

## What's on today....

**Seminar:** The Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and the Dhaka Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association (DAJLIA) have jointly organised a seminar on "Eradication of Illiteracy from Bangladesh and Lessons from the Japanese Experience." Venue: LGED Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 3 pm.

**Drama Festival:** 'Pienic', 'Bir Isha Khan' and 'At Sob Khealadula' will be staged on the 7th day of the National Child-Juvenile Drama Festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in cooperation with People's Theatre Association. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium, Shabbagh. Time: 4:30 pm, 6 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

**Film show:** The premiere of a Kino-Eye Films production 'Chitra Nodir Pare' by Tanvir Mokammel will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

**Arms Handover:** Shamorik Jadughar will hand over the arms formally surrendered by PCJSS chief Shantu Lama to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Director General of Bangladesh National Museum. Venue: National Museum premises. Time: 4 pm.

**Workshop:** Centre for Training and Rehabilitation of Destitute Women (CTRDW) has organised a workshop to create awareness about abandoned children's permanent rehabilitation. Venue: CTRDW office premises, House: 2, Road: 11, Pisciculture Housing Society, Block-Kha, Mohammadpur. Time: 9:30 am.

**Seminar:** A seminar on a 'Public Administration Reform in Bangladesh' will be held. Organiser: Centre for Advanced Research in Social Science and Public Administration Reform Commission of Bangladesh Government. Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, professor of Public Administration Department, DU, will present the keynote paper on 'Decentralisation of Administration: Concept and Bangladesh Case'. Venue: Bangladesh Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nikhet. Time: 9 am to 1:30 pm.

**Discussion meet:** Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association has organised a discussion meet on 'Rape and Burden of Proof', a study on procedural inadequacy. Chief guest: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House: 20, Road: 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

**Memorial meet:** Potia Samity, Dhaka has organised a discussion meeting in memory of Dr Ahmed Sharif. Venue: Muktiuddha Jadughar, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4 pm.

**Inaugural ceremony:** The inauguration of the second batch and concluding ceremony of the first batch of the Little Theatre School will be held. Chief guest: Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader. Venue: German Cultural Centre auditorium, House: 20, Road: 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

**Award giving ceremony:** The inauguration and award distribution ceremony of the Nurun Nahar Samad Natyia Padak '98, Festival '99 will be held. Organiser: Theatre Art. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: Engineers' Institute, Ramna. Time: 6:30 pm. Russian Ballet Troupe 'Northern Dawn' will present a Ballet Show after award distribution ceremony.

**Dance:** Partibha Prahlaad will present Bharatnatyayam Kuchipudi dance. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

**Music:** Renowned Indian vocalist Padma Talwalkar will perform on the occasion of ongoing Indian Trade Fair. Venue: Osmany Memorial Hall. Time: 7 pm.

**Club meet:** The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

## Weather

### Temperature may rise

Mainly dry weather is likely to prevail across the country with partly cloudy sky over Sylhet and Chittagong divisions during next 12 hours, reports APB.

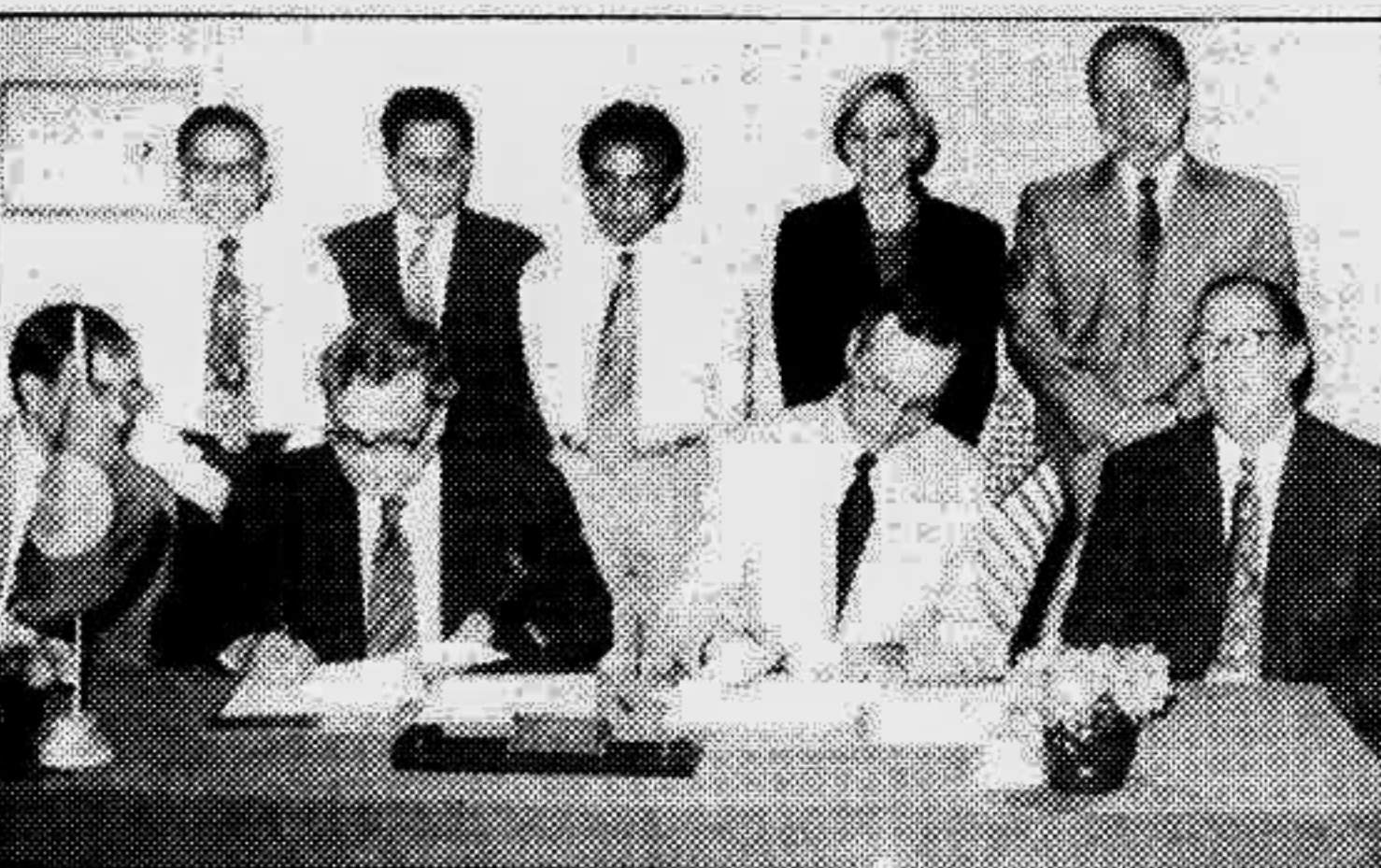
Slight rise in day temperature is expected during the period across the country. Met Office forecast.

Country's highest temperature 39.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dhaka and the lowest 17.8 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 6:06 pm and rises on Thursday at 6:12 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	39.6	22.4	56	39
Chittagong	31.8	21.5	56	32
Rajshahi	38.7	20.2	48	32
Khulna	38.7	19.8	69	—
Barisal	37.8	21.4	75	47
Sylhet	34.3	20.1	70	48
Cox's Bazar	32.3	20.0	83	87



Dr Mashiur Rahman, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and Theodore Nist, Deputy Mission chief of US Embassy signing an agreement on behalf of their respective government for 300,000 metric tons of wheat as grant from US yesterday. — PID photo

### UK donates equipment to foreign NGO

British High Commissioner David C Walker yesterday donated equipment worth over Tk 1.44 lakh to Helen Keller International, a foreign NGO working in Bangladesh, to assist visually impaired children, reports APB.

The equipment includes arithmetic frames, writing slates and white canes. These will be distributed through 64 schools.

Helen Keller International, which is working in more than 90 countries all over the world, began its activities in Bangladesh in 1978 to assist the visually impaired people.

### Death anniversary of Nasim Biswas Friday

The first anniversary of death of former parliament member Ehteshamul Haq Nasim Biswas, son of former President Abdur Rahman Biswas, will be observed on Friday, reports UNB.

A *Qurankhwan* and *milad mahfil* will be held at house number 4, road number 10 at Banani in the capital after Asr prayers on the day.

### Obituary

Professor Munira Saddiqui, 54, head of Bangla Department, Dhaka College, died of cancer on Monday at her Dhanmondi official residence, says a press release.

She left behind her husband Abul Kashem, a noted drama artist and engineer, a daughter, ten brothers and sisters and a host of friends to mourn her death.

Her *namaj-e-janaza* was held at Dhanmondi Jam-e-Masjid after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Padakkhep-64 president and Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr Mohd. Farashuddin and general secretary Nargis Mannan expressed their condolences at the demise of the eminent educationist.

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Lt Col Ashraf U Islam, founder president of the Retired Armed Forces Personnel Welfare Association, died of cardiac arrest at the Combined Military Hospital on Monday. He was 55.

He left behind his wife Dr Rahela Khurshid Jahan, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

His *qulkhwan* will be held at his residence at 19/5, 10-B, Mirpur in the city on March 12 after Juma prayers.



Udichi artistes brought out a rally in the city yesterday protesting the killings in Jessore and demanded the arrest of persons responsible for the incident. — Star photo

## CDA to build link road from Dhaka to Baizeed Bostami at cost of Tk 33 cr

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) will build a connecting road from Dhaka highway to Baizeed Bostami at a cost of Tk 33 crore, reports BSS.

The approval to this effect was already given by the government and construction works would begin in the next financial year.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the city development coordination committee held in the city corporation auditorium, with Mayor and co-chairman of the committee Alhaj AMB Mahiuddin Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting also decided to construct an inter-district bus terminal beside the connecting road for the buses of Dhaka, Noakhali, Comilla, Rangamati and Khagrachhari routes.

Chairman of CDA Col MMKZ Jalalabadi, chairman of

Chittagong Port Authority Zahiruddin Mahmud, chairman of Chittagong WASA Sultan Mahmud Chowdhury, general manager of T and T Enamul Haq, deputy commander Mohammad Hasan and representatives of different agencies and public utility services of the city were present at the meeting.

Mayor Mahiuddin informed the meeting that the construction works of the connecting road was completed at a cost of Tk one and a half crore and another flyover will be built from customs house bridge to new mooring gate which will ease the traffic congestion at multi-purpose berth gate of the Chittagong Port.

Various issues including turning of general hospital into 250-bed hospital, construction of bus and truck terminals, development of Foy's Lake road came up for discussion.

## US to provide 3 lakh tonnes of wheat

Bangladesh will receive additional 300,000 tonnes of wheat as donation from the USA under an agreement signed in the city yesterday, reports APB.

The wheat, worth 52.5 million US dollars, will be utilised for implementing post-flood rehabilitation and development programmes. It will replenish government's food security stock.

ERD Secretary Dr Mashiur Rahman and Deputy Chief of Mission of US Embassy Theodore A Nist signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Earlier, the USA also provided 300,000 tonnes of wheat as donation under a similar agreement signed in October last year.

The US provided food assistance amounting to Tk 655 crore since last year's flood.

## Call to make BCSIR self-reliant research body

Science and Technology Minister Mohammad Nooruddin Khan yesterday called upon the scientists and technologists to make BCSIR a self-reliant research organisation, reports UNB.

He was speaking at a joint meeting of the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology Ministry and the scientists at the conference room of BCSIR.

The Minister also urged BCSIR authorities to try to get fund from ADB and other donor agencies like other research organisations.

Presided over by committee president Dr HBM Iqbal, the meeting was also addressed by Dr M Asadur Rahman MP, Tohura Ali MP and BCSIR chairman M Moshinuzzaman.

## Death threat to Nirmul leaders condemned

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday condemned the death threats on its leaders by the killers and collaborators of 1971, reports BSS.

In a statement, convenor of Nirmul Committee Shamim Akhter and executive convenor Kazi Mukul alleged that the killers and collaborators, who belong to the fundamentalist political parties at a public meeting on March 8 at Paltan Maidan used provocative language and threatened to kill adviser of Nirmul Committee national Professor Kabir Chowdhury, poet Shamsur Rahman and president of Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) Dr. Kazi Faruque Ahmed.

The Nirmul Committee leaders demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in killing and patronising killings.

## Ghorashal Urea Factory needs thorough overhauling

NARSINGDI, Mar 9: The mechanical system of the 20-year-old Ghorashal Urea Fertiliser Factory may break down any time unless a thorough overhauling is undertaken soon, sources in the factory said, reports APB.

Many of the machines of the highly profitable factory have rusted and leaks developed in pipelines, is often disrupting production.

Some equipment were repaired and replaced in October-November last year at a cost of Tk five crore under the annual renovation programme but its overall condition did not change. The factory, belonging to Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, began to limp only after a month.

The factory was built by the Togo Engineering Corporation of Japan in 1969 at a cost of Tk 68 crore. Commercial production began in September, 1971 with 1,337 tonnes of Urea and 660 tonnes of Ammonia daily. At that time the factory was manned by 298 officers, 400 employees and 544 workers.

The production capacity was raised by 25 per cent to 1,422 tonnes of Urea and 625 tonnes of Ammonia.



## Nat'l Disabled Day Apr 7

By Staff Correspondent  
National Disabled Day will be observed for the first time in the country on April 7.

The theme of this year is "Law for Protecting and Establishing Rights of the Disabled." National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) will organise a three-day programme to mark the day.

The programme includes rally, discussion and cultural programme on April 7. A meeting to exchange views will be held on April 8 and a seminar on April 9.

As per government decision, the day will be observed every year on the first Wednesday of April, says a press release.

## JS body told Work of rail link project of Bangabandhu Bridge progressing

The Parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Communications at a meeting yesterday informed that the work of railway link project of the Bangabandhu Bridge is progressing, reports BSS.

The meeting was held at the Sangsad Bhaban with committee chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in the chair.

The meeting discussed various demands beyond contracts of the contractors of Bangabandhu Bridge and also gave necessary recommendations in this regard.

Committee members, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain, Mostafizur Rahman, Khan Tipu Sultan, Al-Haj Mokbul Hossain, Mohammad Mokbul Hossain, Mohammad Nazim Uddin Alam, Advocate M Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu and Shahidul Islam took part in the meeting.

## Artist Kibria hospitalised

By Staff Correspondent  
Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad has appealed to the government to immediately form a medical board for renowned artist Prof Mohammad Kibria, now undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in the city, says a press release.

Prof Kibria was admitted to the CMH with brain hemorrhage on Monday. His condition is very critical, doctors said. He is now being treated at the Intensive Care Unit.

The National Mass Media Institute will make a 15-minute programme on the boyhood of Bangabandhu.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast various programmes, including a magazine programme for the children.

Besides, the Mass Communication Department will organise cultural programmes, discussions and mobile film screening.

State Minister will give necessary directive to the district level officials of Mass Communication Department at the auditorium of the Department of Films and Publication today to mark the day.

## Edn Ministry clarification

The Ministry of Education in a clarification yesterday gave an explanation of the word "guardian" representatives in the governing bodies and managing committees of different colleges and schools of the country, reports BSS.

The father, mother or in cases of their deaths the legal guardian of a student will be regarded as "guardians," the explanation said.

This clarification will be effective in the educational institutions where formation of governing body or managing committees are in progress.

Eleven stalls of different attractive agricultural products were set up in the fair.



Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yashikazu Kaneko handing over green umbrella for distribution among the field workers to Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday in the city. — PID photo

## More bodies condemn Jessore killings

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Various professional groups held a joint protest meeting at the local Central Shaheed Minar premises on Monday denouncing the bomb attack at the cultural function of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi in Jessore, reports UNB.

The speakers including artists and cultural activists condemned the attack and killings in Jessore and announced a five-day programme to protest the heinous incident.

The programmes include exchange of views between professionals and politicians on March 10, mass signature collection on March 11, protest meeting on March 12, dawn-to-dusk mass hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar premises on March 14 and mourning procession and submission of memorandum to the Prime Minister on March 15.

A mourning procession was also brought out in the port city after the meeting.

An APB report adds, Local units of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi in Sirajganj and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote began a week-long programme in Sirajganj on Monday protesting the killings at a cultural function in Jessore in the early hours of Sunday.

The joint programme includes hoisting of black flag, wearing of black badge, protest rally and procession in the town.

The programme began with a protest rally at the Press Club Crossing where the speakers strongly condemned the killing and criticised the government for its failure in maintaining law and order. They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the

killers. The rally was addressed by, among others, Dr Zahurul Huq Raja, Mahbub-e-Khoda Tutul, Kazi Zahurul Islam, Salim Uddin Badal, Assad Uddin Pablu, Nabakumar and Ferdous Robin, with Advocate Pranab Chowdhury Tapu in the chair.

BSS adds: Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque yesterday strongly condemned the brutal bomb attack on a conference of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi in Jessore on Saturday.

In a statement, Prof Khaleque expressed deep shock at the killing of innocent people and prayed for early recovery of those who were injured in the incident.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha and Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) in separate statements yesterday condemned the killings of eight people in bomb blasts at a function of Udichi at Jessore on Saturday night.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha chairman Ivy Rahman said the country has lost valiant sons of the soil in the death of eight cultural activists who believed in the spirit of the War of Liberation. Their tragic death is an irreparable loss to the nation, she added.

Expressing deep concern at the killings of cultural activists in the explosions, DUTA president Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and General Secretary Ferdous Hossain urged the government to take effective measures to ensure security of political leaders, intellectuals and cultural activists.

They also demanded stringent punishment to the heinous killers.

## JS body on Ministry of Defence meets

A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Defence was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting, presided over by committee chairman Major General (Retd) KM Shafiqullah, Bir Uttam, discussed the overall activities of the Army, land and cantonment directorate.

Issues like land acquisition for the defence forces, maintenance of records, conducting cases relating to land, overall management of land and its temporary lease, conducting of cantonment schools and the policy of allotment of DOHS plots also came up for discussion.

The meeting was informed that at present a total of 40 thousand students were studying in 34 schools which are being run by the army, land and cantonment directorate and 1,197 plots have been allotted in three DOHS areas.

Committee members Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Mohammad Farooq Khan, Ghulam Mohammad Kader, Major (Retd) Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman and Professor Mohammad Rezaul Karim attended the meeting.

Defence Secretary Syed Yousuf Hossain and concerned senior officials were present.

## BAUTA office-bearers

Prof Momen Uddin Ahmed of Plant Pathology Department and Prof Mohammad Idris Mia have been elected president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers' Association (BAUTA), reports UNB.

The other office-bearers of the executive committee elected on Monday are: Vice-president — Prof Mohammad Sultan Uddin Bhuiyan, Treasurer — Dr Mohammad Zahur Uddin, Joint Secretary — Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid, Executive members — Prof Khandakar Sirajul Islam, Prof Mohammad Mansurul Amin, Prof Mohammad Bahadur Mia, Prof Mohammad Nurul Islam, Prof Mohammad Shamsuddin and Dr Khandakar Shariful Islam.

He was also the author of several books. His *namaj-e-janaza* was held at Bakolia Rahattarpur Jame Mosque in Chittagong and he was buried in the graveyard within the mosque compound.

## Health for all by 2005

## Green umbrella distribution programme launched

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday launched distribution of 38,500 green umbrellas to Family Planning field workers and said it would help achieve health for all by the year 2005, reports BSS.

The minister was chief guest at the green umbrella handing over ceremony at Shishu Academy auditorium in the city. State Minister for Health Dr A Mananullah, Health Secretary M M Reza, Japanese Ambassador Yoshikazu Kaneko, Director General of Health Services Prof AKM Nurul Anwar, Director General of Family Planning Dhiraaj Kumar Nath, US Aid health team leader Margaret Neuse and Director of Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programme M Shahjahan also spoke.

The Health Minister said the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is determined to ensure the balanced development of the country by ensuring the good health of all in order to develop human resources.

Yusuf described the green umbrella logo as a success story of his ministry and said green umbrella adopted as an overarching integrated health and family planning services logo

in June 1996 to raise awareness among the people.

Dr A Mananullah said green umbrella is a symbol of services provided by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry across the country and this campaign had already created mass awareness among the people.

Yoshikazu Kaneko said the green umbrella logo remind people about their need for health and family planning services as well as it remind the service providers about the need for improving the quality of services provided from the service centres.

He said his government has come forward to cooperate with this project for producing green umbrella as Japan attaches to great importance on the development needs of Bangladesh.

Margaret Neuse said people now understand what green umbrella actually means and USAID is very supportive in this programme.

M M Reza hoped that green umbrella programme would achieve greater success in the field of health and family planning services across the country.

Hundreds of family planning and health service field workers and NGO activists participated.