

## What's on today...

**Discussion meeting:** A discussion meeting on irregularities and corruption in education will be held. Organiser: Centre for Micro Studies, DU. Venue: Women's Voluntary Organisation (WVA), Rd no 27 (old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9.00 am.

**Seminar:** A seminar on "The State of University Education in Public Administration" will be held. Venue: Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences, Lecture Theatre room # 401, Dhaka University. Time: 11.00 am.

## Weather

## Dry weather likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Barisal and Dhaka divisions in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, said Met Office adding that light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country in the morning.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 27.2 degree Celsius at Sitakunda and the lowest 9.5 degrees at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.44 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.39 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.5	13.8	68	54
Chittagong	26.5	14.0	97	60
Rajshahi	24.6	9.5	86	69
Khulna	26.0	10.6	88	54
Barisal	25.6	11.5	92	-
Sylhet	25.3	12.5	71	60
Cox's Bazar	27.1	13.8	78	58

## HERE and THERE

## CSID

A meeting on findings of a study on "Street Children with Disabilities in Dhaka City" was recently held by the Centre for the Services and Information on Disability (CSID) in association with Save the Children Sweden at Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium. A press release.

A total of 62 representatives from government agencies, UN organisations, NGOs, donor agencies, and civil society participated in the meeting.

Mir Shahabuddin, Director General, Dept of Social Services, was present as chief guest and Lena Hultstrom, Resident Representative, Save the Children Sweden was the special guest. Monsur Ahmed Choudhury, Chairman, CSID, presided over the meeting.

On the basis of findings of the study, the participants recommended programmes for developing condition of street children with disabilities.

## BCL

**DU Correspondent** Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) observed the "Repression Day" of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

On the day in 1996, several hundred students of Jagannath Hall were injured when police swooped on them at the hall. Police also arrested 127 students from the hall.

The ruling party-backed BCL chalked out a day-long programme to observe the day which included a photo exhibition and a discussion meeting.

The discussion was held at the Jagannath Hall auditorium in the afternoon, which was addressed by Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Dr Durga Das Battacharya, and other Awami League and Chhatra League leaders.

The exhibition was organised in front of DUCSU building on the campus.

Leaders and workers of

Chhatra League brought out a procession on the campus in the morning and held a rally in front of DUCSU building to mark the day.

Among others Ajay Kar, Khokon, Sujit Ray Nandi, Lekh Sikdar, Saifuddin Nasir, A K M Ruban and A K M Ajim addressed the rally.

## IUB

Fifteen students from different universities of Minnesota, USA under the auspices of HECUA (Higher Educational Consortium for Urban Affairs) recently participated in the Live-in-Field-Experience (LFE) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), says a press release.

The HECUA group spent two weeks at BARD — Comilla, Prof Verne Dusenberry of Hamline University, USA and Prof Haroun Ur Rashid of IUB coordinated the programme. The US HECUA group studied "Development Community in Bangladesh". IUB organised a reception for the visiting US students at a local hotel on Thursday.

## DU Political Science Ex-students Assoc

A meeting of Dhaka University Political Science ex-students Association was held at the head office of the Eastern Bank Limited at Jibon Bima Tower on Saturday, reports BSS.

Joint Secretary of Establishment Ministry Md Talukdar presided over the meeting, said a press release yesterday.

The meeting decided to form an adhoc committee to arrange the re-union programme of the association scheduled to be held on March 3 at Ramna Green in the city.

The next meeting of the association will be held on February 6 at 5 pm at the head office of Eastern Bank Limited and all members have been requested to attend.

## Obituary

Mujibur Rahman, acting information officer of Bholia district, died of a heart attack Sunday night, reports BSS.

According to an official handout, Rahman breathed his last at the launch at Chandpur Sunday night on his way to Dhaka from Bholia. He was 55 and is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

State Minister for Information Prof Md Abu Sayeed yesterday expressed deep condolence and sorrow at the death of Mujibur Rahman.

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**Lt Col Abdul Azim Choudhury (Rtd) of signal corps of Bangladesh Army died at the CMH, Dhaka on January 30. He was 53, says a press release.**

He was the youngest son of late Abdur Rouf Choudhury of Bhugaon, Kanthai, Moulvibazar.

Azim left behind his wife, three daughters, one son and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Army graveyard, Banani.

His quirkwan will be held after Asr prayers at New DOHS Mosque on February 4.

## Cheholum

**Cheholum of Md Shahidullah Patwary, an ex-official of Titas Gas, will be observed at his village home at Sukdrampur, Faridganj, Chandpur, on February 4, says a press release.**

The 5th death anniversary of Md Bazlur Rahman, a senior lawyer of Bangladesh Supreme Court will be observed today. A *mild malif* will be held at his residence at 9 Indira Rd (Burbo Raza Bazar) after Asr prayers today. The release says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *mild malif* to be held after Juma prayers on the occasion.

## Need for improved relations with India emphasised

By Staff Correspondent

Former Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Choudhury has emphasised the need for improving relations between India and Bangladesh through achieving mutual confidence and with professional attitude.

He said both the countries are very close due to its location and historical background. Together we want to march towards development, peace and stability," he said.

The top ranking ex-diplomat was addressing a roundtable conference on "Bangladesh-India Relations: Present and Future" at Hotel Sheraton on Saturday.

Leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the discussion, which was participated by eight former foreign secretaries and the incumbent Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman moderated the lively discussion.

Speaking on the occasion

## QU authorities forced out of campus

By Staff Correspondent

Queens University Chhatra Sangram Parishad (QUCSP) in a press release last night said that agitating students yesterday forced the university authorities to leave the campus following filing of a false case against some teachers and students of the university.

Eight more students of the university, who have been on a fast-unto-death programme to realise their 21-point demand, fell sick on the fifth day of the programme yesterday. They were admitted to a private clinic, the press release added.

The press release alleged that Gulshan thana police have taken side with the university authorities and threatened the students. QUCSP leaders requested police administration to play a neutral role in the incident.

The university authorities could not be contacted last night.

## New assignment

Engineer Muhammad Golam Rabbani took over as the Chairman of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) on Sunday, reports BSS.

Prior to his new assignment, Rabbani was Member (Planning) of BWDB. He held many important positions including chief engineer of South-East Chittagong and chief engineer of monitoring.

Rabbani received his bachelors degree from the civil engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1964 and joined the then East Pakistan WAPDA as an assistant engineer.

A freedom fighter and cultural activist, Rabbani was born in a renowned Muslim family of Rajshahi on January 1, 1944, said a press release.

## T&amp;T chairman goes on LPR

T&T Board Chairman M A Mannan Chowdhury went on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) yesterday, reports BSS.

Former T&T Board Chairman Khandaker Abdul Matin, who earlier went on LPR on January 20, is likely to be re-appointed with one-year extension, according to a source at the Telecommunication Ministry.

## Khaleda

From page 1

pressed their grievance to the President for not publishing it in public interest.

Asked why BNP met the President when they are ready to wage massive protests against the law, opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Dewar Hossain, present during the briefing said, "We are exploring all possible avenues to stop the law. So we went to the parliamentary standing committee meeting on this issue."

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will address a press conference at 29 Minto Road today.

## Biswa Ijtema

From page 1

not due to health reason.

Besides the Ijtema ground on the banks of the river Turag, the whole area from Zia International Air Port to Cherag Ali market at Tongi turned into a sea of humanity as lakhs joined the prayers sitting on roads, footpaths, open spaces and rooftops.

Hundreds of women also took part in the Munajat staying at nearby houses.

A large number of microphones were installed by the Mass Communication Department to relay the concluding prayers to different areas nearby.

Meanwhile, another two devotees died yesterday raising the number to 10 since the Ijtema began on Saturday.

Abdul Majid (60) fell sick at the Ijtema venue and died yesterday morning. He hailed from Mymensingh.

An unidentified devotee died in the early hours of yesterday. His *namaz-e-janaza* was held after Fajr prayers.

Besides, four devotees were injured in road accidents while returning from the Ijtema.

"I do not see any substantive difference between the BNP and Awami League because both the parties want to improve relations when stays in power and take anti-Indian stance while they are in opposition," he said adding "It is not wise to consider the Indo-Bangladesh relations with emotion."

Choudhury said Bangladesh should have to adopt same and constant foreign policy towards the India.

He suggested that both the countries should take effective initiatives for building confidence among the people of the two countries and emphasise increase in people to people contact.

The former foreign secretary observed that SAARC has fallen into crisis due to Indian attitude and said this forum can be the right platform for improving relations between India and Bangladesh as well as other neighbouring nations.

## Shibir-led alliance calls indefinite strike at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 31: Islamic Chhatra Shibir led Student Alliance (AGSA) has called for an indefinite strike at the Chittagong University from tomorrow.

The programme was announced at a meeting of the AGSA today to press home its five-point demand, including removal of the Vice Chancellor and pro-Vice Chancellor of the university, arrest and trial of the killers of two Shibir activists and release of arrested students of the university.

Two Shibir activists were gunned down in a clash with ruling party backed Chhatra League on the campus on December 19. Earlier, police arrested 91 Shibir activists from four CU dormitories. Of them,

Ferdous also the general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), was arrested from his campus residence on Thursday under Women and Children Protection Act.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Dhaka University Syndicate yesterday. DU Vice Chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury presided over the meeting held at the Administrative Building of the university in the afternoon, said a DU press release.

## Amar Ekushey countdown

From page 1

Renowned poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the 18th poetry festival as the chief guest on the Dhaka University campus at 10 am.

The main stage of the festival has been built at Hahim Chattar near the University Central Library.

The organisers of the festival have decided to continue their programmes as per schedule despite a 36-hour hartal called by the BNP-backed opposition alliance beginning tomorrow, said a press release of the Parishad.

A large number of poets from home and abroad are expected to attend this year's poetry festival. Some 250 poets from across the country have so far registered their names and many are expected to attend the inaugural function this morning.

"Some 20 poets from India, Nepal and Ireland will also attend the festival and recite their self-composed poems," said the general secretary of the Parishad Mohammad Samad.

The festival will begin with the rendering of especially composed songs for the festival. Members of the Parishad will also bring out a procession, which would march towards the Central Shaheed Minar to place wreaths to pay homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952.

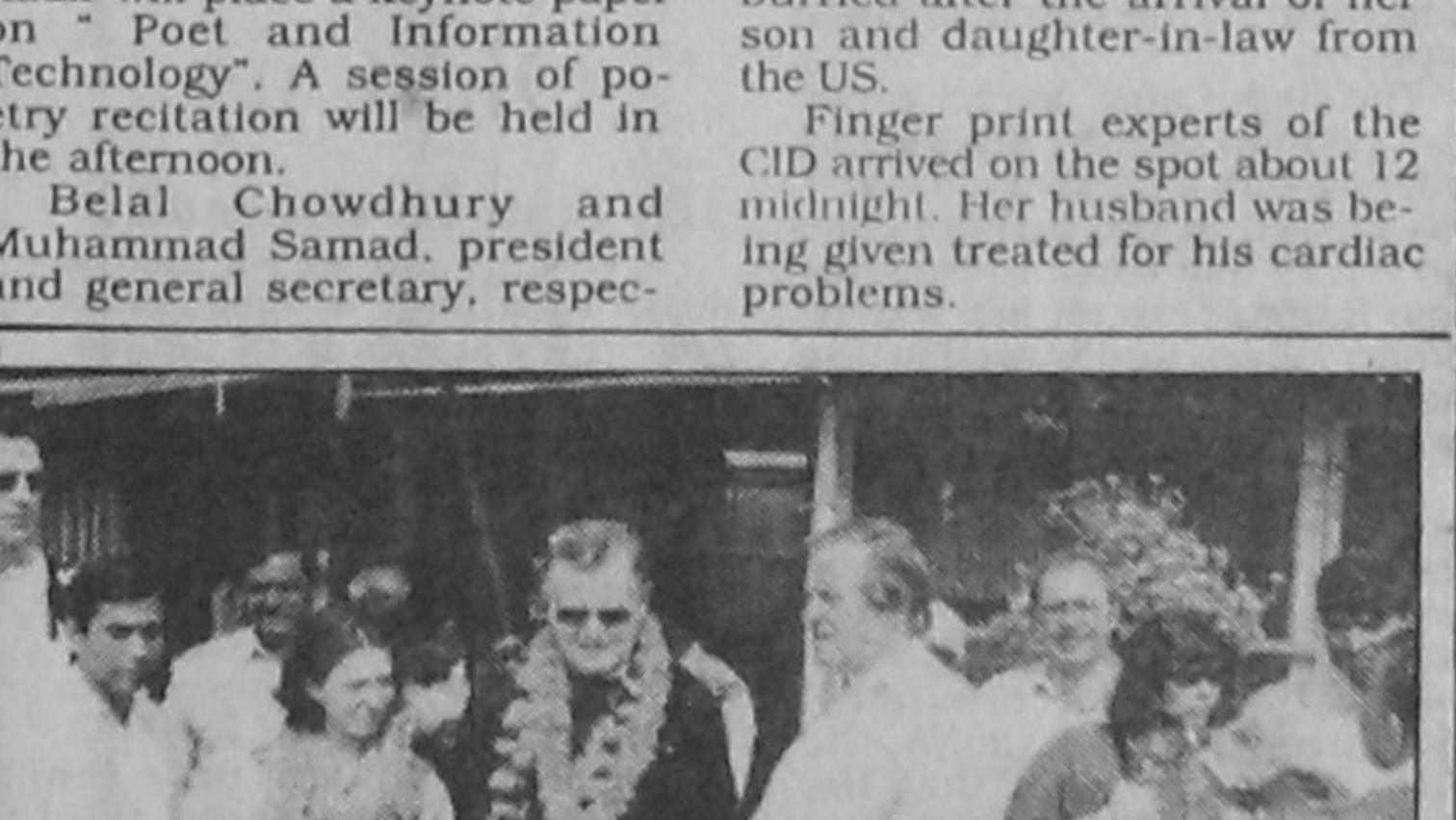
They will also place wreaths at the *mazar* of National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and renowned painter Quamrul Hasan.

The slogan of this year's festival is "may poetry emerge victorious in the light of the mother tongue".

On the first day of the programme today, two sessions of poetry recitation will be held.

Two discussion sessions will be held on the second day tomorrow. Dr Khandaker Dewar Hossain of English Department of DU will present a keynote paper on "Poet, Mother Language and Internationalisation", while poet Sazzad Kadir will place a keynote paper on "Poet and Information Technology". A session of poetry recitation will be held in the afternoon.

Finger print experts of the CID arrived on the spot about 12 midnight. Her husband was being given treatment for his cardiac problems.



Erwin Teufel, Chief Minister, Baden Wurttemberg, Germany, at a solar project of Anando during his recent visit to Bangladesh.

## BKS recovers Tk 805cr in 7 months

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Krishbi Bank

covered a record loan of Tk 805

crore during the first seven

months of the current fiscal

year, a press release of the bank

said yesterday, says BSS.