

President warns against receiving donations from dishonest persons

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday advised the humanitarian and social organisations not to take donations from those bodies whose earnings come through dishonest means, reports BSS.

"It would not be wise to receive money from one who earns by mischievous ways," he said.

The President was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a newly-built 43-bed specialised ENT Hospital of SAHIC (Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children) at Mohakhali in the city yesterday morning as the chief guest.

The President said deafness is a universal problem but it fails to attract others' sympathy as it is not visible in a person's physique. As a result, he is neglected by society compared to other mentally retarded people, he said, adding that the deaf has all the feelings and emotions but he gets into trouble since he does not have the power to speak.

Quoting from the WHO report, the president said about 10 per cent of the people of the world are more or less hearing-impaired of whom one-third cannot hear at all and they are called deaf.

The President said it is difficult to say what the exact number of deaf is in Bangladesh but

it would not be small as a cross section of our population suffer from malnutrition.

Emphasising on introduction of modern technology in medical science in Bangladesh, the president said the scientific developments have moved forward towards higher human civilisation. "It has been possible to remove many incurable diseases by applying new inventions of medical science."

The President called upon the rich to extend their support to the humanitarian service-oriented organisations, specially for the mentally-retarded children.

The function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah, German Ambassador to Bangladesh Uwe Schramm, Representative from Germany and Board of Member of Andheri Hilfe Prof Dr Antonius Nienhaus, SAHIC President Prof Rabul Husain and its General Secretary Prof MN Amin.

The inaugural ceremony was rounded off with a cultural function participated by the students of the National Centre for Hearing and Speech for Children (NCHSC).

The President visited the projects of SAHIC including the newly-built ENT Hospital.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the inaugural ceremony of 43-bed ENT Specialised Hospital at Mahakhali in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Polio could be eradicated by 2000: WHO

GENEVA, May 19: Polio could be eradicated by the end of 2000, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced in a press conference today, reports AFP.

"It's technically feasible. We know how to register the last polio case by the end of 2000," said Dr. Bruce Aylward, a director of the WHO programme aimed to eradicate the disease.

It will then be necessary to keep watch for the disease for another three years, and another two years afterward an independent committee will have to confirm its eradication.

Therefore "poliomyelitis will not be officially proclaimed eradicated until 2005," he clarified.

Following its declaration that smallpox had been eradicated in 1979, in 1988 the WHO launched a new campaign to eliminate polio by 2000.

In a 1988 census, the WHO counted some 35,000 polio cases worldwide. Ten years later that number had been reduced to 5,673 cases, indicating that WHO's all-out campaign against polio had resulted in an 85 per cent decrease in cases since its

inception.

Polio survives only in sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian subcontinent. It was eradicated in North and South America in 1994, and in 1998 it was eliminated in the western Pacific (including China) and all of Europe except Turkey.

The reduced incidence of polio came through a program of scientific observation and a widespread policy of vaccinating all children under the age of five. The WHO and several other agencies, including UNICEF, sometimes even negotiated a ceasefire between warring factions in order to administer those vaccinations.

WHO also appealed for 1.25 billion dollars in funding it needs to reach its goal by 2000. Some 750 million dollars have been obtained so far, but WHO continues to have difficulty in securing funds from certain donor countries, especially those in which polio no longer exists.

A polio vaccine was discovered in 1955. The disease had plagued mankind for thousands of years until then.

Int'l confce on Constitutional Law May 27-28

An international conference on 'Comparative Constitutional Law: Parliamentary Committee System' will be held in the city on May 27-28, reports APB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference at the International Conference Centre at 10:30 am on May 27, said a Jatiya Sangsad press release.

The first working session of the two-day conference will begin at 2 pm on the day at the Cabinet Room of the Jatiya Sangsad. The second session will begin at 10 am next day at the same venue.

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia is expected to attend the concluding session as chief guest.

Experts from India and United Kingdom will take part in the conference, organised jointly by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat.

EU president greets Hasina

The President of the European Union has congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for being awarded the 1998 UNESCO Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize, reports BSS.

"This important recognition is a further sign of the appreciation of the international community for your tireless work and efforts which led to the successful conclusion of the 1997 Peace Accord between your government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Shaghata Samity (PCJSS) ending more than 20 years of bitter fratricidal conflict," EU President Manuel Marin Gonzalez said in a letter felicitating Sheikh Hasina.

Gonzalez said he fully acknowledges the progress made in the implementation of the Peace Accord and would encourage Bangladesh Government in making all possible efforts towards its early implementation.

The EU President said what is of paramount importance is the creation of conditions necessary for the peaceful development of the region, a goal towards which the "international donor community, including the European Commission, is most eager to contribute".

Muqtadir's solo painting show from tomorrow

The fifth solo painting exhibition of A Muqtadir entitled "Light sublime" — A presentation through oil paintings begins in the city tomorrow, say a press release.

Qayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the 11-day show at the Gallery 21 at 5:30 pm. Prof Anisuzzaman will be present at the ceremony as chief guest.

The exhibition will remain open till May 31 from 10 am to 8 pm everyday.

BCUTA's demands

Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) has urged the government to immediately take steps for implementing the Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission report to meet the long-standing demands of teacher community.

BCUTA in a statement also demanded full government salary for the teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions, cancellation of ratio system in promotion to the post of assistant professor, creation of more posts for associate professor and professor and disbursement of house rent and festival bonus.

The teachers' organisation also appealed to the government for keeping provision in the next budget to implement the demands.

Outlaw held in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, May 20: An alleged outlaw was arrested along with a pipe-gun and some ammunition at Darshana town on Tuesday, reports APB.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Insan Ali, 25, a member of an outlawed political party, in an injured condition from his hideout near the Hira Cinema Hall.

Police said Ali came to his hideout after being injured in a fight with comrades over share of toll money.

New Lions Club Dist Governor

Ferozar Rahman and M Shamsul Haque have been elected District Governor and Vice-District Governor of Lions Club International, District 915-2000, respectively for 1999-2000, says a press release.

They were elected at the 6th Annual Lions District convention held at a city hotel on May 15.

Presently, Lion Rahman has been holding the position of elected Vice-District Governor while Lion Haque is the Region Chairman of the same District for the current year.

Death anniversary

The 2nd death anniversary of Ahsanur Rahman Anonda will be observed on May 22, reports BSS.

Anonda, a brilliant Bangladeshi student of Computer Engineering, was killed in a road accident in Moscow on May 22, 1997 at the age of 26.

A Milad Mahfil will be held at his father's residence at 73 Siddeswar Circular Road after Asr prayers.

Shubho Rahman, Assistant editor of Daily Janakantha and father of the deceased has requested all friends, relatives and well-wisher to attend the Milad.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Mohiuddin Khalid, a senior advocate of Dhaka Bar Association, will be held at his Dhamondi residence tomorrow, says a press release.

Mohiuddin died on Tuesday of injuries he sustained when a gang of muggers stabbed him in the city's Islampur area on May 13.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of admirers.

Vitamin A Week from June 28 20 children go blind everyday

By Staff Correspondent

Unicef representative Shahida Azfar yesterday said at least 20 children in Bangladesh go blind everyday due to Vitamin A deficiency.

Stressing on Vitamin A supplements, Shahida Azfar called for integrated help and cooperation to make the Vitamin A Week from June 28 to July 6 a success. The Week aims at providing Vitamin A to around 20 million children aged between one and six across the country.

The Unicef Representative was addressing a discussion as chief guest, marking the 21st founding anniversary of Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) at the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city yesterday.

Presided over by ABC president Salma Khan, the anniversary celebration programme

was addressed, among others, by Muhamed Aziz Khan, chairman of Khulna Power Company Ltd and ABC Treasurer Munira Khan.

Underlining the need for ensuring fundamental rights of children, Unicef Representative Shahida Azfar said, "investing in children is much more than mobilising financial resources — though this is one critically important factor."

Following the discussion, visually impaired students of ABC presented a cultural function.

Earlier, ABC general secretary Husniara Huq gave a details of its programmes which include sight restoration programmes, education for blind children, and rehabilitation programme to make the children self-reliant.

CHTRC installation ceremony May 27

RANGAMATI, May 19: Nearly 2,000 guests are expected to witness the installation ceremony of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) slated for May 27 here, officials said today, reports BSS.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry officials said 300 VIPs including ministers and diplomats would be among the dignitaries who would attend the function along with tribal representatives, former Shantibahini men, headmen and local leaders on the Tribal Cultural Institute Premises.

They said 11 members of the National Committee on the CHT headed by Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah will attend the occasion as the special guests. The committee negotiated the peace accord with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) to end bloodshed in the hills.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma today reviewed the preparations for the ceremony with concerned officials here. Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Chingkev Roaza was present.

Jyotindra Proshad Tanchangya, a joint secretary of the government, took over as the chief executive officer of the council last week in line with the 1997 landmark peace agreement that ended more than two decades of insurgency.

PCJSS chief and former rebel leader Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma took over as the chairman of the CHTRC on May 12, ending an eight-month impasse in the implementation process of a major clause of the accord.

Officials said the government has initially sanctioned Taka 30 lakh for renovating a makeshift office building for the CHTRC here and providing it other infrastructural facilities including telephone, computer and furniture.

A Voyage of Discovery

What have the River Thames under London's Tower Bridge on a summer's day in June and Bay of Bengal at the start of November got in common? A state-of-the-art Maxi racing yacht and a Voyage of Discovery.

One of the world's most technologically advanced 80ft Maxi racing yachts has been totally rebuilt to the very highest standards and will set sail from London's Tower Bridge on June 18 with an all-British, seven-man crew. Further details will be revealed at a press conference planned in London for June 17, says a press release.

The vessel will head out into the North Sea, around the North Foreland Point en route

for an overnight berth in Cherbourg, France. From here the yacht skirts the coastlines of three continents on its 170 days Voyage of Discovery through some of the world's most testing waters, including Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, the UAE, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The Voyage of Discovery will take place under the captaincy of one of the most talented and world renowned skippers who has over 23 years' experience including two Pacific Ocean crossings, 30 Transatlantic crossings — several single-handedly — as well as holding numerous endurance and speed records.

Freshers' reception at NSU

By Staff Correspondent

North South University (NSU) organised a freshers' reception to welcome the new batch of MBA students on Tuesday afternoon, says a press release.

Addressing the newcomers, the teachers laid stress on maintaining quality in university education to face the challenges of both local and international markets.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university Hafiz GA Siddique, Director of MBA programme Prof Shamsul Haque, and Director of BBA programme Dr Mesnatuddin, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Lecturer Quazi Mahmud Ahmed conducted the programme. Kazi Borhanuddin welcomed the freshers on behalf of the senior students.

Bangladeshi troupe enthalls Bhutanese audience

The visiting Bangladesh cultural delegation enthralled Bhutanese audience by their unique performance during the Bhutanese capital Thimphu on May 16 and 17, a message received in the city yesterday said, reports BSS.

The first cultural show on the evening of May 16, which was for invited guests only, was enjoyed, among others, by the Fourth Queen of Bhutan, Sangay Choden Wangchuck, prince Namgyel Wangchuck and other princes, princesses and dignitaries.

Zillur condemns Begum Zia's statement

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday bitterly condemned and protested the concocted and misleading statement made by BNP Chief Begum Khaleida Zia, reports BSS.

In a statement Rahman, who is also the general secretary of the Awami League asked the opposition leader not to make irresponsible utterance in the streets. "If you have any political honesty, then come to the Jatiya Sangsad and ask any question directly to the Prime Minister and accept the challenge of providing your allegations," he said.

The minister rejected the allegations of importing low quality paddy and rice from India and said that the jubilation expressed by Begum Zia at the apprehension of dying two crore people in the last devastating floods had proved wrong.

He admitted that the government had to import food grains due to floods and food deficit. Government has distributed adequate food relief during the floods and supplied food grains to two crore people through 42,000 VGD cards free of cost, he pointed out and said as a result none died of starvation.

At that time Begum Zia did not raise any question regarding the import of rotten rice. Rather her party, the BNP and its allies tried in vain to create artificial crisis of food items to achieve self-fish political gains.

10th founding anniversary of PCP today

KHAGRACHHARI, May 19: Pro-Peace Treaty tribal student organisation Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) will observe "the decade of movement in Khagrachhari" in the district headquarters tomorrow, reports APB.

Chairman of the interim CHT Regional Council and PCJSS chief Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma will inaugurate a colourful rally in the hilltown on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of PCP.

Renowned lawyer and President of Ganu Forum Dr Kamal Hossain will attend the PCP's discussion meeting as the chief guest in the afternoon. PCP central committee president Polash Khisha will preside.

Barrister Hassan Arif and Prof Mesbah Kamal will be present as the special guests while Chandra Shekhar Chakma, Gafur Ahmed and KS Mong Marna will take part in the discussion.

Meanwhile, the PCP of greater CHT observed various programmes today to mark the decade.

Adv Sanauallah granted bail

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday granted bail to advocate Sanauallah Mia who was sent to jail *hajaf* following arrest during the May 11 hartal in Dhaka city, reports UNB.

The police filed a case against him and some others accusing of hurling crackers at the duty police.

The bail petition was filed on May 12, but the court took it up for hearing after one week.

Dutch cabinet resigns

THE HAGUE, May 19: Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok presented the resignation of his whole cabinet to Queen Beatrix here today, the government information service said, reports AFP.

Kok met with his tripartite coalition government for five hours today to try to resolve a crisis sparked when the upper house of parliament ignored a resignation threat from the prime minister and rejected a constitutional reform bill.

Hans Wiegels, former interior minister and now a senator in the free-market liberal VVD, the second party in the coalition government, cast the deciding vote against the constitutional reform.

The reformist D66, with three ministerial positions in the cabinet, had repeatedly threatened to pull out of the coalition if the bill to introduce the principle of "corrective" referendums failed to pass through the Dutch parliament's upper house.

After general elections in 1998, a second coalition government was formed. Its component parties, the PvdA, VVD and D66, won 97 of the 150 seats in the lower house.

Philippine SC affirms decision against family of Marcos

MANILA, May 19: The Philippine Supreme Court rejected Wednesday a petition by the children of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos asking it to reconsider a decision nullifying their agreement with the government to share their father's wealth, reports AP.

The court ruled in December 1998 that the agreement, in which the government promised immunity to the Marcoses against civil and criminal suits in exchange for a 75 per cent share of Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth, was "null and void" because it violated the constitution.

In January, the Marcos chil-

Manju opens Sarak Bhaban C Block

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju inaugurated the newly constructed C-Block of the Sarak Bhaban in the city yesterday, reports APB.

The block was constructed under an ADB assistance of 1.5 crore taka. Construction of a well-furnished conference room near the block under the same project will be completed by July, said a Communications Ministry press release.

The new block will be used as office of the Project Director and consultants of the Bangabandhu Bridge Access Road project.

After inaugurating the block, the minister discussed with officials some future programmes of the Roads and Highways Department.

He also visited the R&HD employees' union office at the Sarak Bhaban and talked with the union leaders.

Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat and high officials of R&HD were present on the occasion.

Mugger sentenced to jail in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 19: A Sessions Judge's Court today convicted a mugger and sentenced him to three year's rigorous imprisonment for mugging a cameraman in February 1983, reports UNB.

Nizamuddin of Khwaja Road, Chandgaon, was convicted for snatching a video camera and the purse from Probal Kanti Pal of Shamserpara.

Oprah Winfrey to teach leadership at university

CHICAGO, May 19: US talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey is to teach a leadership course at Northwestern University's prestigious Kellogg Graduate School of Management, a school spokesman said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Rich Honach, an assistant dean at the suburban Chicago institution, said Winfrey would teach a course entitled "Dynamics in Leadership" one night a week for 10 weeks this fall to 100 second-year graduate students.

"She's one of the most successful CEOs (chief executive officer) in the world... She has something to offer to the students," he told AFP.

Honach said Winfrey, the wealthiest US female entertainer, was the first media celebrity to teach at the school.

Winfrey's boyfriend, Stedman Graham, already teaches at Kellogg and was instrumental in arranging the deal with the television star, the spokesman added.

Honach said Winfrey would get an ordinary professor's salary, but would not give details.

Winfrey, whose annual income is estimated at around 125 million dollars according to Forbes Magazine, hosts a top-rated syndicated talk show, which is watched by some 33 million viewers a week across the United States.



A group of Dhaka University students brought out a silent procession in the city yesterday to protest the government decision to build an international conference hall at Osmany Uddyan by cutting down the trees. — Star photo

'Pirated software reason behind virus attack'

Pirated software allegedly sold by some members of Bangladesh Computer Samity was the main reason for the recent computer disaster in the country although the Samity prohibits selling such programmes, reports UNB.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), in a press release yesterday, brought the allegation against some dealer members of the Samity and demanded of the government to give exemplary punishment to such unscrupulous dealers.

The CAB allegation came three weeks after the collapse of hundreds of computers in the country following "Chernobyl" virus that struck across the world on April 26.

The virus also affected thousands of computers around the globe erasing out all their memories. Many experts were of the view that pirated software was the main reason for the virus attack.

About the Computer Samity's downloading of a software from Internet and distribution of its copies to restore the computers that became inoperative because of the virus attack, the CAB raised question whether the Samity had the right to do so.

It asked: "Who will be responsible if any new complexity arises again for using the pirated software downloaded from the Internet?"

Expressing deep concern, the CAB also said the computer buyers and users had also become hostage to a section of computer traders in the country who were selling pirated programmes.

"Most of the computer sellers don't maintain their commitment of providing after sales service," the CAB alleged and drew the attention of the government to protect the rights of consumers.

Pinochet taken to hospital

LONDON, May 19: Former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet, fighting extradition from Britain to Spain, has been taken to hospital for tests, police said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Scotland Yard said Pinochet was taken to hospital for a pre-arranged medical consultation.

A source closed to the general described the tests as "regular" and added that there was no reason to believe he was suffering from any serious condition.

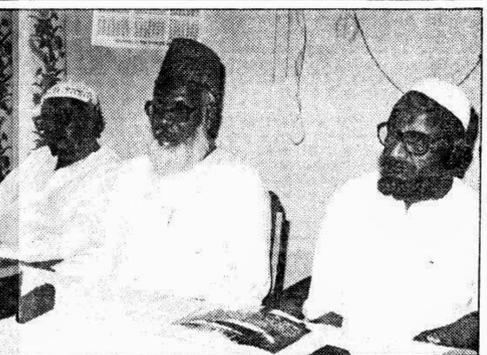
"There is no reason to believe there is anything serious," the source said.

Pinochet has been under house arrest in Britain since October 16 after a Spanish judge investigating deaths and disappearances during his 1973-1990 military rule requested his extradition.

The Chilean senator was arrested as he recuperated in a London hospital from an operation on his back.



SKOP leaders at a press conference yesterday threatened that they would go for a strike if their demands were not met immediately. — Star photo



Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami addressing a press conference at the party office in the city yesterday at the end of the party's 'Road March'. — Star photo