

News

What's on today....

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with the High Commission of India has organised a film session on Satyajit Ray. Father Panchal (The Song of the Road) will be screened today. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:15 pm.

CPD Dialogue: On State of the Economy and Budget Responses 2000, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Prof Mustafizur Rahman will make the keynote presentation. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, 17, Tophkhana Road. Time: 2 pm.

Electro Computer Days 2000: A discussion on IT and Electrical and Electronic Engineering fields related career will be held on the last day of 3-day long technology exhibition. Venue: BUET auditorium. Time: 3:30 am.

The closing and prize giving ceremony will also be held at the same venue at 4 pm.

Seminar on national budget: IBA Alumni Association has organised a seminar on 'National Budget' as part of its 'organising fortnight'. Venue: IBA auditorium. Time: 12:30 pm.

Computer Education Week: IIT Bangladesh Limited organises the 'Computer Education Week' beginning today. Venue: BCS Computer City, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon.

Annual general meeting: Bangladesh-India Friendship Association will hold its annual general meeting and election to its executive committee. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Khan. Time: 5 pm.

YBL fair for children: Today is the last day of a book fair organised by 'Young Buds Library'. Venue: Chandrasila Tower, 8th floor, 69/1 Panthapath.

Prize giving ceremony: The prize giving ceremony of the 'UNESCO Clubs Cultural Award-2000' organised by the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: Hotel Abakash. Mahakhali. Time: 4:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Film show: 'Aparajita' (The Unvanquished) will be screened as part of Satyajit Ray Retrospective, organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with the High Commission of India. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:15 pm.

CPD Dialogue: On State of Governance and Budget Responses 2000, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan will make the keynote presentation. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, 17, Tophkhana Road. Time: 2 pm.

Presentation of report on child labour: Unicef Bangladesh has organised a session on 'Highlights of report on Unicef on Child Labour in the bidi sector'. Presenter: Dr T Blanchet. Venue: JPC conference room, 6th floor. Unicef. Time: 10 am.

Weather

Rain forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls is expected at one or two places over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 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
Dhaka	33.8	26.0
Chittagong	32.5	24.7
Rajshahi	33.0	25.4
Khulna	35.3	25.6
Barisal	32.6	25.0
Sylhet	31.5	24.2
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.8

HERE and THERE

Peace Council

Bangladesh Peace Council yesterday hailed the landmark summit between the leaders of South and North Korea and demanded withdrawal of US troops from the peninsula for the success of the peace initiatives, reports BSS.

"Hopefully, the summit has concluded with positive results for which peace-loving people around the world congratulate both of them (South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Il)," general secretary of the council Ali Akbar said in a statement.

Aksad, also the regional co-ordinator of the World Peace Council, added that many problems concerning peace and security in the Korean peninsula would not be solved until the United States "alters her military policy of deploying US troops armed with nuclear weapons in the South Korean territory."

"Therefore we demand immediate withdrawal of US troops from Korean peninsula for making the Korean leaders' peace initiatives successful in order to strengthen atmosphere of peace, understanding and co-operation among the people of the region," he said.

UNFPA programme

Suggesting UNFPA to be proactive in challenging the scourges of HIV/AIDS, Bangladesh has called for top priority to education in UN family planning programme, particularly for women, reports UNB.

"It's essential to accord highest priority to education in UN family planning programme," Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to Geneva, Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said while addressing the annual session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Wednesday.

Without priority to education, he said, we would continue to confront the persistence of poverty and overpopulation. He said the recent initiatives

in management and programme planning will make UNFPA more effective at country level and better organised in facing its challenges, according to a message received here.

Ctg Government Veterinary College

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 16: A 3-day long Commencement Ceremony for 1998-99 session of Chittagong Govt Veterinary College, Pahartoli, Chittagong, began here today.

At the inaugural ceremony held at the college auditorium this morning, the speakers called for proper care of livestock for sufficient supply of protein for the people.

They regretted the slow pace of veterinary education and a comparatively poor facilities for the students and called for its improvement.

Dr Abu Yusuf Alam, Pro-VC of Chittagong University, addressed the ceremony as the chief guest while Prof Golam Mohiuddin presented the keynote paper with the college principal Dr Nitish Chandra Deb Nath in the chair.

BCECMCC

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Wang Chun Guo said that relations between Bangladesh and China will further be strengthened in the years to come, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The Chinese Ambassador was speaking at a farewell reception organised in his honour by Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic and Mass Communication Centre (BCECMCC) on Wednesday. Presided over by President of BCECMCC Engineer F R Siddiqui, the function was also addressed by former minister Dr A Moyeen Khan MP, former chief of the army staff Lt. General (ret'd) M Mahbubur Rahman, former Air Chief Air Vice Marshal Alif Hossain Chowdhury, former Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Abdul Mannan, Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui MP and JSD leader Hasanul Haq Inu.



18th death anniversary of Akikunnesa Ahmad today

By Staff Correspondent

The 18th death anniversary of Akikunnesa Ahmad, a noted writer and pioneer in progressive women's movement of late 40s, will be observed today, says a press release.

She was the wife of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent Abul Mansur Ahmad and daughter of eminent Islamic thinker and litterateur Moulana Ahmad Ali Akalvi. Her significant literary works include books, namely, 'Adhunik Stree' (Modern Wife) and 'Adhunik Swami' (Modern Husband).

'Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Saigad' organised 'da mahfil and Qurankhuan' at one of her sons residence at Dhanmondi after Juma prayers yesterday to mark the occasion. The Saigad also distributed food among orphans and offered fatiha at her graveyard.

Besides, 'Narigrantha Prabartana' will organise a memorial meeting at 4:30 pm on June 20 at its Mirpur Road auditorium in observance of her death anniversary.

It was then that Shakila's

A landmark judgement for downtrodden woman

From Sakyasen Mittra

CALCUTTA, June 16: Shakila has become an icon amongst the Muslim women in Calcutta. She has become the symbol of struggle for downtrodden women who have been traumatised by society.

Shakila has won a legal battle at the Calcutta High Court, and obtained a verdict which stated that she would be entitled to an allowance of Rs 800 per month from her former husband till she remarried. The case reminds one of the Shah Bano legal battles in Rajasthan approximately seven years ago.

A frail woman of 30, Shakila was surprised at the media attention she had been receiving for the last two days. In her dingy one room flat at Narketanga, where she has been living for the last five years, Shakila initially did not want to talk about it.

She snaps, "what is there to talk about? Please go away. I have not heard of Shah Bano. I am not concerned with anyone but my own well being." Little does she realise that her case has given a semblance of hope to a large number of Muslim women, fighting against truant husbands.

Shakila got married to one Hyder Ali on May 5, 1991. Within three months, Ali had kicked her out of his house and remarried again. He just paid her Rupees 1,575 as alimony. Though according to 'iddat' Shakila was entitled to an alimony of three months and 13 days. Her husband also did not return the dowry that he had taken during the wedding.

She went to the Sealdah Magistrate Court in Calcutta for justice. The judge there ordered her husband to pay a further allowance of Rs 800 and to return the Rs 2,500 that he had taken as dowry. However, Hyder Ali did not pay any attention to the court order.

It was then that Shakila's

lawyer Manas Kumar Barman advised her to move to the High Court. There, after a three-year litigation struggle, Justice Basudev Patra, finally passed an order in favour of Shakila. The order stated that Hyder Ali would have to pay a monthly allowance of Rs 800 to Shakila until she remarried.

"What is more important to me is that justice has prevailed," said Shakila who makes her daily living by binding biddies. "I am not in any permanent service so this amount will go a long way in curtailing my miseries."

A large number of people said that as per provisions of Muslim law, I would not get anything. However, I am happy that the law of humanity has prevailed. I had appealed to the judge to take into consideration my hapless financial condition and he has listened to it."

However, Shakila is a bit apprehensive whether her former husband will heed to this new order. "He stays now in Mallick Pukur in South 24-Parganas. I will first have to trace him out."

"I will move to the court once again and will also track him down to see that he pays. I will definitely see the end of this matter," a determined Shakila said.

Shakila's story is significant in this state, especially, as the male members of the Muslim community here are known for torturing women. With a large segment surviving under the poverty line, men divorce their wives and remarry to gain amounts as small as Rs 1,000.

Justice Patra's order in that sense will definitely act as a deterrent to others interested to make a quick buck through marriages. More importantly, it will inspire women to rise against the wrongdoing that they have had to endure quietly for so long.



The last batch of the Bangladesh Battalion (BANBAT) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) left Dhaka yesterday. —ISPR photo

Miladunnabi celebrated in Paris

The Bangladesh Embassy in Paris celebrated Eid-e-Miladunnabi with due religious fervour and solemnity on Thursday, says a press release.

The day's programme began with hoisting of national flag at the Chancery by Bangladesh Ambassador to France, Syed Muazzem Ali.

It was followed by a *milad* *mafil*. A special prayer was offered for peace, progress and prosperity of the Islamic Ummah in general and Bangladesh in particular.

Young man murdered in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, June 16: A young man was chopped to death at Dobajari in Fakirhat upazila here today, reports UNB.

Sources said a gang of miscreants attacked Zakir Hossain Mia, 27, with sharp weapons while he was returning home by bicycle at about 11:30 am.

He died on way to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

While some local people said Zakir was killed by outlaws police attributed the killing to enmity with his rivals.

The body of Zakir was sent to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy in the evening. A case was filed with the local police accusing seven people.

NU students call indefinite strike

By DU Correspondent

Agitating students of National University has called an indefinite strike at all university colleges across the country from June 26, demanding rescheduling of their part-III examinations, scheduled to begin on July 29.

The students under the banner of 'National University United Student Forum' also threatened to go to the High Court for justice if their demand is not fulfilled by June 24.

The student leaders announced this at a press conference held at the Modhu's Canteen on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Shipu Murder Case

From page 1 involvement in the killing, the release added. They were placed before court and taken on three days' remand on Thursday, the release said.

The press release also claimed that two blood stained shirts of Jubayer and Shafiu Alam were also seized from possession of Sagar and Joy. As per earlier press reports, Shipu was shot dead and the alleged killers fled the scene after firing shots from pistol.

Police earlier interrogated fathers of the three FIR-listed accused.

Asked how could the accused left the country while police claimed to have sealed off the border, Khan avoided a direct reply. "Do you know what is the length of the border and what vigilance do we have there?"

"The MP's village home is near to the border and it is very easy for him to send them out of the country," the DC DB said.

The DB took over the Shipu murder case on June 4, but failed to collect the photo of Jewel till yesterday. They however collected photos of the two other FIR-listed accused.

When contacted, Humayun Kabir, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Calcutta told The Daily Star that he was not aware of any such development.

Mostafa Faruq Ahmed, High Commissioner in New Delhi, when asked about it said, "I have no information regarding arrest of any Bangladeshi citizen."

"I have not yet been in-

formed by the Indian authorities regarding arrest of any Bangladeshi citizen on Wednesday," he said.

Asked whether the Bangladesh High Commission made any request for arrest he said, "No such request has been made from the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi so far."

BSS adds: Police have sent the photographs and other relevant documents to Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta to verify the identification of Shafiu arrested by Calcutta police on Wednesday on charge of killing Itteker Ahmed Shipu.

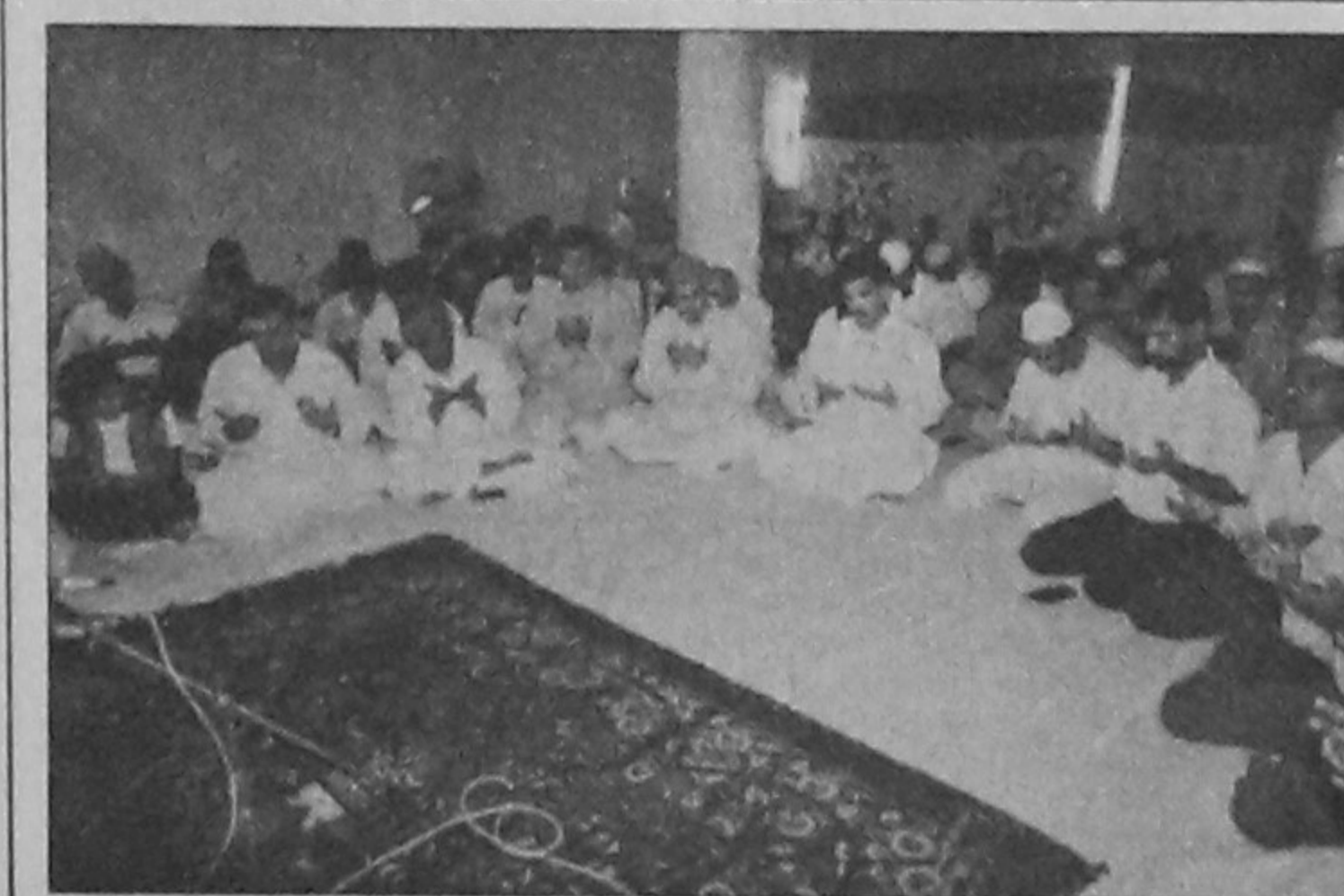
"We have already sent all relevant documents and photographs of Shafiu Alam to the Calcutta mission to verify his identity," a senior official of the Detective Branch (DB) of police told the news agency yesterday.

"We will seek permission of the Indian government to bring him back to Dhaka immediately after confirmation of his identity," he said.

All the three suspects in the killing have fled the country and are now staying in the Indian cities of Delhi and Calcutta, he said.

"Jewel, one of the accused in the killing and son of Kamal Ahmed Majumdar, MP, is now staying in the Indian capital of Delhi and maintaining links with his parents by telephone," the official said.

The other accused Mohammad Jubayer, son of a Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Authority, is in Calcutta, he added.



Siraj-Khaleida Trust, the welfare wing of Summit Group, held two *milad* *mafhils* in observance of Eid-e-Miladunnabi on Thursday.



BNP observed 'Black Day' yesterday to mark the closure of most newspapers in the country in 1975. —Star photo

Discussion on 'black day' 'Any bid to curb press freedom will be resisted'

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked the government not to repress people especially journalists, reports BSS.

He warned that any bid to reintroduce one-party Baksal would be successful.

Bhuiyan was addressing a discussion here organised by BNP to observe June 16 as 'black day' as all but four newspapers were closed down on this day.

BNP joint secretary generals Abdullah Al Noman and Mirza Abbas, National Press Club president Khondker Manirul Alam and former president Rezauddin Ahmed, Barkatullah Bulu MP also spoke at the discussion presided over by Dhaka City BNP General Secretary Abdul Salam.

Bhuiyan warned that any bid to curb press freedom like pre-75 would be resisted by the people of Bangladesh.

He regretted that the then ruling Awami League banned all newspapers except four in 1975 and said freedom of the press flourished democracy, helped achieve development and ensure prosperity.

The BNP secretary general was very critical of Awami League government and claimed that this particular party did not believe in multi-party democracy, freedom of the press and independence of the judiciary.

He said though Awami League promised the nation repealing of all black laws enacted during their tenure but in reality it had enacted more repressive black laws only to repress the commonman.

Bhuiyan said close relatives of some of the ministers and ruling party MPs were openly wielding weapons, terrorising people, collecting tolls, but none of them were arrested under the Public Safety Act 2000.

He said his party would also firmly stand by the people and the oppressed.

Khulna Hardboard

From page 1

month, they said. When contacted, some dealers said they can not compete in the market with the mill's "low quality" hardboard as the market has been flooded with "high quality" imported hardboard.

When asked, the authorities said they could neither convince the dealers to lift their quotas nor engage new dealers due to dull business in the domestic market. "We tried our best to convince the dealers to continue business. But we failed," said an official at the commercial department of the mill.

Some CBA leaders at the mill however alleged that rules were not followed properly by the authorities in appointing dealers. "How a dealer can make profit in the dull market with only 50 pieces of hardboard on an average every month?", one CBA leader said.

But the authorities said there was no irregularity in appointing dealers. "We followed the rule in latter and spirit keeping in mind that the mill is still making profit despite some serious problems including invasion of the market by foreign hardboard," said a high official of the mill.

Akram

From page 1

Akram's teammate Waqar Younis took his 300th Test wicket when he dismissed tailender Muttiah Muralitharan to end Sri Lanka's first innings at 273 on the second day (Thursday) of the century Test of the host nation.

Obituary

Renowned social worker M Abbas Ali, father of Office Secretary of Dhaka City Jubo League (South) Fazlul Huq Atiq, died of old age complications yesterday at his Gorashal residence. He was 85, reports BSS.

He is survived by his two sons and four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chairman of Awami Jubo League Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and General Secretary Advocate Kazi Iqbal Hossain condoled the death of M Abbas Ali.

Six killed in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Six people including an old woman were killed in separate incidents in the city and in Savar in the last two days.

Unidentified men killed an old woman in her residence at Rampura in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Halima Begum, 60, wife of late Ahmed Ali, and a resident of TV Road at Rampura. The incident took place on the first floor of the five-story building.

Hafizuddin, 16, grandson of the victim, said a gang of dacoits broke into the house at about 1:30 am and killed his grandmother.

Relatives, however, were informed about the incident five hours later.

Hafiz, who was driven away from the house for his involvement with the bad elements in the area, came to the residence on Thursday and stayed there. The guard of the building Bakul was on leave that day. Police detained both Hafiz and Bakul yesterday for interrogation.

Police suspected that Hafiz along with local terrorists might have carried out the attack to grab her property and other valuables.

Hafizuddin's sister Ayesha, 15, who is living in the house with the old woman said that she came to know about the incident after her brother awoke her in the morning.

The building in which the murder took place belonged to the second son of the victim. He is now working in a Gulf state.

Police seized a piece of rope from the victim's residence as a memento.

Shafiqul Islam, son-in-law of the victim, filed a case with Khilgaon police station.

In another incident, police recovered the body of a teenage boy from the embankment at Kalunagar in Hazaribagh area on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Ratan, 16, son of Abdul Khaleq

and a resident of 186 Hazaribagh. He was an employee of a factory at the old part of the city.

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

Abdul Khaleq, father of the victim, filed a case with Hazaribagh police, but none was arrested in connection with the killing.

In another incident, Nadim, 22, son of Golam Mostafa, and a resident of 10/A Wapda building at Pallabi, was stabbed to death by some miscreants yesterday.

A gang of four youths led by one Motiur appeared in front of the building at about 12:15 pm and stabbed him.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, Rezaul Karim, 25, son of Abdul Motalab Fakir, was shot dead at his Shyampur residence in the early hours of yesterday.

The incident took place at about 2:30 am when a gang of dacoits stormed into their house. One of them fired shots on Rezaul as he tried to resist the gang.

In a critical condition, he was rushed to the DMCH where he died at about 8 am yesterday. Meanwhile, Ramna police found a critically injured boy at Osmani Udyan about 2 pm Thursday.

He was sent to the DMCH where the doctors declared him dead.

The victim was identified as Nazir Ahmed Nahib, 10, son of Ahsanullah and a resident of Suritola.

In Savar, an old man was stabbed by a gang of miscreants in front of his residence on Thursday at around 2:30 pm.

He was identified as Habibur Rahman, 70.

Early injured Rahman was rushed to the DMCH where he died at about 5 pm.

Hasnat Abdul Hye's books launched in London

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom AH Mahmood Ali hosted a function last week at the High Commission to launch two books written and edited by Hasnat Abdul Hye, an eminent Bangladeshi writer, reports BSS.

It was the first ever book launching ceremony organised by the High Commission in London, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The books launched are: *Namadu* — journey and Governance.

Hasnat Abdul Hye's books launched in London.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif returned home from New Delhi yesterday, reports BSS.

Hanif went to Delhi for treatment.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Hanif returned home.

Khaleda

From page 1

time limit each MP talked for 20 minutes on an average. Swapnan said.

BNP MPs from Dinajpur and Joypurhat are scheduled to meet Khaleda today.

The party plans to call district committees and other concerned for discussion on how to conduct party activities and "election battle," he said.

Besides, he said, exclusive talks with business leaders and diplomats will be held at the new office.

The outcome of the discussion will be preserved in computer for