



Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia addressing as chief guest a programme at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday to mark the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. —Star photo

### ADHUNIK to seek legal restrictions on tobacco

## Smoking claims 3.5m every yr

ADHUNIK, a pioneer organisation that launched crusade against smoking across the country, is actively considering seeking legal restriction on tobacco, reports UNB.

"We will file a writ petition against the use of tobacco. It is under process," said Barrister Omar Sadat, legal adviser of ADHUNIK.

Legal action has been taken in some states of America that have created a positive sense among the smokers and anti-smokers against tobacco, he said.

Revealing appalling statistics, ADHUNIK president Dr Nurul Islam yesterday said that tobacco causes 3.5 million deaths each year, around the world. One million of these deaths occur in developing

countries. Addressing a press conference on the eve of "Anti-Tobacco Day" on May 31, Dr Islam said that most of the 100 million deaths caused by tobacco are preventable.

ADHUNIK secretary general Enayetullah Khan and Prof Hasina Banu also spoke at the press conference held at the National Press Club.

The National Professor and founder president of ADHUNIK Dr Nurul Islam said that it was predicted that tobacco will become the leading cause of death and disability by the year 2020 killing more than 10 million people annually, 2 million of them before reaching 70.

Every day Tk one crore is being spent on buying cigarettes in the country and some 60 million people of the country now smoke, he estimated.

## 3 women die every hr due to problems during pregnancies, births

In our country, three women die every hour due to complications during pregnancies and childbirth, one of the highest in the world, a health ministry document said.

About 80 infants die out of 1000 live birth while under-five child mortality rate is 116 per 1000 live birth. Little over two deliveries take place at health centres for every 100.

To reduce the child and maternal mortality rate, the government and its partner agencies have given priority to address the problems.

The government, since May 1997, has given importance to medical intervention as well as social need to address the problem of high rate of maternal death in the country. Pregnant women are at risk of developing life threatening complications who need access to safe deliveries.

In observance of 'Safe Motherhood Day 1999' on May 28, a press briefing was held yesterday at the Health Ministry. Addressing the journalists Health Secretary M M Reza said, "The condition of health centres are

250 illegal power connections snapped

By Staff Correspondent

Some 250 illegal power connections have been snapped in Kamrangirchar thana area in the city, says a press release.

An inspection team of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) conducted the drive in Nawabganj, Munshirhat and Khalmora Ghat areas on Monday.

Unicef Country Representative Shahida Azfar, senior officials of health and family planning were also present.

### Businessman robbed of Tk 4.5 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of muggers stabbed a businessman and snatched Tk about 4.5 lakh from him in front of the city's BG press yesterday noon.

Abdur Razzaq, 26, a hundi businessman and a resident of Kaliakoir under Gazipur district was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with injuries, hospital sources said.

Police said they heard about the incident, but received no complaint.

### SKOP strike

From Page 1  
SKOP was represented by, among others, Ahsan Ullah, Master MP of the ruling party backed Sramik League, Nazrul Islam Khan of the BNP backed by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and Abdul Bashar of the Workers Party backed Jatiya Sramik Federation.

According to the agreement signed on January 20 last year, the government was to get a law enacted to constitute a "National Minimum Wage Commission" within six months of signing of the agreement. Once formed, the Commission was supposed to fix a "national minimum wage" for the workers. But nothing was done as yet.

The agreement also provided that the government would form a Wage Commission for the workers within a month of signing of the agreement and publish the Commission's report by June 1998. The government also promised in the agreement that it would implement the recommendations of the Commission with retrospective effect from July 1997.

But in violation of the agreement, the government formed the Wage Commission nine months after the accord, while the report of the Commission is yet to be published.

The government also pledged in the agreement that it would set up a Law Commission to review the "repressive provisions" of labour laws and suggest amendments for democratisation and modernisation of the laws. But no such Commission has so far been set up.

General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik Federation Shah Alam told The Daily Star last night: "The government has failed to honour the agreement it signed and forced us to go for the general strike."

Suranjit undergoing treatment at hospital

By Staff Correspondent

Suranjit Sengupta, the parliamentary affairs advisor to the Prime Minister, has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital for the last three weeks as he is suffering from a strong backache due to slight dislocation of a cardinal disc.

Sengupta is under the care of renowned neurosurgeon Dr Rashiduddin Ahmed.

Talking to The Daily Star on Sunday, the ruling party lawmaker said doctors had advised him to do some walking exercise for getting relief from the pain.

"If pain does not subside, I have to undergo an operation," Sengupta said and sought blessings from all for his early recovery.

### Birth centenary

From Page 1

Ahmed, Agricultural Minister Maitry Chowdhury, Forest Resources Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and State Minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation of a mausoleum on the graves of the National Poet, Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin, artist Quamrul Hasan and former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Abdul Matin Chowdhury on the university campus.

Hasina also inaugurated the main programme of the day at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the morning.

Teachers, students, officers and employees of the university came to the mazar of the poet in a procession from the Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus and placed wreaths.

The university also begins a six-day programme at the TSC today, to be inaugurated by the Vice-chancellor.

Bangladesh Teachers Association (Qamaruzzaman) organised a discussion meeting at its auditorium at Maghbazar in the city yesterday. National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf attended the function as chief guest. The discussion was followed by a cultural function.

A seminar was organised at the National Press Club auditorium in the afternoon with Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Fresh programmes announced to save trees at Osmani Udyan

By Staff Correspondent

Movement for Saving 11 thousand Trees in Osmani Udyan at a meeting yesterday announced a fresh programme to save the trees of the Udyan.

The programmes include a mass rally on June 5 and painting exhibition, recitation of poems and people's music at the premises of the Udyan on June 1.

A massive preparation has also been taken at the meeting to collect signatures at various places in the city from May 27, said a press release.

The meeting held with the movement convenor Prof Sirajul Islam in the chair, congratulated the people for taking part in the citizen's rally and human chain held at the Udyan recently.

A section of eminent citizens of the country began their movement early this month to save the greenery of Osmani Udyan where government plans to construct a convention centre for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in 2001 by felling down the trees of the Udyan.

Among others, Dr Ahmed Kamal, Abrar Chowdhury, Dr Tasmin Siddique, Faizul Hakim, Rubin Hossain, Golam Mahmud, Mosharefa Mishu, Hasibur Rahman and Abed Reza were present at the meeting.

Non-govt teachers' rally

JHALAKATHI, May 25: Non-government secondary school teachers today paraded the streets and held a rally in the town demanding establishment here the Education Board proposed for Barisal division, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Teachers Association (Qamaruzzaman) organised a discussion meeting at its auditorium at Maghbazar in the city yesterday. National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf attended the function as chief guest. The discussion was followed by a cultural function.

Speakers at the rally also demanded rise of the government share of salary to 100 per cent, house rent and festival bonus for non-government teachers.

Association leaders Abdul Khaled, Bimal Kumar Shahi, Syamal Chandra Sarkar were among those who spoke at the rally.

## Imbibe with spirit of Nazrul: Khaleda Zia

Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the people to imbibe with the spirit of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam who had rebelled against injustice and misdeeds, reports UNB.

"We are now living in a situation where injustice and misdeeds of the government made the life and property insecure," she said and asked the people to emulate the ideals of the rebel poet to overcome the crisis faced the nation.

Begum Zia was addressing the inaugural function of the national seminar marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Poet Nazrul. "Let us remember the life and action of the poet to get inspiration in our social and national life."

As part of a series of programmes, the National Committee on Nazrul's birth an-

niversary organised the function at Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

Chaired by Commodore (retd) Ataur Rahman, National Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Quamaruzzaman, Democratic League leader Oli Ahad, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and Prof Attabuddin Ahmed, among others who spoke on the occasion. Prof Abdul Hye Sikder conducted the function.

The former Prime Minister was critical of the government for not observing the occasion in a befitting manner.

"I protest the government attitude," she said, "the government was shy to take up even a nominal programme as it was ashamed finding the month-long celebration of the national committee."



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad addressing the Regional Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on Trans-Asian Railway Southern Corridor in a city hotel yesterday. —Star photo

### Consultative workshop on bio-diversity

By Special Correspondent

A consultative workshop yesterday stressed the need for capacity building for conservation of bio-diversity, environmental impact assessment and taxonomy, and adherence to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The day-long workshop was arranged by the Bangladesh chapter of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in preparation of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of CBD which will be held in Montreal, Canada from June 21 to 25.

Dr P Balakrishnan, deputy regional biodiversity officer of the IUCN, based in Colombo, briefed the participants who included wildlife biologists, soil scientists, development researchers, journalists, conservationists, nature lovers and environmentalists.

They said the anti-liberation forces was trying to create an anarchy in the country through various destructive activities.

The BCL leaders also urged the countrymen to build up a movement to uproot the anti-liberation forces.

What a pity

Kausef could not finally see Bangladesh's cherished World Cup cricket triumph Monday night as he collapsed to a shock from initial setbacks of the team, reports UNB.

The Sales Manager of Eastern Diplomatic Ware House in Gulshan died of heart attack sitting in his chair at his office about 5 pm Monday as he could not bear with Bangladesh's early misdemeanours — and possibly despondence about the nation's ultimate victory.

He was rushed to Subhawardi Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead. He was only 38.

Family sources said as his body lay at his house, a heart-rending scene descended on the house. "Abu get up, look Bangladesh won the match," said his minor son drowned in tears while people across the country burst into celebrations.

Kausef left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard yesterday.

## Poultry farmers threaten agitation if smuggling of eggs not stopped

By Staff Correspondent

Poultry farm owners of Gazipur, the major egg suppliers to the city, have threatened to go for massive agitation programme if smuggling of eggs from across the border is not stopped.

"We will take to the streets and, if necessary, will not hesitate to attack shops which sell foreign eggs," said Humayun Kabir, president of Bangladesh Poultry and Fisheries Association, Sreepur under Gazipur.

The foreign eggs are mainly smuggled in from neighbouring India, they alleged.

"As the cost of production is very high here, we cannot compete with the goods brought in from the neighbouring country," said Neamul Kabir, General Secretary of Gazipur Poultry and Milk Samity. City's major egg supply comes from Gazipur where as many as five thousand poultry farms are operating.

Responding to different queries of the journalists, the leaders disagreed that the price of eggs would go up if smuggling was checked.

"If the local production is hampered, the market would go totally under the control of foreigners and they would gradually charge higher prices than that of local ones," one poultry leader argued.

They demanded checking of smuggling and waiver of custom duty on import of poultry feed.

Humayun Kabir, president of Bangladesh Poultry and Fisheries Association, addressing a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday threatening agitation against smuggling of Indian eggs. —Star photo

## Trans-Asian rail network needed for socio-economic development'

By Staff Correspondent

work".

"All the countries of the region will gain significant benefit from the development of defined routes," the minister added.

"The principal objective of the project is to identify and evaluate the development and operation of a network of railway routes between South Asia and Europe. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad inaugurated the four-day-long Regional Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on Trans-Asian Railway Southern Corridor," participated by delegates from China, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and host Bangladesh. Observers from World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Institute of Land Transport and ESCAP are also taking part in the meeting.

The foreign Minister stressed the need for establishment of the Trans-Asian railway network to facilitate unimpeded travel and transport to foster socio-economic development in the region.

The minister said we may thus sink a lot of our differences without dissolving our borders".

The minister said government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been giving high priority to the development of roads and communication links across the country.

Azad said, "The world's 11th largest bridge of on river Jamuna has opened a new horizon in the country's communication network and this will greatly contribute to the implementation of the proposed Trans-Asian Railway Network.

The experts would place recommendations at the end of the meeting on May 28.

## A view from the Gully

From Page 1  
gully produced only 10 runs from their bats. A sorry plight indeed. Akram and Anumul departed on identical scores and Faruq Ahmed caused his own downfall.

But the most senior player of the team, Minhazul Abedin, surviving some torrid moments and a dropped catch when he was only three, started following his younger partner Naimur Rahman and between them produced a precious 69-run 6th wicket partnership. Minhaz was lucky enough on this particular day to have survived many close calls to become the highest scorer for Bangladesh in this World Cup so far and was rightly adjudged the man of the match, the first Bangladeshi to have achieved the honour; many congratulations.

Once again the Scots lost their line and bowled as many as 28 wides and 11 no balls that enhanced the Bangladeshi total. Enamul also made handsome contributions while the regulars failed.

The Scots also started as badly as their opponents and depended on professional Gavin Hamilton and Alec Davies to take their team past Bangladesh. The situation became very grim for the 'tigers' until Hamilton was run out in most unfortunate manner in the non-striker's end which was the turning point of the game and Davies followed soon after. Bangladesh seamers Hasibul, Manzurul and Khaled bowled a perfect length and line.

The victory was expected but it hardly reflects the real strength of Bangladeshi cricket.

New Zealand looked a beaten team right from the start at Southampton. After their dramatic win against Australia they were expected to put up a better show against the West Indies but an accurate and hostile spell from Walsh and Ambrose backed up by King and Simmons sent the Kiwis on the run for life as half the side was out for 59 runs only.

The West Indies took their sweet time to overhaul the Kiwi total that can make the difference at the end. In this Group B West Indies, Australia and New Zealand may end up on equal points when the net run rate will come into play. So a quicker finish