

## What's on today....

**Exhibition:** Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association will hold an exhibition and competition of photography titled "Rupashil Bangla." Chief guest: State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Haq. Special guest: Managing Director of ACME Laboratories Mizanur Rahman Sinha. Venue: Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**New year programme :** Institute of Business Studies, Darul Ihsan University will hold a programme to celebrate the Bengali New Year. Venue: Institute of Education, Darul Ihsan University, House No 85/A, Rd. No 11/A, Dhanmoudi R/A. Time: 9:00 am.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Sufia Kamal Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Seminar:** Mount Elizabeth Hospital and Gleneagles Hospital as part of the Parkway Group World will hold a seminar on "Headache is not always simple" and "Cardiac Arrhythmias — What can be done?". Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:00 pm.

**Exhibition:** The 2nd art exhibition of Shabin Shahrier Karur Charuta will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery at Institute of Fine Arts, DU Campus. Time: 10:00 am.

## Weather

### Rain forecast

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said. The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 36.1 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 18.0 degree Celsius at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38 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	31.9	21.0	70	52
Chittagong	32.5	21.0	92	60
Rajshahi	35.5	20.2	71	75
Khulna	34.2	21.4	78	—
Barisal	34.0	21.5	86	61
Sylhet	29.4	18.6	67	63
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.2	77	66

## HERE and THERE

### IUB

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) in association with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) held a blood donation programme yesterday at the IUB premises, says a press release.

Students, teachers and officials of the university donated blood at the session inaugurated by IUB Vice Chancellor Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury.

**BUET Officers' Association**

Md Tarekul Qader Mirza, Assistant Director (Publication-cum Information Officer) and Sanaullah Hakim, Instrument Engineer of BUET have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the 9-member executive committee (Bangla 1407-1408) of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) Officers' Association, says a press release.

The election was held at the Old Academic Building of BUET Tuesday. Other members of the executive committee are: Vice-president — Jahangir Alam, organising and publicity secretary — M A Jalil Sardar and treasurer — Md Rahmat Ali Fakir. Members — Md Abdur Rouf, Md Khademul Islam Bhuiyan, Engr Md Rezaul Hoque Akanda and Engr Md Zahangir Alam. The election was conducted by Dr Md Mostafa Kamal Chowdhury as Chief Election Commissioner.

### Death anniversary

The 38th death anniversary of Khan Bahadur Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, former MLA and MLC will be observed today, says a press release.

Quran khudwah will be held at House-24, Road-1, Sector-9, Uttara. A discussion meeting will be held at Balichhari Nazmunnessa High School, Banskhal, Chittagong.

### Chehlum

The chehlum of A H M Abdul Baqul, former Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector (EPSC) and an eminent personality of Chittagong will be held today with due solemnity after Magrib prayers at Anika Community Centre in Chittagong, says a press release.

Late Baqul, father of M Wahid Ullah, Dhaka Bureau Chief of Dainik Azadi, Chittagong, died on March 3 at his Chandanpara residence. He was 82. He left behind his wife, four sons, three daughters, grand sons, grand daughters, relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

### Rangpur District Association

The annual general meeting (AGM) of Rangpur District Association was held recently at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by president of the association, noted scientist, Dr M A Wazed Miah. Minister for Commerce M A Jalil and State Minister for Environment and Forest H N Ashique Rahman attended the function as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Three eminent personalities and two meritorious students of the district were accorded reception. S M Niza Arifin, son of Engineer S M Golam Mostafa, an Executive Engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), who stood first in HSC examination (combined merit list) in science group was also accorded a reception. Fifty meritorious and financially insolvent students were awarded scholarships.

In the election of the association Dr M A Wazed Miah and S M Golam Mostafa were elected unanimously president and general secretary respectively for 2000-2001.

Other elected members are Abdul Latif Mondol, Chowdhury Khalequzzaman, M Nuruzzaman Miah and Shahidul Islam as treasurer.

### Seminar on REFLECT Apr 15

The first ever national dissemination seminar on REFLECT, an approach to education, empowerment and social change, will be held on April 15 at IDB Bhaban, says a press release.

The seminar is likely to present the evaluative outcome of REFLECT operation in Bangladesh from 1995 to 1999. The seminar will be organised by Forum for Participatory Education and Development (FPEd) in collaboration with Action-Aid Bangladesh.

### Ananda Mohan College teacher dies

MYMENSINGH, Apr 12: Mohammad Rafiuddin, an associate professor and Head of the Social Welfare Department, Ananda Mohan Government College died of cardiac arrest on April 10 at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. He was 56, reports BSS.

## DU exams held after delay over students' protest

By DU Correspondent

A fake bomb alarm delayed the examinations of different departments at Dhaka University Curzon Hall examination hall yesterday.

Sources said that a section of examinees demanding rescheduling of the exams hung a fake cocktail at the entrance to the exam centre to bar others from entering there.

They claimed that they were not prepared for the exams as a country wide dawn to dusk hartal was scheduled to be held yesterday.

The opposition alliance shifted the pre-scheduled April 12 hartal to today.

Later DU VC Prof A K Azad Chowdhury arrived at the centre and convinced the students to sit for their respective exams.

The exams finally began after a hour and half delay at 10:30 am.

## Newsman, employees of Ittefaq, New Nation support 9-point demand

Journalists and employees of the Daily Ittefaq and the New Nation yesterday extended full support for the implementation of 9-point demand of Sangbadik-Karmachari Oikkya Parishad and Press Samik Oikkya Parishad, reports BSS.

Speakers in separate meetings, held in Daily Ittefaq and New Nation offices, said any attempt of the newspaper owners to divide the journalist and non-journalist and depriving them of their just demands, would be foiled.

Convenor of the Ittefaq Sangbadik, Samik and Karmachari Steering Committee Fazel Inam and DUJ New Nation Unit Chief Afzal Hossain presided over the meetings of Ittefaq and the New Nation respectively. The meeting was addressed by BFUJ leaders Aman Ullah Kabir, G M Yaqub, Akhtar Ahmed Khan and M A Aziz, and DUJ leaders Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Khan Mohammad Salek, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, President of Press Karmachari Union Mosharraf Hossain and Secretary General Mozammel Haq. Acting Secretary of Sangbadipatra Karmachari Federation Afsar Uddin Khan and Secretary General Matir Rahman, Sheikh Mohiuddin, Aminul Islam, Shilbrata Barua, Khandkar Golam Zilani, Jahannara Begum, Azad Ullah, Kazi Bazul Rahman, Bhubendranath Biswas and Abdul Hashem.

The next meeting will be held at the Daily Financial Express on April 15 at 12 noon and the Daily Jugantar at 2 pm on the same day.

### Postponed

The viva voce test for enrollment as advocate scheduled to be held on April 14, has been postponed due to unavoidable reasons, reports BSS.

According to the changed schedule, the test will be held on April 15 and 16 at 4 pm in the Bar Council Bhaban. Candidates bearing roll nos. 289 to 333 will sit on April 15 and roll nos. 335 to 378 on April 16.

## Exhibition on Mujibnagar Day

An exhibition will be held at Mujibnagar on April 17 on occasion of Mujibnagar Day, says a press release.

The exhibition, arranged by Muktiyoddha Sanghati Dibash will be inaugurated by Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali MP, Chairman of the Parishad at 9:00 am on the day.

Among others Abdul Mannan, MP, Mokbul Hossain, MP, Anjumana Ara Jamil, MP, Khan Tipu Sultan, MP, Major Rezaul Karim, Hasanuzzaman Hasan, Abdur Rahim Bhuiyan, Advocate Shamsul Huda and Abdul Mannan will be present at the inaugural ceremony.

## NHCLC 'career night' held

By Staff Correspondent

The 2nd 'Career Night' of New Horizons Computer Learning Centre (NHCLC) of Dhaka was held yesterday at Winter Garden in Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Gary Khoo, regional manager for Asia-Pacific of NHCLC, was the chief guest in the function, while Dr Habibur Rahman, CEO of NHCLC Dhaka, attended as special guest. General Manager of NHCLC Dhaka, Nasir Ahmed delivered the welcome address.

In the function, Khoo launched the New Horizons Diploma in Information Technology, New Horizons Advance Diploma in Information Technology programmes and also announced the NHCLC Dhaka as the Certified Technical Education Centre of Microsoft.

## Spring fair begins today

KHULNA, Apr 12: A week-long spring fair of handicraft products begins on the premises of Zilla School here tomorrow (Thursday), reports UNB. State Minister for Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque will inaugurate the fair to be organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation.

## Common history textbook for child can ensure peace

Gandhi couple suggest for regional harmony

A common history textbook for children of the subcontinent could produce a better generation that will think with a sense of compassion to each other ensuring peace in the region, reports UNB.

Usha Gandhi, a journalist-cum-researcher and wife of Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Rajmohan Gandhi, proposed compilation of a common history textbook by the historians from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the three offshoots of the subcontinent.

She made the proposal at a "meet the press" programme of Rajmohan Gandhi yesterday. A historian, and sociopolitical thinker, Rajmohan Gandhi hailed his spouse's idea.

The couple opined that such a textbook would teach the future generation to think in a

common way to explain the past ups and downs.

They said the common history would also help remove many mindset conceptions, disbelief, mistrust and confusion about each other. It is badly needed for future leadership of the three countries, they said.

Siegfried Herzog of Friedrich-Numann-Stiftung, an international political foundation, supported the idea saying that such a textbook helped in building very friendly relations between Germany and France.

Mentioning century-old bitter relations between his country, Germany, and France, he said individual history would make the children more hostile about each other.

"But, a common history book changed the situation and

brought up a generation with different feelings," he said, adding such a common textbook will play a very significant role in defusing tensions in the region.

"Being a German," he said, "I should not remember what France did with us. But as a German I should always keep in mind what Hitler did and correct myself," he told his press audience.

To ensure a peaceful South Asia, Rajmohan Gandhi said, many problems could be resolved if "we are not egoistic and try to also consider those from others' point of view."

"Similar feelings during the pains of others are needed for betterment of the situation. But it is not enough. For ultimate peace, we will have to know how to join successes, joys and celebrations of each others."



BNP activists brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's dawn-to-dusk hartal. — Star photo

## Countrywide hartal

From page 1

Addressing the rallies, the opposition leaders called upon the countrymen to observe today's hartal spontaneously. They said the opposition parties would continue their movement until the fall of the Awami League government.

Speaking at the BNP's main rally in front of the party's central office, city unit president Sadek Hossain Khoka MP said a dreadful situation is now prevailing in the country due to the misrule of the AL government.

Khoka said BNP, as the largest political party, cannot sit idle when the AL has resorted to killing and harassment of political opponents.

The BNP leader said there is no alternative to toppling the AL government immediately to protect the people and the country and vowed to continue the movement.

Later, leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations brought out a big torch procession that paraded Naya Paltan, Bijoyganj, Paltan and Fakirpool. No untoward incident was reported.

Besides, the BNP brought out torch processions from New

Market, Mirpur-Pallabi, Badda Hossain Market, Mohammadpur, Kafur, Shampur, Demra, Gulshan, Kampura and Farmgate areas.

A BNP press release claimed that police obstructed the BNP activists in some places and resorted to lathi charge on the processionists. It said police attacked Kafur thana BNP procession when it reached Kazi-para.

Police also obstructed Sabujbagh thana BNP's procession when the activists were taking preparation to bring out a torch procession at Rampura bazar, the press release added.

City BNP president Sadek Hossain Khoka and general secretary Abdus Salam in joint statement yesterday strongly protested police attack on the party procession.

They said people will give reply to this attack through making today's hartal a complete success.

**Hartal exemption:** Hospital, ambulance, medicine shop, kitchen market, food shop, newspaper office, vehicles carrying law enforcers and journalists and emergency water-gas-electricity supply will remain out of the purview of hartal.

### Prof Yunus

From page 1

ble in fund expenditures," elaborated Lange.

Jamil H Chowdhury from Gramen Trust, and Dr K N Nair and Dr. Le Dinh Tien, development activists from India and Vietnam respectively also spoke at the first session of the day.

Rasheda K Chowdhury and Meghna Guhathakurta chaired the two other sessions while the last session of the day was still in progress till last night.

Those who presented paper include Dr K. Narayanan Nair, Dr P R Gopinathan Nair, V R Raghunandan, V Balachandran, T P Kunhikannan, V C V Retnam, S Anitha and Praveena Kodath from India and Vo Quy, Tran Thi Kieu Hanh, Tran Ngoc Lan and Nguyen Thanh Phuong from Vietnam.



Dr M Moshazzaman, Chairman, BCSIR (L), Engr Habib Uddin, Chairman, BAEC (M) and Dr M K Panduranga Setty, Chairman, Board of Governors RV-TIFAC Composite Design Centre (R) signed a MOU on establishment of a fibre reinforced plastic composites (FRP) development and production unit to be set up in Bangladesh at a meeting held in the Ministry of Science and Technology Tuesday.

### Power, water

From page 1

Dhaka city. Dhaka WASA sources said that their water production ability reduces greatly due to frequent power disruption.

According to WASA, the minimum demand of water for a day in the capital is around 121 crore litre while the maximum is around 145 crore litre. WASA have the capacity to fulfill the minimum demand if all of its 317 pumps operate.

When the city suffers massive power disruption, WASA's water production ability reduces to around 115 crore litre resulting in suffering of the people.

WASA officials said last night that water supply situation is much better this year so far than that of last year as 200 generators have been installed at 200 out of 317 pump houses of the city.

Talking about water crisis in old part of the city, an official of public relations department of WASA, said last night that two generators — one 800 KVA and another 300 KVA generators started operating at Chandrahat Water Treatment Plant that will minimise the water crisis a lot.

### Cronje

From page 12

The managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Ali Bacher, said Cronje had accepted \$10,000-\$15,000 from a local bookmaker ahead of a triangular one-day series with England and Zimbabwe in January.

"The Indian High Commissioner indicated to me that he was convinced that the Indian police would not have made a statement if they did not have evidence," Pahad said.

"I asked him to convey the message that his government must work closely with us on the matter."

"But until a judicial inquiry carries out an investigation we'll be left in doubt about the truth and only then can we seriously consider what to do."

AFP from Delhi says, cricket's world governing body said today it had ordered a full inquiry into the match-fixing scandal.

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Jagmohan Dalmiya said he had told the South Africans to conduct a swift and exhaustive inquiry and warned that the guilty would not be spared.

"I promise the ICC will get to the bottom of the matter," Dalmiya said.

"The news concerning Hansie Cronje is a big shock to everyone in world cricket. We have advised South Africa to conduct the inquiry as soon as possible," Dalmiya said.

"His (Cronje's) admission and other allegations made by the police in India require an immediate and thorough investigation and the ICC awaits an early outcome," Dalmiya said, while stressing that cricket would survive the scandal.

"Cricket does not stop because some black sheep are there. It is a great game. But if there are some black sheep what one has to do is weed them out."

Dalmiya said the South African board's findings would be forwarded to the ICC's Code of Conduct Commission, headed by Lord Hugh Griffiths of England, for review.

## Low revenue receipts

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lowances for the government employees.

In FY 1997-98 the share of salaries and allowances in total revenue expenditure was 45.5 per cent, which fell to 40.2 per cent in the following year. However, 41.6 per cent of the revenue expenditure has been allocated to this head in the budget for FY 1999-2000," CPD said.

"Provisional figures show that till December 1999, about 42.3 per cent of the budgeted amount has already been spent on this account, while the comparable figure for the preceding year was 37.5 per cent."

CPD also said as both the Eid festival allowances fell due in the second half of the FY 1999-2000, the utilisation rate remained less than 50 per cent.

"A further disturbing trend in the revenue expenditure structure relates to interest payment on account of domestic debt," CPD said.

Interest payment on government borrowings from the domestic sources increased from 12.6 per cent (Tk 16.56 billion) in FY 1997-98 to 13.5 per cent (Tk 22.61 billion) in 1998-99 and 11.6 per cent (Tk 20.73 billion) in FY 1999-2000. Incidentally, the government has already (during the first six months of the current financial year) spent about 58.5 per cent (Tk 12.12 billion) of the

allocated amount in order to meet its domestic debt servicing liabilities (DSL), whereas the comparable share for FY 1998-99 was 37.2 per cent.

It predicted the higher rate of utilisation of allocation for interest payment on the government's higher levels of borrowing from the banking and non-banking system in the face of an emerging revenue shortfall.

"Although the need to borrow by the government will decrease in the coming months as the revenue collections pick up, it will find it difficult to keep its interest payment obligations within earmarked amount of Tk 20.73 billion for FY 1999-2000," CPD said.

Given the revenue and investment scenarios, CPD said the government's decision to go for borrowing to prop up the aggregate demand may be justified in the short term. "If, however, the domestic revenue mobilisation effort as well as private investment do not respond to this stimulus soon, it may pose a potential threat to Bangladesh's relatively manageable macro-economic balances," the IRBD said.

Quoting the figures of the first six months of the current fiscal, the report said Tk 6.97 billion of term loans have been disbursed against a sanctioned amount of Tk 11.44 billion, recording a 15.4 per cent growth over its comparable proceeding period.

## Gunshots rock DU

From page 1

The JCD was holding a rally on the building premises in support of today's countrywide hartal and protesting the attack on the motorcade of Khaleda Zia in Cox's Bazar on Sunday.

After Tuku's arrest, the JCD brought out a procession and marched towards the Business Studies Faculty. When the procession reached near Lecture Theatre (LT), they fired about four blank shots and exploded a cracker, witnesses said.

Police chased the JCD activists, lobbed tear gas shells and fired two rubber bullets.

In the mean time, the BCL armed cadres appeared at the scene, fired about eight shots and chased the JCD activists in presence of police, witnesses said.

The JCD activists went on the rampage and damaged about five cars parked near the LT and at Mall Chatter, before leaving the campus.

Later, the BCL cadres damaged

### Dhanmondi

From page 1

residences. While designing we were very careful about the rights of the residents of this area," he said.

"The residents' concern is genuine, but if we chalk out a participatory programme to manage the project the problems will largely be solved," said Habib.

The management policy must have a governing body comprising residents "who would be the best people to monitor activities of their own area".

About lack of public participation, the architect said they had involved the Walkers' Association and the Dhanmondi Residents Welfare Association (DRAW).

"Compared to other projects, I think this project has done a lot more as far as public participation is concerned."

Residents, however, differed with the consultant. They said Walkers' Association or DRAW do not truly represent the Dhanmondi residents. The authorities should have notified people through the media and exhibited the project's detailed planning over a certain period, they said.

The government is yet to chart any management policy of the Dhanmondi lake area.

### Asma

From page 1

vised Asma's treatment also during her nearly one-year stay at the hospital earlier, said. "We are suspecting that Asma has drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR) and jaundice at the same time. So it is quite a difficult condition."

A garments factory worker from Magura, Asma underwent an operation at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on August 11, 1998 for removal of ovarian tumour. But doctors removed her only functioning kidney reportedly by 'mistake', leaving her life in danger.

When this came to light, DMCH gynaecologists attempted a cover-up. But a media focus on this led to a public outcry and her quick transfer to BSMMUH on September 7, 1998.

But sadly, Asma had to wait for more than five months for kidney transplantation. During this period, she survived on costly haemodialysis.

The government bore the expenses for her treatment and is doing so this time also.

In a five-hour operation at BSMMUH on February 2 last year, Asma's mother Zahura donated one of her kidneys so that her daughter lives.

The government had formed two probe bodies regarding the 'mistake' of DMCH doctors at that time but their reports are yet to make public.

A human rights group, Odhakar, had filed a case with the CMM's Court on behalf of Asma seeking prosecution of the doctors responsible and adequate compensation to the victim. The case is still going on.

The main accused in the case is Dr Mahmuda Khatun.

### Haji Selim

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barricade on the road by using trucks. Traffic movement was disrupted for about six hours, said local people.

The mob also searched for Golan Rasul, a local AL leader and also a UP chairman, who has dispute with Haji Selim over land, and his followers today.

### Rejoinder