

## Discussion marking death anniversary 'Sikandar Abu Jafar was courageous editor'

Noted writers, poets and academicians yesterday said apart from contributions in the field of music, poetry and journalism late Sikandar Abu Jafar disseminated revolutionary messages to make the nation sovereign and to create cultural resurgence among the youth, reports BSS.

They were speaking at discussion on the writer at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum marking the 24th death anniversary of Sikandar Abu Jafar.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, writer Abdul Mannan Syed, Poet Abul Hossain, Poet Belal Chowdhury, Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Artist Aminul Islam, Dr Mahbuba Siddiqui, former civil servant and a family friend of the late poet Mujibul Hoque, and Poet's friend Mamun Sirajuddin, among others, took part in the discussion.

Poet Shamsur Rahman said apart from his great identity as a writer and composer of songs, Sikandar Abu Jafar was a courageous editor and had shown his efficiency and profound love for the colleagues by keeping their names hidden even when the Pakistani intelligence officials mounted tremendous pressure.

Poet Abul Hossain paying deep tribute to late Sikandar Abu Jafar said his works and skilled editorship for Samakal played pivotal role in national resurgence.

Abdul Mannan Syed said Jafar Bhai was popular synonym of the poet. The poet could easily read the minds of the young. He motivated them to be courageous and bold in their expressions, he added.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said though the poet had opted for journalism as career he contributed tremendously to the cultural resurgence of the Bengali nation and we could easily define him as a "cultural freedom fighter" who possessed deep commitment for freedom of the conscience.

Earlier, a group of artists led by Sudhin Das rendered poets' song 'Janatar Sangram Cholebe'. Amader Sangram Cholebe...

## Tagore's death anniversary observed

The 58th death anniversary of Nobel laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed throughout the country yesterday with due honour, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural organisations observed the day with elaborate programmes including discussions, cultural functions and recollection of the life and works of the wizard of the versatile genius.



## Prof M R Khan's birthday celebrated

By Staff Correspondent

The 72nd birthday of National Professor M R Khan was celebrated yesterday.

The eminent child specialist was felicitated by a large number of friends, colleagues, admirers and patients.

To mark the occasion a *do a mahfil* and discussion was held at the Shishu Sasthya Foundation of which he is the founder.

Barrister Mainul Hossain, Chairman of the Editorial boards of the Ittefaq and New Nation, Mahfuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star, were the chief guest and special guest on the occasion.

## Motivation of agro-tech needed for CHT regions

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 6: The public representatives and social leaders of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) have been requested to play a pioneering role in encouraging the peasants to adopt agriculture technology, suitable for the hilly regions, and also its latest concepts, reports BSS.

The request was made by speakers at a function organised to apprise and inspire the peasants about the sustainable technology on cultivation based on locally devised research in the CHT.

Presided over by Chief Scientific Officer of Hill Tracts Research Centre Dr Sabjal Uddin the function was addressed, among others, by Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bir Bahadur MP as the chief guest, Chairman of Khagrachhari Hill District Council Jatindra Lal Tripura, Scientific Officer Munir Ahmed and local public representative Shaktipad Tripura.

Speaking on the occasion, Bir Bahadur underscored the need for introducing latest agricultural system in the hilly regions where lives of the people are linked with hilly soil and agriculture.

Economic prosperity as well as overall progress, he said, could be attained through availing modern agri-technology in the hill tracts.

He observed that the new administrative system in the CHT would bring about a positive change in the life style of the hilly people.

In his speech Jatindra Lal Tripura said under the changed scenario the expectation of the people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has risen. The socio-economic condition of the farmers, he said, could be improved through modern method of cultivation.

## 'Massive implementation of development projects'

HABIGANJ, Aug 6: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria today said the government of Sheikh Hasina is implementing massive development programmes in health, education, communications and other sectors, reports BSS.

Addressing a number of functions here, the minister urged the people to engage in income generating activities like pisciculture which will help change people's condition and develop the country.

He said the government is implementing development programmes on priority basis

**5 unclaimed bodies of Ghatail road mishap buried**

TANGAIL, Aug 6: Five unclaimed bodies of Monday's road accident at Dhopazani, Ghatail were buried on Tuesday at Ghatail graveyard by police and local people after autopsy, reports BSS.

Of the rest, 16 bodies were handed over on Monday and two on Tuesday to the relatives, police sources said.

The tragic road accident occurred on Monday when a truck loaded with cement, potato, ginger and onion, which was also carrying 30 persons including nine women and three children, skidded off road and fell upside down in a road side ditch. Twenty-two persons died on the spot. However, seven persons including one minor boy were saved.



South Asian Network of Gender Trainers and Activist (SANGAT) organised a candlelight vigil to mark the Hiroshima Day in the city yesterday.

## 17,000 village community clinics to be set up in 5 years

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: The government will set up 17,000 village community clinics in the country at a cost of Taka 130.5 billion during the next five years to ensure better and standard health services to the common people, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf disclosed here today, reports BSS.

"Of those, six thousand village community clinics will be set up in the current fiscal year," Yusuf said while inaugurating the Alhaj Mustafah Hakim Maternity Centre at north Kattali here this morning.

The health minister said the present government has identified the basic problems of the health sector and extensive programmes have been executed to create massive awareness among the people about the primary health education during the last three years.

Chaired by local ward commissioner Alhaj Manzurul Alam Manzu, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury, Country Representative of the UNFPA Shuyun Xu, special guest and eminent educationist Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, reputed gynecologist Prof Sayeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan, Director of Urban Primary Health Care Project Dr Nurul Islam, Project Coordinator Dr Mohammad Ashrafuddin and other city corporation officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Chittagong City mayor said soon after his taking over the mayor of the port city he undertook massive programmes for the development of health, education and environment.

The UNFPA representative in his speech said his organisation has been extending support to Bangladesh government to strengthen reproductive health services, in order to reduce maternal and infant mortality, prevalence of sexually transmitted disease and increase contraceptive prevalence.

He commended the role of Chittagong City Corporation for establishing health care delivery system for the city dwellers.

Later UNFPA representative handed over the keys of two ambulances to the mayor for the three storeyed Mustafah Hakim City Corporation Maternity Center built at a cost of Taka around, one crore.



Udichi brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of attackers and those responsible for the Jessore blast in which several of its activists were killed.

## Two arrested for trying to blackmail shop owner

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were arrested from the Baitul Mukarram market for trying to blackmail a shop owner on Thursday evening.

The two were identified as M.M. Morshed, son of Shamsul Huda of East Dhulapara in Demra and Farhad Hossain, son of Abdur Jabbar of Lahari-para of Ullapara in Sirajganj.

Quoting the FIR, Motijheel police said that Morshed and Hossain appeared at Nazim crockery at about 5 pm and identified themselves as editor and commercial representative of the weekly Aparadh Chitra. They showed Abdur Razzak, owner of the shop, a picture where he is in the nude, and demanded Tk 5 lakh, saying that otherwise they would publish the picture in the weekly.

Asking them to wait in the shop, Razzak immediately informed the market authority of the incident. Soon several businessmen rushed to his shop, caught the two red-handed and beat them up.

Later, they were handed over to Motijheel police.

They were produced before the court yesterday and the court sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail.

## 2 killed Clash over cutting of tree in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 6: A clash between rival villagers and a road accident left two people killed and one injured in sadar thana here today, reports UNB.

Hasan Ali, 30, son of Raushan Ali of Rajarampur village, was killed and his cousin injured in a clash between rival villagers.

Police said the clash ensued at about 7 am between the supporters of Maqbul Hossain and Raushan Ali over cutting of a tree in the village.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. The injured, identified as Gollam Nabi, was also sent to the same hospital.

In another incident, a microbus driver was killed on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Kusudi in sadar thana today when a Faridpur-bound truck rammed into his vehicle.

## Launching ceremony of the CAG Annual Report 'Create separate departments for audit and accounts'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion on Wednesday suggested creating separate departments for audit and accounts and said that the audit department should be made accountable to the parliament directly to make it independent and effective to fight corruption.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the 'Annual Report 1998' of the Comptroller and Auditor-General at the Financial Management Academy, they said that governance was more important than development at present and governance could be ensured only through an effective parliament.

The speakers argued that development cannot be sustainable if good governance was not ensured.

The launching ceremony was addressed, among others, by chairman of the Public Accounts Committee SM Akram MP, Comptroller and Auditor General M Hafizuddin Khan, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan and resident representative of UNDP David Lockwood.

Editor of the report and Controller-General Defence Finance Syed Sajedul Karim delivered the address of welcome.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) M Hafizuddin Khan said that his office cannot work properly due to dependence on the Ministries of Finance and Establishment for administrative purposes.

Constitutionally, the CAG is independent as an institution but practically he has to depend on other offices for recruitment and other purposes which hampers the office's ability to conduct audits properly at times, he added.

SM Akram MP said that the CAG offices in developed countries are highly independent and are directly accountable to the Parliament or to the President. He stressed the need for making the CAG office a part of the Parliament to ensure transparency in financial management.

Praising the honest efforts of the CAG Hafizuddin Khan to conduct audits regularly and clear backlogs, Akram also stressed more support to the audit department for its development and efficiency.

Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan stressed the quality and timeliness of audits. He said every government organisation, according to the rules of business, is supposed to publish an annual activity report, but most of them do not practise it.

## Sylhet pourashava to be turned into city corporation

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday said the government has on principle taken a decision to turn the Sylhet pourashava into a city corporation, reports UNB.

He was addressing a meeting on the progress of on-going water supply and sanitation in nine districts' project at the conference room of Sylhet pourashava on Friday.

Narrating the development activities of the present government in the Sylhet division, the Speaker said development works on 70 roads of the poura areas would start soon.

Later, he visited the project site at Mirabazar, Baluchar, Shahi Eidgah and Kalbakhali, said a press release.

## Prof K Ali dead

Professor K Ali, an eminent historian of the country and author of nearly 50 books, died in the city yesterday evening. He was 78, reports BSS.

Prof Ali who had been suffering from cancer, was admitted to a city clinic few days ago.

Hailing from village Kagojipara under Dumuria upazala of Khulna district, Prof Ali served a number of colleges including Narayanganj Tolaram College and BL College at Daulatpur during his long teaching career.

He left behind his wife, three sons and five daughters.

## Workshop on environmental reporting opens

Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) Coordinator Dr Mahfuzul Haque yesterday emphasised the need for raising awareness among the people about environmental degradation and ecological imbalance, reports BSS.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day workshop on environmental reporting organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP at the National Press Club in the city.

Presided over by FEJB chairman, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the inaugural session was also addressed by Daily Ittefaq Joint News Editor Abdul Baten. IUCN Country Representative Dr Ainun Nishat and Programme Director of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA) Syeda Rizwana Hasan were the resource persons at the technical sessions.

Dr Mahfuz commented the role of the journalists during the formulation phase of the globally acclaimed National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) and said FEJB are pioneers in the country's environment movement.

Quamrul Chowdhury underscored the need for smooth implementation and enforcement of various national plans, programmes and laws to help arrest environmental degradation and maintain ecological balance.

## All rivers in SE Hill basin swell

As monsoon is fairly active over the country, all the rivers in Southeastern Hill basin swelled further during the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday, reports UNB.

The river Muhuri rose by 8 cm at Parshuram while the Halda by 13 cm at Narayanhat and by 10 cm at Panchpukuria, and the Sangu by 10 cm at Bandarban. The Matamuhuri also recorded slight rise at Lama.

Out of 46 monitoring stations of WDB, one point was above danger level while nine points recorded rise, 30 points registered fall and two points remained steady.

According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, all the rivers in three other basins excepting the Teesta, Kalianga and Kumar recorded fall during the same period.

In the Ganges basin, the Padma was flowing 8 cm above danger mark at Bhagyakul and is likely to flow 2 cm above danger level in the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, a significant rainfall was experienced 36 mm at Faridpur, 28.5 mm at Panchpukuria, 25 mm at Rangamati and 21 mm at Sathkira and Sylhet.

## Barisal Edn Board to start functioning soon

BARISAL, Aug 6: The function of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Barisal (BISE-B) will begin soon here at this divisional headquarters.

The government will now appoint a Chairman, Secretary, Controller and Inspectors of colleges and schools soon, the source added.

A total of 1,063 secondary schools and 165 colleges will now come under this new Education Board from the Jessore Education Board.

Over 50,000 college students and over 3,29,000 school students will register their names under this board to prosecute their studies as regular students, the source added.

A long felt need of the people of the southern districts will be fulfilled with the establishment of this education board here.

BISE-B will conduct the public examinations of the students from the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

## Ershad goes to Habiganj today

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad goes to Habiganj today on a two-day visit, reports UNB.

During his visit, he will address at Madhabganj TNO office ground, Shaastaganj, Satiain bazar and Sutang bazar. He will also exchange views with his party colleagues, said a press release.

JP Presidium members Shah Md Abu Zafar, Nait Roy Chowdhury and Abul Lais M Mubin Chowdhury, MP, will accompany him.

## Sajeda opens Rangamati tree fair Tk 400 cr afforestation programme in CHT

RANGAMATI, Aug 6: Minister for Forests and Environment, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury today attached importance on participatory afforestation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Region to improve the socio-economic condition of the people living here and protect the ecological balance, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the Rangamati tree fair, 1999, Sajeda underlined the need for a fair and pro-people policy for participatory afforestation, especially for the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts to encourage them to be associated with the programme.

"We cannot protect the country from natural disasters and ecological degradation, if we cannot conserve the forests," Sajeda Chowdhury observed.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma, Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Bir Bahadur, MP and Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman, Ching Kew Roaza.

The minister said that a massive afforestation programme has been undertaken at a cost of Taka 400 crore in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to develop the socio-economic condition of the people of this region through planting more trees.

A forest college and a forest research institute would be set up at Rangamati for the development of forestry, she said.

Sajeda Sajeda Chowdhury urged all concerned to motivate the unemployed youths of the Chittagong Hill Tracts to raise nurseries for income generation.

Kalpa Ranjan Chakma urged all concerned to plant trees and nurse those properly. He asked the forest officials to identify the reason of depletion of forests and take proper measures to check it.

After formal inauguration of a week-long tree fair at municipality premises, Sajeda Chowdhury planted a sapling at a local TB Clinic premises and distributed seedlings of trees and fruit-bearing plants among the students of local educational institutions free of cost.

A number of 27 stalls were set-up in the tree fair for sale and display of seedlings of different trees and fruit-bearing plants, jointly organised by Rangamati Hill District Council

## Khaleda

From Page 1

meeting and none except the participants were allowed to enter the Minto Road office.

Meeting sources said though the party chief joined the meeting at 6:30pm but it started at 5:45pm with deputy leader of the opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in the chair.

Top BNP leaders, including Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr RA Gani, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique and Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain attended it.

Standing Committee members M Saifur Rahman, Oli Ahmed and Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed did not attend the meeting due to their preoccupation. A close aide of Khaleda, however, said the three leaders are engaged in important assignments given by the party chairperson.

## MV Sam

From Page 1

agent of the distressed ship.

Can Salahuddin informed the director of the Viking Associates that the main engine of the vessel is still inoperative. Wireless communication is still to be restored. Messages are being sent through marine VHF. Cooling system is also out of order due to power failure. There is also not enough rope to tow the vessel to safer place. The naval tug MV Khadem is staying at a 'safe distance' from the vessel.

The new shipping agent is reported to have sent a message to captain of MV Sam that a rescue team will be reaching Mongla by Sunday or Monday next. The team will come with a strong tug vessel to tow the distressed vessel.

Meanwhile the crew of the distressed vessel are facing starvation. Medicines, rice, potatoes, spices, water, salt, sugar, tea and coffee sent from Khulna are stuck at Heron point. These essential items could not reach the crew due to inclement weather and high waves of the rough sea, sources said.

## Beximco

From Page 1

quiry into industrial credit situation.

According to sources, Beximco Pharma applied in April this year for extension of its loans from the JB to Tk 57 crore from Tk 40 crore.

After going through its proposals, JB had attached a major condition that the company has to pay the bank Tk 9.05 crore debenture loans in addition, it has to adjust its other overdue loans on different counts.

These together raised the amount to be repaid by Beximco Pharma to around Tk 18 crore. As part of its obligation to pay the debenture loans, Beximco issued three post-dated cheques drawn on June 30 this year.

JB sent Beximco's proposal to the Bangladesh Bank for approval, which the regulators turned down in May this year. But later, under pressure from a certain quarter, BB gave permission on June 9.

The JB board has found out two points. First, instead of paying the full amount, Beximco Pharma deposited only Tk Nine crore and took disbursement of the extended loan from its local office on June 16. Secondly, the major condition of the loan extension, payment of the debenture loans, remained unmet.

But a more startling fact is, JB deposited the three post-dated cheques issued by Beximco Pharma to IFIC Bank three in June and July. And every time these bounced.

Beximco had Tk 13.87 crore irregular loans from JB as of April 6 this year.

According to sources, even after all such activities, JB local office not only kept mum, it willingly helped Beximco Pharma get the loans.

A local office manager had talked with JB MD Aminul Islam over telephone before giving the loan. The MD had reportedly given him orders to disburse the loan on condition of adjusting the Tk 12 crore overdue loans.

When asked about the bounced cheques, the MD said Beximco has repaid Tk three crore against those cheques.

Still, the company has about Tk five crore to repay on account of its debenture loans.

## BCB names

From Page 1

The board has also resolved to introduce a national league of three-day matches a la India's Ranji and Pakistan's Qaid-e-Azam trophies from November next.

The BCB also decided to request Australian Cricket Board for a new physio for the national team in place of Allan Hunt, who worked for three months during the World Cup.

A BCB web site should also go into operation soon.