officers and employees of public sector industrial units to work with honesty, dedication and perseverance to make the enterprises dynamic and profitable, reports BSS. Speaking as the chief guest at a meeting of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) Officers Welfare Association at BCIC auditorium in the city, the minister said the corporations in the public sector were gradually becoming profitable units by reducing losses. Tofael said the BCIC incurred a loss of Tk 105 crore in the current financial year as against Tk 237 crore last fiscal. The loss of the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation stood at Tk four crore this year as against Tk 53 crore the previous year, he added. He said the BCIC incurred a loss of Tk 70 crore in the current fiscal only in the newspaper sector. The government, he said, has taken several steps in the proposed national budget to make up the losses. Speaking in support of all, irrespective of party affiliations and opinions, in the disinvestment programme, he said the disinvestment process is being implemented for the development of public sector enterprises. The minister said a cement factory under private initiative would be set up on the Chhatk Cement Factory premises.

LGED, UNDP sign MOU

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the LGED headquarters yesterday, says a press release. The objectives of this MOU are to identify means of tackling the urban sanitation challenge and in determining mechanisms for institutional reforms.

DMC Alumni Assoc '48 donates Tk 3 lakh to DU for trust fund

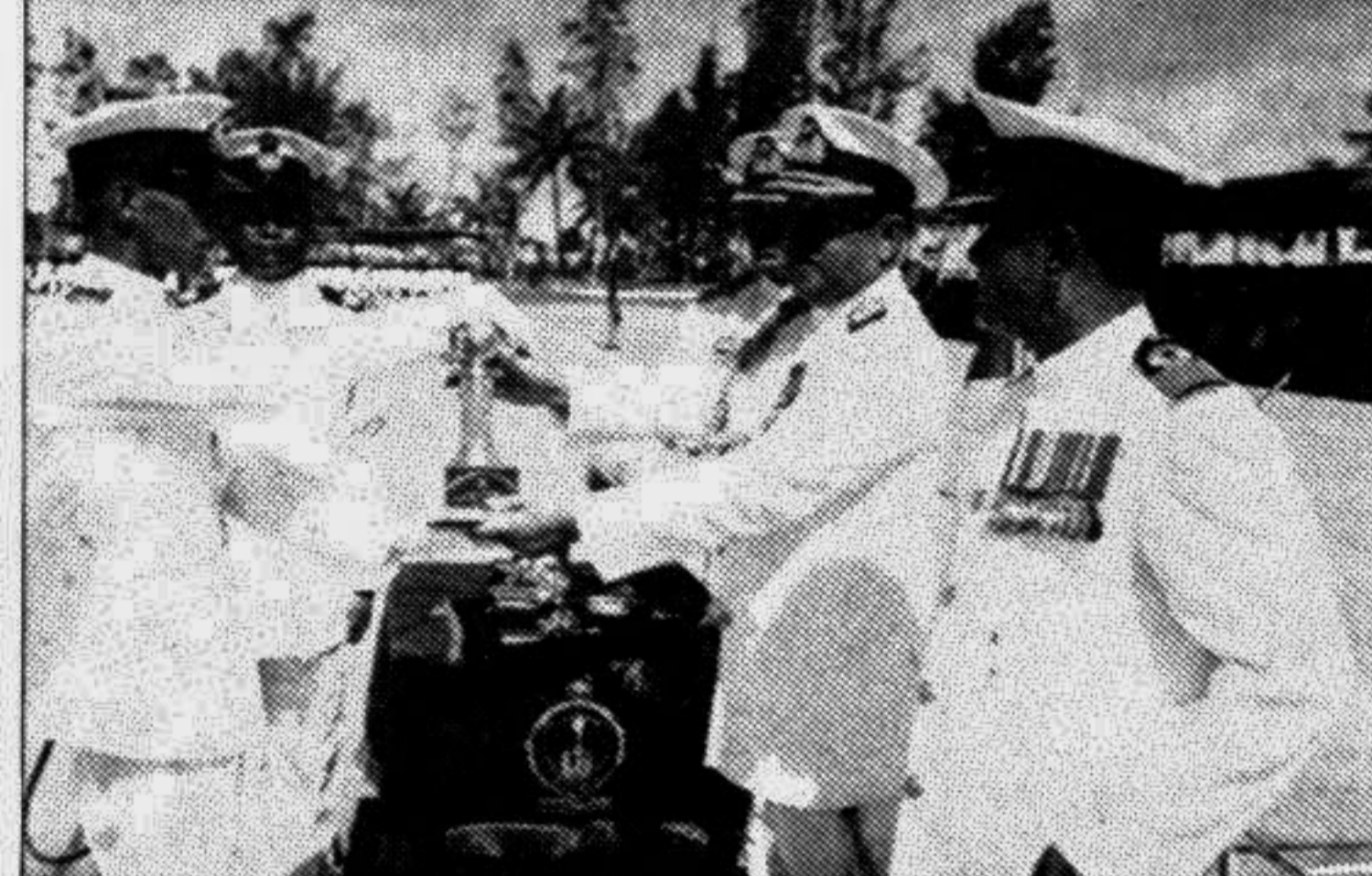
President of "Dhaka Medical College 1948 Alumni Association" Major General (Retd) Dr K M Seraj Jannat and general secretary Dr Hamidur Rahman, yesterday handed over a cheque for taka three lakh on behalf of the association, to the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, at his office for constitution of a trust fund in the name of the association in Dhaka University, reports BSS. Out of the income of this fund, three "Dhaka Medical College 1948 Alumni Association Gold Medals" will be given every year to three students securing the highest marks in Medicine, Surgery and gynaecology in MBBS final examinations from any medical college under Dhaka University. Receiving the cheque, the Vice-Chancellor thanked the association for this generous donation. The function was also attended, among others, by Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Principal of Dhaka Medical College Professor A B M Ahsanullah.

Death of Daud Khan Majlis condoled

Zaglul A Chowdhury and Nadeem Quadri, president and general secretary of the Overseas Correspondent Association of Bangladesh (OCA), have expressed deep shock at the demise of veteran journalist and broadcaster Daud Khan Majlis, reports BSS. In a statement yesterday they said late Majlis earned praise for the country by ably working for the foreign media like Hong Kong's "Far Eastern Economic Review," London's "Financial Times" and lately for Voice of America (VOA), Washington. The OCA president and general secretary expressed deep sympathy for the family members of late Majlis. Hasan Shabir and Farid Hossain, president and secretary general of the Commonwealth Journalists' Association (CJA), Bangladesh branch, have condoled the death of eminent journalist and broadcaster Daud Khan Majlis. The CJA expressed heartfelt sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Navy personnel urged to maintain congenial atmosphere

CHITTAGONG, June 14: Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam yesterday called upon the BN personnel to maintain the prevailing congenial atmosphere for effective exploitation of the marine resources which are inextricably linked with the overall economic development of the country, reports BSS. The Navy Chief was addressing the President's Parade marking the commissioning of a batch of midshipmen of the Bangladesh Navy at the Naval Academy parade ground at Patenga this morning. Admiral Islam inspected the smartly turned out parade and took the salute at the impressive march past. He distributed the Bachelor of Science degree certificates conferred upon the midshipmen by the National University and handed over medals and trophies to the outstanding midshipmen. Midshipman M A Zaman (x) BN was adjudged the best all-round midshipman and was awarded the coveted cup of the Chief of Naval Staff. He also bagged the Osmany Gold Medal for his proficiency in academic subjects. Midshipman M J U Chowdhury (x) BN received the gold medal of the Chief of Naval Staff for his feats in professional subjects. The Navy Chief called upon the newly-commissioned officers to attain high standards of professional competence, to ensure un-hindered exploitation of the marine resources and stop the menace of smuggling and other unlawful activities in the coastal areas with an iron hand. Paying rich tributes to the memory of the martyrs of the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971, Admiral Islam said members of the armed forces along with the patriotic people had fought shoulder to shoulder which ultimately paved the way for liberation. He reminded the newly commissioned officers that our predecessors had set high examples of putting duty before self and it should be their endeavour to live up to that standard. The Navy Chief directed them to build themselves as true military leaders and urged them to make proper utilisation of man and machine to be put under their command in future. The spectacular parade was witnessed, among others, by local members of the parliament, members of the foreign diplomatic missions in Bangladesh, local area commander of the Bangladesh Army Major General Abu Kaisar Fazlul Kabir, high civil and military officials and guardians of the midshipmen. On his arrival at the parade ground, Admiral Islam was received by the commodore commanding Chittagong, Commodore AKM Azad and Commanding Officer of the Naval Academy Captain D M Rahman BN.



Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam giving away the trophy to the best all-round Midshipman at the President's Parade marking the commissioning of a batch of Midshipmen of Bangladesh Navy at the Naval Academy parade ground at Patenga in Chittagong on Sunday. — ISPR photo

The Daily Star TV Guide

Table with TV program listings for Monday 15th June, including channels like BTV, BBC, STAR PLUS, STAR MOVIES, PTV, ZEE TV, ZEE CINEMA, ESPN, STAR SPORTS, and TNT CARTOON S.