



Members of Kranti Sangskritik Goshthi rendering songs at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of the Ekushey programme. — Star photo

## What's on today . . .

**Closing ceremony :** The closing ceremony of the 5-day Third International Congress on Bengal Art will be held. Organiser: International Centre for Study of Bengal Art. Venue: BRAC Centre Inn, BRAC Tower, Mohakhali. Time: 5 pm.

**Film show :** 'Lisbon Story' by Wim Wenders (Germany) and 'Shakespeare in Love' by John Madden (USA) will be screened on the concluding day of a session on contemporary world cinema, organised by the Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 5 pm and 7 pm respectively.

**Discussion :** A discussion on 'development of Bangla poetry' and a poetry recitation session will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh-India Friendship Society. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, Dhanmondi.

**Discussion on Ekushey:** Zia Academy has arranged a discussion to commemorate Amar-Ekushey. Venue: WAPDA auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 4 pm.

## Municipal polls at a glance

The municipal elections across the country will be held from February 23 to 25, reports UNB.

Following is the fact file of the municipal election:

Total municipality: 182  
Election to be held: 137  
Postponed for cases: 28  
Tenure not expired: 7  
Dispute delimitation: 10  
Districts involved in the polls: 56  
Districts out of polls: 8 (Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Manikganj, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Sylhet and Magura).

Thanas involved in the polls: 133  
Total wards: 1,305  
Wards reserved for women: 435  
Total chairman posts: 137  
Total commissioner posts: 1,740  
Total general commissioner posts: 1,305  
Total woman commissioner posts: 435  
Returning Officers: 56  
Assistant Returning Officers: 137 (District Election Officers 47, TNO 87).

Total voters: 31,99,433  
Male voters: 16,69,715  
Female voters: 14,29,718  
Polling centres: 2,091  
Polling booths: 9,430  
Election to be held on Feb 23: 54 municipalities  
Election to be held on Feb 24: 33 municipalities  
Election to be held on Feb 25: 50 municipalities  
Total candidates: 8,169  
Chairman candidates: 520  
Commissioner candidates: 5,964  
Woman commissioner candidates: 1,685  
Elected uncontested: 42 chairmen, 26 commissioners and 11 woman commissioners.  
Average voters per centre: 1,530.

## BUET reunion

The first reunion and annual general meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association of BUET was held yesterday, reports UNB.

BUET Vice-Chancellor Dr Nooruddin Ahmed inaugurated the meet as chief guest. Over 400 alumni Mechanical Engineers participated in the daylong function.

Election to the Executive Committee of the association was held in the AGM, rounded off with a cultural function.

## Programmes on Ekushey in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 19: Shaheed Dibash commemorating the sacrifices of the Language Movement martyrs will be observed here on February 21 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Political parties including Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party, educational institutions, socio-cultural organisations and trade unions have arranged elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Ekushey Mela Parishad began a fortnight-long programme at the Central Shaheed Minar and Muslim Institute Hall premises on February 14.

Discussion on the significance of February 21 and the Language Movement of 1952, cultural and literary functions, including recitation of poems, musical sessions, drawing competitions, are among the programmes of the Ekushey Mela.

Chittagong University has planned its own programmes, including special prayers at mosques and mandirs seeking eternal peace of the Language Movement martyrs.

A discussion on the significance of the day will be held at the Shaheed Minar with Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan in the chair. An essay competition on 'Bangali Jatiyatabad-0-Ekushey Chetona' will also be held on the occasion.

Hoisting of national flag at half-mast, bare-foot processions, placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, discussions and cultural functions are other programmes of the day.

## Clash over land Youth killed in Ishwardi, 3 hurt

ISHWARDI, Feb 19: A youth was killed and three others sustained wounds in a clash over land dispute at Maladuli union on Thursday, reports APB.

The victim was identified as Jsmail, 25, son of one Hashem of Laxmikholia village.

Fatally injured Abdus Samad, 28, was being treated at Ishwardi Thana Complex.

A case was filed with local police. Police arrested two women — Jaida Khatun, 25, and Aisha Khatun, 30, in this connection.



## Sharmeen's art exhibition in Kathmandu

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth solo exhibition of art by Laila Sharmeen will be held in the capital of Nepal this week.

The art works of Sharmeen would be put on display from February 22 through 28 at the gallery of Nepal Association of Fine Arts (NAFA) in Kathmandu.

"My artistic desire is to capture and reveal the innocence of a child not looking through his eyes", this is how Sharmeen described her artistic passion.

Sharmeen ended her academic endeavour in printmaking from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, almost a decade ago.

She had her some of earlier shows, both solo and in group, in Japan, New Delhi, Calcutta, Macedonia, and at Asian Art Biennial and National Art Exhibition in Dhaka.

## ISESCO research aid for lecturer

By Staff Correspondent

Kamrul Alam Khan, Lecturer of Physics in Dhaka College, has been awarded ISESCO Research Aid for conducting research on solar energy, says a press release.

Kamrul Alam completed his Ph.D in solar energy from Dhaka University and is active in various scientific and cultural organisations, the release said.

He is also the founder director of Solar Energy Research Centre in Dhaka College, Dhaka.

## Khoka warns of 'stern action' against obstruction during hartals

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP has warned of giving a befitting reply to the Awami 'terrorists' if they try to obstruct the opposition sponsored programmes during the three-day country-wide hartal beginning Tuesday.

He sounded such warning while discussing with the party leaders and activists on hartal yesterday at his residence.

Khoka observed that Prime Minister, Ministers, MPs and leaders of the ruling Awami League became mad after the call of the three-day hartal that coincides with the municipal polls.

"They (AL) became imbalanced and threatening to resist the hartal by its party terrorists and hired goons," the BNP leader alleged and said that from now BNP activists would not allow the terrorists to create violence in the streets.

He said the opposition parties are now prepared to resist the ruling party's terrorists as well as to give them a befitting reply. Khoka urged the party men to make the hartals a complete success.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of city BNP and its front organisations will be held today at 7 pm at the central office of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal.

City unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka will preside over the meeting.

All joint convenors of city unit, presidents and general secretaries of all thana units, BNP supported ward commissioners and presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations have been asked to attend the meeting, said a press release.

## Zoological Society AGM now Apr 18

The date of Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh has been shifted from February 28 to April 18 due to unavoidable reasons, says a press release.

AGM and Conference will be held at the University of Dhaka. All zoologists are requested to attend the programme.



## Death anniversary of Shamsuzzoha today

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 19: The 12th death anniversary of A K M Shamsuzzoha, one of the founder-members of Awami League, language movement veteran and ex-member of Gano Parishad and Jatiya Sangsad, will be observed tomorrow in a befitting manner.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include discussion meeting, cultural function, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, destitute feeding, mourning procession and cricket tournament.

District Sports Association has organised 'A K M Shamsuzzoha First Division Cricket Tournament' in memory of the late leader. State Minister for Jute A K Fazlul Huq inaugurated the tourney at local Osmani stadium today.

A mourning procession will be brought out from the district AL office tomorrow.

And the milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Hira Mahal, north Chasara, after Asr prayers.

## PM addresses Chhayanaut reunion

# Govt keen to provide more help for flourishing culture

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is trying to create an environment where Bengali culture and heritage can flourish without interruptions by bigots, reports UNB.

"Our target is to develop the country on all fronts, including literature and culture, so that the nation could take its place in world arena with due honour and dignity," she said addressing the reunion programme of Chhayanaut at Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon.

Chhayanaut, a leading cultural organisation of the country, which produced lot of renowned artists for the nation, is working to uphold the Bengali culture and heritage and rear a real Bengalee.

The green grounds of a small house at Dhanmondi was filled with the students of yesteryears and of the present sessions of the traditional cultural institution established in 1961.

The function was led in by a song and dance performed by the troupes of the organisation and punctuated with speeches and songs.

Hasina, attired in Jamdani sari, joined the function and reminisced the days when she was a student of Chhayanaut trying to be a violin artiste.

Addressing the cordial and

colourful function, the Prime Minister said for flourishing culture state patronage is very important and the present government is very much willing to extend more assistance in this regard.

Mentioning some steps taken by the present government in this regard, she said that this nation had sacrificed blood for achieving the right to language during alien rule and earned independence through a bloody war. The nation will also undertake all efforts for enriching its cultural heritage.

Hasina said the government had already taken a number of steps for advancement of Bengali civilisation and culture and mentioned a cultural ring around Shilpakala Academy, Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy which stand in a cluster.

She said the government had implemented 16 development projects in the cultural sector while 24 others were awaiting approval.

The government is constructing Shilpakala Academy branches in every district town to spread exercise of culture and every corner of the country and taking step to leave a rich cultural heritage for the next generation.

Hasina said there was resis-

tance against Bengali culture when the nation did not get freedom, but even now sometimes some resistance crops up in variegated forms.

Referring to the conferring of Desikottoma degree by the Biswa Bharati University of West Bengal on her, she said that function was held in their own style, which was hailed with adverse criticisms by some quarters in the country.

Every citizen has the right to practise his own culture, some quarters do not want to understand difference between culture and religion.

"How come that as Bengalee we cannot practise our culture," she wondered, emphasising the need for practice of Bengali culture and measures for its uplift for the benefit of the next generation.

The function was also addressed by its Principal Sanjida Khatun, former student Hosne Ara Chowdhury, Ifat Ara Dewan and General Secretary Khairul Anam. Vice-president of the organisation Waheedul Huq presided over the function.

Elderly poet Sufia Kamal who was scheduled to chair the function could not attend it for ailment. She sent a message, which was read out by Selina Meleq Chowdhury.



Health Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf (2nd R) presenting a crest to renowned orthopaedic surgeon Dr Ronald Garst (R) at a civic reception held at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday. Also present are (from L to R) Prof Syed Modasser Ali and Prof Shahidul Alam, director of the hospital. — Star photo

## Dr. Garst accorded civic reception

By Staff Correspondent

US Orthopaedic surgeon Professor Ronald J Garst was accorded a civic reception at Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday.

Salah Uddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, presented a special crest to Professor Garst at the ceremony. Dr Garst had made a great contribution to establish the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Centre (Pangu Hospital).

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said, "We have decided to open a casualty ward named after Dr J Garst at the Suhrawardy Hospital to honour him."

Recalling the contributions of Dr Garst who helped train physicians in the country, the minister said that the existing facilities at the rehabilitation centre are not satisfactory, but we are happy to see that the country has so many doctors specially trained in orthopaedic.

Dr Garst, recalling the days when he started to set up the rehabilitation centre specially for the wounded freedom fighters, said, "I am so happy today to see the centre work so wonderfully. It was God who had sent me and my wife for the mission of helping the war victims and establishing the centre."

Others who spoke on the occasion were Professor Q Shahidul Alam, director, Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, Dr S A Malek, Political Adviser to PM, and Professor Syed Modasser Ali.

Later, Dr Garst inaugurated a casualty ward named after him on the first floor of the 300-bed Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital.

## Foundation stone of fire station laid at Bera

PABNA, Feb 19: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed today said the country has achieved democratic rights under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

"The opposition parties want to snatch away the people's franchise on the pretext of boycotting the pourasabha polls, but the people are firm to resist their conspiracy," he said while speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of a fire service and civil defence station at Bera thana in Pabna district, a PD handout said.

The station would be built at a cost of about Taka one crore under the supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD).

The state minister said the people have rejected the destructive and anti-democratic politics of the opposition parties. "So the opposition parties have chosen the politics of killing, anarchy and conspiracy," he said.

Sayed said the opposition parties have been engaged in conspiracy in the name of hartal without any issue to foil the pace of development.

"The people will unilaterally resist any sinister move of the opposition to foil the pourasabha polls, he said.

The anti-liberation forces have now joined hands to protect the self-confessed killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and create anarchy in the country, Sayeed said and urged the people to remain vigilant against them.

## B Chy warns of one-pt 'oust govt' movement

TANGAIL, Feb 19: Deputy leader of the opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has said the opposition alliance would launch a one-point 'oust government' movement if the four-point demands were not met, reports UNB.

"The government will find no way to escape if the one-point movement begins," he told a public meeting here this afternoon.

District unit of BNP organised the meeting at Shahid Smriti Poura Uddyan with BNP leader Maj Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan in the chair.

## Dhaka seeks more int'l cooperation to eradicate poverty

Bangladesh underscored the urgent need for taking necessary steps for the eradication of poverty and urged for greater international cooperation to achieve the objective, reports BSS.

"Poverty eradication will have to be the central goal of all our efforts for social development," Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury told the world body on Thursday, a message received from New York said yesterday.

Chowdhury was taking part in the debate on social development issues at the 37th session of the Commission for Social Development.

## Weather

### Dry weather forecast

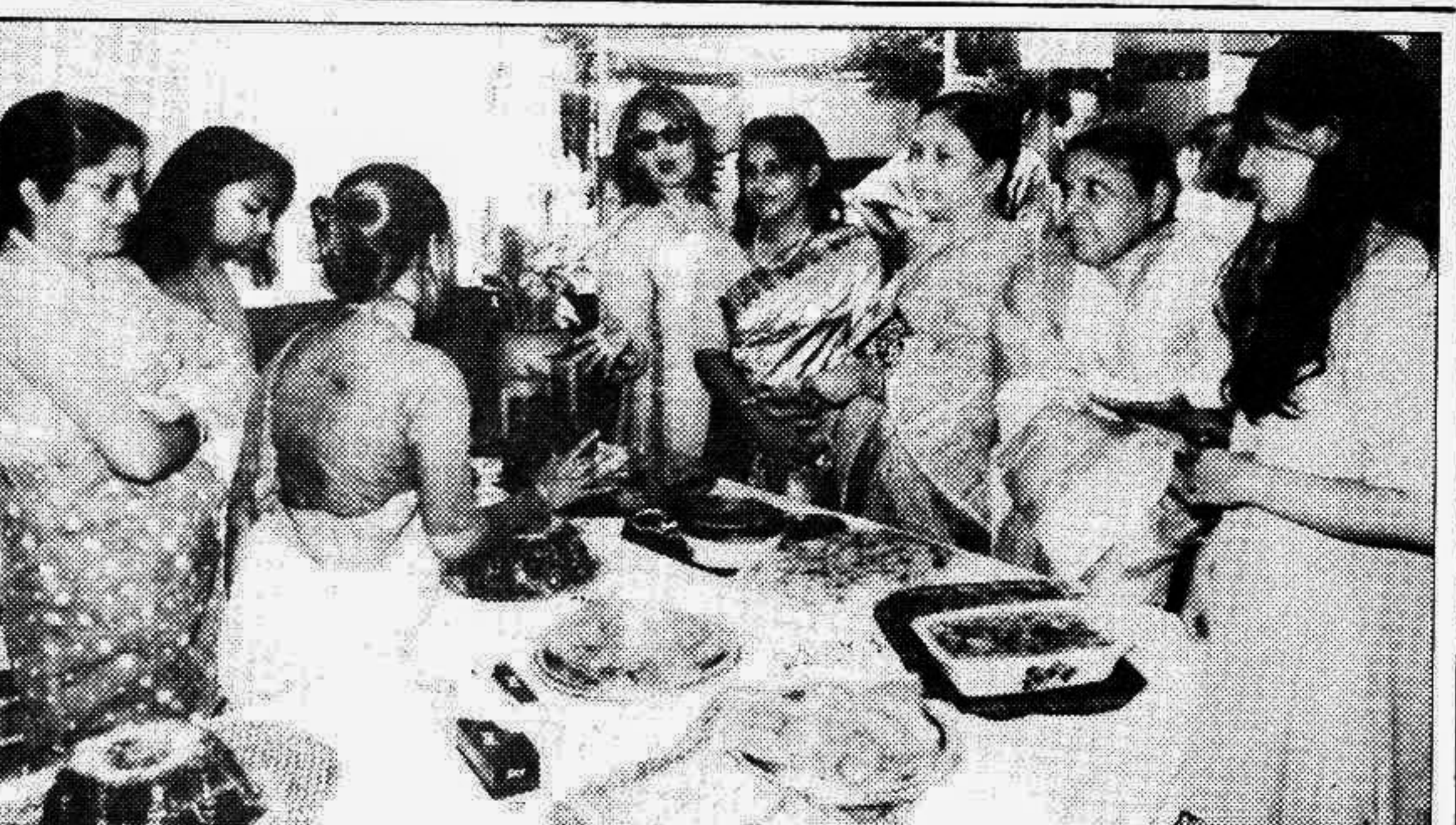
Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office predict.

The country's highest temperature 33 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 12.2 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets today at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	15.2	54	44
Chittagong	32.0	16.7	64	—
Rajshahi	32.3	14.0	66	61
Khulna	32.6	14.8	64	50
Barisal	31.5	15.0	74	56
Sylhet	31.9	17.0	56	55
Cox's Bazar	33.0	19.0	55	59



The SAARC Women's Association of Bangladesh organised a 'Handicraft and Food Bazar' on the Nepalese Embassy premises in the city yesterday. — Star photo



Visitors in thousands flock to the Dhaka International Trade Fair yesterday. — Star photo