

What's on today....

Annual convention: Lions Club International Dist 315A1 will hold its 5th annual convention. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

Meeting: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) in association with Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) will hold the SAFA WTO Sub-Committee meeting. Venue: ICAB Council Hall, Chartered Accountant Bhaban, 100 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 9:30 am.

Installation: The installation ceremony of Cidap, an organisation of assistant film directors will be held. Venue: BFDC (3rd floor). Time: 10:00 am.

Film show: Three movies *Coup de Fourde* (Between Us), *Titane* and *Al No Borei* (Empire of passion) will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

SAFA seminar: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) in association with Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) will hold the inaugural ceremony of the SAFA seminar. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4:00 pm.

Art exhibition: Artist Bulbon Islam's print-making exhibition opens. Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30 pm.

Exhibition: A solo exhibition of paintings by expatriate artist Kazi Glasuddin will be inaugurated. Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalay, House No 275/F, Rd No 27 (old), Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 3 pm to 9 pm daily on working days and from 11 am to 8 pm on holidays till May 20.

Painting exhibition: The second solo painting exhibition by Pintu Islam will begin. Prof Mahmudul Haque, Director, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5:30 pm. The exhibition will remain open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and from 5 pm to 8 pm till May 18.

Lions Convention: The 5th Annual Convention-2000 of the Lions Clubs International, District -315 A1, Bangladesh will be inaugurated by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30 am.

Rally: Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will bring out a procession from Ramna Park gate, adjacent to Matshang Bhaban, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The procession will reach the National Press Club at 11:30 am and a rally will be held there.

Dress exhibition: Shatabdi, a city fashion house will display its traditional crafts like *Saree*, *Salwar Kamiz* and *Panzabi* at a 3-day exhibition. Excerpts from works of Rabindranath Tagore will be inscribed on some of the crafts. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will remain open from 4 pm to 8 pm till May 7.

..... and tomorrow

Vocal classical recitation: High Commission of India presents a vocal classical recitation by Indian artist Sulochana Brahaspati and her Bangladeshi disciples. Venue: High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:30 am.

DRU talk: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will hold a talk on Bangladesh-German relations. Venue: DRU auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time: 11:00 am.

BSA annual conference: The 18th annual conference and scientific seminar and annual general meeting of Bangladesh Society of Anaesthesiologists will be held. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 11:00 am.

Views exchange meet: National Committee for Beijing Plus Five Review (NCBPR), Bangladesh will hold a Views exchange meet between editors and columnists of national dailies on the subject of increase of reserved seats for women in the parliament. Venue: VIP lounge, Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

Rabindra Sangeet competition: Bangladesh Shishu Academy will hold a Rabindra Sangeet competition for children in observance of Rabindranath Tagore's 139th birth anniversary. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 3:00 pm.

Closing ceremony: The closing ceremony of Bangladesh Sanjukta Tanti Samitees' exhibition of Sonargaon Jamdants will be held. Venue: Handloom Weavers Service office, House No 69, Road No 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: *Satyajit Ray* a documentary by Shyam Benegal and *Kapurush O Mahapurush* (The Coward and the Holy Man) by Satyajit Ray will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

SAFA Assembly meeting: The SAFA Assembly meeting will be held. The Technical sessions of SAFA seminar and valedictory session will also be held. Venue: ICMAB Bhaban, ICAB auditorium and Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton respectively. Time: 9:30 am, 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

Seminar: School of Business of Asian University of Bangladesh will hold seminars on "Corporate Banking," "WTO and Globalisation" and "E-commerce." Chief guest: Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan in the morning session and Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rouf in the afternoon session. Venue: School of Business, Asian University of Bangladesh.

Weather

Rain, squally wind likely

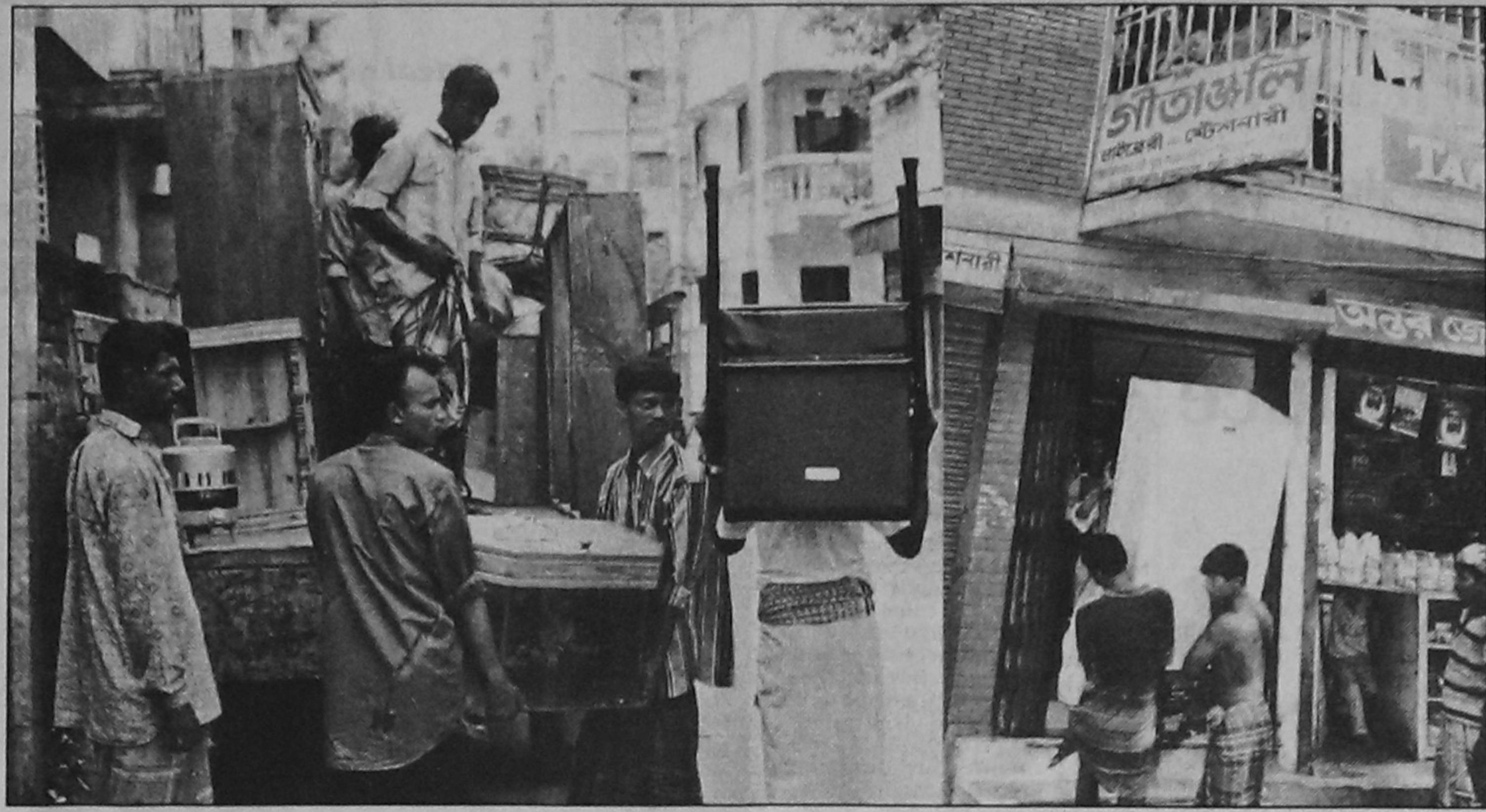
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met office has predicted one to two degree Celsius rise in the day temperature over the country during this period. The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.1 degree Celsius at Chudanga and the lowest 19.0 degree Celsius at Srimangol and Saktihira. The sun sets in the capital today at 6.29 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.21 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	31.7	20.8	70	61
Chittagong	33.8	22.5	74	75
Rajshahi	31.5	20.5	77	65
Khulna	33.0	21.0	88	67
Barisal	31.6	23.0	75	76
Sylhet	31.0	21.1	73	63
Cox's Bazar	33.7	24.0	71	78

Mannan Siddiqui's obituary

Obituary
Abdul Latif, father of the treasurer of ADAB and Country Director of IVS Abdul Matin, died of old age complications at his Dhamrai home on May 3. He was 96, says a press release.
Chairperson of ADAB Khushi Kabir and Director Shamsul Huda in a joint statement expressed profound shock at his death and consoled the members of the bereaved family.



Workers loading belongings of Sadique Abdullah (L) into a truck yesterday from the Kalabagan house that he is alleged to be occupying by force. (R) Workers carrying out a refrigerator from the building. —Star photo

A rare case of honesty

Star Report
A fruit vendor has proved that honesty is not yet an extinct virtue, and that there are still people who are not taken over by materialistic lures.
Raju Kalam, a 24-year-old resident of the city's Mirpur area, happened to come upon a cellular phone on a sidewalk in Karwan Bazar a few days back. He had no idea what it was. So he took it to a businessman in the neighbourhood. When he learnt of the phone's worth, he readily made up his mind to get it back to its owner.
The temptation was there. Financially, Kalam, who used to work at garments factory but had to give up the job for health reasons, was in distress. He could have easily sold the phone for at least ten thousand taka. But his sense of morality prevailed.
After a few days of looking around, which involved talking to the guards of all the offices around the place where he had found the phone, he finally traced down the owner yesterday and returned the costly phone set to him.



Death anniversary of Anwarul Azim today

The death anniversary of Shaheed Lt Anwarul Azim, a staunch supporter of the Liberation War will be observed today, says a press release.
He was killed by the Pakistan Army on 5th May 1971 at the North Bengal Sugar Mill compound along with two hundred officers and workers of the mill. Anwarul Azim was then the Administrator of North Bengal Sugar Mill, Gopalpur, Natore.
On May 5 when the Army cracked down on North Bengal Sugar Mill, Lt Anwarul Azim sensing their ill motive tried desperately to save his comrades by taking the blame of killing on himself but failed.
The employees of North Bengal Sugar Mill have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day by holding *Milad Mahfil*, *Qurankhuan* and discussion meeting. It will also hold a *Prarthna* in the early morning and a *mass nuajat* beside the pond where they were killed.

Chehlum

Chehlum of ANM Aminul Islam Tuhin, a freedom fighter and businessman, will be held at his Purana Paltan residence in the city today after Juma prayers, says a press release.
Tuhin died on March 29. He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.
A cultural activist, Tuhin was involved with Drama Circle, Dhaka Theatre, Cine Art Circle, Ekota Bitan Club, Paharpur Samity and Mohammedan Sporting Club.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *chehlum*.

Death anniversary

The 3rd death anniversary of Dr M Akifur Alam, founder managing director of Bangladesh Community and General Hospital, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.
To commemorate the death anniversary, a *milad mahfil* will be held at his 13, Dilu Road residence after Asr prayers on Saturday.

Flow of job-seekers

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Embassy officials briefed the representatives about the tragic fate of a young Bangladeshi in March.
Syed Saiful Haque Asif and Anisur Rahman Khan, WARBE delegates, later told the Daily Star that one Monir Hossain Ibrahim was buried as an unclaimed person in Dhaka after he died of diarrhoea at a detention centre in Bangkok.
They said since the young man went to Thailand with a forged passport, his real identity could not be revealed. Some fellow compatriots took him to be a man from Sathkira and the body was taken there accordingly, but none could confirm his identity.
Bangladesh embassy in Thailand did not have the funds to send the body back home. It had to seek assistance from Bangladeshis living in Bangkok to buy an air ticket for Monir Hossain.
Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan told the Daily Star that he was not aware of any specific case of death but said "such things do happen."
If the home ministry and immigration department do not tighten their vigilance, people holding PC passports (passports with doctored photographs) would continue to be in trouble abroad.
Mannan acknowledged the financial constraints Bangladesh missions abroad face to send people back home.
However, official statistics show that the number of "fortune seekers" who want to try their luck in Kuala Lumpur via Bangkok has fallen substantially thanks to the economic recession in the South East Asian countries.
About 707 Bangladeshis, who carried either PC passports or other forged travel documents, were sent back home from Thailand in 1996. The number rose as high as 2,368 in 1997. The figure fell substantially to 595 in 1998, only 65 last year and 55, so far this year.
While in Bangkok, WARBE representative Asif talked to some of the 51 Bangladeshis detained in immigration detention centre. Catholic Migration Commission, a non-government organisation, made arrangements for WARBE delegates to meet the ill-fated Bangladeshis there.
Asif said the people who he talked to mostly hail from southern districts of Sathkira, Jhenidah and Jessore. None could give the name of the recruiting agencies that lured them to Bangkok. All they could say is the name of individuals, such as Suja Mian and Hashem Master.
Md. Noor Ali, president of the Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), claimed that none of his association members will indulge in such activities. He said some unlicensed and unscrupulous agents exploit the rural youth, taking advantage of the government indifference on the issue of PC passport.

DMCH in disarray

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need for such similar drugs.
At the adjacent Casualty Ward (ward 31) at 7:07, several young intern doctors were desperately trying to save a bullet-hit patient, Abdul Khaleq, 27. Some anxious relatives and friends of the patient were also there.
The doctors soon connected the oxygen pipeline to Khaleq's nose. But to the utter disappointment and anguish of all, the system did not work. It was detected that the pipeline oxygen system was not working. The doctors then requested for an artificial respirator from another ward.
In the meantime, Khaleq's relatives purchased life saving drugs worth more than Tk 1400 from outside as there was no supply at the hospital. But it was too late. Khaleq died at 7:32.
"We do not have separate space for examining critically injured patients. We have to do this at the ward despite the fact that other patients may suffer trauma seeing these scenes," said Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman, Assistant Registrar of the Casualty Department.
Dr Rahman also acknowledged that the department does not have supply of essential drug although so many emergency patients are treated there every day.
One of the intern doctors said, "We deal with such emergencies almost every minute. The situation gets worse particularly on a day like this when the hospital administration remains closed for 24 hours."
At around 7:30, an unconscious head injury patient was brought to the neurosurgery ward. He was bleeding. His nervous attendants appealed to the lone on-duty doctor to examine the patient. But Dr Zahid, Assistant Registrar of the department, had to examine too many patients at the same time. Belalul Kabir Ratan, a victim of road accident, had to wait.
Later, at about half past nine, Ratan failed to respond to pain stimuli. Ratan was unconscious till the correspondent left the hospital.
Referring to Ratan, Dr Zahid said, "He needs brain surgery but we can not do that without CT Scan. The service is not available at the DMCH after office hour."
But Ratan can not be moved to a private diagnostic centre for CT Scan as his case is 'very serious'. Any further movement may endanger his life, the doctor said.
Dr Zahid looked worried. Luckily, another DMCH doctor of ENT department was visiting the ward at that time. He lent a helping hand.
Another doctor was called from the Intensive Care Unit. Dr Zahangir Kabir came, immediately grabbed the suction machine and quickly applied it. But things were getting worse and finally Ratan was shifted to ICU and put on a life saving ventilator.
Most of the doctors this correspondent talked to said there was lack of management and basic facilities at the Emergency. They also blamed the government and policy makers for their alleged inaction.
"What is the priority? Saving lives or buying more useless medical equipment?" angrily asked one doctor.
When contacted, DMCH Director Brigadier Badrul Munir said, "Despite our intention to keep the CT Scan in service round the clock, we cannot do that due to lack of sufficient films and chemicals from the government (CMSD). On the other hand, we do not have enough money to purchase the items, knowing that people are ready to pay."
Regarding free supply of drugs, Brig Munir said, "It is very unfortunate that we are unable to supply commonly used drugs in a hospital where mostly poor people seek treatment. The problem lies at the policy level. We have huge demand but we do not get enough. So, there is a huge gap between supply and demand and obviously people who are supposed to get free supply have to purchase drugs on their own."



People stand amidst crumpled up tins that were blown away during the nor'wester that hit Baghmara and Mohonpur thanas in Rajshahi. The April 28 storm razed scores of villages under the thanas rendered thousands homeless.

BDR deployed at EPZ

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Employees of Ring Sign brought out a procession Wednesday morning protesting the sacking of about 30 employees of the factory. At one stage, they ransacked the factory. They were later joined by employees of other factories at the EPZ.
Police opened fire during the day-long intermittent clashes with employees, resulting in the death of two persons, identified as Rafiq and Mosharrif Hossain.
The situation at the EPZ was under control and there were normal activities at all the factories except Ring Sign, police claimed last night.
The policemen injured in clashes included a Sub-Inspector and a Naik. Six of them were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital in the city. The condition of Naik Alamgir, who was bullet-hit in the head, was stated to be critical till last night.
The other injured were admitted to different hospitals.
At a press briefing yesterday, BEPZA announced formation of a three-member probe body to investigate the incident at the EPZ at Savar on Wednesday. The probe body headed by General Manager of the EPZ, Syed Nafiz Uddin Ahmed has to submit its report in seven days.
General Manager of Investment Promotion, BEPZA, M Kamal Akhter addressed the briefing on behalf of his Chairman BRIG MAB Siddique Talukder.
Akhter said that they were informed about the movement of the employees but "any clash was beyond our expectation".
He said "We always try to ensure a congenial atmosphere at the EPZ to attract investors but such incidents simply destroyed our reputation among the foreign investors."
He admitted that the trouble

ULFA chief

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port quoted a senior Indian home ministry official as saying.
The report said that being shaken at the recent mass surrender of ULFA activists in Assam, the ULFA chief approached Pakistan to help step up his activities. But the Indian army paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies have been put on alert.
The paper said Assam police procured a copy of a Bangladeshi passport issued to Barua in the name of Kamaluddin Zaman. The Inter-Security Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan has procured different passports for Barua in different names.
It said the documentary evidence shows that Bangladeshi passports have been obtained by fraudulent means with the help of an official of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka.
During the recent home secretary-level meeting, India has sought help from Bangladesh to pin down Barua.

BNP plans

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ment movement.
A policy maker of the BNP said the party wants to retain the support and spontaneity shown by the people during the recent public meetings.
The party Chairperson's visit to different districts and thanas is strengthening the party, inspiring grassroots level leaders and activists to take preparations for the next national elections side by side with continuing the anti-government movement.
A member of the BNP Standing Committee said that party leaders and activists had become demoralised due to boycott of municipal polls, frequent hartals and launching of "unplanned and untimely" one-point movement, but the public meetings of the party chief are now inspiring them again.
Talking to The Daily Star, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said that the mass support to the party clearly proves that the people have expressed their no-confidence in the Awami League government.
"We hope that the people will continue to support BNP as we are fighting for their welfare," he added.
Meanwhile, top leaders of the party including Prof AGM Badruddza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Oli Ahmed will also visit different districts.
Mannan Bhuiyan begins a 3-day visit to Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Syedpur from today. On the first day, he will attend Thakurgaon district BNP conference. He will address public meetings and attend party workers, meetings during the visit.

Gas deal

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Pradesh.
The Prime Minister's intervention came as Naik mentioned in reply to a supplementary by Congress member NKP Salve that Bangladesh had not agreed to supply gas to India and that country was yet to decide exporting natural gas.

Ema's husband granted bail

By Court Correspondent
Ataul Haq Khaled, arrested for allegedly torturing his wife Nabila Haq Ema for dowry, was granted ad-interim bail by the Special Court for Women and Children Repression Prevention, Dhaka yesterday.
The Judge, M Shah Alam Miah, granted the bail till the investigation officer submits charge sheet before the court.
Tejgaon police arrested Khaled on April 12 on the basis of a complaint filed by Ema's father for assaulting her for dowry on April 11. Ema's father also accused Khaled of kidnapping his daughter and said she could not be traced since April 10.
Khaled was sent to jail on April 20 after DB police detected on April 19 that Ema had left the country on April 10. The DB started investigating the case on April 16 and took Khaled on remand twice.
On many occasions, we are to bow down to pressure from the high ups and therefore we cannot combat crimes at ZIA and adjacent areas and ensure security of the passengers," a senior police official said seeking anonymity.
The miscreants are sheltered by different political parties and manage to evade charges, some officials alleged.
When the problems were brought to the notice of the authorities concerned, they passed the blame on other agencies and departments.

Best seller

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how the pro-revenue drug policies pursued by the government of British India, coupled with the contradictory actions sought by the post-independent governments in South Asia and the US Cold War strategies in Afghanistan, helped promote drug trade throughout the region in recent years. Prof Haq argues "the feebleness in the anti-narcotics battle has created a million in recent years from which no country in the region, including the US, is immune."
The author, who received a PhD from La Trobe University, Australia in March 1998, had worked under the supervision of Prof. Robin Jeffrey in the School of Politics. Prof Haq did an MA from the University of Waterloo, Canada in 1986. His hometown is Brahmanbaria.
The present work has been taken from his PhD thesis entitled "The Politics of Narcotic Drugs in South Asia: 1893-1997." For his outstanding achievements Prof Haq was rewarded by Prof Michael J Osborne, the Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, and by Prof Greame Duncan, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
To his credit Prof Haq has two other books published in Bangladesh and a good number of research articles presented and published both in home and abroad.
The British Library catalogue number of this book is ISBN 0-333-75465-4, while the Library of Congress has placed it on ISBN 0-312-22379-X.

One hurt in blast dies

By Staff Correspondent
An employee of Azimur Graveyard who was injured in a bomb attack on Wednesday night died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.
The victim was identified as Yunus, 28, son of Javed Ali Khalifa, and a resident of Azimur.
The young man came under attack when he was travelling in a rickshaw. When he arrived in front of BDR gate number 1, unidentified people hurled crackers leaving him injured seriously.
Yunus was rushed to DMCH where he died at about 4 am yesterday.

SC bar

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lease said the 14-member delegation specially mentioned about the condition of the old High Court building and said it requires immediate renovation. Or else, it may cause mishap anytime, they said.
President Shahabuddin assured them of all possible cooperation for solution to the problem the community is facing now.