

# Metropolitan

## Call to ensure transfusion of safe blood

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy yesterday urged all concerned to ensure transfusion of safe blood, reports BSS.

Speaking at a seminar entitled "Safe Blood Starts with Me and Donate Blood to Shandani" in observance of the World Health Day organised by Shandani, Roy said there was no alternative to safe blood for a healthy life.

The state minister said before transfusion of blood to any patient, blood must be tested properly whether it was free from AIDS and hepatitis viruses and other parasites or not.

He also laid stress on the importance of reducing dependence on professional blood donors for collection of blood.

The function was addressed, among others, by Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Dr. Tahmina Hossain, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr. Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, principal of Dhaka Medical College Dr. Tarek Al Nasir, Director of the Health Directorate Prof. Shah Manir Hossain and National Consultant of Safe Blood Transfusion Prof. Musarrat Hossain.

## Shad's bail confirmed

**By Court Correspondent**

The special court for Women and Children Repression Prevention in Dhaka Thursday confirmed the ad-interim bail of Shad Ershad following a petition on behalf of the accused. The special court granted ad-interim bail for Shad on March 14 till April 6.

Shad was arrested on the basis of a case filed by a businessman under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, against three unidentified boys for abduction of his daughter.

The court granted him bail after it brought into consideration the petitions submitted by the complainant and the victim on March 12 at the CMM's court.

The victim's father had filed a petition with the CMM's court for withdrawal of his complaint. This victim who made a judicial statement involving Shad for kidnapping her also prayed before the court for withdrawal of her statement.

Shad Ershad was arrested by Gulshan Police and detained at the Cantonment police station till his release on March 14.

During yesterday's proceedings accused Shad was present in the court.

## JU 1998-99 session classes begin today after 21 months delay

By JU Correspondent

The first year honours classes of 1998-99 academic session of Jahangirnagar University begins today after a 21 months delay.

The delay was caused by existing session jams in the university as well as complexities in the admission procedure.

JU students late last year, began on agitation movement at the university, protesting a hike in admission fees. The authorities in face of the movement closed the university sine die.

Another problem contributing to the delay is the (late) holding of Masters final year exams. Since the university is a full-fledged residential one, the authorities have to ensure dormitory seats for the new entrants before beginning classes.

The 1st year students are admitted against the seats of the Masters final year students. They were yet to complete their courses until recently, causing a further delay in beginning 1st year classes. Final exams of six departments are still to be held.

Some students have already arrived on campus for the classes though all the seats have not been vacated yet. Sources say that 10 to 12 students are crowding in some four-seat rooms while some students are spending their rights in the guest rooms.

The new students however are not complaining about this short time crisis of accommodation. "We are only too happy to begin our classes," says

Shuvo, one of the 1st year students.

Prof Abdul Bayes, Vice-chancellor of the (JU) has said that irresponsibility on the part of some teachers is the cause behind the session jam in the university. Students are also responsible in some cases, he added.

"We have taken necessary arrangements to complete the masters examinations on time from now on," he said, adding that teachers' attendance will be monitored from now on to ensure holding of class tests and final exams on time.

A total of 812 students have been enrolled in 24 departments under three faculties of the university this year.

## 'Withdraw hartal on Apr 12'

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 7: 'Mahatirtha Langalbandh Snan Utsab Uddjapan Parishad' today demanded withdrawal of hartal called by four-party opposition alliance in the country on April 12, reports BSS.

The hartal call has coincided with the holy grand bath festival of the Hindu community which is generally known as historic 'Langalbandh Snan.' The call for withdrawal of the hartal was made at a meeting of the parishad held at Rankanal Akhra here with Niranjana Saha in the chair.

The parishad leaders condemned call for the hartal and urged all committees and organisations of the Hindu community to observe the grand bath festival in a befitting manner with due religious fervour.

The meeting also decided to hold a rally at the local press club premises on April 9 to protest the call for hartal on the day.

Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, General Secretary of Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikyo Parishad, Kajal Devnath, General Secretary of Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad, Dipen Chatterjee, General Secretary of Mohanagar Sarbajaman Puja Committee, among others, addressed the meeting.



Future stars

The ongoing cricket fever in the country has caught up with the toddlers as well as these youngsters bat a ball at a street corner in city's Segunbagicha area yesterday. Dreams to be a Tendulkar or a Waugh is all in their eyes. — Star photo

## MA Hannan Int'l Airport likely to go into operation in December

A major part of expansion and modernisation work of MA Hannan International Airport in Chittagong is nearing completion and it is likely to go into operation in December next, reports UNB.

The airport on 1200 acres is being constructed at a cost of Tk 600 crore. Simuzu Marubini Consortium is doing the work financed by Japanese agency JIBC.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharrat Hossain inspected the progress of work. He went round the runway, passenger terminal, boarding bridge, taxi way and city connection road.

The airport will have more modern facilities than those of the Zia International Airport, the minister was informed. The modern facilities include taking off of bowing-747 passenger airbus and ILS system and lake surrounded by garden and green plants for passengers' recreation.

## 98 bottles of phensidyl recovered

**From Our Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 7: Ninety-eight bottles of contra-band phensidyl syrup were recovered from a bus counter at Alkanan area in the city here this morning.

Kotwali thana police, acting on a tip off, recovered the syrups worth around Tk 20 thousand at around 7:30 am.

## Unidentified body found in city

**By Staff Correspondent**

Government Railway Police (GRP) recovered the body of a young man from Kaola Banpara area in the city yesterday.

The body of the unidentified man, in his mid-twenties, was blood stained. There are several injuries in his leg and hands. Police suspect that the man was killed and left on the rail track.

Police recovered the body at about 10:30 am.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with GRP in this regard.

## DUJ calls for united journalist union

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday expressed its firm determination to establish a united journalists union aimed at protecting professional rights and strengthening movement for realising their legitimate demands, reports BSS.

Speaking at a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club, the DUJ leaders condemned the move of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) regarding cancellation of the scheduled holidays in the newspaper industry in Pahela Boishakh, Holy Ashura, May Day and the Victory Day.

They also demanded two-day weekly holidays, including implementation of all government holidays, in the newspaper industry.

Chaired by DUJ president Altaf Mahmood, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Kazi Rafiq, Sheelbrata Barua, Rafiquzzaman, Jakaria Milton, Molla Jalal, Jawharlal Chandra Das, Khan Mohammad Salek, Kamal Uddin, Salimullah Selim, Mujahedur Rahman Ansari, Khondakar Anisur Rahman, Khondakar Jilani, Rafiquddin Ahmed, Hemayet Hossain, Sajjad Hossain Sabuj and Afjal Hossain.

## Razzak visits Rajshahi town protection embankment

RAJSHAHI, Apr 7: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak today saw the progress of work for the protection of Rajshahi town protection embankment, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has been implementing the project at a cost of Taka 20 crore under the financial assistance of the government and the World Bank.

The project began in the 1998-99 financial year and 75 per cent of the work has, so far, been completed. Rest of the works will be completed by June this year.

The minister instructed the Water Development Board to complete the protection work within the stipulated time.

## World Health Day observed

The World Health Day was observed yesterday in the country aimed at raising awareness about safe blood, reports BSS.

This year's theme of the day was "Blood starts with me; blood saves lives."

Different organisations, including government establishments and NGOs, observed the day through various programmes.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim inaugurated the day in the BCPS auditorium in the city.

Among others, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah, Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Sheikh Kabir Hossain, WHO representative Dr Hardjotanao spoke at the function.

Chairman of the National Blood Transfusion Committee Mattur Rahman presented the keynote paper at the function.

Inaugurating the day, the Health Minister said voluntary blood donation is an urgent need to save people from deadly diseases like HIV, AIDS, syphilis, malaria, and Hepatitis B virus.

Referring to the different steps taken by the present government to ensure safe blood, he said 97 blood banks are being set up in the country with modern technological blood transfusion apparatus.

The BRCS has taken initiative to establish four modern blood banks at the four divisional headquarters, he added.

Amanullah said the government procures only 75000 bags of blood annually against the requirement of two lakh bags.

Earlier, a colorful procession was brought out in the city to observe the day. Prof Amanullah led the procession which paraded through different city streets.

BRCS Chairman Sheikh Kabir Hossain and Health and Family Welfare Secretary Dhiraaj Kumar Nath also took part in the procession.

The day was also observed in Khulna through various programmes, including procession, blood donation camp and discussion.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq led a colourful procession which started from Shaheed Haidis Park and ended at Officers Club. Different programmes, including procession and discussion, were taken up in Narsingdi to mark the day.

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তারিখঃ ৫/৪/২০০০

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