

### Sweden-Bangladesh Trust Fund to give travel allowance to 215 students

Sweden-Bangladesh Trust Fund will give travel allowance to 215 students for higher education abroad, reports UNB.

The amount will be 75 per cent of a one-way ticket price to the student's selected country to study at post-graduate or under graduate levels.

The decision was taken at the 22nd meeting of the trust's standing committee Wednesday. Presided over by Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, the meeting was held at the conference room of the Finance Ministry.

The committee granted the allocation for 215 students out of 299 applications.

Every year the trust gives the opportunity to a number of students who go abroad for higher education.

The meeting underscored the need for increasing the income of the trust to expand such opportunities for students.

It decided to shift the trust's seven crore taka from Bangladesh Bank to the state-run banks so that the trust can avail more interests.

Committee members Establishment Secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Farid, Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin, Secretary to the Prime Minister Jakia Akhter Chowdhury, Economic Relations Division Dr Mashur Rahman, former BPSB Chairman Moidul Islam attended the meeting.

### Shahabuddin greets President of Singapore

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday felicitated Ong Teng Cheong, President of Singapore, on the occasion of its National Day, reports UNB.

The President wished him good health and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Singapore.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted Prime Minister of Singapore Goh Chok Tong on the same occasion.

The Prime Minister expressed her confidence that the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries would further be strengthened and consolidated in the days ahead.

### Installation ceremony of Ctg Rotary club

The 11th installation ceremony and 511th weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Chittagong Downtown was held at BNSB Auditorium in Chittagong recently, said a press release.

Club members, Rotary District officials and Rotarian M A Awwal, District Governor, District 3280, Bangladesh, attended the function.

The outgoing President Rtn Syed Ahsanuddin Ahmed felicitated the new President M Mamdhuul Anam Siddiqui and handed over the President's Collar and Club Charter Certificate.

Rtn Siddiqui, in his address, pledged to continue all the dedicated services of the club towards the community. He sought hearty cooperation from all his club members.

### Critical cardiac operation performed in city

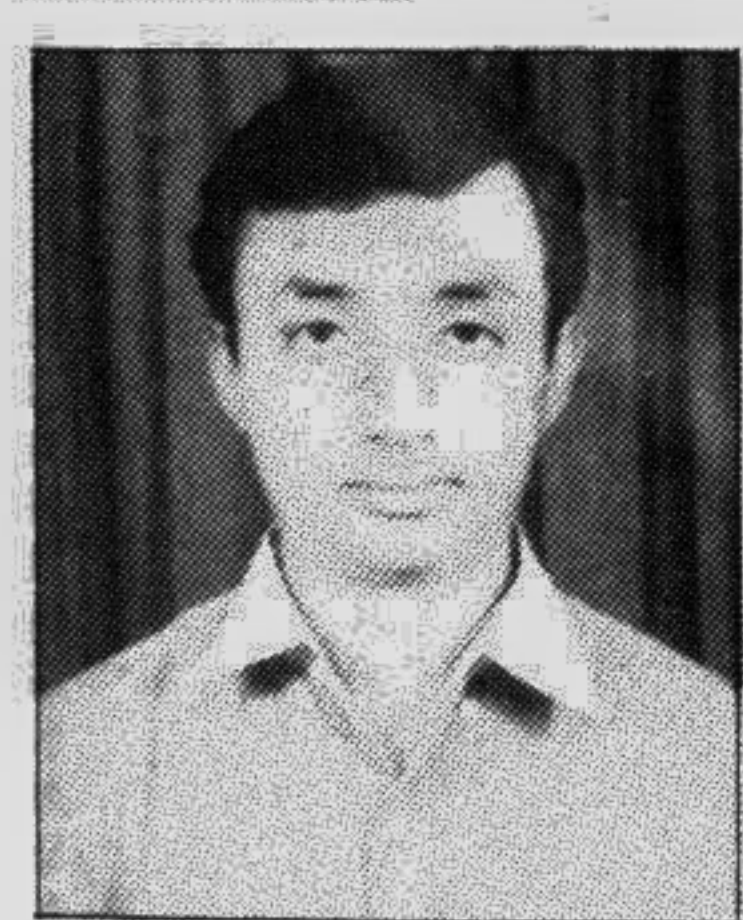
By Staff Correspondent

A critical cardiac operation to remove heart blocks — Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) — was successfully done at the Tairunessa Memorial Medical Centre (TMMC) recently, said a press release yesterday.

The surgery was performed by Dr Wahidur Rahman, a renowned cardiac interventionist of Broussais University Hospital, France.

The patient who underwent the operation is safe and is expected to recover shortly, the release said.

The complicated operation was done at a private sector hospital for the first time in the country. Dr Wahid is one of the top 100 cardiac interventionists selected from all over Europe by the World Health Organisation, the release added.



### First class first

Muhammad Ekramul Haque, student of Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, stood first class first in the LLB (Hons) final examination of 1996, says a press release.

He is the third son of Alhaj Sultan Uddin Ahmed, former Deputy General Manager of Titas Gas Company.



The Buddhist community brought out a peace procession commemorating Hiroshima Day '98 in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Bangladesh for nuclear arms-free world: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said Bangladesh wants to see a world free from nuclear weapons and has been consistently advocating to achieve this objective, reports BSS.

The foreign minister was speaking at a discussion meeting organised to mark the Hiroshima Day, by the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) in the city yesterday.

The meeting, chaired by Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, BMA president, was addressed, among others, by BMA secretary general Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Dr Md Moazzem Hossain, chairman, Hiroshima Day '98 Celebration Committee. Dr Sarwar Ali, former secretary general of BMA, read out the keynote paper on "South Asia: Potential nuclear flash point."

BMA is a member of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

Samad Azad said after the liberation, Bangabandhu as the leader of the new-born nation, voiced opposition to nuclear weapons both at the United Nations and the Non-Aligned summit. Bangladesh had also stated that the fund spent for the destruction of humanity be diverted for health-care and human resources development, he said.

### Arrest the killers of Ahad, Mizan, BCL leaders demand

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders at a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanded trial of those who killed two leaders of BCL Laksham Faizunnesa College Unit, Comilla, recently, reports BSS.

Speaking at the rally, the BCL leaders blamed the Jamaat-Shibir for killing Ahad and Mizan and seriously injuring another two leaders. BCL general secretary Ishaque Ali Khan Panna, vice-president Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan, joint secretary Shahjahan Alam Saju, Ajoy Kor Khokon and Dhaka University unit president Bahadur Bepary addressed the rally in front of the DUCSU building.

The leaders urged the law enforcing agencies to arrest immediately those Shibir activists responsible for killing the BCL leaders.

Meanwhile, a mourning procession was brought out on the campus, organised by Suryasen Hall unit of Dhaka University as part of the month-long programme of the national executive committee in observance of the National Mourning Day on August 15.

In his presidential speech, Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub said as a member of IPPNW, BMA would continue its efforts to unite people against nuclear weapons and help attain nuclear disarmament.



The 11th installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Chittagong Downtown was held recently.

### 'Law reform needed to contain abuse of children, women'

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury yesterday described traditional 'mindset' and 'outlook' as the main causes for women and children abuse in different countries of the world including Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Reform of the law are essential in this regard, he said while speaking at a seminar on "Women and children abuse in Bangladesh: Context and its redress" in the city.

Human Rights International (HRI), Bangladesh, organised the seminar at the Jatiya Press Club.

Justice K M Sobhan presided over the seminar while Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Barister Amirul Islam, Awami League Presidium member Dr Selim, MP, and BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury

spoke on the occasion. Assistant Professor of the Department of Sociology of Dhaka University Saadeka Halim presented the key-note paper.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury said women and children abuse have emerged as an important issue of society. "The government alone cannot curb the problem," he said, adding that all must have to come forward with commitment to deter recurrence of the social problem.

He said "accountability" of professionals, including doctors and law enforcing agency personnel, is a must to ensure the rights of women and children in the country.

Prof Azad Chowdhury said the government will have to create awareness among people so that they treat women as human beings.

### 4 new tiger cubs born at Mirpur zoo

Doctors and keepers at the Mirpur National Zoo in the city are working hard to ensure the survival of four new-borne Royal Bengal tiger cubs, zoo keepers said, reports BSS.

The cubs' mother, Mamata, is being fed a high-calorie diet and all four cubs, along with their mother, are being kept in separate rooms away from their father, Arjun, who is notorious for his bad temper, zoo officials said.

We are yet to determine the gender of the tiger cubs as they are still sucking their mother's milk," an official said.

The zoo officials said many other animal babies were born inside the zoo in the last couple of weeks, including two male and one female leopards, six python snakes, one mandril (baboon), one water buck deer, one sambar deer and four peafowls.

### Red Crescent society training course ends

A four-day training course on "tracing and dissemination", jointly organised by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and International Committee of Red Cross, ended in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Twentyone members of Youth Red Crescent and Kharachhari, Bandarban, Kishoreganj and Chandpur units of the society attended the course.

The course was aimed at giving ideas about the process of search operation and family unification of those who were separated during natural calamities, internal unrest and social problems, said a press release.

On the concluding day of the course, Major (ret'd) All Hasan Qurashi, Secretary General of the society, distributed certificates among the participants.

### Dhaka committed to upholding human rights

Bangladesh being a pluralist democracy is committed to upholding human rights, rule of law and good governance, reports BSS.

This was stated on Wednesday by Ambassador Iftikhar Chowdhury at the 50th session of the United Nations sub-commission on the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities' currently taking place in Geneva.

He is leading the Bangladesh delegation, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Ambassador Iftikhar Chowdhury said, "We in Bangladesh view human rights in holistic terms and believe strongly in the inseparable link that exists between democracy, rule of law, social justice, alleviation of poverty and overall development."

He said, "The essence of democracy to us is not simply the rule of majority but a system where the voice of the minority is also heard."

Ambassador Chowdhury apprised the sub-commission of the developments in the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts accord. He said that the accord has earned international acclaim as a model for peaceful resolution of protracted insurgency.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to this cause is total and unequivocal," he said.

The 50th session of the sub-commission which commenced on August 3 will continue throughout the month.

### DU programmes on 'National Edn Week'

Dhaka University has drawn up an elaborate programme to observe the 'National Education Week', reports UNB.

The programmes include discussion meeting, rally and competitions on 14 events, including essay writing, extempore speech, debating, recitation of the self-composed poems, songs and dance.

The programmes were taken up at a meeting held yesterday with Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

A number of sub-committees were formed at the meeting to supervise the competitions, said a DU press release.

Students have been asked to apply through their respective hall provosts, chairmen or directors of their departments to the authorities concerned by August 10. One student is eligible to apply only for two events.

The prize distribution ceremony will be held at the TSC auditorium on August 22.

A colourful rally will also be brought out on the day. DU Senate and Syndicate members, teachers, officers and employees will join the rally.

### Hiroshima Day observed

Various socio-cultural organisations yesterday observed the Hiroshima Day through holding peace rallies in the city to commemorate the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities in Japan by atomic bombs during the second world war, reports UNB.

Wearing white-ribbon, marchers paraded through the streets to protest nuclear tests and nuclear warfare.

Democracywatch, an NGO, brought out a peace procession in the city. The organisation handed over memoranda to the High Commissioners of India and Pakistan, and the Resident Representative of the United Nations.

In the memorandum, Democracywatch urged Pakistan and India to sign the CTBT and ease tension in the region.

A white-ribbon campaign was launched by PROBE news agency yesterday in line with other countries of the sub-continent.

The agency distributed white ribbons and posters depicting the effects of nuclear warfare among school children and different institutions in the city.

The campaign was designed to create awareness among the people, particularly the young generation, about the annihilating effect of nuclear warfare.

The peace marchers wore white-ribbons in memory of the Hiroshima bomb. They will stage similar demonstration on August 9 in memory of the destruction of Nagasaki.

The PROBE is also collaborating with the Japan-based World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in a world-wide signature campaign against nuclear warfare.

### Bangladeshi student honoured



Syeda Samanra Huq, an eighth grade student of H M Bailey Middle School, West Haven, Connecticut, USA, has received the President's Award For Academic Excellence, 1998. This award is given to one boy and one girl from each state in recognition of outstanding academic achievements, says a press release.

Syeda has also been awarded the Certificate for Student Leadership by the Connecticut Association of Schools.

She is the only daughter of Dr Syed Bazul Huq, Professor of Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh.

### Private terminal 'Ctg Port employees, dock workers won't lose jobs'

The employees and dock labourers of Chittagong Port would not lose their job following the setting up of private container terminals at Patenga and Pangaon in Dhaka, Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury said in Dhaka yesterday.

Moreover, the private container terminals will help employ directly and indirectly at least 4,000 and 15,000 people respectively, he told BSS yesterday.

The government has permitted Stevedoring Services of America (SSA), a foreign joint venture with Bangladesh's Orient Maritime Limited, to develop container ports at Patenga in Chittagong and Pangaon in Dhaka to speed up container services as well as to mitigate the growing demand of container facilities in Chittagong Port.

The government has also taken necessary steps to set up new mooring container terminal at a cost of Taka 1100 crore, including Taka 400 crore for modern equipment, said Saber

Hossain Chowdhury, who is in charge of Chittagong and Mongla Ports.

The trade union leaders including Jatiya Sramik League (CBA) have been opposing the setting up of private container terminal and they announced demanding cancellation of such permission.

The trade union leaders have been acting on some baseless ideas, the deputy minister said, adding that the private port in any way would not affect the interest of Chittagong Port and its workers.

Regarding the strike programme by the trade union leaders, he said, "we have the responsibility to keep the port operational in the greater interest of national trade and economy."

The deputy minister, who has been exchanging views with the labour leaders, said the dialogue would continue to find out a solution.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury said that he would sit once a week in Chittagong to look into

the problems of the port as well as to improve transparency between the government and port users and labourers.

Chittagong Port has been facing congestion problems for the last few years and the container handling is growing significantly day by day, he said, adding that the capacity of container handling would go up to 3.80 lakh from 1.90 lakh after the construction of the new mooring container terminal by 2002.

But the total demand for container handling would be more than 8 lakh, of which the private terminal would be able to handle around three lakh containers and the remaining five lakh would be handled by the existing and under construction new mooring container terminals.

The port users and chambers officials said that vested interest groups were fuelling the labour unrest. They urged the government to go ahead with the plan to construct the private terminal and ensure congenial atmosphere in the port.

### Remove bureaucratic tangles for rapid growth of industries : Zillur

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has strongly pleaded for mutual understanding among political parties and removing bureaucratic tangles for rapid development of local industries, reports UNB.

He was expressing views with a 40-member BCI delegation at the conference room of the LGRD Ministry yesterday.

Zillur said the government is constructing roads, bridges, culverts and developing "growth" centres on a priority basis in the remote areas for setting up new industries in those areas.

The delegation, led by BCI president Sharif M Afzal, called for rescinding the cyclic bank interest rate, introducing easier banking system and infrastructural opportunities for the export-oriented industries and withdrawal of import duty on equipment.

They also urged for creating a congenial atmosphere for investment and taking measures to protect the local industries by the year 2005.

The delegation members

stressed the need for mutual understanding among the political parties in the greater interest of economic progress of the nation.

Underscoring the need for development of the agriculture sector, they said more agro-processing industries should be established for the country's overall development.

Referring to the success of EPZs, the delegation members said if other sectors get the opportunities like EPZs, they will also emerge as profitable ones.

They identified hartal, barricade, deteriorating law and order situation, political unrest and terrorism as the main impediments to rapid industrialisation.

The minister assured the delegation of placing the issues at cabinet meeting.

The delegation members included BCI vice president Rashid Moudud Khan, Rajeb Shaif, Golam Dastagir Gazi, Tajul Islam, Liaquat Ali Bhuyian, Omar Faruk Chowdhury, Ashraf Haq, Abdur Rashid, M A Kamal and Khurshid Azam.

### Govt sanctions more relief for flood-affected people

The government yesterday allocated more relief materials for the flood-affected people of Mymensingh, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Faridpur, Munshiganj, Dhaka and Laxmipur districts, reports UNB.

The Disaster Management and Relief Ministry sanctioned Tk 1.5 lakh for Dhaka district, Tk one lakh each for Mymensingh, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Faridpur and Munshiganj districts and Tk 50,000 for Laxmipur district.

Besides, 100 MT of rice have been allocated each for Mymensingh, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Faridpur and Munshiganj districts, 150 MT for Dhaka and 50 MT for Laxmipur, said an official handout.

The ministry has so far sanctioned Tk 1.55 crore, 31,750 MT of rice, 1,36,940 pieces of sarres, 26,000 pieces of tunjls, 33,500 pieces of old clothes, 14,000 metre cloths, 6,400 tins of biscuits and dry foods.

BSS adds: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday distributed relief materials among the flood victims at different relief camps in the city, a BDR press release said.

More than 3000 flood victims at Hajaribagh Girls High School, Ganok Tuli Primary School, Bhagolpur Government Primary School and Shaheed Anwar Girls High School camps were provided with food and drinks by BDR personnel.

### Muktijoddha Sangsad

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 6: The Narayanganj district unit command of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad has undertaken a seven-day massive flood relief operation in the worst hit seven unions of Fatullah thana in the district, reports BSS.

Chairman of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad central command council principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury inaugurated the programme today by distributing rice among the flood-hit people at Panchaboti under Enayettanagar union.

On the first day, 5 kg of rice per family was distributed among 320 flood-affected families.



A medical team of Bangladesh Navy provided medical assistance to the flood-affected people at Mugdapara in the city yesterday. — ISPR photo



Narayanganj district unit command of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad distributed relief among flood victims at Panchaboti yesterday.

### Rabindranath's death anniversary observed

The 57th death anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed yesterday with traditional fervour and due honour, reports BSS.

In observance of the day, which falls on the 22nd of the Bengali month Sraban, socio-cultural organisations organised elaborate programme, which included discussions, cultural functions, recitations and musical soires. Bangladesh Betar and Television aired special programmes projecting the life and works of the great poet.

In the city, Bangla Academy held a seminar, which was presided over by Dr Zillur Rahman. The keynote paper on "Tagore's letters" was presented by Dr Bhuiyan Iqbal of Chittagong University, while novelist-journalist Rahat Khan and Prof Hanif Rashid took part in the discussion.

The Shilpakala Academy also organised a seminar and cultural function at its auditorium.

Bulbul Lalitakala Academy also arranged a discussion and a cultural function.

Programmes were also organised in Selaidaha of Kushinagar, Pabna and Shadpur of Pabna, where the Nobel Laureate spent a considerable time of his life.

### Air-conditioned bus service in Ctg soon

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: Air-conditioned buses will be launched in the port city soon to provide better services to the passengers, reports UNB.

Under the planned service, a bus will leave Chittagong Airport every hour and reach Bahaddarhat terminal after parading the town.

Chittagong City Corporation and Nitol Motors Ltd signed an agreement to this effect here today.

### Accused in Latif murder case held

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 6: Police arrested a main accused in the sensational Latif murder case of Jamtali, Dighinala here Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police arrested Kantomoni Kathari, 45, from the thana parishad premises at about 11 am.

Abdul Latif was beheaded over a land dispute on Sunday. Police are yet to recover the severed head of the victim.

### Iqbal Sobhan

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with journalist union activities, social and human rights organisations. He was elected twice as the General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and led DUJ as President for three terms. He was elected for second term as the President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), the apex body of the journalist unions in the country. He was member of the Wage Board for Journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies. He was also a member of Bangladesh Film Censor Board and National Health Policy and Education Policy Draft Committee.

At present, Chowdhury is a member of the Syndicate of Chittagong University and Bangabandhu Medical University, adviser of Bangladesh National UNESCO Club, Society for Rule of Law and Bangladesh Anti-Drug Federation of NGOs, member of Bangladesh Press Council, Chairman of Mirpur Rotary High School and Media Committee of Bangladesh Rotary International District. He is the first from South Asia to be elected as Vice-President of UN-affiliated International Federation of Non-government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO), the Kuala Lumpur-based largest anti-drug NGO.

Born in 1949, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury hails from Feni and had his education in Public Administration in Dhaka University.