# What's on today . . . .

Discussion: Amnesty International Bangladesh will hold a discussion on "Women's rights, human rights, continuing struggle. Venue: Sena Kalyan Bhaban auditorium, Motijheel C/A. Time: 4.00 pm.

Seminar: Vidyasagar Society will hold a seminar on "Internationalisation of Bangla Language: From Vidyasagar to Language". Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Mu seum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00 pm.

Theatre: Muktok Padabali will stage "Kotipoy Ramanir Sanglap" on occasion of International Women's Day. Venue: Natmandal, DU campus. Time: 6.30 pm.

Rally: Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad will hold a gathering followed by a rally on occasion of International Women's Day. The rally will parade through different city streets. Venue: Gathering: Central Shaheed Minar. Rally: From Shaheed Minar to Press Club. Time: 8:00 am.

BCPS lecture: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) will hold a lecture on "Calcific Supraspinatus Tendinitis". Venue: BCPS auditorium Mohakhali. Time: 11:00 am-11:50 am.

Publication ceremony: SahSufi Industrial Corporation Ltd will hold the publication ceremony of 'Bangladesh Investment and Trade Directory 1999-2000.' Chief Guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: VIP auditorium. National Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

Rally: Women workers of BRAC will bring out a motor cycle rally on occasion of International Women's Day. Venue: From Manik Miah Avenue to Central Shahid Minar. Time: 10:00 am.

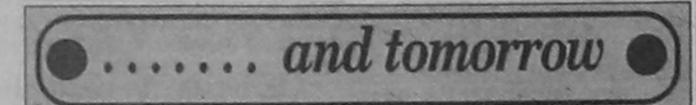
Rally: Sammilita Nari Samaj will hold a gathering and rally on occasion of International Women's Day. Venue: Gathering -Shahbagh crossing, Rally — National Museum to TSC road Island on DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

Seminar: Liberation War, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh

Research Institute of National University will hold a seminar. Venue: Room No 101, National University, House No 113, Rd No 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm. Black flag procession: Domestic Workers Associa-

sion. Venue: Muktangon. Time: 4:31 pm. Cultural programme: Setubandha, a cultural organisation will hold a cultural programme. Chief guest: Amir Hossain Amu, Minister for Food. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 6:30 pm.

tion, Bangladesh will hold a black flag and black mask proces-



Lecture: Bangladesh Paediatric Association will hold two lectures on "Childhood epilepsies" and "cerebral palsy". Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 9:30 am-1:00 pm.

Discussion: Ganomadhyom Kendro will hold a discussion on the recently televised programme "Deshbashir Mukhumukhi". Venue: Muktijuddha Jadughar, Segunbagicha. Time: 5.30 pm.

### Weather

### Dry weather likely

Light rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the region of Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with party cloudy sky over the country. Day temperature is expected to rise during this period, Met Office said. The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was

33.6 degree Celsius at Mongla and the lowest 15:8 degree Celsius The sun sets in the capital today at 6:05 pm and rises to-

morrow at 6:13 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidity in Temperature City/Town

	in Ceisi	us	percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.8	23.8	85	50
Chittagong	30.7	21.2	80	68
Rajshahi	31.8	17.0	59	59
Khulna	33.0	22.0	86	62
Barisal	32.1	22.3	85	75
Sylhet	29.3	19.8	89	73
Cox's Bazar	31.8	20.4	77	72

## HERE and THERE

### Bangladesh scouts

A 16-member Boy Scouts of Nippon (Japan ) Rover Contingent left the city vesterday after taking part under Bangladesh-Japan Joint ORT Project 1998. 2002, for the 3rd time, says a press release.

The evaluation meeting of the project was held at Shams Hall, National Scout Bhaban on Monday at 6:30 pm. The dignitaries who addressed the evaluation meeting included Manzoor Ul Karim, president, Bangladesh Scouts, Vice President & Convenor, Bangladesh-Japan Joint ORT Project Dr. Shah Mohammad Farid, Acting held yesterday. Chief National Commissioner and National Commissioner (PR& Publication) Saiful Islam Khan, Dr. Tomonichi Goke, Contingent Leader of Japan, Mihir Kanti Majumder, Kh. Mahfuzul Haque, Syedur Rah man and Crew Leader Soko Aoki. At the end of the ceremony certificates and crest was given to the Japanese contingent, the press release added.

The Nippon Rovers took part in a work camp with the 144 local Scouts & Rovers including Girl-in-Scout members in six villages under Mymensingh Sadar Thana and Fulbaria Thana to promote Oral Rehydration therapy.

### Bangladesh Chartered Accountancy

### Chhatra Parishad

The election of Bangladesh Chartered Accountancy Chhatra Parishad was held in the city on Monday, reports UNB.

Monirul Islam and Quazi Shahriar were elected president and general secretary respectively for a two-year term. The other office bearers are:

Vice-presidents A K M Mahmud Hasan, Kamrul Hasan, Parvez Ashraful Rahman Khan, joint secretary Munir Ahmed, organizing secretary Golam Mostafa, treasurer Asaduzzaman, student welfare secretary Tajul Islam, publicity secretary Abdullah-Al-Maksud, cultural Mirpur yesterday afternoon. secretary Israt Jahan, sports Local people chased the gang secretary Sheikh Masudur and managed to catch two of

The EC members are: Abdur ered from them.

Razzak, Ziaul Hasan, Noor Solayman, Mizanur Rahman, Masudul Haque, Ohed Pandit, Khandaker Emdadul Haq and A

S M Mizanur Rahman, said a

press release vesterday.

#### Nirmul Committee

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the steering committee of the coordinating committee of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (the committee to eliminate the killers and collaborator of 1971) was

Presided over by Syed Hasan Imam, the meeting endorsed programmes to mark the black night of March 25, March 26 the Independence Day and the Public Trial Day.

#### Extortionist shoot trader in Malibagh

By Staff Correspondent

when he refused to pay the gang at Malibagh in the city yesterday, hospital sources said. The victim was identified as

Abdul Hannan, 42, son Abu Baker, 25/B of Malibagh Chowdhurypara in the city.

Hospital sources quoting the witnesses said that a gang of five extortionist came at Hannan Bedding at about 10 am yesterday. They demanded toll from Hannan. When he refused, they became furious and started ransacking the shop.

As soon as Hannan cried for help the gang opened fire hitting Hannan on his abdomen, back and left hand. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

In another incident two alleged muggers Shahidul Islam and Jahangir were arrested as they attempted to snatch valuables from a pedestrian.

The incident took place in front of Sony Cinema Hall of them. Two crackers also recov-



Visiting Executive Director of World Bank BP Singh called on Finance Minister Shah - PID photo AMS Kibria at his office yesterday.

### Viva voce for 20th BCS begins Mar 21

By DU Correspondent

The viva voce of the applicants, passed in the written test of 20th BCS written test, for the post of technical cadre will begin on March 21, said a press re-

The viva voce will continue till May 18. The timetable for the viva voce has already been published in the newspapers and admit cards mailed to can didates in this regard.

Candidates those who will not get the admit cards two days before their respective schedule for the viva voce, have been asked to collect the duplicate admit card from the head office of the Public Service Commission (PSC), the release added.

#### Aga Khan blessed with a son

AIGLEMONT, GOUVIEUX, France, Mar 7: Prince Aga Khan and Begum Inaara Aga Khan announce this morning in Paris the birth of a son, Prince Aly Muhammad, says a press release issued in Dhaka

Hazrat Aly was the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad (SM), and first Imam of the Shia Muslims. The Aga Khan, whose late father's name was Aly, is the 49th hereditary Imam of the Ismaili Community.

The couple got married in France in May 1998, and both of them have children from their earlier marriages. The Aga Khan has three children from his previous marriage -Princess Zahra, born in 1970, Prince Rahim, in 1971 and Prince Hussain, in 1974.

Begum Inaara Aga Khan has a daughter - Princess Theresa zu Leinningen, born in 1992 from her earlier marriage.

### JCD rally at Paltan Maidan today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP will hold a rally at the Paltan Maidan this afternoon demanding immediate release of all JCD men including its president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and resignation of Sheikh Hasina.

Leaders of BNP standing committee and JCD leaders wil address the rally at 3:00 pm.

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday, Amanullah Aman MP, the student affairs secretary of BNP urged all the work ers of JCD to make the rally a

### Sri Lankan navy kills 10 rebels

in sea clash

COLOMBO, March 7: Sri Lankan navy gun boats attacked Tamil guerrilla boats off the northeast coast, destroying two and drowning at least 10 guerrillas, the defence ministry said here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The navy attacked two clusters of boats from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LLTE) off the Pulmoddai coast on Monday, a ministry

It said at least two rebel others retreated. There was no immediate reaction from the LTTE to the military claims.

### PM opens digital phone exchange at Savar

cations Minister Mohammad Nasim from her official residence at Ganabhaban, reports

The Prime Minister, while inaugurating the new exchange, said it is a rare and historic occasion that the opening of the exchange coincided with the historic March 7.

The office of the new exchange is at Savar where the National Mausoleum for Martyrs of the Liberation War is located.

are a large number of industries and commercial establishments at Savar, and the modern telecommunications facilities would help them in a bigger

Prime Minister Sheikh During the telephone con-Hasina vesterday inaugurated a versation with the Telecom-3000-line digital telephone ex- munications Minister, the change at Savar by talking to Prime Minister said the con-Home, Post and Telecommuni - struction of Rupsha Bridge would start at the end of this year. She said that the design of the bridge had already been finalised.

> The Prime Minister also talked to the State Minister for Telecommunications Abdur Rouf Chowdhury and president of Dhaka District Awami League Shamsuddoha Khan Ma-

Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) officials said that all incoming and Sheikh Hasina said there outgoing calls through the new digital exchange at Savar would be considered as local instead of NWD calls.

They said another 2,000 lines would be added to the new exchange soon.



Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) organised a stakeholder consultation on Community Participation in Water Management in the city yesterday. Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources (3rd from left) attended the function as chief guest. It was chaired by M Gholam Rabbani, Chairman, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) (4th from left) T A Khan, DG WARPO (2nd from left) M Monawar Hossain Chowdhury Chief Engineer LGED (extreme left) seen.

### Independence Day programmes The government has chalked vance of the day, while the Mass

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar at the dawn of the day. The President and the Prime Minister will also issue separate messages highlighting the significance of the day.

Wreaths will also be placed at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at 7.30 am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will take salute at a child and juvenile rally at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 8 am on the day. National flags will be day

hoisted atop all private and public buildings. All major av enues and road islands will be illuminated and decorated with national flag. An exhibition of war equip-

ment will be held at Tejgaon old airport from March 26 to 31. A child and juvenile's rally will be organised on the day in quarters except the capital.

out elaborate programmes to Communication Department observe the Independence and will organise mobile film National Day on March 26, re- shows and presentation of patriotic songs.

Special prayers at all mosques and prayer houses seeking peace and progress of the nation will be held. Improved diets will be served at all jails and hospitals of the country on the day.

Discussions and reception will be held at all Bangladesh missions abroad. The ships of Bangladesh

Navy and Coast Guards will remain open for public visit at Chittagong, Mongla, Sadarghat and other IWTA ports from 2 to Special parties of Army

Navy, Air Force, Rifles, BDR Police and Ansars will play band and music at designated points of the city at 4 pm on the

Special writings highlight ing achievements in the last three and a half years will be published in national dailies. Discussions will also be held on the achievements. The programmes were taken

up at an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Home Minister Extortionists shot a trader, craft were destroyed while the all thana and district head - Mohammad Nasim at his ministry yesterday

Newspapers will bring out Concerned high officials special supplements in obser- were present.



A four-member Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation led by K Kannan called on Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Kalpa Ranjan Chakma at his office yesterday.

# Iran: officials

WASHINGTON, March 7:-The United States is close to easing economic sanctions against Iran following a spectacular victory by reformers in last month's parliamentary elections there, officials said Tuesday, reports AFP.

"Consideration of these things has been given new energy by the elections," a senior State Department official told AFP, stressing that while a decision was likely near, no action had yet been taken.

"The fact is that no decision has been made," the official said responding to a Los Angeles Times report that said a decision on lifting import bans on Iranian caviar, carpets and pistachio nuts was imminent.

Such a move would be the most significant US public overture to Iran since the Is lamic revolution there in 1979. shortly after which the hostagetaking at the American embassy led Washington to sever relations with Tehran.

However, the State Department official said it was not certain that all three restrictions would be lifted.

"It may not be all three, it could be one, it could be two," he said, adding also that other measures not mentioned in the Times story might also be considered.

Another official maintained that the newspaper report had not broken much new ground as Washington has said since the election it was looking into ways to reward the Iranian people for their vote for reform.

### People urged to use water judiciously

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday called upon the people to use water resources judiciously during the period of abundance and scarcity to preserve the fragile ecosystem, reports BSS.

"Water is not an infinite bounty of nature now and it must be managed properly," the minister said in a "Stakeholder Consultation on Community Participation in Water Management," organised by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) at BIAM auditorium, in the city. As a lower riparian country

the minister said, Bangladesh

has no control over the flow entering into the country. The country is located within the flood plains of the three great river system - the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The minister said the three rivers flow a total catchment area of 1.72 million square kilometre, of which only about .8 per cent lies in the country. This lack of control creates problem for the country's agrar-

"We all know that water will be the most scarce resources on earth in this millennium. It will be even more scarce for Bangladesh because of its geo. graphical location as well as the upstream water use of 57 trans border rivers," the minis-

ian economy dependent on wa

minister said The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has implemented 590 projects and LGED has also implemented some small-scale flood control development and irrigation projects.

these projects is to balance the ence. conflicting needs of different stakeholders notably agriculture, fisheries and navigation in an environment-friendly manner, he added.

Presided over by BWDB Chairman M Golam Rabbani the inaugural session of the meeting was also addressed by Chief Engineer of LGED and Vice Chairman of BWP Md Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, Chairman of Bangladesh Un nayan Parishad Dr. Q K Ahmed and Director General of WARPO T A Khan. BWDB Director of Planning (General) Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury presented the keynote paper in the techni cal session.

### Mordechai takes leave of absence after sexual assault probe:

JERUSALEM, March 7: Israeli Transport Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Tuesday he would take a leave of ab- | 11. sence after the launch of a police probe into accusations he sexually assaulted a female employee, but maintained his innocence, reports AFP. "I have decided to take a

leave of absence so the police can conduct a quick and efficient investigation without any political strings attached," he said at a press conference. But Mordechai, who is also deputy prime minister, said

that there was no truth to the allegations and that he would not resign his post. "I want to to tell the people of Israel that everything said against me today is not true,

that there is absolutely no truth in the allegations," he said, but pledged to cooperate fully with investigators. The 55-year-old Mordechai is expected to be questioned in the next few days after Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein

A 23-year-old transport ministry employee lodged a complaint with police after an incident about 10 days ago, Is-- PID photo | raeli media reported.

set up an inquiry.

and state prosecutor Edna Arbel

### US close to easing sanctions against New round of talks for N. Ireland today

BELFAST, March 7: London and Dublin are calling Northern Ireland's political rivals together Wednesday for the first multi-party talks since the missioning should not make or suspension last month of the province's young power-sharing government, reports AFP.

minister responsible for Northern Ireland, will co-host the talks in Belfast with Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen. They will meet in the

morning with leaders of the various parties, before hosting place. a round-table discussion in the afternoon, according to the Northern Ireland Office. "It's vital we don't allow a

sense of drift, a sense of malaise to creep in," Mandelson told reporters as he announced the plans for a series of such en-

Meanwhile US envoy Jim Steinberg met Tuesday with the leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams.

London, Dublin and Washington are desperate to keep all sides talking and on board despite the February 11 suspension of the government, which restored direct rule from Westminster.

Cowen was due to meet Mandelson later Tuesday and leaders of the moderate Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP). Steinberg, President Bill

Clinton's advisor on Northern Ireland, was also due to meet the SDLP, and on Wednesday leaders of David Trimble's Protestant Ulster Unionists. Mandelson said he wanted the institutions reactivated as

soon as possible. The power-sharing government and cross-border bodies were put on ice over the Irish Republican Army's failure to start decommissioning its

Writing in the US-based Irish Voice newspaper in an article also released here by Sinn Fein. Adams warned there appeared to be "no possibility" of any armed group disarming by the May 22 deadline set by the Good Friday accord.

It was the April 1998 Good

### US advance team

From Page 1

tion with the US president's tour. The team would comprise different elements including officials connected with proto col, security and planning. Members of the elite US Secret Service, charged with protecting the US President will also accompany the team. More members of the SS would fly in shortly.

The members of the team may change but the different elements and core members would be staying till the end of the US president's visit here.

Meanwhile, electronic surveillance gear, communication and transportation equipment have already started arriving in the country.

Members of the team will also work with local agencies for ensuring what they feel 'a complete security cover' for the US president during his daylong stay in Bangladesh on In another development, it

was decided yesterday in Dhaka that the itinerary of the US president would include a joint press conference at the end of the tour. President Clinton and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina One important aspects of will address the press confer-

### Khaleda

From Page 1

Mannan Bhuiyan in his sued a rule on the government speech warned of trial of the BTV officials, involved in coop- court. erating the government of making falsehood, character assassination of the opposition leaders and activists and using state

run media against the people. He said the BTV is being used completely against the people and asked the officials and employees to immediately stop anti-people programmes.

JP leader Saifur Rahman requested senior leaders of the four parties to actively join the street programmes to intensify the one point movement. He also appealed Khaleda Zia, H M Ershad and Golam Azam to participate in future street programmes.

APAC city unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka announced the APAC would hold workers meeting at all thanas in the city today, bring out joint procession in all thanas tomorrow and joint rally at all thana headquarters on March

### CCCI drama

From Page 1

I will accept it." "I want to hand over the charge to the elected president through AGM even if the poll is held without me," Kamal said. Replying to another question Kamal said that no director re- which is too inadequate, he signed from the board.

Chamber sources also said that no director officially submitted any resignation letter to CCCI secretary. But sources said that some directors already deposited their resignation letters with a committee member assigned to convince Kamal Uddin Ahmed to resign.

When contacted, Javed said they will not accept any CCCI poll until Kamal Uddin Ahmed is in the office. "Kamal Uddin must resign to pave the way for election of CCCl. Besides, I am with the board and I follow its decision, "added Javed.

Meanwhile, the dissident directors did not hold any more meeting at the chamber office

Friday deal which paved the way for December's formation

of the administration. Sinn Fein insists decombreak the executive, and can only happen gradually if the institutions are up and work-

Peter Mandelson, Britain's ing. "The US has played a crucial role," Adams said before meeting Steinberg, "but if you want to work out how we get out of this crisis, you have to work out how we got in it in the first

> "In our view it was a crisis waiting to happen."

He accused Britain of "caving in" to Unionist demands on decommissioning. Trimble had warned London that without a start to disarmament, he would pull down the government.

Adams said Sinn Fein was not against a round table, "but it is not changes in format of meetings that is required here,

It is the change of mindsets. "So round tables, square tables, all sorts of tables -- we went through 20 months of this.

"We had inclusive government, all Ireland bodies for eight weeks. They now need to be restored."

#### Cancer cases quadruple in Iraq since Gulf War

BAGHDAD, March 7: The number of cases of cancer have multiplied by four since the 1991 Gulf War because of the use of radioactive weapons by the US-led coalition, the Health Minister said Tuesday, reports

"Study into the effects (of the Gulf War), notably cancers, show that the United States used deadly radioactive weapons, including depleted uranium," Umid Medhat Mubarak told a conference on cancer in Baghdad.

### Shad

From Page 1 saying that he did not want to

proceed with the case. "Since the age of the minor boy is below 16 years, he can not be kept in jail custody" submitted Barrister Rafiqul Hoque, counsel for Ershad.

He submitted that the affi-

davit-in-opposition was filed with a malafide intention to harass and humiliate Ershad politically. Deputy Attorney General Md Faruque Ahmed argued that since the case was filed under

Children Repression Prevention Act), the prayer of Ershad's counsel can not be considered. "The state filed the affidavit in-opposition in compliance with the Rule issued by the court, not with any malafide in-

the Nari-o-Shishu Nirjatan

Damon Ain, 2000 (Women and

tention", he submitted. He submitted, "The petitioner said in his writ petition that the age of his son is about 15 years, while in his supplementary affidavit, the age of his son is claimed to be below 16

Submitting the certificate issued by the Principal of Bangladesh International Tutorial and newspaper reports earlier, he asserted that the date of birth of Shad is January 18, 1983 and that his age is 17 years one month 15 days. So he can not be treated as a child under

the Children Act. Shad was placed on two days remand on February 4. Ershad filed a writ petition on February 5 challenging his arrest and po-

lice custody. On the same day, the HC isto produce Shad before the

CTBT

From Page 1

#### Bangladesh is the 28th state to sign the treaty among 44 states. Bangladesh is the first South

One hundred and fifty-five

countries have so far signed the

CTBT while 53 have ratified it.

Asian country to ratify the nu-

clear test-ban treaty and also

the first in the region to sign it

in New York on October, 1996.

BTTB tussle

From Page 1 He admitted that in most

mind subscribers before snapping lines due to lack of man-"We try to co-operate with subscribers. It is the duty of the people at the Divisional Engineer's office to remind the listed

cases it is not possible to re-

seeking anonymity. He said no manpower was recruited for BTTB for long although its load nearly doubled. Maghbazar Exchange, with about 55,000 telephone subscribers, has only 22 employees,

defaulting subscribers", he said

BTTB officials said they do not get the bill laser in time. There is a provision that banks would supply the laser on the next day but sometimes we receive those even after months, they claimed. A highly placed official said

the BTTB Board is trying to reduce sufferings of subscribers and as part of the effort, revenue offices have been decentralised. Two revenue offices were set up at Uttara and Mirpur recently, he added.

department for delay in mail delivery, which also creates a communication gap. "We are thinking alternatives for quick delivery of telephone bi"s".

He also blamed the postal