



Both festivity and hartal marked the installation ceremony of the interim Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council at Rangamati yesterday. From Left: Foreign guests arrive at the venue by Air Force helicopter; Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma makes a point at the ceremony; tribal artists perform at the function and the Rangamati town during the hartal called by the Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad. —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Pathetic public hospitals

Poor patients with intestinal or liver diseases stand nowhere!

By Naimul Haq

Repeated efforts by the Bangladesh Medical Association in the last 10 years for opening of separate gastroenterology and hepatology units in all government medical college hospitals have fallen on the deaf ears of the authorities. A government-constituted commission had also recommended in 1993 opening of separate units in view of huge rush of patients with intestinal and liver diseases, sources said. The Nurunnabi Commission had also recommended creation of 32 posts of gastroenterologists in government hospitals.

Patients suffering from these diseases are being deprived of treatment at government medical college hospitals due to lack of institutional facilities although there is a good number of specialist doctors in the country.

"We have about 30 specialists in intestinal and liver diseases in the country who have virtually no role to play now," Prof

Mahmud Hasan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society told The Daily Star.

Only the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) and the BIRDEM Hospital have separate units for treatment of such patients. Some private clinics also offer limited treatment facilities.

A recent survey by a team of specialists at BSMMUH revealed that about one third of the patients seeking treatment at Out Patient Departments (OPDs) in government hospitals in the country suffer from gastrointestinal and liver diseases.

Out of the total OPD patients, 10 per cent suffer from heart diseases, five per cent from kidney diseases, three per cent from illness of nervous system and more than 33 per cent suffer from gastroenterology and liver diseases, the survey revealed.

Only a fraction of the pa-

tients suffering from intestinal and liver diseases are admitted to the Medicine Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) because there is no separate unit.

"We have no allocated beds here for treating patients suffering from intestinal and liver diseases. On an average, five to ten patients are treated in the medicine ward in a month," said Dr Mian Mashud Ahmad, Consultant of gastroenterology and hepatology at the DMCH.

At least one lakh such patients come to the DMCH annually but most of them are refused admission due to lack of institutional facilities, he said.

Hasan said, "Medical graduates can not have any practical experience on intestinal and liver diseases as there are no separate units or posts of teacher in the medical college hospitals."

The Nurunnabi Commission recommendations were approved in principle by the pre-

vious government.

Opening of a gastroenterology and hepatology unit at a hospital is not much costly. It involves not more than Tk 20 lakh including expenses for basic instruments like endoscope, ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangio-pancreatogram), cholangioscopy and associated devices.

Maintenance of a unit at a hospital will not require additional funds.

"Rather, we can earn one crore taka profit annually by charging fees from 50 per cent of the patients and treating the rest free of cost," said a doctor treating such patients at the DMCH.

When contacted, Acting Director General of Health Services Dr Shamsul Huq said, "The government has plans to open gastroenterology and hepatology units in government medical college hospitals but details are not with me now."

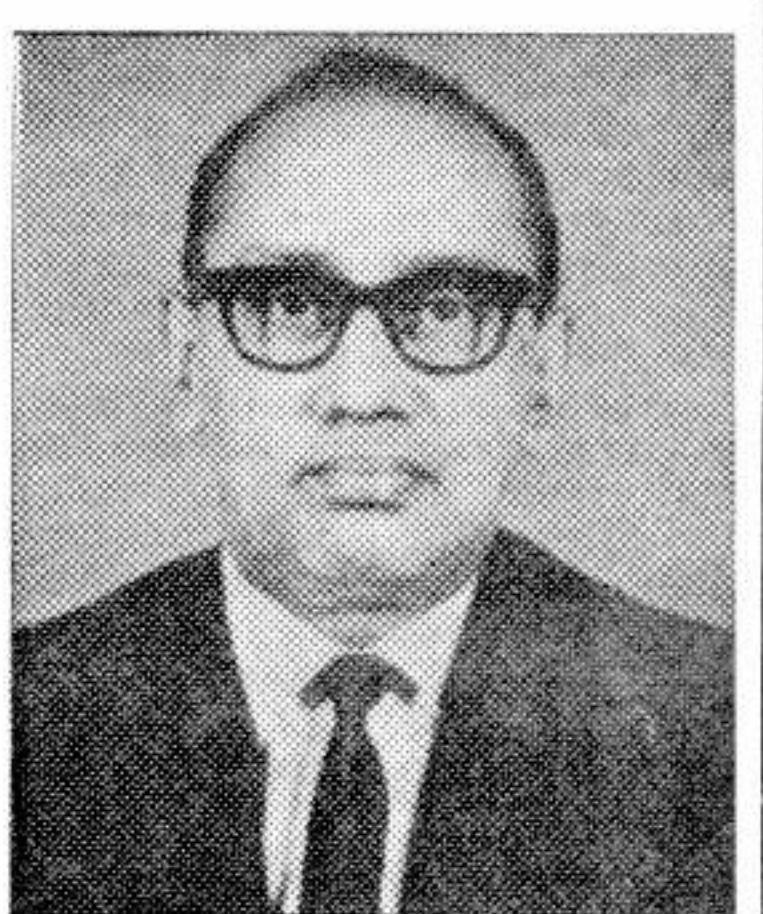
Signature campaign launched to save trees at Osmani Udyan

By DU Correspondent

The Movement for Saving 11 Thousand Trees at Osmani Udyan yesterday launched a mass signature campaign on the Dhaka University campus to mobilise support.

Dr Ahmed Kamal of the Political Science Department of DU inaugurated the campaign in the morning. Over 1,000 teachers and students of the university signed their names to express their solidarity with the movement of saving the trees.

During the drive, the organisation held a rally at the main gate of Arts Building which was addressed, among others, by Ziaul Haq Zia, Mahbubul Haq Rifon, Munir-e-Khoda Tarik, Saiful Islam Tapan, Zonayed Saki and Sharifuzzaman Sharif.



Obituary

Syed Zahur Hosain, son of late Lt Syed Mohammad Hosain, Zamin, of Dilduar, Tangail, and grandson of late Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury of Dhanbari, Tangail, died of cardio-respiratory failure at Dhaka on May 25. He was 85, says a press release.

Zahur Hosain started his career with the Calcutta Corporation. After the partition, he became the Administrative Officer of the Govt of East Pakistan, and was also the Town Planning Officer.

He held several managerial posts with Kaliganj Cotton Mills, Khulna Shipyard, Narayanjan Dockyard, Mahamganj Sugar Mills, and some others.

Syed Zahur Hosain was also the founder Manager of Haripur Gas Co and later he became the founder General Manager of Titas Gas Co Ltd. He was responsible for the laying of the gas pipe line and distribution, and commissioning of Titas Gas in Dhaka City.

Zahur Hosain was buried at Banani graveyard. His kulkhwani will be held today after Asr prayers at "Unique View," House 20, Road No 9 (Block G), Banani, Dhaka.

Death anniversary

Sunday is the first death anniversary of Dr M. Solaiman Khan, former head of Computer Science and Engineering Deptt., Ah-sanullah University, says a press release.

In this connection a milad mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence, 8-9 Shantinagar, 2/301 Eastern Point, Dhaka.

BDR-police battle over alleged smuggler

By Staff Correspondent

Officials of 16th Bangladesh Rifles Battalion and Kurigram police are sharply divided over filing of a case against an alleged smuggler arrested by BDR personnel near Doi Khaoar Char in the Brahmaputra in Kurigram on Monday.

Commanding Officer of the BDR battalion Lt Col Rafique and SP of Kurigram Abdus Sattar Khan have come up with conflicting views regarding lodging of a case against the arrested, Anwar Hossain(22).

It is "mysterious" and "beyond my comprehension" why police refused to file a case against the smuggler held with Tk1.34 lakh, Rafique said on Wednesday.

"We suggested police to file a case under Section 25(B) of the

Special Powers Act against the man, but the SP refused saying that it was not a case of smuggling," he said.

"The arrested person himself confessed that he was going to Kurigram to make a demand draft from a bank for sending Tk 1.34 lakh to one Sayed Ali of Dhubri in Assam in India for buying cattle from him. It is totally unlawful because letter of credit (LC) is the only legal procedure to send money to any foreign country. Moreover, the arrested man confessed that he was involved in smuggling," Rafique added.

When contacted, the SP told The Daily Star that there was no ground for filing a case against the man under Section 25(B) of the SPA because it was not a smuggling case.

"The arrested man apparently committed no crime because he was carrying local currency and no smuggled good was found in his possession. He cannot even be suspected of smuggling as he was coming to Kurigram. We could suspect him if he was caught while going towards the bordering area," he said.

"The recommended Section of SPA for filing case is not applicable to the arrested man as he was coming towards Kurigram, not going towards the border," satar khan explained. "According to a recent government directive, none in the bordering area could be arrested on the basis of mere suspicion if smuggled goods are not found with him and his name is not in the task force list of identified smugglers," he pointed out.

The arrested man was produced before court on Tuesday and he was placed on a five-day police remand. Case could be filed after getting specific proof that he is a smuggler," the SP said. "We have already filed a general diary against the man and steps are being taken as per law of the land."

Meanwhile, our Kurigram correspondent reports that the arrested man, Anwar Hossain, of village Narayanpur under Nageshwari thana in Kurigram had earlier confessed to BDR that he and some of his relatives 'operate a syndicate to smuggle drug and gold. The syndicate sends money to India through hundi.

A view from the Gully

From page 1

champions appeared on this fateful day against India. The score was so huge and the margin of victory so staggering that Azhar could afford the luxury of inviting Ranatunga and co for a second knock.

The match — vitally important for both teams for survival and a berth in the Super Six, fused into a no-contest after an initial flicker that burnt Ramesh with a Vaas delivery that can hardly be bowled in a thousand try. From then on the packed stands stood on their tired feet, hands developed sore muscles and throats went dry. The Indians mesmerised their supporters with the kind of powerful hitting that was hitherto unknown to these soft-peddlers.

Somerset was awarded first-class ranking in 1891. Taunton, Bath and Weston-super-Mare might have been regarded as charming backwaters of the game but not when they became the stage for Viv Richards, Joel ('Big Bird') Garner and England's own Ian Botham. The Club was founded in 1875, according to Wisden. The county club acquired the ground from the Taunton Athletic Company and secured a lease for the ground in 1885. The club has shown an interest in improving facilities at the ground by the River Tone (in which a couple of balls were lost Wednesday) ever since 1891. Taunton will certainly be remembered as the stage where in 1925, Jack Hobbs scored his 126th and 127th centuries to surpass Dr WG Grace's record. Two more innings will be remembered by spectators: Viv Richards who took 322 off Warwickshire in 1985 and Graeme Hick the Worcestershire batsman who scored 405 not out in 1988 and so nearly reached the record 424 scored by A.C. McLaren of Lancashire in 1895.

What on earth prompted Ranatunga, supposed to be a clever leader, to invite India to bat first on a wicket that showed no signs of assisting

pace of Lance Klusener on the picturesque Amstel ground in Holland. It appeared from the interviews of the people that Cricket is a game played behind their back in Holland. Nonetheless the atmosphere was superb and facilities good. Klusener, who bats left-handed, picked up five Kenyan wickets to claim his third 'man-of-the-match' medal in four matches. South Africa landed safely in Super Six.

In my time I have seen some lusty hitting, but never before had I seen such brutality against genuine medium pacers and a match-winning spinner. It will remain a mystery for a long time to come to unfold what happened to these two batsmen Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly. Unless they were possessed by 'Maa Kali' or driven by the shadow of Sachin Tendulkar, the innings they played were beyond them.

Stranger was the fact that Dravid took the initiative to clobber the Sri Lankan attack and Saurav followed suit. What overcame a normally circumspect Dravid could be anybody's guess. He was more aggressive and ferocious as long as he was at the wicket. The regular bowlers came for severe punishment as they were mesmerised to bowl to the liking of these two.

Sri Lanka had a taste of their own medicine.

Records were rewritten and hearts broken as the Lankans submitted themselves to the mercy of the belligerent Indians. Dravid equalled Mark Waugh's performance of back to back century in World Cup. India were now on a must win situation in their last match against England for smooth slide into the Super Six and the Lankans must come off with a big win against Kenya in their last match and wish for an England victory over India to keep their remote chances alive. Very interesting.

Kenya turned out to be the 'sick man of Africa' with four losses in as many matches. They started well against South Africa but lost their way against the military medium

DCC, WASA go their own way

By Morshed Ali Khan

Lack of coordination among different utility and service organisations in the city has reached such a stage that while one floats tender for some work, another moves in to do the work without ever consulting it.

Such a muddle occurred recently between Dhaka WASA and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) over construction of storm sewerage lines at Bashundhara lane near Elephant Road and at Rajabazar, WASA sources said.

In another instance, DCC built a storm sewerage line at Khilgaon Block-A on the eastern side of Rampura Road and

connected it with the western side without consulting WASA. The DCC venture would result in flooding of the western side of the road if water level rises in the unprotected eastern side, the sources added.

There are many other instances like this.

"We have a project to protect Hazipara from flooding and use Rampura Road as an embankment, but DCC has connected the vulnerable eastern side with the western side through the new storm sewerage line without asking us," said a WASA official.

For building the storm sewerage lines at Rajabazar and

Bashundhara lane, which are vulnerable to waterlogging, WASA conducted a technical survey, prepared a plan and then took up an ADB-aided project for this. Tender for the project was floated but problem arose when WASA sought permission from DCC to dig the roads. "DCC officials told us they had already started constructing the sewerage lines," said the official.

Only WASA has the technical and physical resources to plan and build storm sewerage lines in the city, he claimed.

WASA officials also said a city coordination committee

meeting attended by Mayor Mohammad Hanif had decided that if DCC took up a project to construct a storm sewerage line, it would take technical assistance from WASA.

But DCC sources said it has the know-how for constructing storm sewerage lines. At present it is constructing the huge storm sewerage line in Shantinagar area. Moreover it constructed about 300-km of storm sewerage network, especially in the lanes and by-lanes in the city. About the lack of coordination, they said it is a problem "not only with DCC or WASA alone."



Zainul's death anniversary today

The nation will observe the 23rd death anniversary of Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin today with a befitting manner, reports BSS.

People from all walks of life will place wreaths at the grave of the Shilpachariya on the Dhaka University campus to pay their respect to the great artist.

Zainul spent most time of his life to establish the Dhaka Art College, now turned into the Institute of Fine Arts of the Dhaka University.

The Dhaka University authorities, especially the faculties and students of the Institute of Fine Arts, have chalked out different programmes to observe the death anniversary with due solemnity. The programmes include discussion, placing of wreath at the grave of the artist and child painting competition.

The 'Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin Smriti Parishad' will also hold a discussion at the VIP lounge of the National Press Club at 5 PM. Home and Minister Muhammad Nasim is expected to attend the discussion as the chief guest.

Presidential intervention sought to solve BUET crisis

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday urged President Shahabuddin Ahmed for taking immediate steps to solve crisis at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

"We have requested the president as the government has failed to solve the problem during the last one month," said FBUTA president Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmed while addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city in the morning.

He said they have requested the government several time to look into the matter, but no steps have been taken so far to arrest and punish the culprits involved in the violent incidents at BUET which was closed since late last month.

Jasim, however, said that they were still keeping in touch

with the President and the Prime Minister to have problems in different universities, including the BUET, solved.

He alleged that the government even did not form a judicial probe body to investigate into the 'mysterious' role of police forces during the massive vandalism on the BUET campus.

Jasim said they will arrange an 'education seminar' next month to discuss the overall campus situation in the universities.

Dr Mostafizur Rahman, former president of Agricultural University Teachers' Association and a member of FBUTA, also condemned the government for not taking initiative to solve the crisis of BUET.

He alleged that the Awami League government was eager to fulfil their petty political interests rather than solving prob-

lems in various universities.

Rahman blamed the government for hatching conspiracy to upset congenial atmosphere at BUET and urged university teachers for launching a vigorous movement across the country to create pressure on the government to solve the problem.

Among others, Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) president and secretary Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Ferdous Hossain, BUETTA president Prof M Hossain Ali and Jahangirnagar University Teacher Association general secretary Syed Kamrul Hasan addressed the rally.

Later, FBUTA brought out a mourning procession from the Central Shaheed Minar. Teachers' leaders from various universities took part in the procession which ended at the National Press Club and patrolling different city streets.



Federation of University Teachers' Associations brought out a silent procession in the city yesterday protesting the recent violence on the BUET campus. —Star photo

Safe Motherhood Day

Safe Motherhood Day will be observed across the country today, says a press release.

"The theme of this year is 'Safe Motherhood — Yours, mine, everybody's responsibility.'"

Democracy

Continued from page 8

regimes. Such a naked use of the coercive apparatus of the state undermines the very basis of democracy and civil society.

The looming threat of totalitarianism and fascism presents the greatest threat to the integrity of the country. Pakistan's survival as a state depends on democracy and strict adherence to federalism. Sharif's authoritarian and over-centralised policies have already weakened the bonds of the federation and it is not surprising that the demand for more provincial autonomy is becoming louder in the smaller provinces.

What makes the situation more alarming is the lack of strong political opposition which could resist the current authoritarian and fascist trends. Human rights activists, women's organisations and journalists have tried to resist and fight the government's repression and obscurantist policies. In retaliation, the PML government has launched an all out offensive against the NGOs in the Punjab, a move clearly linked to its desire to silence all voices of dissent. In any case, these efforts are too sporadic and weak to rally the people around them. Without a strong political force capable of leading and mobilising the people, the battle for democracy and progress cannot be won.

Altaf, Jalil elected DUJ President, Secy

By Staff Correspondent

Altaf Mahmood, news editor of Dainik Khabar, has been elected president of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ). Kazi Rafique of Matribhumi, Abul Kalam of Ittefaq and Ashraf Ali of Bangladesh Observer have been elected vice presidents and Rokeya Kamal of Chitrali has been elected Joint Secretary.

The election took place yesterday.

Earlier, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan of The Daily Star was elected unopposed the general secretary of the DUJ.



Altaf Mahmood (left) and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan are elected president and general secretary of the DUJ respectively. —Star photo

Teenager shot dead in Gopibagh

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage boy was shot dead during a gunfight between two groups of terrorists at city's Gopibagh area last night.

The boy Sahabuddin alias Kalu, 19, was the son of Shahidur Rahman, a resident of KN Das Lane, hospital sources said.

Sahabuddin was returning from Dholakhal area at about 8:30 pm when the incident occurred. He was caught in the crossfire as two groups of terrorists were exchanging gunshots and exploding crackers in the area. He sustained bullet and bomb injuries.

