Weather

Temperature may fall Weather will remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky

over Rajshahi division during the evening today, reports UNB. Night temperature may fall by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the country, said the Met Office.

Mild cold wave may sweep over Rajshahi division and the region of Jessore, Satkhira and Srimangol during the next 15 hours commencing 6 pm yesterday.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest 10.2 degree Celsius at Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital today at 5.54 pm and rises tom rrow at 6.31 am.

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

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Hamidity in Percentage | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|----------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 25.2 | 16.2 | 54 | 35 |
| Chittagong | 29.4 | 17.8 | 65 | 47 |
| Rajshahi | 25.4 | 11.4 | 61 | 50 |
| Khulna | 26.5 | 13.8 | 60 | 55 |
| Barisal | 26.5 | 14.0 | 60 | 55 58 |
| Sylhet | 27.6 | 14.6 | 77 | 65 |
| Cox's Bazar | 30.0 | 20.4 | 63 | 56 |

HERE and THERE

BETA .

Eid reunion of Bangladesh English Teachers' Association (BETA) was held at Officers' Club 'Khelaghar' here recently, reports BSS.

Prof Ahsanul Haque of the Department of English of Dhaka University attended the reunion as the chief guest. President of the association

and Principal of Kabi Nazrul Government College Prof Md Anisur Rahman presided over the function.

A large number of English teachers of government, nongovernment institutions and universities attended the func-

In the meeting the speakers discussed problems of English teaching at different levels and suggested some measures to improve the standard of English language and literature in Bangladesh.

The meeting also felt the necessity of the acceptance of both British and American English in all public examinations and also felt the need for establishing a separate academy for improvement of English and American language and terch-

The members also highly appreciated the positive attitude of the Minist r for Education A S H K Sadique towards the development of English language and literature at different levels. The meeting was followed by a cultural function.

Prokichi BCS Central Coordination Council By Staff Correspondent

and Chowdhury Khalequzzman have been elected new president and secretary general of Prokichi BCS Central Coordination Council respectively for the next term, said a press release yesterday. *

The election was held at an executive committee meeting of the Council on Monday last. Engineer Nurul Huda presided over the meeting held at its head office at the Institute of

Engineer Nurul Huda vice-Jalal Mohiuddin, agriculturist Abdul Mannan and Engineer Akhtar Hossain secretaries of the council.



Ugandan Minister for Economic Monitoring Kweronda Ruhemba visited the Palli Karma Sahayok Foundation Sunday. He is seen with the official of the NGO.

Padma Oil Co ranks one of world's best jet fuel marketer

By Staff Correspondent

World Jet Fuel Report of The Armbrust' of Florida, USA has published a jet fuel market survey report recently from a total of 41 airlines reporting annual jet fuel consumption of 35.24 billion gallons or 60.4% of the total world jet fuel demand. Padma Oil Company Avia-

tion Service has ranked 72 position with 3 points out of the world's 83 best aviation fuel marketing companies that were surveyed through the airlines' intelligence network. Petronas of Malaysia and Saudi Aramco have scored 8 points each; while ENO of Dubai MISR of Egypt and AEROFLOT scored 7 points each; Nippon Oil of Japan and Petroll Ofisi of Turkey scored 6 points each; Petrogal of Portugal scored 4 points. Repsol of Spain scored 3 points in the above survey as against Padma Oil has scored 3 points. The Oil Major Air BP has ranked 1st. Shell 2nd, Esso 3rd and Mobil has ranked 4th in the said sur-

Of the total number of respondents, 46.3% were cast by North American Airlines, 28.6% from European, 20.7% from Asia/Pacific and 4.2% from Africa/Middle East Airlines.

Airlines were asked to rank the best international and regional marketers in 10 categories: (1) best informed, (2) best staff. (3) best organisational structure, (4) most responsive, (5) most innovative, (6) technical expertise, (7) most price competitive, (8) least price competitive (9) most improved and (10) least improved. Points were assigned to each candidate with first place receiving 3 points, second place 2 points and third place 1 point.

831 held, 21 explosives recovered

A total of 831 persons were arrested and nine illegal weapons, 62 bullets and 21 explosives were seized during the 299th day of the countrywide combing operation by police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar forces, reports BSS.

Agriculturist M Enamul Haq

Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

The meeting also elected Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Engineer Mohammad Ruhul Matin and presidents and Dr Mostafa

The meeting expressed concern over lack of progress regarding the council's 8-point demand placed before the Prime Minister in a memorandum in November, 1999. The council demanded elimination of discrepancy in different cadre ser-



Ugandan minister visits PKSF

Ugandan Minister for Economic Monitoring Kweronda Ruhemba Sunday visited the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), the apex body for financing the micro-credit programmes in the country, reports UNB.

During a meeting with the PKSF Managing Director Salahuddin Ahmed and other senior officials of the founda tion, the Ugandan Minister was given a brief account of the activities of the foundation and its partners.

Programmes postponed

Workshop date changed

A two-day workshop on "South Asian Workshop on Settlement of the Urban Poor: Challenges in the new Millen nium," scheduled for February 17-18, will now be held on February 18-19 due to unavoid able-circumstances, says a press release.

Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) and ADAB will jointly organise the regional workshop. The inaugural ceremony of the workshop will be held at the CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17, Topkhana Road while the second day's session will be held at the IDB Bhaban auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Bharateswari Homes Guardian's Day

date changed The Guardian's Day of Class VIII-IX and Class X-XI students

of Bharateswari Hones will now be held on February 18 and 25 instead of February 17 and 24 respectively, says a press re-

Liberation War Museum programme postponed

The solo musical presentation by Rathindranath Roy. scheduled to be held on February 17 at the Cafe Theatre of the Liberation War Museum, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

Death anniversary of Osmany today

The 16th death anniversary of Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh Liberation Forces General Mohammad Ataul Gani Osmany will be observed today, reports BSS.

Jatiya Janata Party (JJP), founded by Osmany, will observe the day through different functions.

The JJP will lower the party and national flags to half-mast, arrange day-long Qurankhwani and milad mahfil, and hold discussions at 4 pm at party of-

'Nation to remember Osmany for his uncompromising

character'

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said General M A G Osmany, the Supreme Commander of the Liberation War, would ever be remembered by the nation for his uncompromising character, honesty and respect for parliamentary democracy, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of the 16th death anniversary of General M A G Osmany, the President said the provisional government (Mujibnagar government) which was formed on April 10 in 1971 appointed General Osmany as the Commanderin-Chief of the Muktibahini for organising and steering the Liberation War.

General Osmany performed his duty efficiently and because of that he was promoted to the rank General and included in the Cabinet, he

The President prayed for peace of the departed soul of Osmany.



Anniversary of death of Motahar Hossain Siddiqui today

The first death anniversary of noted journalist and former editor of The Dainik Millat, The New Nation and the publisher of The Ittefaq will be observed today, says a press re-

A milad mahfil will be held today at his residence in the city while another milad mah fil and doa have been arranged at his village home at Bahadurpur in Shibchar.

Besides, a memorial meeting will be held at the auditorium of Jativa Press Club on February 26 at 3 pm.

Death anniversary

The 5th death anniversary of Md Abu Taher, a philanthropist and social worker of Tongi, Gazipur, will be observed today, says a press release.

Gurankhwani, Doa and milad mahfil will be held at his 33, Lovely Villa, East Arichpur under Tongi in Gazipur district to commemorate the day.

His son, Nasir Uddin Bulbul, is a Sub-editor of the Daily Al

CMC wins Prothom Alo-SKF Debate Competition

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 15: Chit tagong Medical College (CMC) has become the champion and Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) runners up in the Prothom Alo SKF Inter Medical Debate Com petition.

At the final round of the competition last night Chittagong Medical College (Falgun team) beat Rajshahi Medical College debate team at the CMC auditorium.

Prof Dr Shuvagato Chowd hury, Principal of Chittagong Medical College distributed prizes among the winners. Abul Momen, residential editor of the Daily Prothom Alo, Prof Dr. M A Taher, A K M Zahirul Hossain, VP of CMCCSU and Mah bubul Alam, GS of CMCCSU were present, among others, at the prize awarding ceremony.

A cultural programme presented by the students of Sir Salimullah Medical College was also held at the CMC auditorium.

Death condoled

By Staff Correspondent BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the death of Majeda Begum, 67, mother of MAH Selim who is a BNP central leader and president of Bagerhat district unit of the party, said a press release.

Obaidullah Khan hospitalised

By Staff Correspondent Abu Zafar Mohammad Obaidullah Khan, a former secretary and agriculture minister was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He is suffering from viral hepatitis, his family said.

Obaidullah Khan, a former deputy director general of FAO and a regular columnist of The Daily Star is also a well-known poet in the country.



An artiste presenting songs at a function organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote as part of its Ekushey programmes at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. -Star photo

Exhibition of art works on Sthapona

By Staff Correspondent A two-day exhibition of art works on Sthapona+2000 will be held at now defunct Jojon Samakalin Chitrashala (74, Central Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka) Thursday evening, said a press release.

The exhibition by Kazi Ragib, Dhali Al Mamun and Enamul Karim Nirjhar has been organized as a symbolic protest against 'instability of recent times and insecurity of future,' it said.

The exhibition will be inaugurated at 7 pm Thursday which will be followed by night long discussion, it added.

Shamsul Huda

From page 1

hailed from Muktaghachha, Mymensingh, obtained Bachelor's degree from Calcutta Presidency College and MA LLB from Aligarh University. He was the first Bangalee to be elected Vice President of Ali garh Students Union and President of Bengal Muslim Students League.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condoled the death of former Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury.

President Shahabuddin in a condolence message expressed his deep shock at the death of Huda. Recalling his contribution, the President said Huda was a brilliant student leader in the 1940s, a great orator, leading broadcaster and reputed cultural personality. He also expressed sympathy

to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul. Sheikh Hasina in a separate condolence message said, "The

nation has lost a noted parliamentarian and renowned politician at the death of Huda. She conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved

family and prayed for the eter nal peace of the departed soul. UNB adds: Former President Abdur Rahman Biswas has also expressed deep shock at the

death of Huda. Meanwhile, Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury visited the residence of Huda at Eskatan Garden in the city yesterday evening.

BNP: Court

From page 1

said in fact the entire law is "black and repressive". There are some provisions apart from the one regarding bail which are unconstitutional and go against human rights. "We therefore demanded the entire law be repealed," he added.

BNP vice-chairman M Shamsul Islam said no prime minister other than Sheikh Hasina has ever gone to the president to have his assent on any bill. JP presidium member Kazi

has lost credibility and people's confidence by signing the "black law". People expected justice from the president, but he signed the

Firoz Rashid said the president

Bill even after withholding it for 14 days, Firoz Rashid added. Jamaat assistant secretary general Mohammad Kamaruz zaman said the "drama" at

Bangabhaban on Monday is

very unfortunate for the nation.

IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin said the president became controversial through signing the bill. This incident will be considered as a black chapter in the history of Bangladesh, he

Hartal: 70 injured From page 1

of tear gas shells and resorted to lathicharge when pickets were preparing to bring out a procession at 12 noon at Tikatuli.

Police also entered lanes and bylanes of Tikatuli and Shapla Chattar areas and allegedly beaten up many passers-by. More than 10 people were injured during the incident.

The law enforcers swooped on a BNP precession at North-South Road at about 11 am and beat up the activists. Seven people were arrested from the Police throughout the day

didn't allow the hartal activists to bring out any procession in Kotowali thana areas. Police chased a procession of Jatiy atabadi Chhatra Dal which was brought out from Jagannath University College at 11 am. Police chased a BNP proces-

sion and arrested one Sramik Dal activist from Khilgaon rail gate at about 10:30 am. BNP at a press briefing alleged that Awami League terror

ists exploded three powerful bombs at the Shyamoli resi dence of party MP Akhter

CEC goes to NY for treatment Chief Election Commis-

sioner Mohammad Abu Hena left for New York yesterday for post-operation treatment, reports UNB. The medical board formed for his treatment has advised

him to go abroad for better treatment. Abu Hena has been suffering from various complications after his operation in Bangkok in December. He was undergoing

treatment in Combined Mili-

tary Hospital in Dhaka. During his absence Mushtag Ahmed Chowdhury will act as the Chief Election Commissioner, said a press release.

Hamid Siddique at 10 am. Police said they arrested only one activist on charge of bomb explosion in he city while the BNP claimed that police picked up at least 25 party men. Jamaat also claimed that

police arrested four party ac-

tivists from a procession at

Mohakhali in the morning. Autorickshaws, some minibuses and BRTC buses were plied on some city roads, including the VIP roads. Movement of rickshaws was almost

normal Movement of vehicles in long-route remained stopped, but train service was almost normal. All trains and launches ran on schedule.

Educational institutions, business establishments, shop and private offices remained closed. Attendance in govern ment offices, including Bangladesh Secretariat, was thin.

Awami League and its front organisations also brought out separate anti-hartal processions in Bangabandhu Avenue, Press Club, Topkhana, Motijheel, Dholairpar and Shahbagh areas.

Hartal ignored in 3 districts

The dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the opposition alliance was not observed at least in three districts yesterday, reports UNB.

Correspondents from Meherpur, Rajbari and Munsigan reported that all shops, educational institutions and offices in the districts remained open during hartal hours.

Vehicular movement was also normal although it was less than normal in the long routes.

Munsigani correspondent said production in mills and lactories in the industrial areas

The ruling party took out many processions yesterday condemning hartal. The photo shows one such procession which totally blocked vehicular movement, forcing traffic to use the opposite lane, thus violating traffic laws. Doesn't the above procession constitute violation of PSA -Star photo



11 am, Sonargaon Hotel Annexe yesterday: Workers with job permits for Saudi Arabia throng the locked gate awaiting the Saudi Airlines office to open to collect their air tickets. Most of them travelled overnight and arrived at the airline office early in the -Star photo morning.

uddin Hasan, an accused in the Shazneen murder and rape cases, has been at the wing for more than a year. Aziz Ahmed Michel alias

Titu, a notorious criminal accused in a number of murder cases, has been at the wing for the last eight months. Rentu, an accused in a case filed with Singair thana, has been there for seven months, jail sources

long. At this moment we are

helpless as BSMMU only has

the authority to discharge

Professor M A Kaderi, vice-

chancellor of the University,

said, " I will not say anything

about the allegation that a

number of doctors are involved

prisoners who have been stay-

ing at the prison wing for

'suspiciously long period'. Of

them, Captain (retd.) Nurul

Huda, an accused in Serniabat

murder case, has been staying

at the wing for about two and a half years. Syed Sajjad Mahi-

Asked about the allegations,

them," said a jail official.

further

However, Nurul Huda's case is a bit different. He was shifted to the prison wing on August 27, 1997 following a High Court order, said a senior official of prison department. A medical board informed

the court about one and half years ago that Nurul Huda no longer needed to stay at the wing. BSMMU Hospital authorities again formed a medical board a few months ago and it was also of the same opinion. The hospital and the jail au-

thorities are now waiting for the court order, the official added. But the other cases are absolutely dubious, said a jail official. Hasan, a chargesheeted ac-

cused in the Shazneen murder case, was shifted to the prison wing of the hospital on January 7 of 1999 after jail doctors recommended that he had been suffering from "PUD (peptic ulcer disease) with chest pain with general pain."

While recommending that Hasan be shifted to the prison wing, the jail doctors also mentioned that there had been "loss of sensation at some parts of his left thigh ", said a jail offi-

BSMMU prison wing According to a number of hospital staff who attend the patients at the first floor of the wing, Hasan appeared to be in good health. The Daily Star investigation also found that he has not been taking food delivered by the hospital authorities

for last one year or so; his rela-tives are bringing food for him. Sources at the BSMMU Hospital said. Though our doctors in the incident at the prison were about to release Hasan wing," without elaborating several times, he was not dis-Jail officials named four charged at the last moment,"

said a source at hospital who do not want to be named. Earlier, the hospital authorities stopped sending Hasan to the courts citing health reasons, resulting in adjournment of proceedings of both the cases on several occasions. However, he was sent to courts only after

press reports. Michel Titu was shifted to the wing on June 9 last year. Jail doctors recommended that Titu be sent to the BSMMU Hospital saying that he had been suffering from stomach ache. loss of appetite, weakness etc.

A number of the hospital staff said Titu's condition was "not that serious" so as to be hospitalised for a specialised treatment. Recently, Titu has been suffering from tooth problem, they added. Details about Rentu's illness was not available during the investigation.

"Our jail hospital have the facilities offered by a general hospital. If the condition of any prisoner is not that much serious, why BSMMU (Hospital) authorities do not shift them to jail hospital where even cancer patients have been under treatment?" asked a jail offi-

Jail officials categorised the problems, created by these prisoners at the wing, into two

groups.

Firstly, jail authorities can not shift a sick prisoner to the prison wing as there are only 12 beds in the wing. " If half the beds are occupied by some prisoners for months, then we can not send a prisoner who is genuinely sick to the wing unless the bed is available," said a jail official.

Secondly, when a criminal stays at the wing for long it becomes a security threat, as only 18 unarmed wardens under a head warden discharge their duty at the three floors of the wing, the official continued.

Marks manipulated

From page 1 the examinations much earlier, the sources said. He prepared

the result in November last and sent the fina! tabulation sheet to the office of the controller of examinations, they added. But the controller found discrepancy in the marks of two students while scrutinising both

sets of tabulation sheets. He informed the matter to the DU vice-chancellor who formed the probe committee to investigate into the incident and asked to submit report as quickly as possible.

When contacted, pro-VC Prof. M Shahadat Ali told the Daily Star that primary investigation has confirmed the allegation of manipulation of the

"We are at the end of the investigation and are examining the findings," said Prof. Ali, adding the investigation report

First case

From page 1 the country "Police officials have been ordered to take action against offenders on the basis of the PSA," Khan added.

Some top police officials claimed that the Act would also help reduce hartal-related violence. Violence during yesterday's hartal was much less than that during earlier hartals. They further said the num-

ber of offenders involved in exploding bombs and damaging property, vehicles and other things would now go down. The Act would have a psychological effect on all concerned," one official added.

BB board

From page 1 gation revealed that the group

imported cement but sold it on the market without making payments. Bank officials helped the group in this case. The board identified the officials and inspection engineers responsible for the irregulari-

UZ polls From page 1 all concerned, including those belonging to the opposition camps," a top EC official wilting away because of bacte-Meanwhile, Prime Minister

her party was ready to hold the Zila Parishad and Upazila Parishad elections but she did not know "why the Election Commission is not announcing the polls schedules." Earlier, in the first week of this month, the Local Govern-

Sheikh Hasina said at a func

tion in the city on Monday that

ment Ministry wrote to the EC Secretariat expressing concern over the delay in holding the elections. Replying to a query, Chowdhury the acting CEC said yesterday. "I do not see any possi-

bility that an ideal political situation would be created in the near future. We cannot wait for an indefinite period to an nounce the polls, although the authority of fixing a date for the Upazila polls lies with the Elec tion Commission." Asked whether the Prime Minister's public comment on

the issue would influence the Commission in taking a decision about the polls, he said, Certainly not. She has said what she had to say. I don't want to comment on her state -

would be submitted to the DU Syndicate shortly. "The Syndi-

cate will take decision regard-

taken if any university teacher

Asked what action would be

ing the incident."

Bari be removed.

is found involved in the irregularities, he declined to be elaborate, only saying, "This is not the right moment to comment on such a issue." A top university official on condition of anonymity however said that the teacher found

responsible for such a heinous crime would be temporarily expelled from the university. Meanwhile, students of the law faculty have demanded that

Hajj flights

From page 12

Aviation Mosharraf Hossain. State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam, State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir Hossain, Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism CM Mohsin, Secretary Religious Affairs Mahfuzus Sobhan, Chairman Civil Aviation Air Commodore Iqbal Hossain. Biman's MD Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam were

present. A Munaiat was offered before the flight took off.

Monitoring

From page 1 not been done properly.

Rahman contended that such a law was needed for quick trial of criminals who are making lives of people miserable and that the objective of the law would be fulfilled if the accused could be tried at the earliest.

Bad news From page 12

ery potato plot there to blot the logged rain- water from other parts of the potato fields. Yet, late blight' and 'bacterial wilt' made their ways in attacking the young plants adversely.

Abu Sufian, regional sales manager of Novartis Bangladesh, a multinational engaged in crop protection sector, feared that Comilla might experience 20 per cent production loss in the least this sea-He said, potato plants were

rial infection in Comilla. On an average, ten per cent of the potato--area has been affected by the bacterial wilt. Late January rainfall had affected potato cultivation in the low-lying areas in particu-

lar, where water logged, said Su-However, officials at the DAE are hopeful about a very good nationwide output of

potato this year. According to DAE, out of a total of 1.75 lakh hectares of land for potato cultivation, only 13,100 hectares fall under Comilla district. In Dhaka region, the major

potato cultivation area of the

country, farmers are upbeat because of an expected bumper production. In Munshiganj, the - country's potato nucleus, yield will be as high as 400 maunds an acre. In Bogra, the country's sec-

ond potato hub, potato prospects are also on a high mark. In Bogra region, some 30 to 40 per cent of the potatoes have already been harvested. according to an agriculture bulletin.