

ILO annual confce begins today

Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan left on Sunday night for Geneva to attend the 87th Annual Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), reports APB.

The minister is leading a nine-member Bangladesh delegation to the 17-day meeting that begins at the ILO headquarters in the Swiss city today.

Other members of the delegation are: the permanent envoy of Bangladesh mission in Geneva, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik League Ahsan Ullah Master, MP, Joint Secretary of Labour and Employment Ministry Dalil Uddin Mondal.

The delegation also include a counselor nominated by the permanent envoy of the mission, Labour Director Hafizur Rahman, Bangladesh Employers' Federation President Rokeya A Rahman and its Secretary General C K Haidar.

HR group report for May

17 sustain acid burns, 8 die in police custody

By Staff Correspondent

At least 17 people fell victim to acid attacks while eight others died in the custody of police and court and in jail last month, a human rights group said.

The human rights group Odhakar compiled the report on the basis of its own investigation and media reports.

As many as six people in the age group of 11 to 15 fell victim to acid throwing for various reasons including refusal of marriage and indecent proposals, and land dispute.

Three people in the age group of 16 to 20, four in the age of 21 to 25, one in the age group of 26 to 30 and two others above 30 fell victim to acid throwing for various reasons, the report said.

Eight people aged between 35 and 70 died in police custody or while in jail, court custody and

prison cell of hospitals.

Shahar Ali, 64, died in Dhaka Central Jail on May 4; Jalaluddin, 40, and Saadek Mia, 45, in Mymensingh Jail on May 5; Abdus Sattar, 45, in Bogra Judge Court custody on May 6; Jahangir Alam, 35, in Khulna District Jail on May 15; Afzal Sheikh, 70, in Pirojpur District Jail on May 16; Noor Banu, 42, in prison cell of Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital and Jahangir Hossain, 35, died in Jessore Central Jail on May 29, the report said.

Odhakar also released a list of housewives killed for dowry during the year 1998.

The victims between the age group of 18 to 25 were tortured to death in most cases by their husbands and close relatives, the report said.

Health minister for imposing more taxes on tobacco

A minister yesterday urged the government to levy more taxes on tobacco aiming to discourage its use as a worldwide campaign has been launched against the 'silent killer', reports UNB.

"A positive result could be achieved through imposing more tax on tobacco that will discourage at least low-earning people from smoking cigarettes," State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah told 'World No Tobacco Day' seminar at the National Press Club.

Country's leading anti-smoking organisation ADHUNIK organised the seminar and prize-giving ceremony where Dr S A Malek, political adviser to the Prime Minister, was chief guest.

Dr Malek emphasised unanimous political initiatives against a tremendous bad effect of tobacco in order to create public awareness.

Presiding over the meeting senior vice-president of ADHUNIK and UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan urged the government to enact an anti-tobacco law that would ensure of the rights of non-smokers.

He said tobacco caused 3.5 million deaths each year around the world. One million of these deaths occur in developing countries.

Earlier, ADHUNIK awarded prizes to those who contributed in various ways to strengthening the anti-smoking drive in the country.

Dr S A Malek handed over prizes to Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of the Bangladesh Observer, singer Fakir Alamgir and actor Abul Hayat.

Three students of Salimullah Medical College got prizes in essay competition on tobacco and a woman got one for poster designing. They are Rafiqul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Mamunur Rashid and Nabila Nur.

Two organisers of ADHUNIK at Rajshahi Medical College unit got laurels for their successful campaign against tobacco. They are Siddique Rahman and K M Ahsan.

JP to observe Manik Mia's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (M-M) has taken up elaborate programme to observe the 30th death anniversary of Tofazzel Hossain Manik Mia, the founder-editor of The Daily Ittefaq today.

To mark the day, leaders and activists of JP will place wreaths and offer *fateha* at the *mazar* of Manik Mia at 9 am. It will also organise a discussion meeting on the life and works of the late journalist at the party's Lalmita central office at 7 pm today.

Journalists Khan Matur Rahman Chowdhury, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Abdul Baten and others will take part in the discussion, said a press release.

Additional Secretary General of JP Monirul Haq Chowdhury has requested all leaders and activists of the party to attend the programmes.

Nader Khan elected Chairman of Prime Bank

MD Nader Khan, Managing Director of Pedrollo NK Company Ltd, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Prime Bank Ltd recently, says a press release.

Nader Khan, son of late Syed Ahmed of Chittagong, has been a Sponsor Director of the Bank.

The board also elected AFM Aminul Haq and Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan Vice Chairmen.

Aminul Haq is currently the Managing Director of Smart Group, a major exporting firm of readymade garments. And M Rahman Mizanur Rahman is the managing director of Meghna Group.

UK envoy donates computer to nurse training instt

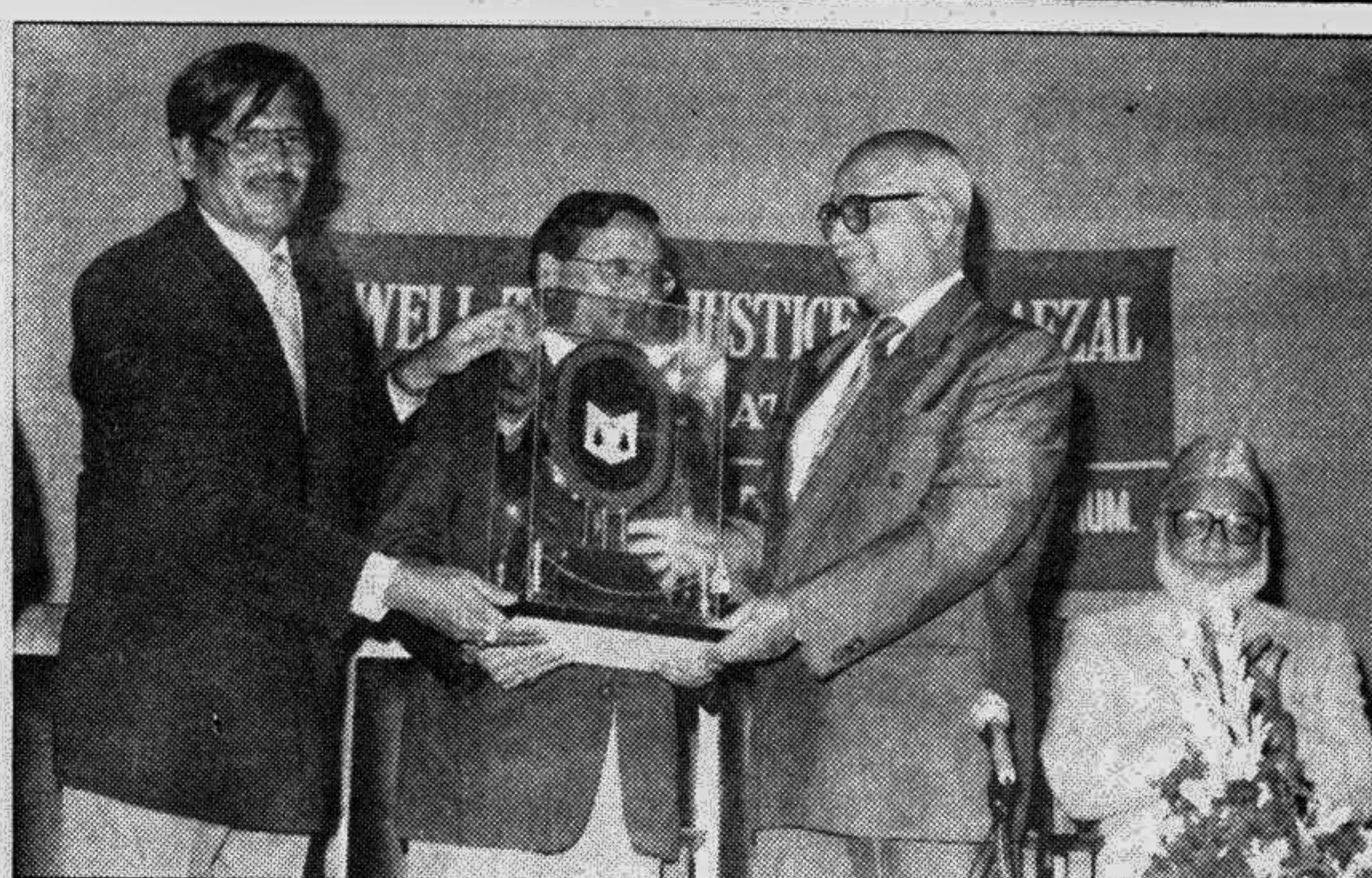
British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Walker presented a computer and its accessories worth over Tk 120,000 to Jahurul Islam Nurse Training Institute (JINTI) at a ceremony, yesterday, reports APB.

The equipment will be used for improvement of their data collection system and presentation material, a British High Commission release said.

Established in 1992, the institute is one of the four private institutions for nurse training, organised by the Bangladesh Nursing Council.

The institute is funded by Islam Group, a leading business group in the country, and is located at Bhagalpur in Bajitpur thana of Kishoreganj district.

The institute provides diploma courses in general nursing and midwife. On graduation, all nurses are offered employment in the Jahurul Islam Medical College and Hospital with opportunities for further training available in Dhaka, the release added.



Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, presenting a crest to the outgoing Chief Justice ATM Afzal at a farewell ceremony in the city yesterday. Newly appointed Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal was also present on the occasion. — Star photo

Painting show at Osmani Udyan today

By DU Correspondent

Movement for Saving 11 Thousand Trees at Osmani Udyan will arrange a painting exhibition of the young artists at the Udyan today to mobilise public opinion in favour of their movement to save trees.

A cultural function will also be arranged at the Udyan in the evening.

DU month-long vacation begins today

Dhaka University goes on a month-long summer vacation from today, reports UNB.

Officials said the university libraries and administrative activities will operate as usual during the vacation.

2 extortionists held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two alleged extortionists were caught red-handed yesterday morning when they demanded toll from a trader at Kawan bazar under Tejgaon thana in the city.

The arrested were identified as Biplob and Pintu. Police said that a gang of youths went to Punam traders at DIT Road and demanded Tk 8 thousand as toll. On being refused, the gang exploded crackers in front of the shop.

Hearing the explosions, locals and police chased the extortionists and caught two of them.

CU classes resume today

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 31: Classes of Chittagong University resume tomorrow after a 16-day unscheduled vacation.

The decision was taken in a syndicate meeting yesterday with Vice-Chancellor prof Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Meanwhile, Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) has withdrawn its 'siege programme' after a fruitful discussion with the authority.

Shibir enforced the 'siege programme' on the campus for an indefinite period from May 22 protesting the killing of one of its activists on the campus on May 15. In view of the prevailing situation, the authority suspended all classes and examinations till May 31 to avoid further clashes.

The syndicate in yesterday's meeting also decided to hand over Tk 50 thousand to Jubayer's parents. Jubayer was killed during a clash on May 15.

Meanwhile, the results of the admission tests for the first year honours courses of 1998-99 of Chittagong University under 'Kha' and 'Gha' units were published today.

The viva voce of 'Gha' unit and 'Kha' unit will be held from June 14 to 16 and from June 21 to 23 respectively.

Justice Afzal lauds govt for upholding the Constitution

Outgoing Chief Justice A T M Afzal yesterday praised the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for showing respect and correct attitude towards the Judiciary, reports BSS.

Justice Afzal lauded the government's 'positive gesture' to the authority of the Supreme Court in upholding the dignity of the Constitution.

"I should record my appreciation to the government for its support and cooperation extended to me and the respectful acceptance of the Supreme Court's authority under the Constitution," he said.

The Chief Justice was addressing a farewell reception accorded to him by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on his last day in the office as Chief Justice of Bangladesh at the Supreme Court in the city.

Justice Afzal also expressed his gratitude to Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khairul for his role to help establish the separate entity of the Judiciary.

To the members of the Bar,

young and old, Justice Afzal said. "During my long 22 years tenure as a judge, I have always benefited from your sagacious performance and cooperation in the Court."

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Shafiq Ahmed and leader of the Bar Attorney General Mahmudul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

In his address, a SCBA President Barrister Shafiq Ahmed said, "The judgements delivered by your lordship and principles of law enunciated in many judgements have amply enriched our legal jurisprudence and will remain in the store house of knowledge to help the new generation of lawyers as well as judges in future."

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam said, "We have found a great judge in you and you represent a class which is fast dwindling and you have written your name in the pages of history with your own pen."

Judges of both the Divisions of the Supreme Court attended the function.

\$1m project launched to protect eco-system

Bangladesh under Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) yesterday launched US dollar one million project 'Sustainable Resource Management in Brackish Water Areas' to establish an environmentally sound, economically viable and socially equitable community-based coastal resource harnessing approach in the rice-shrimp culture zone.

UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Shireen Kamal Sayeed told BSS that the programme is expected to help make people more aware of the degradation of the environment and involve them in protecting quality of the eco-system.

Shireen Kamal said, the programme would also involve poor and marginal farmers in eco-friendly demonstration activities and support the beneficiaries in improving their sanitation practices and water supply.

She said, it would help explore other resource opportunities available in the coastal areas and address the problems on the coastal community in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, poultry and livestock.

Shireen also said that SEMP is emphasising on the need for conservation and rehabilitation of critical aquatic habitat to improve natural stocks of fish, wildlife and plants. Planting salinity-resistant trees on riverbanks and shrimp farm margins to replant lost mangrove forest habitats and to provide for community income.

SEMP National Programme Director and Environment Ministry Joint Secretary Abdur Rashid said the Environment Ministry is executing a US dollar 26 million SEMP programme.

programme and brackish water management is one of the major intervention areas of this largest ever UNDP funded environment programme across the globe.

Caritas Executive Director Bitu D Costa, whose organisation is responsible for implementation of the component, said, it would create institutional capability of organised beneficiaries and stakeholders in supplementing income-generating activities.

Costa said Caritas under the programme would raise model farms of rice-shrimp culture, plant nurseries in 25 villages of Shyamnagar Thana under Sathkira district.

Meanwhile, an Inception Workshop of SEMP on Sustainable Resource Management in Brackish Water Areas organised by Ministry of Environment and Forest, UNDP and Caritas was held in the city yesterday with Caritas Administrative Director in the chair.

SEMP Programme Director Abdur Rashid, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Shireen Kamal Sayeed, SEMP Programme Coordinator Dr Mahfuzul Haque, Dr Aminul Islam, Dr Saleemul Huq, also spoke on the occasion.

Cultural exchange agreement

Bangladesh and China signed a three-year-long cultural exchange agreement in Beijing yesterday, reports APB.

The agreement was signed under the Cultural Programme Exchange between the two countries, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

PWD asked to expedite construction of new jails

A meeting of the cabinet committee on Jail Reform directed the PWD to expedite the construction of new jails across the country in the wake of increasing number of convicted and under trial prisoners at various jails, reports UNB.

The meeting elaborately discussed the conditions of the prisons including improvement of food, lodging, medicare, water and sanitation facilities for the prisoners.

Formulation of a jail code suited to the need of the present time also came up for discussion at the meeting.

Post, Telecommunications and Home Minister Muhammad Nasim chaired the meeting held at the conference room of the Home Ministry.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khairul, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Professor Zinnatunnessa Talukder attended the meeting.

Senior officials of the Ministry were also present.

JCD demonstrates on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP, yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to press home its 12-point demand.

Later, JCD held a rally in front of the DUCSU building at noon.

Their demands include an end to repression of JCD activists, immediate release of JCD activists, rehabilitation of the JCD leaders and activists driven out from the different DU residential halls, lowering the prices of education materials and bus fare for the students.

Addressing the rally, the leaders blamed the government for harassing JCD activists across the country and torturing them in police custody.

They also threatened to launch a movement if their 12-point demand was not met immediately.

Presided over by Manir Hossain, the rally was addressed among others, by Manjur Elahi, A B M Mosharraf Hossain, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Mostafizul Islam Mannun and Asaduzzaman Asad.

Dental College faces various problems

The delay in shifting the Dhaka Dental College (DDC) to the new academic building at Mirpur is hampering the normal activities of the college.

Sources told BSS that unlike Chittagong and Rajshahi dental colleges, which act as mere units of the respective medical colleges, the DDC is a full-fledged dental college. Yet it has to depend on Dhaka Medical College (DMC) on different matters.

DDC use the Anatomy, Pharmacology, Pathology, medicine and surgery department of DMC. The DDC hospital faces problems like shortage of equipment, X-ray film and other materials, the sources said.

To avoid these problems, an academic building was constructed at Mirpur Section No-14 a few years back, the sources said, but the college is yet to shift there and only a few departments like dental chemistry and English language teaching centre have been shifted from its present site at DMC hospital.

The main reason for the delay in shifting the college is the absence of a general hospital at the new site, some students told BSS.

When contacted, general secretary of the students union of DDC A S M Sayem said that there are various problems which need urgent solution.



Begum Khaleida Zia, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, distributing khichuri at a destitute feeding programme marking the 18th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. BNP unit at Ward No: 68 organised the programme in the city's Lalbagh area. — Star photo

Prof Sayeed for boosting cultural ties with Iran

TEHRAN, May 31: The visiting State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed has stressed the need for boosting cultural exchanges between Bangladesh and Iran, reports BSS.

The state minister made the call while exchanging views with Iranian Minister for Cultural and Guidance Dr Ataulah Mohajerani.

Both the ministers expressed their determination to implement the existing agreements on the exchange of information along with exchange of cultural and media delegations. They also agreed to organise an exhibition of Bangladeshi works in Tehran.

Bangladeshi ambassador to Tehran Tufail Haider, Managing Director of Iranian National News Agency (IRNA) Feridoon Verdinejad, Principal Information Officer of Bangladesh Haroon Ur Rasheed and other officials were present.

The state minister opined that the existing ties between Bangladesh and Iran would be enhanced further if the works of Bangladeshi writers are translated into Persian language.

Prof Sayeed invited Dr Mohajerani to visit Bangladesh on the occasion of forthcoming international film festival.

Obituary

Rasheda Matin, wife of late Moulvi Abdul Matin of Gulshan area, died on Sunday at the age of 85, says a press release.

A mother of 3 sons and 3 daughters, she left behind a host of relatives and admirers. Famous fashion designer Bibi Russel is one of her grand children.

Her Kulkhwani will be held at her residence at Moulvi Bari at Beraid under Gulshan thana on June 3.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 12 hours, reports APB.

The Met Office says slight rise in day temperature is expected during the period across the country.

The sun sets today at 6:42 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.8	27.3	83	78
Chittagong	33.6	27.2	87	78
Rajshahi	39.8	28.7	72	65
Khulna	37.5	28.5	82	78
Barisal	34.8	27.5	78	83



British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, David Walker (R), presenting a computer set and accessories worth over Taka 120,000 to the Jahurul Islam Nurse Training Institute at its Dhaka office yesterday. Chairman of the Governing Body of the Institute, Manzurul Islam (2nd L), was present on the occasion.



Teachers of non-government primary schools brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press home their demands and marched towards the PMO to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister. But police intercepted the procession near the Shishu Park. — Star photo