



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 a 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 Enayeturrahman 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 these in China alone.

Narrating the harm of tobacco he urged the government to impose enhanced tax on tobacco.

bacco in the upcoming national budget to discourage smoking. He also urged the government not to accept any donation from tobacco manufacturers and producers.

Enayeturrahman Khan said that media could play a tremendous role against tobacco by making the people conscious of the deadly effects of tobacco.

In his written statement at the press conference ADHUNIK president said people who start smoking at early ages have 50 per cent chance of dying from tobacco-related disease, half 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.

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

Chaired by Commodore (ret'd) Ataur Rahman, National Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Quamaruzzaman, Democratic League leader Oil Abad, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and Prof Aftabuddin Ahmed among others who spoke on the occasion. Poet 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."

DUJ confce begins today

The two-day annual conference and election 99 of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) begins at Jatiya Press Club today, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present as chief guest at the inaugural session to be held at 11 am.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, BFUJ president general Akhter Ahmed Khan will attend the inaugural session as special guests.

The annual general meeting will begin at 3 pm after lunch and will continue till 6.30 pm. A cultural function will be held in the evening.

The election will be held tomorrow and voting will take place from 9 am to 5 pm with one-hour lunch break between 1 pm and 2 pm.

Constitution presented to Shahabuddin

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and presented him a copy of the Constitution with the latest amendment, reports UNB.

The constitution contains all the thirteen amendments separately.

Khasru also presented the pocket-sized Bengali and English versions of the Constitution published by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to the President.

He also gave the President a book titled "Fifty Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" compiled by Dr Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir.

The Law Ministry published the book in collaboration with Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB) Project, marking the 50th anniversary of the declaration of human rights.

The minister apprised the President about working of different courts of the country.

BCL condemns killing of its leader

By DU Correspondent

Ruling party-backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday condemned the killing of its leader at Chittagong University.

Saiful Islam, vice president of Amanat Hall unit of BCL and a student of political science of the university, was killed allegedly by the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir recently.

In a statement, BCL president Bahadur Bepary and general secretary Ajay Kar Khokan blamed the killing on Shibir and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved.

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

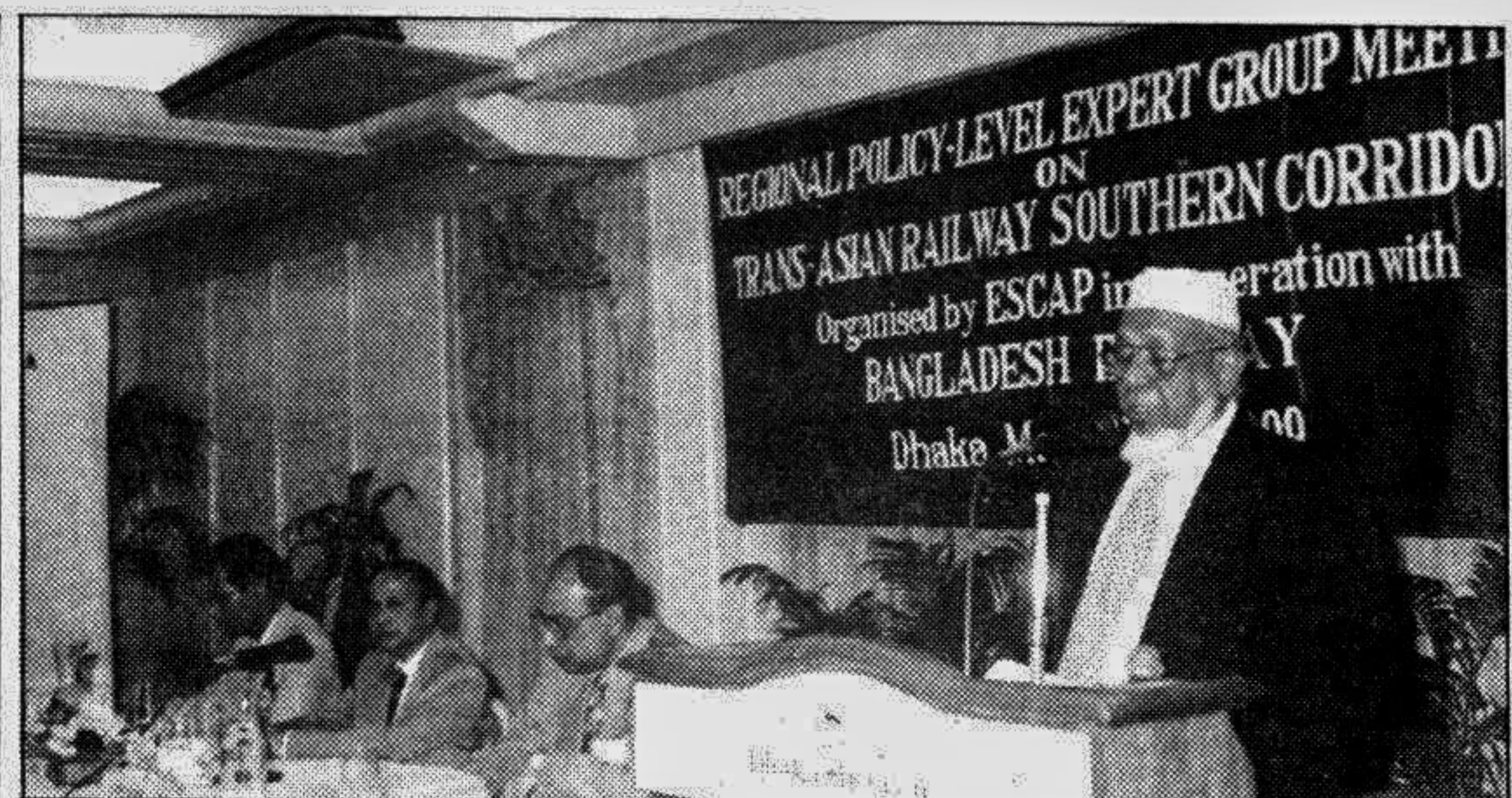
Kausar could not finally see Bangladesh's cherished World Cup cricket triumph Monday night as he collapsed to a shock from initial setbacks of the team, reports UNB.

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

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

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

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



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. Dr Ainun Nishat, country representative of IUCN chaired the workshop.

The participants suggested a number of steps for Bangladesh representative at the Montreal meeting to take up for consideration.

These are capacity building for preservation of bio-diversity, sharing of information between the countries, developing expertise for taxonomy, and forming a pool of experts for conducting environmental impact assessment (EIA) with baseline data integrating biodiversity.

Besides, they also suggested that before introducing new technology for genetic engineering and bio-technology for food production, improving flora and fauna should be assessed. Precaution should also be taken before introducing alien species and people must be given guidelines for their use, they added.

Among others, Dr Mahumudul Amin of Zoology Department of Dhaka University, Reazuddin Ahmed of DOE, Farhad Mazhar of UBING, Dr Saifuddin, deputy executive director of BRAC, Enamul Haq, a conservationist, and Shehab Ahmed, Special Correspondent of The Daily Star took part in the discussion.

Nazimuddin Alam MP granted bail

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court yesterday granted bail to BNP leader Nazimuddin Alam MP in two cases, reports UNB.

Court sources said the bail was granted when the BNP MP surrendered to the court in the morning.

The cases against Alam were filed with Ramna and Motijheel thanas in 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Boundary

From Page 1

its presence felt in the World Cup with the odd upset or two. Their ambitions in this competition were somewhat more grandiose. Sadly, it was not meant to be. They ran up against the dull dogs of international cricket and played the penalty of not being boring enough. For that, it was meant to be. Coupled with their defeat against Sri Lanka the other day, Zimbabwe's lacklustre effort against England, virtually put them out of any contention.

England relied on a steady seam attack to pin the Zimbabweans down to a run rate that was easily achievable by Stewart and his merry band. Smashing from their debut against the South Africans, England made short work of a Zimbabwean batting line-up that was tentative throughout its tenuous existence in the middle. Other than the consistent Grant Flower, who had another decent outing, none of the men in the red could withstand the steady but unexceptional English seam attack. 160 plus is simply not the score to send the shivers down the spine of any batting line-up. Campbell and his men had to pay the price.

Against India, Zimbabwe had done a Houdini, but England were in no mood to give Zimbabwe the time of day. True, they took their time, at times perhaps even making heavy weather of a prosaic and mundane attack. But England was no India and in any case there were not enough runs in the kitty to make a match of it. Zimbabwe's hour had come and gone. It was fleeing and short lived. They had promised so much more when this competition began. But whoever said life was fair?

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

By Staff Correspondent

South Asian experts yesterday met in the city to find ways and means to 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 unhindered travel and transport to foster socio-economic development in the region.

The minister said, "We may thus sink a lot of 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 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".

"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 routes allowing railway transport of containers between South Asia and Europe, Southern China and Europe over an overall distance of around 13,000 kilometres," said Dr M Rahmatullah, Director of Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Division of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

"These routes would run via Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey," Rahmatullah told The Daily Star at the side-line of the meeting.

Bangladesh has also been developing its network of roads in the light of the proposed Trans-Asian highway which plans to link several Asian countries from Turkey to Malaysia.

"Bangladesh has to construct about 180 km of new roads and expand some of its existing facilities to equip the nation to be part of the proposed Trans-Asian railway network," a railway expert said.

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

A view from the Gully

From Page 1
timony to their thirst for freedom. Like the Irish, they are also not as keen on cricket as they are in soccer and rugby.

With an average age of 30 years, the Scotland team is almost a club for the senior citizens with one of them, Ian Philip, fit at 41, actually took two catches to dismiss Akram and Enamul. Philip has been a good bat in his youth and his 234 against MCC in 1981 is his country's highest individual score.

Once again a disastrous start shook the very foundations of the Bangladesh innings on a bright day made difficult by a strong gale blowing at 135-150 miles an hour. The top order was toppled by Blair and Butt and the first five, shivering in their trousers because of the

gale, produced only 10 runs from their bats. A sorry plight indeed. Akram and Aminul 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 wickets and 11 no balls that enhanced the Bangladesh 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 Bangladesh 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 without fuss should be attempted whenever possible.

One jailed for possessing arms in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 25: A court here today convicted a young man and sentenced him to two terms in jail for possessing illegal arms, reports UNB.

Rafiq Ahmed of village Kat-achhara in Mirsarai thana was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment under Section 19/Ka and seven years R under Section 19/F of the Arms Act.

The prison terms will be served concurrently.

Court sources said Mirsarai police arrested Rafiq along with a pigeon, three SLRs and one live bullet from Mithachara Bazar last year.

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 Razzak, 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 Samik League, Nazrul Islam Khan of the BNP backed by Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal and Abdul Bashir of the Workers Party backed Jatiya Samik 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 Samik 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 dislodge 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 Matiy 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 Aparajeya 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.

Nazrul Academy organised a discussion meeting at its auditorium at Maghbar in the city yesterday. National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azfar 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 DU 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 have 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, Dr 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) pioneered the demand.

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 Shaha, Syamal Chandra Sarkar were among those who spoke at the rally.

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 district.

Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, he said the poultry farms are on the verge of ruin. "We will be compelled to shut down the farms very soon if supply of foreign eggs is not checked immediately." Leaders of Gazipur Poultry Shilpa Malik Samity and Bormi Poultry Malik Samity also spoke to the newsmen.

Poultry farm owners who supply some seven lakh eggs to the capital alleged that the huge quantity of smuggled eggs being sold openly in different city markets has an adverse impact on the market of local egg suppliers.

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

and medical equipment to save the thousands of poultry farms from closure. They also demanded reduction of electricity charges for the sector.

The poultry farm leaders said that wholesale markets like Kauran bazar, Kaptan Bazar and Mirpur Sector number one are flooded with foreign eggs. They serve as the main selling centres of foreign eggs in the city.

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 Malik 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.



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

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND				
N Hussain not out				57
A Stewart c Goodwin b Johnson	12			
G Hick c A Flower b Mbangwa	4			
G Thorpe c Campbell				
b Mbangwa				62
N Fairbrother not out				26
Extras (lb, w, nb, 7)				7
Total (for 3 wickets, 38.3 overs)				168
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-36, 3-159				
Did not bat: A Flintoff, A Holoake, M Ealham, D Gough, A Fraser, A Mullally				
Bowling				
Johnson	8	2	20	1
Streak	0	0	37	0
Mbangwa	7	1	28	2
Whittall	4	0	23	0
Olonga	3	0	27	0
Strang	9.3	1	30	0
Result: England won by seven wickets				