

## What's on today....

**BRCS founding anniversary:** The 27th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) will be observed. A discussion meeting will be held which will be followed by a blood donation programme. Chief guest: Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim. Venue: B A Siddiqi Nursing School auditorium at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital. Time: 10.00 am.

**National conference:** A national conference of elected female UP members will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha. Chief guest: LGED Minister Zillur Rahman. Venue: Social Welfare Department auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10.00 am.

**Founding anniversary:** The 42nd founding anniversary of Dhaka Ahsanullah Mission will be held. 'Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal '99' will be awarded to Justice Mustafa Kamal at the function. Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00 am.

**Film show:** Three movies *Monsieur Kieh*, *Leon* and *Schindler's List* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka auditorium. Time: 11.00 am, 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Islamic Foundation Bangladesh organises a discussion meeting on 'Bangabandhu's dream: Bangladesh'. Venue: Islamic Foundation auditorium, Baitul Muqarram. Time: 3.00 pm.

**WEST workshop:** The fifth workshop of 'Workshop on Environmental Science and Technology' (WEST) will be held. Organisers: Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CSTI) of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Environmental Voluntary Association (EVA) and Toitombour. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 4.30 pm.

**Seminar:** Programme to Motivate, Train and Employee Female Teachers in Rural Secondary Schools (PROMOTE) organises a one-day national gender seminar. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 9.30 am - 5.00 pm.

**Exhibition:** A 7-day long solo sculpture exhibition by Shamim Sikder opens. Venue: Designers Den Art, Crafts and Fashion Gallery (DD), CEN (B) 20, Rd No 99, Gulshan. Time: 10.30 am - 8.00 pm.

**Meeting:** The annual general meeting of Sree Sree Geeta Sangha will be held. Venue: Central Office of Swami Bholananda Giri Ashram, 12 K M Das Lane. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Solo exhibition:** A solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Shishir Bhattacharjee will be inaugurated. Venue: Gallery 21, 765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Meeting:** The meeting of the newly elected Khelaghar Dhaka Committee will be held. Venue: Khelaghar auditorium, 278/3 Elephant Road. Time: 10.00 am.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Manipuri dance drama:** A Manipuri dance drama will be held in aid of the disabled. The Green Disabled Foundation of Sylhet has organised the event in association with the British Council. Venue: British Council Auditorium. Time: 7.30 pm. Tickets are available at British Council, Sagar Publishers and Video Connection.

## Weather

### Day temperature may fall

Rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka division and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Chittagong division and will remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.8 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 17.8 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.14 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.51 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.2	23.4	75	57
Chittagong	29.2	19.5	77	77
Rajshahi	35.8	20.5	82	40
Khulna	32.8	22.2	80	60
Barisal	32.8	21.0	81	65
Sylhet	29.9	20.3	73	66
Cox's Bazar	31.0	20.5	63	69

## HERE and THERE

### UGCEA

By DU Correspondent

The University Grants Commission Employees' Association (UGCEA) held a discussion meeting at the UGC conference room yesterday to mark Independence Day.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Roy addressed the programme as the chief guest while Prof. ATM Zahirul Haq, Chairman of UGC was in the chair.

The programme was also addressed by Prof. Mesbahuddin Ahmed.

### BCU

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), a left leaning student organisation yesterday held a discussion meeting at the TSC road island, marking Shaheed Aslam Day.

Majharul Haq Aslam was killed on this day in 1986 during a student movement during the Ershad regime.

Presided over by Mahbubur Rahman Shipon, the programme was addressed, among others, by Anwarul Haq, Ali Akbar, Hasan Hafizur Rahman, Sohail, and Monjur-Khoda Torik.

### CBA Sonali Bank employees union 202

Acknowledging trade union as a vital weapon to realise the rights of workers, the Commerce Minister yesterday said the government supports healthy flourishing of trade union but discourages anarchy in its name, reports UNB.

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil was addressing a discussion meeting organised by CBA Sonali Bank Employees Union-202 at BCIC auditorium, marking the Independence Day.

He said the present government after assuming power in 1996 has taken various steps to restore discipline in all sectors, including the banking one.

Sonali Bank MD M Enamul Haq Chowdhury, Jatiya Sramik League president Abdus Salam Khan, All India Bank Association general secretary Tarakeswar Chowdhury, Sonali Bank CBA president Anilul Haq Faruque, general secretary Jamuluddin Ahmed and labour leader Fazlul Haq Montu also addressed the meeting.



Samson H Chowdhury  
Dr Momenul Haque  
Pharmaceutical industries assoc executives

Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries has elected a 19-member executive committee with Samson H Chowdhury and Dr Momenul Haque as its president and secretary general respectively, says a press release.

The election was held at its annual general meeting on Wednesday.

Other office-bearers are Mizanur Rahman Sinha, MP - senior vice-president; Abdur Rouf Khan - vice-president; and SM Shafiquzzaman - treasurer.

The members are ANMA Jaber, Md Selim Ullah, Khandaker Tariqul-Islam, Abul Hasan, Syed Fazlul Haque, Ayub Ali, Didarul Alam, Harunur Rashid, Nazmul Hasan, Mohammad Yusuf, Khalrul Bashar, Ajmat Mobin, Amjad Hossain and Masum Rahman.

### Stolen paper worth Tk 6 lakh recovered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 30: Police recovered stolen paper worth Tk 6 lakh of Bangladesh Paper Products (BPP) here and seized a truck in this connection, reports BSS.

The paper was looted from the Sholashar godown of BPP on March 26 by a group of robbers. Police arrested two security guards and a truck driver in this connection.

Police recovered the off-set paper on the basis of confession of the truck driver.

The paper was found at a godown of Fatehabad.

## Rajshahi by-poll All nomination papers found valid

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 30: Nomination papers of all 12 candidates for the Rajshahi-5 by-election were found valid after scrutiny today.

The nomination papers were filed yesterday. The last date to withdraw from the election is April 6.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Awami League declared the party's candidate, Nurul Islam Thandui, persona-non-grata in the constituency.

At a rally yesterday, supporters of Raihanul Huque, general secretary of Charchat thana Awami League, who is contesting the bypoll as an independent candidate, protested the nomination of Thandui, since he hails from Sirajganj. Rajshahi-5 constituency comprises Charchat and Bagha thanas.

Raihanul Huque said people in Charchat and Bagha thanas had not accepted Thandui, who is unknown to them. "So they have nominated me," he said. Nurul Islam Thandui said today he would work hard to save the image of the party by winning the election.

He said he hoped the party-men will work for him. "The high command of the party will take action against those who have defied its decision," he said.

## Haroon Habib new BSS Chief Editor

Haroon Habib, a senior journalist, columnist and valiant freedom fighter, has been appointed Chief Editor and Managing Director of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), the national news agency, according to a government notification, reports BSS. Habib has been acting as the Chief Editor and Managing Director of the national news agency since early last year in addition to his position as senior special correspondent and chief reporter of BSS.

He was given the new assignment on contact basis for two years on lien from his position as a special correspondent. The notification has been issued under an order of the President of the Republic.

## Jasim Palli Mela begins at Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Mar 30: Jasim Palli Mela-2000, a rural fair organised in celebration of the 97th birth anniversary of Palli Kabi Jasimuddin, began here this evening at Gobindapur, in the suburbs of Faridpur town, the site of ancestral home and mazar of the late poet, reports BSS.

The fortnight-long fair, organised under the auspices of Faridpur Jasim Foundation, was inaugurated by Begum Mamtaz Jasimuddin, wife of the late poet.

President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) and eminent politician Alhaj Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain was the chief guest in the function while Mr Atiqul Islam Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur presided.

Police Super M A Mabud and Poursabha Chairman Hasibul Hasan Lablu also spoke in the function.

## Jalalabad Assoc AGM today

The annual general meeting of Jalalabad Association will be held at the Krishibid Institution in Farmgate at 9.30 am today, says a press release.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashid Chowdhury will be present as chief guest while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the prime minister Suranjit Sen Gupta and former finance minister Salfur Rahman will attend the inaugural function as special guests.



## Death anniversary

The 9th death anniversary of AK Khan, a politician and former minister will be observed today, says a press release.

Khan was one of the organisers of the Liberation War. He founded the AK Khan Group of Industries.

## Obituary

Al-haj Bilkis Anwar (Naj), wife of Anwarul Huq, a former member of BTTB, died at BIRDEM Hospital yesterday, says a press release.

Her *qulqhwani* will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at House-10, Road-4, Sector-7, Uttara Model Town.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *qul*.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina examining the master plan of Tungipara Municipality at Tungipara yesterday. — PID photo

## Motia accuses BNP of conspiring to oust govt

By DU Correspondent

Agricultural Minister Motia Chowdhury yesterday accused the main opposition BNP of hatching conspiracy to grab the state power by ousting an elected government.

"The on-going movement by BNP against the ruling Awami League is nothing but a conspiracy to destabilise the current peaceful atmosphere and seize state power by toppling the government," Motia Chowdhury said while addressing a discussion as chief at the Dhaka University yesterday.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student front of the ruling party, organised the discussion meeting at the Batfala on the DU campus marking the fall of BNP govt in 1996.

Motia Chowdhury alleged that the four-party opposition alliance led by BNP chief Khaleda Zia was unleashing terrorist activities throughout the country. She called upon the people to stand against the inhuman and undemocratic activities of the BNP.

"Build up a strong resistance against BNP's conspiracies and remain alert at your educational institutions so that the opposition student activists

## 'Private monitoring system needed to supervise quality of goods'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable in the city yesterday stressed the need for a private-level permanent monitoring system to supervise the quality of goods and their market position.

They also emphasised the necessity of introduction of a modern research institute and a modern laboratory in the private sector to verify the standard of goods.

ADAB organised the roundtable at the SPARSO auditorium on occasion of World Consumer Rights Day.

The discussants observed that an organisation for the consumers and a social movement is much needed to create consciousness among the people about the consumers' rights.

ADAB president Khushi Kabir chaired the roundtable while Executive Editor of Daily Janakantha Borhan Ahmed delivered a talk on the rights of consumers.

Syed Borhan Kabir, a journalist, focused on the supply of safe water and iodised salt.

Dr. Laila Khan, Sarwar Jahan, Abdus Sattar, Dr. Jahirul Haq Bhuiyan, Prof. Golam Molla and Dr. Jiban Ray also spoke.



As part of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel's community welfare project, the hotel donated essential commodities for the mentally retarded and handicapped orphans of Shanti Clinic orphanage in Magura, recently. K Shafiqul Alam, Acting General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton, handed over the goods to the representatives of the orphanage. A T M Hafizullah, Sales Manager, B Biswas, Executive Housekeeper, and Rashida Muhiuddin, Director PR of the hotel, were also present.

## 'Mosquito eradication' programme in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 30: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) today started a special 'Mosquito eradication' programme in the city.

On the first day of the crush programme CCC conservancy workers sprayed larvacides in Chaktai Khal and South Potenga areas.

CCC sources said that each day two wards would be brought under the programme to eradicate mosquitoes. Ten conservancy workers will be deployed in each ward. A larvacide known as Malathion oil consisted of 70 pc Kala Tel and 30 per cent diesel is being sprayed at different breeding places of mosquitoes to kill the larva.

The budget for the total eradication programme for the breeding season is Tk 50 lakh, which is equal to the whole of previous year's budget.

But observers say that the crush programme this year will not be very effective. The breeding period of mosquitoes starts in November and continues till April. This year CCC has actually started at the far end of the period, they say.



The leaders of the National Awami Party (NAP) seen attending a conference at the Paltan Maidan yesterday. — Star photo

## Develop Tungipara in harmony with nature

PM asks local authorities

TUNGIPARA, Gopalganj, Mar 30: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today asked local authorities to develop the area in harmony with nature and rural infrastructure, reports UNB.

"This place is to be developed without distortion the natural beauty of rural Bangla," she said, when local officials showed her the master plan of Tungipara and Kotlpara municipalities.

She instructed the officials to develop the area as an attraction for tourists, researchers and intellectuals. "They will come here and perform research on rural Bangla as well as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who is lying in this soil."

Deputy Commissioner of

Gopalganj Iqbal Mahmud briefed the prime minister on the plan of development of the two municipalities. Tungipara municipal Chairman Mohammad Illas Hossain and Kotlpara municipal Chairman Mohammad Kamal Hossain were present.

The prime minister came here to join the milad mahfil marking 25th death anniversary of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman, father of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina asked the officials to increase facilities for health-care, education, water and power supply and sanitation and to develop roads and bridges maintaining the rural infrastructure without disturbing natural beauty.

## 13 students to vie for each seat at DU this year

Admission tests begin Apr 7

By DU Correspondent

Some 13 students will vie for each seat of the honours courses in different faculties of Dhaka University this year.

The competition has significantly decreased this year. Some 14 students competed last year for a single seat. A total of 55,186 admission forms were sold last year for 4,210 seats.

According to sources, on the last date of distribution and submission of admission forms of the 1999-2000 session yesterday, 53,945 forms had been sold from the three banks, the distribution centres for 4,210 seats in four units of the university. The total revenue earned from sold forms this

year is Tk 1,20,68,775. A total of 17,645 forms were sold for 1,119 seats in 'Ka' unit (science group) and 9,131 forms were sold for 644 seats in 'Ga' unit (commerce group), sources said.

A total of 11,918 and 14,945 forms were sold for 1934 seats in 'Kha' unit (arts group) and 513 seat in 'Gha' unit (combined group) respectively.

The admission test will begin on April 7. The admission test of 'Ka' unit (science group) will be held on April 28, 'Kha' unit (arts group) on April 21, 'Ga' unit (commerce group) on April 7 and the 'Gha' unit (combined group) on May 5.

## Road accidents

From Page 1

Eight of the victims were identified as Mohammad Shahjahan, 15, of Sadar thana, Mohammad Abdur Razzak, 45, of Chandra thana, Mohammad Abdul Khaleq, 20, Mohammad Anwar Hossain, 40, Abdur Razzak, 55, of Burichang, Mohammad Abdul Awal, 35, of Debidwar and Nurul Islam, 18, and Khokon, 22, of Kotwali thana.

Police said seven passengers were killed and 50 others injured when a Comilla-bound bus from Chandra thana crashed on a roadside wall at about 11 am.

Six died on the spot while another succumbed to his fatal injuries after admission to the Comilla Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Thirteen of the injured were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital in 'critical condition'.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to escape. Nurul Islam, 18, and Khokon, 22, of Kotwali thana were killed and 10 others injured in another mishap on the highway in Jhagarjuli area in Sadar thana when a Dhaka-bound bus of Al-Baraka Transport line, hit a Homna-bound tempo.

Officials were confused about how they would recover the public land where offenders built tall buildings. Sources said they were yet to chalk out any plan as to how a tall building could be partially demolished without inflicting any structural damage.

Despite repeated attempts, neither Bazzul Rahman nor the local MP could be reached for comments.

## Congress

From Page 1

undoubtedly a boost for Trinamool Congress which has already weaned away a number of Congress leaders and workers in West Bengal over the last one year.

On the other hand, the dissonance in state Congress does not bode well for the party with fresh assembly elections scheduled for next year. Senior West Bengal Congress leader Saugata Roy said the defeat of D P Roy would have adverse impact on the party in the coming days.

By contrast, all the four candidates of West Bengal's ruling Left Front emerged victorious in Rajya Sabha elections yesterday.

Political analysts are divided on their interpretation of the significance of D P Roy's defeat in West Bengal. While some say that the cross voting is a message by dissident Congressmen in the state that they would not take lying down the high command's dictate, others wonder whether the party in the state is on the verge of split and the breakaway faction ready to switch over to Trinamool Congress.

Besides West Bengal, Karnataka and Rajasthan, where Congress is in power, also witnessed cross voting in varying degrees by Congress MLAs although this did not cost the party candidates dearly for Rajya Sabha polls in those two states.

Among the notable winners yesterday was senior BJP leader Sushma Swaraj, her party colleague and Federal Minister Rajnath Singh, leading industrialist R P Goenka (Congress) and well-known journalist Rajiv Shukla.

The victory of Shukla, who contested as a candidate of a small regional ally of ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh, was the most surprising result. He secured the highest number of votes among the 11 successful candidates in Uttar Pradesh including Sushma Swaraj and Rajnath Singh. The party which had put up Shukla as its nominee has 20 members in Uttar Pradesh assembly.

Bangalore-based liquor baron Vijay Mallaya failed to make it to the upper house from Karnataka despite a spirited fight. Trinamool Congress, headed by Mamata Banerjee, has only three members in West Bengal assembly.

## Demolition

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drive to recover the public land would resume on Sunday. They said they would also check on individuals who were asked to demolish part of their buildings.

We have asked the Khawza to demolish a part of his building. We will check on Sunday if he has done it or not," said an official.

Officials were confused about how they would recover the public land where offenders built tall buildings. Sources said they were yet to chalk out any plan as to how a tall building could be partially demolished without inflicting any structural damage.

## Peer

From Page 1

cation of the park was not 'appropriate'. He said his office cleared the Syedabad shishu park of illegal encroachments several times in the past.

"But the problem is the bus terminal near it. Musclemen often indulge in anti social activities in the park. We can do little to check it," said Karim. When asked about the mosque project, he said he was not aware of the move.

Despite repeated attempts, neither Bazzul Rahman nor the local MP could be reached for comments.

## BAPEX

From Page 1

Meanwhile, the government has approved a Tk 42 crore budget for BAPEX's proposed Sikail oil and gas exploration project. Located near the Salda exploration area, BAPEX intends to drill one exploratory well this year if the government can acquire land for the purpose.

BAPEX drilled the Salda 2 gas well late last year and is now supplying gas from it. But due to bureaucratic bottlenecks in the Planning Ministry, the government has not paid BAPEX's dues with third party contractors, which total around Tk 8 crores.

## Clarification

by Staff Correspondent

The Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka yesterday sent a clarification about a news item published in The Daily Star on made cow diseases in Denmark. Explaining the situation, they said that only a single case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), the symptom of the disease, was diagnosed in a Danish herd of dairy cattle in February last.

The Danish authorities took strongest measures to ensure safety of the consumers following the findings, the embassy claimed.

The animal in question was a young cow, which had spent its entire life on the same premises, Denmark has a very well developed registration system for cattle, the Central Husbandry Register, by which it has been ensured that no animal had been moved out of the herd.

The BSE diagnosed animal was sent for incineration and the whole herd isolated for slaughter, the clarification said.

Since then all animals are slaughtered according to new procedure ensuring that specific risk material is removed.

It further said that the matter was related with meat and meat products. It has no relation with milk and milk products. Therefore some countries outside the European community have placed temporary import restriction on primary beef and beef products from Denmark, it acknowledged.