



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting the mother health division of the Institute of Child and Mother Health after inaugurating it at Matuail in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Institute of Child and Mother Care opens

# Qualitative health care for all top priority of govt: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government attaches top priority to child health and child education and would ensure qualitative, effective and low-cost health care service for all, reports UNB.

"From the current year, the government is going to implement the Essential Service Package under the Health and Family sector programme to provide one-stop service," she said while inaugurating the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH) at Matuail in the city.

Under the programme, a community clinic will be set up for every 6,000 people, the Prime Minister said.

She said that the prime objective of the Essential Service Package programme is to reduce the spread of contagious diseases and bring down the mother and child mortality rate from such diseases.

The package includes reproductive health care, child health, prevention of contagious diseases, ensuring limited curative services and communication for changing attitudes.

Termining the ICMH as an excellent venture, Hasina said that the newly built institute would provide integrated health care services to the child and the mother which is very essential for the country.

The Prime Minister also said only a healthy mother can give birth to a healthy child. "Without a healthy child, it is not possible to build a healthy

nation and without a healthy nation, it is not possible to build a developed country". She said 50 per cent of the country's population are children under 15, who are the future hope and aspiration of the nation and expressed her government's determination to groom the children as worthy citizens.

"The government is implementing integrated programmes to ensure healthy life for the child and nutritious food, medicine, education and entertainment for them; and to stop child repression," she added.

About the reproductive mothers, the Prime Minister said that though the mother mortality rate came down in the recent years, but there is still a lot to be done for them.

Saying that "women's right is human right," she mentioned that the government has introduced National Women Development Policy to ensure equal rights for women in all spheres of life, including the political, economic, social and cultural sectors.

Hasina said the government has also taken steps for the empowerment of women and mentioned the direct election of women to the local government bodies.

About the ICMH, she said this institute is for two-thirds population of the country mothers and children who constitute and hoped that it will play an important role in this field.

Besides providing modern health care to child and mother, the ICMH will also assess the health and nutrition status of children and mothers, formulate measures for prevention of diseases, and promote health and nutrition, and invent low cost affordable effective treatment.

The institute with an eye-catching architectural design has been built at a cost of Tk 66 crore. Of this, Tk 27.82 crore was contributed by the government and the rest Tk 37.99 crore came from the World Bank. The total surface area of the institute is 300,000 square feet.

At present, the ICMH hospital, on the outskirts of the capital, has 130 beds for pediatric, and obstetric and gynaecology in-patients. Its out patient department (OPD) has the capacity to serve 1,000-1,500 patients every day.

The institute will groom health workers, health professionals and health managers as part of human resources development and help them increase their skills through knowledge derived from research works.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah, Habibur Rahman Mollah MP, Shaukat Osman MP, World Bank Country Director Frederick T Temple and Director of the Institute Prof MQK Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

## What's on today . . .

**Seminar:** A seminar on "Folkloric and Modern Use of Plants for Healing" will be held. Chief guest: Nooruddin Khan, Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: Bangladesh Council for Science and Industrial Research (BCSIR) auditorium. Time: 9.30 am.

**Exhibition:** The 2nd Environment-friendly bag exhibition will begin. A total of 8 participants are displaying their products in the two-day exhibition. Organisers: Alliance Francaise for Science in association with ESDO. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10.00 am-7.00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** A discussion on "Bangabandhu and Freedom" will be held to mark Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birthday. Organiser: Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad. Chief guest: Shah AMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm.

**Painting exhibition:** The 1st solo painting exhibition of Nazrul Islam Dulal will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information. Venue: Bangladesh National Museum. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Symposium:** A symposium will be held in observance of International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Organiser: United Nations Association of Bangladesh. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Meeting:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Installation ceremony:** The installation ceremony of Board of Investment Employees Welfare Association will be held. Venue: BCIC auditorium, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Reception:** A reception will be accorded to renowned intellectual, writer and philosopher Prof Sardar Fazul Karim. Organisers: Sardar Fazul Karim Gunomudhajan in collaboration with Bangladesh National Museum. Venue: Bangladesh National Museum. Time: 6.00 pm.

**Musical soiree:** Refugee and freedom fighter singers will present *baul* songs. Organiser: Liberation War Museum. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 6.30 pm.

**Workshop:** A workshop on Improving GO-NGO-Donors Partnership in the Fisheries Sector will be held. Organiser: Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Forum (AFDF) in association with Integrated Food Assisted Development Project (IFAD/SPZ) of Department of Fisheries. Chief Guest: Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources. Venue: Islamic Development Bank Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9.00 am.

**Seminar:** Bangladesh Niti Nirikshon Kendra will hold a seminar on the recommendation of the committee for Formulating National Education Policy (1997). Venue: Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

**Club meet:** A joint meeting of Rotary Club Greater Dhaka and Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd (family lounge). Time: 5.30 pm.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said yesterday.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 36.2 degree Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 14.5 degrees at Sri Mongal.

The sun set today at 6.10 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.01 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	35.8	19.2	30	29
Chittagong	34.5	23.8	83	62
Rajshahi	35.7	17.2	37	35
Khulna	36.2	19.3	75	38
Barisal	35.0	19.5	63	40
Sylhet	33.0	18.6	68	40
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.5	76	71



Udichi, a leading cultural organisation of the country yesterday brought out a procession in the city to protest the recent bomb attacks on a stage programme by its artistes at Jessore. — Star photo

## First Santal pry school opens in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Mar 20: The first Santal primary school of the country began today with a mission to save the language of the tribal community from extinction, reports UNB.

A total of 35 children, 17 of them girls, enrolled as the first students of the school at Barshapara village in Godagari thana of the district.

Jatiya Adivashi Parishad founded the school at the village, located some 20-km west of the divisional headquarters.

All the students were provided with text and exercise books, pencil and slates.

Prof Hasan Azizul Haq of Rajshahi University formally inaugurated the school at a simple ceremony in the morning.

Director of Grameen Trust Project Prof Syed M Hashemi, Prof Shahidul Islam, Prof Zulfikar Matin, Left leader Fazle Hossain and Deputy Commissioner AKM Shamsuddin also spoke on the occasion.

## Make Mar 22 protest a success: Mannan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked BNP and its front organisations to make the March 22 countrywide "Protest Day" programme a success through holding public rallies and processions.

"Now there is no alternative way before the nation but to oust the government to get rid of this misrule," Bhuiyan said.

The BNP secretary general said an all-out resistance would have to be built against the government through combined protest and demonstration.

As part of the central programme, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote will hold separate public meetings in the capital city on Monday afternoon.

Their rallies will be followed by demonstration processions.

BNP will organise a public meeting at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm which will be addressed by Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.



Finance minister SAMS Kibria speaking at a seminar on 'Political Terrorism' — National and International Context at the CIDRAP auditorium in the city yesterday. The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research. — Star photo



Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru addressing the inaugural session of two-day regional workshop of SAARC Law Commission in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Govt contemplating to set up Nat'l Oceanographic Inst

Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen (ret'd) Nooruddin Khan yesterday said that government is contemplating to set up a National Oceanographic Institute to meet the need of further research on sea level rise which, reports BSS.

It is being considered as a threat to the country alongside other natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought.

The minister was addressing as chief guest on the concluding day of the three-day international seminar on Sea Level Rise and Sustainable Coastal Management, jointly organised by the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NAOMI) at LGED auditorium, at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

The minister also said that for further research in this line for the creation of public awareness and international response all the public and private organisations need to come forward. The minister lauded the effort of UAP and NAOMI for organising a seminar of international standard.

## Medical assistance needed for Pubail Vagrants Home

NARSINGDI, Mar 20: Pubail Vagrants Home, the biggest government-managed shelter for vagrants, has no facility for treatment of its mentally retarded occupants, reports APB.

There are 473 women inmates at present including 116 mentally retarded ones at the vagrant home.

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The Home was set up at the abandoned seven-acre home of late Monohar Nath Chowdhury, a landlord, in 1961.

As there is no arrangement for treatment of the mentally retarded inmates here, they never get cured and turn out to be permanent residents.

It is gathered that a considerable section of the present inmates were engaged in sex work prior to coming to the Home. The lone nurse at the Home, Lutfunnahar Jolly told APB that some 70 of the inmates were suffering from venereal diseases. Some six were suffering from TB.

She claimed that there is no full-time doctor in the Home, although a post is sanctioned for one. A physician of the Psychology Department of Dhaka Medical College visit the Home twice a week and prescribe medicines for them.

Medicines worth about Tk

8,000 are needed per month for the mentally retarded inmates but the sanction at only Tk 20 per head, is not enough, she said.

Sometimes some inmates secure jobs in garments factories or get married. But in most cases they come back to the Home as they can not adjust with the new life outside, she said.

## Bangladesh-Tripura Welfare Sangsad annual confce held

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 20: Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Kalpanaraj Chakma urged all to keep themselves above community and thus help implementation of the peace treaty for the overall development of the CHT, reports BSS.

He was addressing a two-day annual conference of Bangladesh-Tripura Welfare Sangsad as chief guest yesterday at the Town Hall here.

The minister said, the historic peace treaty has united the inhabitants of CHT. The government also wants the overall development of the people of CHT, he added and urged all concerned to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Presided over by Jyotindra Lal Chakma, the function was addressed among others by Bir Bahadur MP and central leader of Jana Sanghati Samity Rokta Utpal Tripura.

## SAARC countries' Speakers visit Bangabandhu Bridge

Speakers and parliamentarians of SAARC countries yesterday visited the Bangabandhu Bridge over the river Jamuna, reports BSS.

The visiting guests expressed the opinion that this bridge would immensely contribute towards the improvement of communications system not in Bangladesh but also of this region as a whole.

This will also contribute towards economic development of the country, they added.

The guests highly praised the construction and design of the bridge.

Earlier, in the morning the lawmakers visited the Bangabandhu Museum. The guests also went to Parliament Bhaban and went round different sections of the bhaban including the parliament chamber.

## Sayed protests Khaleda's remarks

State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed yesterday strongly protested Begum Khaleda Zia's speech yesterday at a public meeting at Bagerhat, reports BSS.

In a statement Prof Sayeed said that Begum Zia had projected herself as a "mentally imbalanced" person by her reported remarks on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"It is a vicious move of Begum Zia to misguide people through misinterpretation and falsehood of the recent observatory remarks of the Supreme Court," Prof Sayeed said adding "either Begum Zia did not read the advisory verdict of the Supreme Court or she failed to understand it."

The State Minister said that the remarks of Begum Zia amounts to contempt of court and a vicious move to divert the process of judiciary which is working independently.

Prof Sayeed said Begum Zia is continuing a propaganda with false and baseless remarks one after another since the last three years after losing the last elections. "She (Begum Zia) started misinterpretation of the verdict of the Supreme Court when she said that she had failed to misguide people by spreading falsehood," Prof Sayeed said.

Referring to the earlier statement of Begum Zia, he said that BNP feared that the independence of the country would be jeopardised if Awami League come to power and Feni would be the part of India if the CHT Peace Treaty was signed.

"Does the opposition leader now reside in India? Had she taken any visa to visit Chittagong Hill Tracts last year? he questioned.

## Seminar on Life Philosophy on GC Dev March 23

By DU Correspondent

A special seminar on 'The Life and Philosophy of Dr GC Dev' will be held at the Department of Philosophy of the Dhaka University on March 23 at 4 pm.

The Dev Centre for Philosophical Studies (DCPS) has arranged the programme to pay tribute to Dr Dev, who was brutally killed by the Pakistani Army on the black night of March 25, 1971.

Prof Md Sahadat Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university and chairman of DCPS will preside over the seminar while Prof Abdul Matin, Prof Aminul Islam and Prof Ajay Kumar Roy will deliver lecture on life and philosophy of Dr Dev.

## Festival on "mahua" held at JU

By JU Correspondent

A festival and discussion on blooming of 'Mahua' was held at Mahuatata of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Thursday.

'Jahangirnagar Sahitya Kendra' and 'Teachers' and Students' Centre (TSC) organised the function. Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof Alauddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest while Prof Abul Khaer and renowned writer Moinul Ahsan Sabar were present as special guests.

Renowned dramatist and director of TSC Prof Selim Al Din delivered the welcome speech.

Poet Mohammad Rafiq, Abu Kaisar, Mahboob Hasan, Alsar Ahmad, Khaled Hossain, Salam Saqlain, Asad Ahmed, Shamim Reza, Sakira Parvin, Himel Barkat, Madal Hasan Rubaiyat Ahmed, Habib Zakaria and Mahboob Morshed recited poems while Shanjib Chowdhury, Sharmila Chakravarty, Kohinor Nahar and Sabera Tabassum performed at the cultural programme following the discussion.

## UNESCO Clubs Cultural Award introduced

The National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh will give "UNESCO Clubs Cultural Award-99" to 13 people for their performance in various branches of fine arts, reports UNB.

The winners of the radio, television, film and national awards have been asked to contact Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, Secretary General of the Association at 13/2 Toyenbe Circular Road, Motijheel C/A (Huq Mansion, ground floor), Dhaka, with bio-data or over telephone number 245251, 017-520146 (mobile).

## Attack on MP of AL from Sylhet: US branch demands judicial probe

The US branch of Awami League and its different front units have demanded judicial inquiry into the recent "bomb attack" on the house of Awami League MP and freedom fighter Mahibur Rahman Manik, reports UNB.

In a joint statement faxed to UNB office, they demanded of the government and the Prime Minister to bring the culprits to book.

The statement was signed by US Awami League president Nurul Islam Anu, organising secretary Nazmul Islam, US Coordination Committee convenor Farasat Ali, member secretary Rafiq Chowdhury, New York City AL president Nuruzzaman Shahi, Mazid Ahmad of Mukti-joddah Sangsad, Mohammad Hani Mamhatan AL president Mohd Jassim, A Rahim Badsha, Belal Farid, Jubo League leaders Rezaul Karim and Abul Kashem, and Chhatra League leaders Sakawat Ali and Hridoy Mandal.

The statement expressed concern over the repeated "attempts" on Manik's life and said culprits involved in the bomb attack could be arrested if the police administration became active.

However, the leaders of US Awami League and its front units observed that the local administration in Sunamganj and Sylhet seemed helpless because of interference by some influential political leaders. Otherwise, it would not have been possible to launch "frequent attacks" on freedom fighter Manik.

If the persons responsible for the incidents are not brought to book, many precious lives could be lost and democracy might be endangered by "terrorists backed by certain quarters disguised in the administration," they said.

GCO brought out the procession around noon and a rally in front of the DUCSU building.

They also urged the government to stop the 'on going terrorism' and 'harassment by the police' in the educational institutions and as well across the country.

## DU to take steps to prevent plying of heavy vehicles through campus

By DU Correspondent

A section of general students yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University demanding a ban on the plying of all the heavy vehicles including bus, truck and auto tempers other than the university vehicles in to the campus.

The students under the banner of "Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatry Parishad (SCCP) staged a demonstration in front of the Vice Chancellor's office before the submission of memorandum.

The DU VC assured them of taking necessary steps to prevent and check vehicles from entering into the campus and to repair the drain in front of the Science Annex building.

At the demonstration rally, the students urged the authorities to put up speed-breakers after every 100 yards on all the roads inside the campus.

They also urged the authorities to renovate the open drains in front of the Science Annex Building on the campus which spreads a stink around.

Among others, Humayun Kabir Pallab, Md Elias, Mozahidul Islam Akash, Azizul Haq, Atiar and Babu addressed the rally.

Earlier, the students paraded on the campus.

## 'Political stability a must for development'

By Staff Correspondent

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain yesterday said that political stability is a precondition to improving the lot of people.

Addressing a public rally at Courtpur school playground under Bhandaria thana in Barisal, the minister said that the country could not achieve the desired development because of incompetent and unskilled leadership in last 50 years.

Expressing concern over some political parties' move to topple the government, Anwar Hossain said all should allow an elected government to complete its term.

Elaborating the government's development efforts, particularly in the communications sector, the minister said that the government had brought about a revolutionary change in the development of communication infrastructure throughout the country.

Earlier on Friday, the minister visited the fire-affected area at Bhandaria Bandar and instructed the officials to allocate money and other house-building materials for the affected people.



International School Dhaka (ISD) held a programme yesterday to introduce the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) and the International Baccalaureate organisation. Executive Secretary of ECIS Dr T M Maybury (3rd from left) and Principal of ISD Fiona Findlay (2nd from left) can be seen in the picture.