

News



A scene from 'Dorir Khela' staged yesterday at the Central Shaheed Minar as part of the Group Theatre Federation's 12th National Street Drama Festival. — Star photo

Tk 300 cr fishery project soon

The government will launch the country's largest fishery project involving Taka 300 crore soon, reports BSS.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rob said this while addressing a discussion on 'Fish Farming in Open Water Bodies' in the city yesterday. A non-government organisation organised the discussion.

The minister said the work of third fishery project is now at the final stage and work on the fourth project, the biggest in the country, will begin soon.

Stressing the need for launching massive motivational programme, Rob said any sort of development effort could be reinvigorated and made successful by educating the people through motivation.

Success of a development programme depends on an effective motivational campaign, he said, adding motivation is needed in each sector to educate people.

The discussion was addressed, among others, by Fisheries and Livestock Joint Secretary (Fishery) D K Chowdhury and Director General of Fisheries Directorate Abdul Matin.

Govt plans project to get rid of professional blood donors

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf yesterday said the government is contemplating to set up a project for collection of blood in addition to its transfusion unit to get rid of the professional donors, report agencies.

"We want to ensure safe blood transfusion for people as the blood of professional donors is very injurious to health," he said.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by "Sandhani", a voluntary organisation of the students of medical and dental colleges collecting and donating blood and cornea, to mark its 22nd founding anniversary at the National Press Club in the city.

The minister said health service is one of the fundamental rights of the people and the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is striding for providing health services to the people despite its limited resources.

The discussion chaired by "Sandhani" president Mohammad Wazed Ali Masum, was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof M A Quadri as the special guest. Among others, "Sandhani" advises Dr Tosadeed Hossain Siddiqi and Dr Iqbal Kabir spoke on the occasion.

Kanul Lal Saha, president, Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College unit, presented a future plan of the organisation on preparing a list of the regular voluntary blood donors.

Health Minister said the total annual demand of blood in the country was about three lakh bags.

He called upon other voluntary organisations to come forward side by side "Sandhani" to fulfil the demand of blood in the country.

He said mass media, including newspapers, radio and television, can play important role to motivate the people in blood donation.

Yusuf said the country's total demand of blood could be fulfilled with only 1.5 lakh regular donors, each providing two bags of blood every year.

700 join AL in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Feb 5: More than 700 tribal people of Barkal thana here today joined the ruling Awami League, party sources said, reports UNB.

The tribesmen, led by former Upazila chairman Santosh Chakma, local Pahari Chhatra Parishad president Subir Chakma and Jane Sanghati Samity leader Laxmi Chandra Chakma, expressed allegiance to the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at Shubholong Bazar in the morning.

Chairman of Tribal Refugee Rehabilitation Task Force Dipankar Talukdar MP and District Local Government Council Chairman Singra Rauja welcomed the newcomers.

Proposed edn policy to be placed before JS soon

Education Minister A S H K Sadique yesterday said the proposed education policy was now in its final stage of placing before the Jatiya Sangsad after Cabinet approval, reports BSS.

"The draft policy was prepared through a long study keeping in mind the present day demands and future perspectives, accommodating proposals of different sections which were scrutinised by a learned and competent forum," he told a discussion on the proposed policy in the TSC auditorium in the city.

Sadique said firm political conviction, competent teachers, and sufficient funding and above all, political consensus are the most important necessities to implement the policy.

"Without political consensus, it would be impossible to implement the policy," he said.

The minister categorically said there was no contradiction between religion and science education and those who want to create confusion on this issue were in fact trying to mislead people with ulterior motives.

Nahid said the country was in a crisis for want of an education policy as the existing system, introduced by the British colonial rulers, could not keep standard.

He particularly pointed out there was acute problems in teaching mathematics and English, which he said were very important to keep pace with the advancing world.

Prof Azad Chowdhury said it was a tough task to incorporate the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission's recommendations into the proposed policy in view of the present world order.

He said it was a matter of pride that Bangladesh was one of the five countries that received UNESCO award for success in literacy development along with France "as it has been able to literate half of its huge population."

The minister identified the lapses in the current education system as the main reasons for poverty and foreign dependence

JU rejoinder

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have issued a rejoinder to a news item published in The Daily Star captioned "Returned of the rapists at JU" on January 28.

The rejoinder claimed that the proctor's car was not used to bring the rapist to the university. The proctor has no car as has been mentioned in the story, rather he uses a microbus, it said.

The proctor denied that he issued any threat to the students agitating against authorities' measures to take examinations of the rapists found guilty of rape and abetting the act when the students were preventing the examination office from distributing the scripts to the departments, the proctor told the students. "If you have any programme, you can go ahead," the rejoinder said.

We inappropriately used the word 'car'. Our story referred to the microbus that the rejoinder mentioned.

There are a number of students who corroborated our story and said that they had seen the proctor's microbus entering the campus through the Prantik gate at around 9.30 pm on January 27. Our report also carried allegations of students that the proctor warned them of stern action if they try to jeopardise the examination of the said students (rapists).

The rejoinder does not contradict the main point of our story that the rapists, one of whom was expelled, are being allowed to give their examinations under special arrangement.

Confce on violence against women begins today

A three-day international conference on 'Violence Against Women and Children' begins in the city today, reports UNB.

The main objective of the conference is to make the role of the psychologists effective in preventing violence against women and children.

The conference will be held at the British Council (BC) auditorium, jointly organised by the Department of Psychology, University of Dhaka and British Council with the financial assistance of the Department for International Development (DFID).

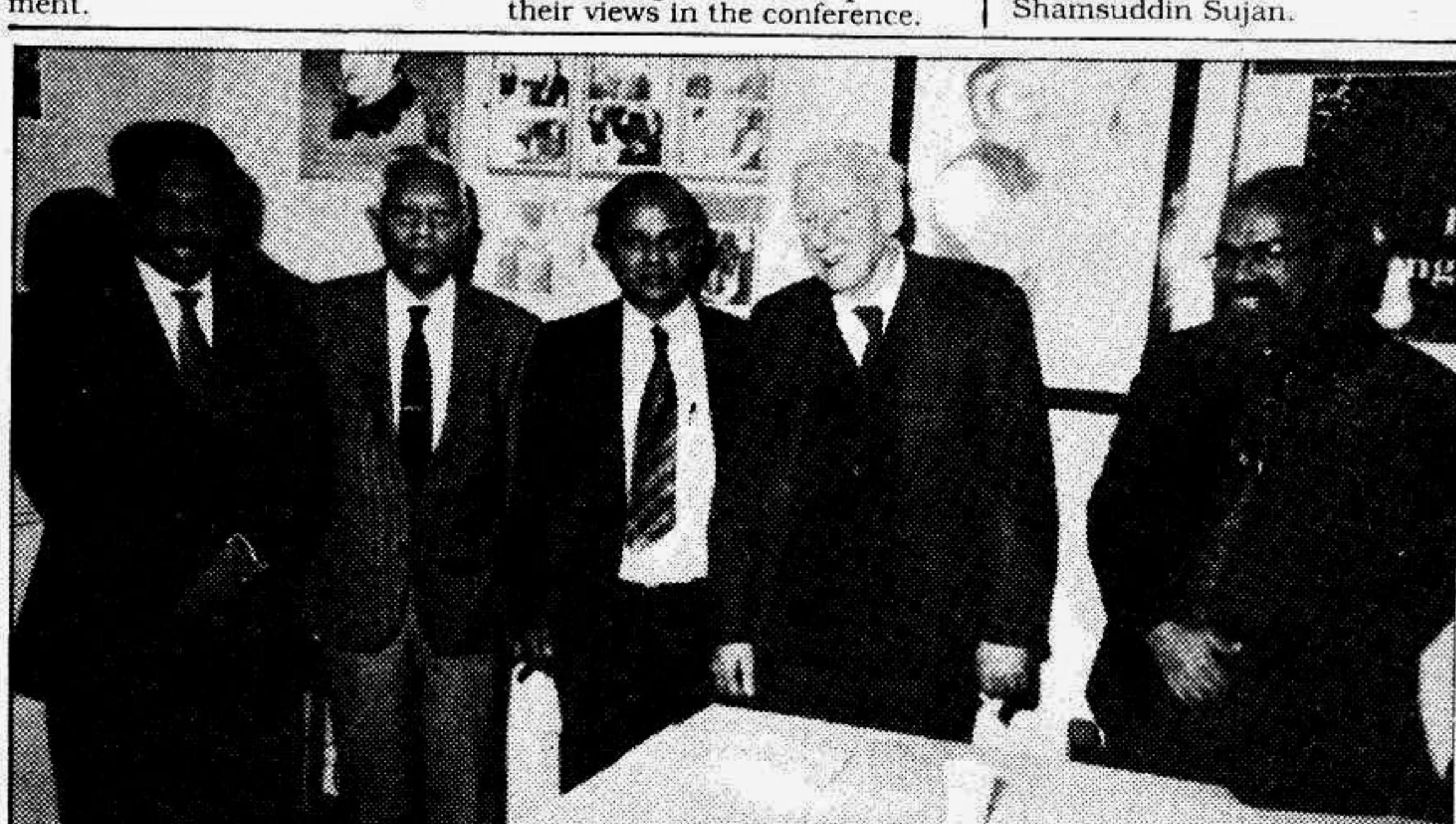
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and David Walker, British High Commissioner, will be present at the inaugural ceremony as chief guest and special guest and Taherunnissa Abdullah, Chairman of Shishu Academy will be present on the concluding ceremony on February 8 as chief guest.

Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu inaugurated the festival.

Presided over by the principal of the Matha Sri Padmanav Mahaj, the function was addressed by general secretary of the Mandir Committee Chandan Kumar Ghosh, Madhusudan Maharaj, Samiran Dasgupta, Mukul Pada Mitra, Khokon Chandra Das and Shamsuddin Sujan.

Nearly 250 participants are expected to attend five scientific sessions and three workshops of the conference.

Some 15 researchers, academics, psychiatrists, psychologists and lawyers from India, Pakistan, Philippines, Cambodia, Australia, USA, Egypt, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada and 15 participants from Bangladesh will present their views in the conference.



The International Centre for Sheikh Mujib Studies (ICSS) recently arranged a three-day-long symposium in London on "Bangladesh — past and present and the problems and future of the Bengalees in the UK". From left are Dr. Zayedul Hassan Zahid, Secretary General, All Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, noted writer Abdul Matin, Honorary Chairman of the All Europe Bangabandhu Parishad Lord Peter Shore 4th and Honorary Director of ICSS educationist Dr C Mapayil.

Left parties to participate in municipal polls

Left-democratic parties yesterday announced they would participate in the upcoming municipal elections, reports UNB.

"We want a free, fair and impartial voting," Left Democratic Front and four other like-minded parties told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

They said BNP and its rightwing allies would be held responsible if the elections are foiled due to their violent activities.

At the same time, the onus will be on the government and Election Commission if they try to hold voterless farcical elections, the parties said in a written statement at the conference.

The 11 left-democratic parties also raised an eight-point demand for making the Feb 23-25 municipal elections meaningful.

Regarding resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, they said the removal of an individual couldn't ensure an impartial vote.

The ruling party and local administrations at the order of ministers are influencing the election process. Terrorists are vitiating the situation, but the EC is silent, they alleged.

Among others, Shahidullah Chowdhury of CPB, Khaleduzzaman of BSSD (Zaman), Nirmal Sen of Sramik Krishok Samajbadi Dal, Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal, AFM Mahbubul Haq of BSSD (Mahbub), Iqbal Majumdar of Ganotantrik Majdur Party and Haidar Akbar Khan Rono of Workers Party. Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of Gono Forum, Azizul Islam Khan of Ganotantrik Party, Abus Samad of Gano Azadi League and Ajoy Roy of Communist Kendra were present.

Meanwhile, the expelled veteran AL leader said he was expelled from the party as he did not withdraw his candidature in the upcoming municipal elections which his party colleague Kamrul Islam is also contesting.

"My effort for the party had been largely ignored by the district committee, while the party has allowed newcomer Kamrul to contest on behalf of the party," Saha told The Daily Star.

Saha said he was willing to contest the elections as an independent candidate.

Victim of hartal

Rickshawpuller's family to be rehabilitated

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam will take necessary measures to rehabilitate the family of rickshawpuller Mohammad Ali, who fell prey to opposition brutality during a hartal last month and died of burn injuries after a week-long struggle for life, Home Ministry sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

The hartal activists' wrath came down on Ali as he tried to ply his rickshaw on the hartal day on January 26.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious burns after the activists torched him pouring petrol on his body.

He succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday. Ali was a member of Jatiya Rickshaw Sramik League.

The minister earlier visited Ali in the hospital and donated Taka 4,000 for his treatment.

Hospital sources said Ali's treatment was hampered due to lack of blood despite the minister's directives to provide him with best possible treatment and care.

Vyas Puja Utsav begins in city

The three-day Vyas Puja Utsav of the Hindu community began at Sri Sri Madhava Gaudia Matha at Narinda yesterday, reports BSS.

Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu inaugurated the festival.

The minister earlier visited Ali in the hospital and donated Taka 4,000 for his treatment.

Hospital sources said Ali's treatment was hampered due to lack of blood despite the minister's directives to provide him with best possible treatment and care.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony on the occasion, a quran-khwan and mild mahfil will be held at his graveyard in the morning.

Also, discussions on late Siddique will also be held at Latifa Siddique Girls' College in Kumira and Masjid-e-Haideri in the evening, says a press release.

Symposium on Bangladesh held in London

The International Centre for Sheikh Mujib Studies (ICSS) recently arranged a 3-day symposium in London on "Bangladesh — past and present and the problems and future of the Bengalees in the UK," says a press release.

The All-Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, Tower Hamlet Council and the Race Equality Council, London, cooperated in organising the symposium.

Eminent scholars, researchers, politicians, social workers, from the UK and different parts of Europe attended the symposium.

A photo exhibition on Sheikh Mujib and a cultural show was also organised on the occasion.

Among others, Lord Peter Shore, honorary chairman of the All-Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, Mayor-Councilor Al Asad, Dr Zayedul Hassan Zahid, Secretary General, All Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, honorary Secretary General of the International Centre for Sheikh Mujib Studies, Dr Cyril Mapayil, Prof John Eu of London University, writer Abdul Matin, journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Home Office representative Bob Wright and Press Minister of the Bangladesh High Commission Syed Badruzzaman addressed the symposium.



Visitors at the Rose Festival '99 held at the Sultana Kamal Women's Complex at Dhamondi yesterday. Bangladesh National Rose Society organised the event. — Star photo

Key dates in King Hussein's life

These are some of the key dates in the life of Jordan's King Hussein:

— 1935 : Hussein was born in Jordan's capital Amman on November 14 to Prince Talal bin Abdullah and Princess Zein al-Sharaf bint Jamil, reports AP.

— 1951 : The young prince witnesses the assassination of his grandfather, King Abdallah, at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a Palestinian nationalist angered by Jordan's annexation of the West Bank, which Palestinians view as their territory.

— 1952 : At age 16, he is proclaimed King after his father abdicates because of mental illness. He assumed full constitutional rule in May 1953.

— 1956 : Hussein survives the biggest coup attempt against his rule. It was led by senior army officials loyal to Egyptian Arab nationalists opposed to the king's moderate policies.

— 1967 : Hussein's darkest hour is the loss of the West Bank and Jerusalem to Israel during the six day war.

— 1970 : In what became

known as "Black September," army troops loyal to the king put down a revolt by Palestinian guerrillas, who had become almost a state-within-a-state in Jordan and demanded Hussein's ouster.

— 1974 : An Arab summit decides Hussein is no longer the spokesman for the Palestinians. It names the Palestine Liberation Organisation, headed by Yasser Arafat, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

— 1988 : Soon after the start of the "Intifada," the Palestinian uprising against Israel, Hussein renounces rights to the West Bank. But he retains his role as guardian of Jerusalem's Muslim holy places, the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque in Islam.

— 1990-91 : Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf War upset Hussein's traditional ties to the West when he remains neutral in the conflict because of his country's economic ties to its oil-rich neighbour, Iraq. Some accused him of being pro-Saddam, but he later

denounced the Iraqi ruler.

— 1994 : Hussein realises a long-sought goal — Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty.

— 1998 : The king has his second battle with cancer. He had surgery on a cancerous kidney in 1992, and in the summer of 1998 began six months of chemotherapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph glands.

— 1999 : Hussein returned to Jordan in mid-January — pronounced cured by Jordanian officials — but was ordered back to the United States by doctors for more treatment a week later. In his few days at home, he changed the line of royal succession, naming his oldest son, Abdullah, now 37, as crown prince to replace his brother, Hassan, 31, who had held the post for 24 years.

— February 2, 1999 : Hussein has a bone marrow transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

— February 4, 1999 : Doctors say the transplant operation has failed. Hussein flies back home to Jordan.



JCD activists demonstrate on the Dhaka University campus demanding punishment to those responsible for rape incidents on the Jahangirnagar University campus. The demonstration was staged yesterday when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came to inaugurate the Ekushey Book Fair. — Star photo

Govt plans to create 3000 new posts for doctors

By DMC Correspondent
Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salauddin Yusuf has said the government is planning to create more than three thousand posts for doctors at various hospitals across the country.

Organised by Bangladesh Scouts, the course was attended by 17 scout leaders from Bhutan and 28 from Bangladesh