

# Metropolitan



Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding independence, transparency and accountability of the judiciary. —Star photo

## President, PM greet their Australian counterparts

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated their Australian counterparts on the eve of the National Day of their country today, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin in a message to the Governor General of Australia Sir William Dene expressed the hope that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

He conveyed his best wishes for Governor General's personal health and happiness and for the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Australia.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message conveyed to Australian Prime Minister John Howard her best wishes for his good health, happiness and long life as well as for the progress and prosperity of Australia.

## Sri Lankan air chief calls on Hasina

Visiting Chief of Air Force of Sri Lanka Air Marshal Jayalath Weerakody called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday morning, reports BSS.

During the meeting Air Marshal Weerakody conveyed the greetings of Sri Lankan President Kumaratunga to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina conveyed her warm wishes to President Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka and said Bangladesh was ready to extend further training facilities to Sri Lankan army personnel at the Staff College if required.

Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed and SO to the Prime Minister Major General Imamuzzaman were, among others, present during the meeting.

## Rotary News

**Weekly meeting**

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today at 5:30 pm at Dhaka Club Ltd. Ramna, says a press release.

All members are requested to attend the meeting punctually.

## FM urges BNP chief to shun destructive politics

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday called upon BNP Chief Khaleda Zia to act like a leader of responsible opposition party by shunning the path of destructive politics, reports BSS.

"The opposition should play a vital role in the development of the country as it is a guiding force for strengthening of democracy," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a reception accorded to the newly appointed three cabinet ministers.

Jatiya Sramik League organised the function at the historic Paltan maidan to accord reception to Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil and Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

The foreign minister said Begum Zia has made an unholy alliance with the anti-liberation and autocratic forces to destabilise peace in the country aimed at grabbing power by any means.

"There is no alternative to coming to power without election. So you have to come to power by taking people's mandate," he said adding that people is the only force who would choose a party to rule the country by casting their vote in the next general election.

Referring to the comments of

Khaleda Zia in the businessmen's conference, he said the announcement of Khaleda Zia, that if necessary BNP would call hartal everyday, it was like a declaration of war against the nation and humanity.

Azad also said that Begum Zia has not shown interest to sit for dialogue with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina despite repeated attempts in this regard. "The BNP chief, who is surrounded by anti-liberation and autocratic forces, does not want to settle the issues through talks. On the other hand she wants to fish in the troubled waters," he added.

The minister said the ill motives of Khaleda Zia to destabilise peace by ignoring the Prime Minister's invitation for talks has been clear to the people of the country.

Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu urged the members of Sramik League and other progressive people to build a strong resistance unitedly against the alliance of opposition political party.

"The autocrats, Razakars and vote thieves have been united against the democratic, progressive and non-communal forces in the country," he said adding that it was the proper time to give a befitting reply to the anti-people alliance.

## Seminar on 'low birth weight' 2.5 lakh children die from malnutrition a year

Speakers at a seminar underlined the need for combating the problem of malnutrition and low birth weight for the growth of a healthier nation, reports BSS.

"Around eight crore people in the country are the victims of malnutrition," said State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah at the seminar on "Low Birth Weight—The Tip of Malnutrition."

Organised by Press Information Department (PID), the seminar was held at CIRDAP auditorium.

Referring to National Nutrition Programme and various measures taken by the government, Dr Amanullah laid emphasis on putting all efforts to reduce the suffering of the most vulnerable section—mother and children.

National consultant Dr AMJ Anwarul Awwal, in his keynote speech, said about 2.5 lakh children die every year because of malnutrition. About 60 per cent children under the age of six are suffering from malnutrition, he added.

The point of prevalence of malnutrition among women of child bearing age and under-six population in Bangladesh is still highest in the world, Dr Awwal said.

In Bangladesh, the percentage of babies born with low weight less than 2.5 kg is 40 to 50, which is highest in the

world, Dr Awwal said.

Dr Awwal said the causes of low birth weight are lack of food, health services and environmental sanitation. Malnutrition adversely affects health, growth, survival, intelligence, cognitive function, learning capacity, and working capacity, he added.

It has been observed that the economic productivity is affected due to short stature. Low IQ and short stature, in combination, culminates in low economic productivity, and thus, directly affects the overall socio-economic development of a nation, Dr Awwal observed.

Dr Awwal said it has been estimated by UNICEF that the cumulative loss of Bangladesh for malnutrition alone would be about 22.9 billion US dollars in next ten years which means loss of about Tk 11,000 crore every year.

The government is implementing a couple of programmes to address the issues of malnutrition and low birth weight.

The inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by UNICEF Adviser Dr Manjur-ul-Karim, Joint Secretary of Information Ministry Khandkar Fazlur Rahman, consultant Abdus Shahid and PID official Zafar Alam. Principal Information Officer Harun-ur-Rashid presided.



Agitating non-government primary school teachers' suffering mounted as they spent the third day of their sit-in demonstration at Osmany Udyan yesterday. —Star photo

## JCD discussion on Zia today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatubadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP, will hold a discussion meeting today at the National Press Club marking the 64th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman.

The discussion on Philosophy of Martyr Zia and Production-oriented Education System will be presided over by its acting president Monjur Elahi.

Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest while Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khondaker Mosharrar Hossain, Prof Moniruzzaman Mian, Prof Enayuddin Ahmed, Sadek Hossain Khoka and Amanullah Aman will also take part.

## Condition of Adv S R Paul deteriorates

Condition of ailing advocate SR Paul, the senior most advocate of the Supreme Court, deteriorated further yesterday, reports UNB.

"Paul is in coma and being given artificial ventilation since morning as his kidney was not functioning properly after respiratory failure," said Combined Military Hospital sources.

Paul who had been suffering from heart disease was admitted to Samarita Hospital recently and shifted to the CMH on Sunday after deterioration of his condition.

## Sayed condemns BNP for observing Democracy Killing Day

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed in a statement yesterday strongly condemned BNP for observing so-called Democracy Killing Day, reports BSS.

The state minister said during the regime of army ruler Ziaur Rahman there was no freedom to express opinion, form parties and practice basic human rights. Instead, he said unconstitutional systems like martial law, curfews, army proclamation and political party regulations were introduced destroying the country's constitution. Are these the instance of multi-party democracy? he questioned. He said Zia had destroyed democracy.

Prof Sayeed said Ziaur Rahman proclaimed martial law in 1976 and gagged newspapers and freedom of speech. He questioned what was the system introduced by Ziaur Rahman by promulgating the law to put anybody to ten years of rigorous imprisonment for circulating and publishing any report or photograph criticising army rulers. He said in the army proclamation (Third Schedule) for martial law and one-man rule it was said "He (Ziaur Rahman) will run the country the way he will fix the law as Chief Martial Law Administrator."

Prof Sayeed said could the

BNP leaders give answer what kind of system was introduced in the country that was run at the whims of an army ruler.

Prof Sayeed said Zia had captured the presidential position through rigging and misuse of power by taking part in the presidential elections as Chief Martial Law Administrator. He said it was a farce that Zia had practiced democracy keeping the martial law which would go in the black chapters of history.

He said Zia killed thousands of freedom fighters and opposition leaders and workers including Col Taher without any trial. Zia tortured 34 thousands workers and leaders of Awami League alone by putting them into the jail, the state minister said, adding that Zia once said "I shall make the politics difficult" that is the person who believed in making politics confusing became political leader wearing the army uniform.

He formed party taking the anti-liberation forces and spending crores of taka from government exchequer. Was that the instance of Zia's multi-party democracy? the state minister questioned, adding he had set the example of practicing democracy farcically by participating in elections as a contestant even when he was in service general.

## Programme Officer required for Terre des hommes Foundation, Lausanne Bangladesh Delegation Office

After a period of change Tdh is ready to expand its work in Bangladesh and its influence in the aid and development debate. We shall do this by pursuing new funding and partnership opportunities that are consistent with our values. Our office reflects the child focussed development approaches of Lausanne. Tdh now has a vacancy for a Programme Officer to assist in the capacity building of existing partners, and develop new initiatives on behalf of Terre des hommes Lausanne through work with a wide range of new partners.

The candidate will be an experienced NGO employee with experience of project cycle management and monitoring and evaluation. S/he will be familiar with contemporary aid and development issues and will be networked within the funding community.

S/he will be achievement and output oriented, hardworking and ambitious. An employment package will include opportunities for continuous learning and a salary commensurate with experience between 20 – 25,000 Taka per month.

For a full job description and candidate specification please contact Rebecca Gomes, 774, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, or call 8111041 or fax 8113015. You may email us at [tdh@bangla.net](mailto:tdh@bangla.net). Closing date for all applications is the 10<sup>th</sup> February. Interviews will be held in following week.

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**WANTED**

Interview with related papers at the Mother & Child Care Centre, House # 24, Road # 6, Dhanmondi for doctor's & floor nurses around 12.00 Noon-1.00 PM three following days. C-83

**CARE BANGLADESH**

## JOB VACANCY

Applications are invited from qualified FEMALE candidates for the position of Gender Advisor for Human Resources Development & Management Department.

**Responsibilities:**  
The Gender Advisor-HRD&M is responsible for ensuring that CARE-Bangladesh's working environment is conducive to the recruitment and retention of qualified female staff. She regularly undertakes assessment of the gender relations throughout the Country Office and will make necessary recommendations to the concerned authority for correcting or improving existing CO systems, policies and procedures. She is more particularly responsible for ensuring that the organizational aspect of the Gender Policy and action plans are implemented in a timely fashion by all sectors, projects and sections of the Country Office. She listens to women's concerns and will handle matters of confidentiality regarding fair treatment, sexual harassment, and other matters of gender relations.

**Requirements:**  
Masters in Social Work/Sociology/Education/Psychology or any another discipline in social science or development, Masters in Gender and Development will be preferred. At least 7 years professional experience in development, preferably in an NGO. Training and experience in Gender and Development. Solid experience in diversity counseling, training and human resources development. Ability for planning, organizing, problem analysis and problem solving. Good communication skills in both Bangla and English. Strong interpersonal and facilitation skills. Willing to undertake extensive field visits.

\*Interested candidates are requested to apply with a forwarding mentioning two referees, detailed bio-data, expected gross salary, and a copy of photograph to the Advertiser, Box # A-166 C/O. The Daily Star within February 06, 2000.

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What are these?  
These are two SAARC Scholarships & one SAARC Fellowship offered to Bangladeshi nationals by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, for Post Graduate, M Phil, PhD and Post-doctoral courses.

Who can apply?  
Candidates with the following qualifications can apply.

For Post Graduate : First Class Bachelor's degree from courses a recognized University.

For M Phil/PhD : In addition to above, a first class Master's degree from a recognized University.

For Post-doctoral : In addition to above, a PhD from courses a recognized University.

Candidates must also have secured 60% in their HSC examination.

How to apply?  
Application forms are available at the Information & Culture Wing of the High Commission of India, House No 121, Road No 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka till February 13, 2000. The last date of submitting completed applications at the above address is February 15, 2000. All candidates will have to take an English qualifying examination.

For further information, contact Information & Culture Wing of the High Commission of India, Dhaka, personally or on telephone No. 8618957.

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