

Holy Ashura, the 10th of Muharram, commemorating

the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussein (R), was observed

in the country yesterday with

due solemnity and religious

of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad

(SM), and 71 of his relatives and

followers were killed in 680 AD

at Karbala, some 110 kms south

of Baghdad, as he led an upris-

ing against Yazid who rejected

the leadership of the Prophet's

the world observe the 10th of

Muharram with due religious

Hussein, many important

events in the calendar of Islam

occurred on this day that sym-

bolises the greatness of Almi-

The day was a public holi-

President Justice Shahab-

uddin Ahmed, Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina and Leader of

the Opposition in Parliament

Begum Khaleda Zia gave sepa-

rate messages calling upon all

to take lessons from the

muslims brought out many

"Tazia" processions in different

areas of the capital, especially

On the occasion, "Shia"

Since then Muslims across

Besides martyrdom of Imam

Imam Hussein, the grandson

fervour, reports UNB.

direct descendants.

fervour.

ghty Allah.

Ashura.

Holy Ashura observed

Mohammadpur.

old Dhaka.

premises.

(Tuesday).

munajat.

The biggest mourning pro-

cession was brought out from Hosseni Dalan Imambara. It

paraded different streets of the

A fair, marking the Ashura, was held at the Hosseni Dalan

was brought out from Azimpur

area that paraded different

also brought out in other parts

of the country. Stick games

thoroughfares of the city.

were also organised.

A huge mourning procession

Mourning processions were

Discussions, milad and doa

Islamic Foundation and

Dewanbag Darbar Sharif

mahfil were organised in dif-

ferent mosques across the coun-

Azimpur Chhoto Daira Sharif

also organised discussions and

held an Asheq-e-Rasul confer-

ence after Fazr prayers today

After Zohr prayers, Sufi Samrat Hazrat Mahbub-e-Kho-

da Dewanbagi addressed the

conference and led the Akheri

Bangladesh Television and

Bangladesh Betar put up special

programmes highlighting the

significance of the day while

newspapers published special

milad mahfil to mark the day.

A Tazia procession in the city on Tuesday in observance of holy Ashura.

- Star photo

## President, PM greet new Algerian president

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have congratulated Abdelaziz Bouteflika on his assumption of office as the President of Algeria, reports

In his message, President Shahabuddin said Bangladesh and Algeria have an excellent relation, which has developed in depth and dimension over the years.

The President wished Bouteflike good health, success and happiness, and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Alge-

In a separate message to the new Algerian President, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh and Algeria nurture | day. excellent bilateral relations based on common religion, culture and traditions.

She wished the president good health, success and happiness, and continued peace, prosperity and progress of the people of Algeria.

## 300 tons wheat allocated for JU lake project

By JU Correspondent Relief Ministry has allocated 300 metric tonnes of wheat under 'Food for Work Programme' for digging five lakes and developing a sanctuary on the Jahangirnagar

University (JU) campus. Earlier, the JU authority sought the assistance to develop the forestry and to make the natural sites on the campus more attractive.

Two lakes will be dug on both sides of the Central Library, two on both sides of the Auditorium and one on the area adjacent to the Teachers' and

Officers' Club. JU Vice Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed told The Daily Star: "We have taken a number of programmes for the development of forestry as well as

natural sites to create awareness about the preservation of natural environment." "Different NGOs have already conducted topographical survey on the campus to see the possibilities to turn the campus

into a broad sanctuary for mi-

gratory birds," Prof Alauddin said. Meanwhile, JU authority has formed three committees to monitor the lake project. The committees are likely to start their work by June.

## SCF leader beaten up on JU campus

By JU Correspondent A leader of the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) was beaten allegedly by some activists of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the Jahangirnagar University campus Tuesday.

Zafar, a resident student of Moulana Bhasani Hall, was beaten up by the angry activists after a BCL poster had been removed from a board assigned for SCF only.

SCF activists alleged that BCL activists frequently used the board although there is a separate board for them.

At about 1:30 am, the BCL activists called Zafar to the common room of the hall and charged him with removing the poster. "Suddenly three BCL activists started beating me with-

out hearing my explanation," Zafar told The Daily Star. SCF brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally protesting the attack on their leader and demanded immediate action against to the

persons involved in the attack.

## Obituary



Khandaker Abdul Muktadir, Asstt Vice President of National Bank Limited and In-Charge,

Brahmanbaria Branch, died of a massive heart attack on April 26 at his Dhanmondi residence,

says a press release. He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter. His qulkhwani will be held

at his Dhanmondi residence on

Friday after Asr prayers. Rela-

tives and friends have been re-

quested to attend the qul.

# Govt wants to ensure development through peace: Hasina even the job of police, who have surrendered arms," she added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to attain economic progress through peace and tranquillity, reports UNB.

"Only peace can ensure overall development. People want peace and we want to ensure development through peace," she said addressing members of the Buddhist community at her office.

Representatives of the Buddhist community of the country met the Prime minister on the eve of their religious fes-tival Buddha Purnima.

The Prime Minister said Buddha preached the message of peace while Islam taught us tol-erance and patience for estab-

lishing peace. Hasina said the present government has created an environment where people of all faiths are enjoying their reli-gious rights and this situation

will continue. She said the government is extending its allout support for the preservation of culture, heritage and tradition of

Referring to the CHT peace agreement, the Prime Minister said the government has restored peace in the troubled region, where unrest and violence continued for over two decades.

She said after restoration peace in CHT, the citizens of the country who took refuge in other countries returned home. They have been rehabilitated. "We have given jobs to them,

## DU Ga unit admission test tomorrow

By DU Correspondent The admission test of Ga unit (Business Studies Faculty) to admit into the first year Honours classes of Dhaka

University will be held at 10 am

tomorrow. Admission seekers under this unit have been asked to take their respective seats by 9:30 am.

Seat plan and details of the test will be available in front of the head office of the faculty from the morning.



Bangladesh Union Parishad chairman Samity brought out a procession in the city yesterday in support of their 12-pt demand. - Star photo

Awami League Presidium Mem-

ber Amir Hossain Amu, Awami

League Joint Secretary Moza-

ffor Hossain Poltu, Mustafa

great leader, Azad said people

will never forget his role in de-

veloping the socio-economic

He prayed for the salvation

In his presidential address,

Professor Shamsul Huq said

Sher-e-Bangla will be remem-

bered as the saviour of the op-

pressed Bangalee Muslims for

constitution of Education

Board and Wrin Shalishi

Board. The discussion was fol-

Spl BRTC bus for

working women

Corporation (BRTC) has intro-

duced a bus service from Tongi

station road to Mohakhali rail

gate to facilitate safe journey of

working women especially

women garment workers, a

BRTC release said last night,

the working women was intro-

duced at the directives of Prime

The service will operate from 7 am to 10 pm and the fare

No exam at

DU today

main closed today on occasion

of Buddha Purnima, reports

versity scheduled for today will

not be held due to the govern-

ment declared general holiday,

a DU press release said.

All examinations of the uni-

Dhaka University will re-

This service will gradually

Minister Sheikh Hasina.

be extended to other routes.

has been fixed at Tk 3.

The special bus service for

reports BSS.

UNB.

Bangladesh Road Transport

lowed by a milad mahfil.

Paying glowing tribute to the

Sarwar and Abdul Khaleg.

life of the common men.

of the departed soul.

## Consensus a must for nat'l interest: Samad Azad

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad on Tuesday said solidarity among the political parties and consensus on major issues relating to 'national interest' is a must to safeguard Bangladesh in the next millennium, reports BSS.

"Tough days are ahead. We are awaiting for the 'impending doom', narrow political differences won't help in the competitive international world," the minister said, adding "either you join the competition or get lost from the billboard of survivors.

Azad was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad marking the 37th death anniversary of great leader of the Sub-continent Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Hug at the Tin-Netar-Mazar premises here.

#### Racist attacks in London SAARC diplomats express concern

Senior diplomats of SAARC countries in the UK yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent racist attacks on ethnic minority in Brixton and Brick Lane areas of London, reports

The SAARC envoys at a meeting in London decided to take coordinated efforts towards alleviating the worries of the ethnic minorities in Britain, according to a message received here tonight.

The meeting was presided over by A H Mahmood Ali, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Britain and Chairperson of the Group of SAARC High Commissioners in London.

The diplomats took a decision to meet British Home Secretary Jack Straw and Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Derek Fatchett, to apprise them of the concerns of SAARC nations on the issue of recent racerelated incidents including the latest attacks by the far-right racist groups in Brick Lane last Saturday.

#### Manzur, Moazzem demanded The discussion, presided over by former Advisor of the Caretaker Government Professor M Shamsul Huq, was also addressed, among others, by

Obaid-Manzur Mukti Andolon has demanded immediate release of KM Obaidur Rahman. Nurul Islam Manzur and Shah Moazzem Hossain after proper investigation into the jail killing case by a judge of the High Court, reports UNB.

Release of Obaid,

The Andolon at a press conference at the BNP central office vesterday also demanded of the government to allow KM Obaidur Rahman to attend the parliament session. A greater movement will be

launched if the three leaders are not released, it warned. The Andolon alleged that

KM Obaidur Rahman was arrested to "ensure the victory" of a minister who failed to get elected in the last general elec-Its leaders further alleged

that relatives of the three leaders are being harassed. Citing examples, they said wife of Obaid was transferred illegally while Shah Moazzem was not released on parole after his brother had died. Advocate Shamsul Bari Mia

Mohon read out a written statement at the press conference, which was attended by Khurshid Jahan Haq MP Moazzem Hossain Alal and MA Hakim.

## JCD strike now on May 2

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has deferred their planned strike in educational institutions throughout the country to May 2, reports APB. The strike was earlier scheduled for Thursday.

The announcement on the shifting of the strike programme came from a rally of the BNP's student wing at the Aparajeo Bangla on Dhaka University campus yesterday. The rally, organised to

protest attacks on a JCD procession towards the Prime Minister's office on Sunday, was presided over by Manzur Elahi, senior vice president of the organisation and was ad-

dressed by other central leaders.

## President of Bangladesh Buddhist Federation ML Barua, General Secretary DB Barua Chowdhury, Bhikkhu Sheel-bhadra, Kishore Kumar Barua also spoke on the occasion. Sonali Bank takes

The government has taken up massive development pro-grammes for the region, she

to boost export business

up new scheme

By Staff Correspondent Sonali Bank has taken up some special programmes to develop garments factories and accelerate export business in

Under the programme, the bank will also help the garments owners in executing ex-ports orders within the time schedule set by the international buyers.

The governing body of the bank at a meeting recently decided that any proposal regarding garments industry received at any branch should be forwarded to the head office with details within three working

The head office will return a decision within the next three working days unless it needs to make further queries regarding the case. The governing body will

meet, if necessary, to take a decision on revival of any garment factory which has been irregular for long. As many as 462 garments

factories are now operating with financial help from the Sonali Bank.

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) president Anisur Rahman Sinha along with seven other leaders made a courtesy call on the high officials of the bank yesterday and welcomed the programmes.

### Ershad says People will not accept polls without opposition

SUNAMGANJ, Apr 28: Reiterating his demand for holding elections to upazila parishads under a caretaker administration, Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad today warned that no election will be acceptable to the people if it is held without the opposition, re-

Addressing a public meeting Jagannathpur High School ground, the former President admitted his mistake and said the election held during his time without the opposition proved futile. He asked the government to learn lessons from its mistakes. He said that the present gov-

ernment is expert in 'rigging elections' and hold polls without voters. They are now trying to hold elections to upazila parishads without the opposition in a bid to re-establish oneparty BKSAL rule.

The JP chairman said the government ignored the opposition demand as it realised that they will be routed if the elections were held under the caretaker administration.

## Ex-employees of Bhorer Kagoj demand payment of arrears

Fifty-three former journalists and employees of the daily Bhorer Kagoj yesterday urged the newspaper authorities to pay their outstanding dues including gratuity, reports BSS.

In a statement the former journalists and employees said they resigned from the Bhorer Kagoj in September last year maintaining all regulations and giving prior notice to the newspaper management.

The former staff said although the Bhorer Kagoj authorities accepted their resignation, but they were yet to get their dues. The signatories to the state-

ment include Abdul Quiyum Mukul, Mozammel Hossain, Mohammad Sanaullah, Anisul Haq. Arun Karmakar and Sumona Sharmin. Local MPs to be

## involved in implementation of WDB projects

Standing Committee on Water Resources Ministry at a meeting yesterday decided to involved the local member of parliament in the implementation of all projects of Water Development Board, reports

The meeting, presided over by committee chairman Abdul Momin, reviewed the progress of different decisions taken by the committee earlier and the progress of different projects of Water Development Board.

The meeting was informed that Tk 1416.23 crore had been sanctioned for 83 projects under the ministry for the year 1999-2000. The committee members in-

cluding Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Mohammad Anwarul Islam, Kazi Sikander Ali, MA Bari, Sarfuddin Ahmed, Haroon al Rashid and Dr Habibur Rahman attended the meeting.



Police intercepted the activists of JASAS at Rampura when they were marching towards the TV Bhaban as part of their gherao programme yesterday. - Star photo

## Digital phone exchange opens in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 28: A 1,000-line digital telephone exchange, installed at a cost of seven crore taka, was opened here today, reports UNB.

Home. Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim formally opened the exchange at the T&T Bhaban here by talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka at 1.10 pm.

The Prime Minister said Chapainawabganj was a neglected area in the past and no development activities were undertaken here. She said her government

would do its best for the wellbeing of the people, especially for the people of Nawabganj. Hasina was happy to note

that leaders of all political parties had gathered here on the occasion. She urged them to work unitedly for the welfare of the people sinking political differences.

She said rail service through Bangabandhu Bridge will facilitate called transportation of goods from this region to the capital. She also called for setting up agro-based industries there to contribute to the national economy. Mohammad Nasim told the

gathering that with the commissioning of the exchange, 15 districts came under digital telephone network. Nine more districts will be covered within this year, he added. The minister said the gov-

ernment will resign after the expiry of its term in 2001 and general election will be held under a caretaker government. "We will honour the people's verdict."

He called upon all to be alert so that none can grab power through killing and coup.

Among others, State Minister for Water Resources Dr Alauddin, local BNP MP Haroon Or Rashid, district Awami League president Dr AAM Mezbaul Haq, General Secretary Shamsul Haq and T&T Board Chairman MA Mannan Choudhury spoke on the occasion.

## Call for unified action to save GSS

A rally of the general employees of Gono Shahajiya Sangstha (GSS) yesterday called for taking united stand to save the organisation where 6000 people are working, reports BSS.

The rally observed that a section of employees (are lengaged'in "conspiracy" to destroy the organisation for their selfinterest. Held at the Central Shaheed

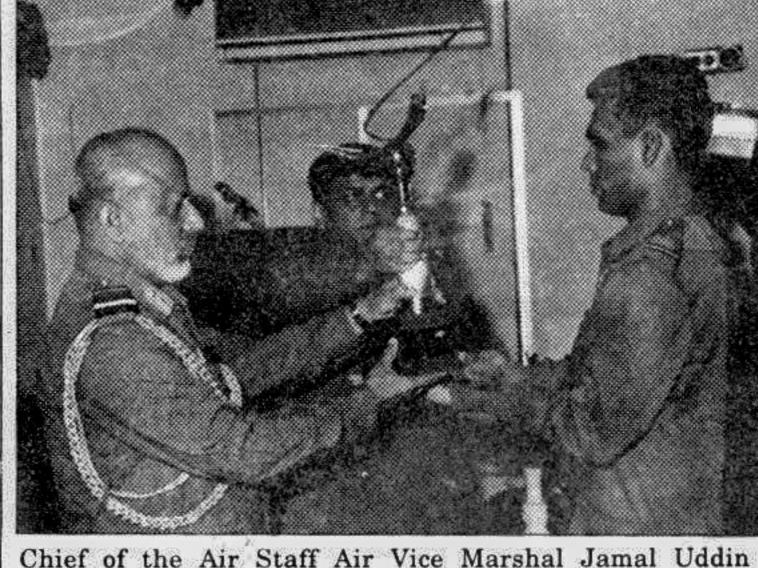
Minar the rally was attended by over 2500 workers. The rally supporting the executive and advisory council stand alleged that a section of employees who obtained undue advantages are out to destroy the organization at their own interest and at the risk of job of over 6000 workers.

Presided over by Mustafa Panna, convenor of "Karmi Sanmelon Parishad" (workers conference council), the rally was addressed, among others, by regional coordinators from all over the country including Swapan Bhattachariya, S M Rahman, Shahidul Islam, Hasina Habib, S A Mannan, Badiuzzaman Sarder, Mizanur Rahman and Mustafa Kamal. The rally called upon the

general employees to cooperate with the advisory council in the greater interest of the survival of over 6000 families as well as to keep the socio-economic activities of the organisation uninterrupted.

A fortnight long programme from May one was also announced to hold regional workers rally, guardian conference and exchange of opinion with members of civil society and holding press conference.

The rally over, the employees went to the NGO Bureau and handed over a memorandum to the NGO Bureau Director General containing their various demands.



Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed giving "Chief of the Air Staff Trophy" to the best Student-Officer at the certificate awarding ceremony of the BAF Flight Safety Institute at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

## Launching of Abt-DM&E joint collaboration May 2

The launching ceremony of Abt-DM&E joint collaboration will be held in the city on May 2, says a press release. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed will be present as chief guest.

The Development Management & Engineering Consultants Ltd (DM&E) is a multidisciplinary consulting firm registered in Bangladesh. Dr A Majeed Khan is the Chairman of its board of directors.

DM&E has collaborative alliance with Abt Associates Inc., one of the largest policy research and socioeconomic development consulting firms in the United States.

#### Gratitude Begum Shahnaz Islam, wife

of the late Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Nazrul Islam, has expressed her gratitude to the numerous colleagues, friends and well-wishers of the deceased who had conveyed their condolences and sympathy to the family following the sad demise of her husband. She deeply regrets her inability to convey her gratitude individually to all of them, says a press release.

#### Drama festival begins today A four-day drama festival

organised by the Nagorik Natyangan begins in the city today, says a press release.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the festival at the Guide House auditorium. A reception will also be accorded to 11 women personalities on the day.

Sutrapat, a theatre group from Calcutta, and Theatre will take part in the festival. Also, a seminar will be held on May 1 at 11 am.

## Body recovered from Dhaleswari

MUNSHIGANJ, April 28: Sadar Thana police recovered an unidentified body of a man aged about 60 on Tuesday from the river Dhaleswari, near the Mukterpur Ferry Ghat, reports

Police said, the floating body was clad in a sky-blue Punjabi and check Lungi. A tax receipt of Kukutia Union Parishad, issued in the name of Afzal Hussain of Kukutia (Uttarpara) under Sreenagar thana of the district, was found in the pocket of the Punjabi, police added.

The body was sent to Narayanganj morgue for autopsy, an unnatural death case was recorded with Sadar thana.

### Werner presents WFP publication to president

WFP Representative in Dhaka Dr Werner Kiene called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban vesterday and presented him a WFP publication on Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The publication, "People First," analyses how targeted food assistance makes a difference in the lives of poor people and help them rise to a situation where they can help themselves.

Dr Kiene apprised the President of various projects undertaken by WFP in Bangladesh and said WFP delivers food to the people who need it most and can use it best.

## Golden Jubilee of AL Khulna unit celebration May 25

KHULNA, Apr 28: The golden jubilee of Bangladesh Awami League will be observed in the divisional city here on May 25 following the central programme on May 23 in capital

Dhaka, reports BSS. An observance committee has been formed with Khulna city Awami League president Advocate Manzurul Islam as its convenor and whip S M Mustafa Rashidi Suja as the

member secretary. The committee, which was formed at a meeting held yesterday at the circuit house with Khulna district Awami League president Sheikh Harun-ur-Rashid presiding, will also include president and general secretaries of the district units Awami League, members of the national committee, Awami League MPs and ministers of the division.

### Gonotantrik Oikkya Parishad meet held at DU

A general meeting of the "Gonotantrik Oikkya Parishad", a national platform of the Registered Graduates of Dhaka University who belong to Bengali Nationalism and spirit of the Liberation War, was held yesterday at the TSC cafeteria of the university, reports BSS.

Convenor of the organisation Advocate Syed Ahmed chaired the meeting, which elaborately discussed about the election of the 25 registered graduate representatives to the Dhaka University Senate scheduled to be held June next. A large number of intellec-

fessional organisations, nomination seekers from the panel and registered graduates addressed the meeting. Emphasizing on unity of the pro-liberation forces in every sector, they said all concerned

should have work unitedly to

ensure the victory of the candi-

tuals, leaders of different pro-

## Ctg BSD convening body formed

dates of the panel.

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: A 101-member new convening committee of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) at Chittagong City unit was formed in a meeting at the party office on Tuesday.

Solaiman Khan and Taiabur Rahman have been made joint convenors of the committee. Presided over by Solaiman Khan, central leader Professor Nuruddin Jahed Munju, advocate Abu Mohammad Hashem, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, Fahim Uddin Ahmed were present at the meeting.

### 5-day training session ends

A five-day training workshop on "In-depth Reporting on Gender Issues" concluded at News Network Office yesterday. News Network, a news fea-

ture agency, organised training. 23 women journalists and free lance writers participated in the workshop conducted by News Network Editor Shahiduzzaman and AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain. Sultana Begum, Country

the gender issues at the concluding session. Farid Hossain praised the participants for their eager participation.

Representative of Diakonia, a

Swedish donor agency spoke on

In five years time, the number of female journalists in the country would rise significantly, he said.