

What's on today....

Inauguration: Bangladesh Photographic Society (BPS) and Bangladesh Photographic Institute (BPI) will hold a *milad mahfil* on the occasion of inauguration of their new premises. Chief guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abul Sayeed. Venue: 63/2, Laboratory Road (Cats Eye Lane). Time: 9:30 am.

Theatre: People's Little Theatre presents *Tasher Desh* and *Tapashi O Tarangini* on the second day of its two-day programme to mark its 10th founding anniversary. Venue: Guide House. Time: 10:30 am and 7:00 pm respectively.

Film show: Three French movies *Pierrot le Fou* (Mad Pete), *Adieu, ma concubine* (Farewell my concubine) and *L'odeur de la papaya verte* (The Scent of Green Papaya) will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Children's cultural programme: People's Little Theatre presents *Bajao Aqibina*, a cultural programme by children as part of its programmes to celebrate its 10th founding anniversary. Venue: Guide House, Bailey Road. Time: 11:15 am.

Discussion: A discussion will be held to mark the formation of Dhaka-based Sonalmuri thana Janakalyan Samity (STJS). Venue: Ramna Restaurant. Time: 3:00 pm.

Cultural programme: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents a classical dance programme by Likhon and Motushi. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 7:00 pm.

Exhibition: A 2-weeklong solo sculpture exhibition by Labu Fatowary will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Rd. Time: 5:30 pm.

Human chain: National Garments Workers Federation will hold a human chain. Venue: Muktangon. Time: 5:30 pm.

AGM: The 19th annual general meeting (AGM) of the Institute of Personnel Management, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Hamdard Laboratories, 291/1, Sonargaon Road. Time at 5:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Recitation: Baikuntha Abritee Academy presents an evening of recitation titled *'Bish Brikhkh Bish'* written by Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah and directed by Shimul Mustafa. Venue: Shaikat Usman Smriti auditorium (Public Library), Shahbagh. Time: 7:00 pm.

Weather

Day temp may fall

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 36.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 25.5 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50pm and rises on Saturday at 5:17 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	33.2	28.9	70
Chittagong	33.6	26.6	82
Rajshahi	34.0	27.6	79
Khulna	36.3	27.3	75
Barisal	33.6	26.5	77
Sylhet	32.5	26.0	88
Cox's Bazar	33.6	26.2	74

HERE and THERE

CIRDAP

An association of the staff members of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) was formed recently. Staff Welfare Association, CIRDAP (SWAC). A five-member ad-hoc committee will run the activities of SWAC till the election of a new executive committee is held. The office bearers of the ad-hoc committee are:

M Sirajul Hoque — president, Samir Kumar Roy — member secretary, Nasim-Al-Rahid — member, QAZ Mohd. Tipu — member, S.K. Singha Barua — member.

Chandpur District Awami Forum

A memorial meeting in honour of Language veteran Kamar Uddin Chowdhury was held at Ahar Bilash Restaurant in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

The memorial meeting and *milad mahfil* was organised by Dhaka-based Chandpur District Awami Forum.

Presided over by Shah Mohd

Samad Azad greets Japanese FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has congratulated Yhei Kono on his re-appointment the Foreign Minister of Japan, reports BSS.

In a message the Foreign Minister hoped that during the new term in office of Kono the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan would further be strengthened.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Prof Nahid Rahman will be observed today. She died of cancer last year at the age of 28, says a press release.

She is the eldest daughter of veteran journalist and former Director of Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation Mofizur Rahman. *Qurankhuan*, *milad mahfil* and *doa mahfil* have been arranged to mark the day at her father's residence at Banani after maghrib prayers and also at her work place, EDI, a teachers' Training College at Uttara.

Abdul Quddus, the meeting was addressed, among others by Awami League leader Advocate Abu Sayed Sagar, Chandpur district Awami League secretary Advocate Fazlul Haq Sarker, central Krishak League leader and deceased son Sarwar Wadud Chowdhury, Siraj Uddin Ahmed, Sayful Islam Talukder, Dhaka-based Chandpur District Awami Forum's president Md Enamur Chowdhury, vice president Md Mofizul Islam, secretary Billal Hossain Master, Principal Salam Patwary, Prof Abul Kalam Azad Patwary and Dr Dipu Moni.

BIP

Bangladesh Institute of Peace (BIP) held a seminar on 'Bangladesh in the 21st Century: Hopes Prospects' in observance of their 5th founding anniversary, says a press release.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed was chief guest at the function. State Minister for Environment and Forests HN Ashiqur Rahman & Dr Atiur Rahman were special guest and guest of honour respectively at the programme.

BIP chairman Abul Kasem Chowdhury presided over the ceremony.

BPJA confce begins today

The second national conference of the Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) will begin at the Sakhira Zila Parishad auditorium today.

The three-day conference will be inaugurated by Barrister Mainul Husein, Chairman, Board of Editors of the Ittefaq and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, chairman, PIB, and veteran journalist Md. Kamal Choudhury will attend as special guests, A K M Mohsin, general secretary of the BPJA said.

Chehlum

The *chehlum* of Alhaj Abdul Baten Khandaker will be held at 434/1, North Kazipara, Mirpur today after Juma prayers, reports UNB.

Milad mahfil, *Qurankhuan* and feeding of the destitute will be held on the occasion. Alhaj Abdul Baten Khandaker, a former government official, died on May 26 at Dhaka Community Hospital.



Recipients of the Jahanara Imam Memorial Medal seen together at the Academy of Development Planning at Nilkhet yesterday. — Star photo

Tk 40cr MCHT project completes

The new institute for Mother and Child Health and Training (MCHT) in the city is yet another success story in the health sector in fulfillment of the present government's commitment to ensure better health services to the people, reports BSS.

The construction of the Taka 40 core project has already been completed and awaiting its formal inauguration later this month. The institute, one of the most modern treatment and training centres on Mother and Child Health, was constructed with the financial and technical assistance of the Japanese government at Azimpur in the city.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim yesterday visited the new building of the institute and expressed his profound satisfaction over the successful

completion of the project within the stipulated time. He went round its different sections including the neo-natal care unit, operation theatre, ultra-sonogram unit and other wards which were modernised with latest medical equipment and surgical apparatus from Japan.

Secretary of the ministry Sayed Alamgir Farruk Chowdhury, additional secretary D K Nath, senior officials of the health sector and the Japanese officials were present during the visit of the health minister to the institute.

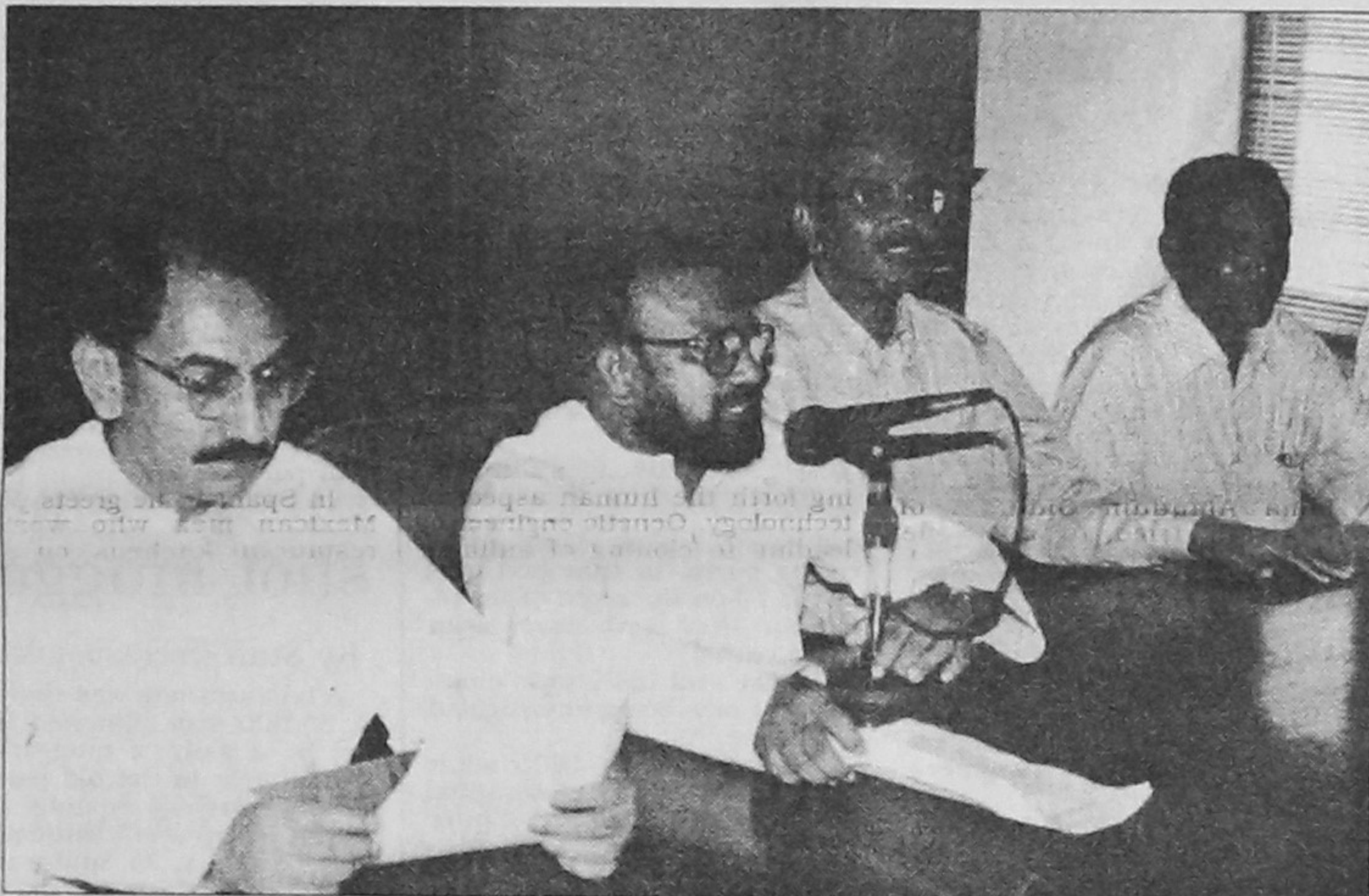
The minister thanked the Japanese government for constructing such a huge and modern health institute with medical and training facilities and asked the authorities concerned to take proper care of this infrastructure as well as the patients who will come here for better treatment.

They said this MCHT centre

was established in 1953 with 20 beds under the joint collaboration of WHO and UNICEF. The number of its beds rose to 100 in 1960. The past BNP government in 1991 took an initiative to upgrade this institute but could not perform it.

In 1996, the officials said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took a personal initiative to upgrade this centre into a modern institute, particularly for the mothers and children. The Bangladesh government in 1998 signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Japanese government to upgrade this centre into a 173-bed hospital with modern training and treatment facilities.

The whole building with an imposing look as well as all modern facilities for treatment and training is seen as a centre of excellence in the health sector.



BNP city unit convener Sadek Hossain Khoka speaking at a press conference of BNP commissioners at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday to protest the budget for the fiscal 2000-2001. — Star photo

Employees, teachers of recognised private edn instts 'Govt spending Tk 1,245 cr this yr in paying 80 pc of salary, allowances'

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government is spending over Taka 1,245 crore this year in paying 80 per cent of salary and allowances for the employees and teachers of recognised private educational institutions, reports BSS.

Making a statement on a private member's resolution

First batch of teachers complete IED training

By Staff Correspondent

The certificate distribution ceremony of the first batch of trained teachers of Aga Khan School was held in the city yesterday.

Alan Wheeler, Director, Academic affairs of Institute for Educational Development (IED) of Aga Khan University distributed certificates among the 22 trained teachers at a simple ceremony held at the Canadian Club.

Principal of Aga Khan School in Dhaka George G Kays said that more teachers will be provided training in future.

No loadshedding

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raptured in areas including Dhanmondi, New Elephant Road, Shahbagh, Magbazar, Shajahanpur, Mughdipara, Basabo, Rampura, Kawran Bazar Kathal Bagan and Green Road, he said.

Supply is disrupted in posh areas like Gulshan, Banani and Uttara due to 'transmission problem', he claimed.

The PDB supplied 960 MW power to DESA yesterday against a demand for over 1000 MW in its command area, the sources said.

PDB sources said total power generation in the country yesterday was 2625 MW against a requirement of around 2750 MW.

moved by Treasury Bench member from Sirajganj-4, Abdul Latif Mirza, proposing to give festival bonus to the employees and teachers of recognised private educational institutions, reports BSS.

The minister said 22,038 new institutions have been given recognition by the government during the last four years raising the number of government supported institutions to 44,454.

The Industries minister made the statement on behalf of the education minister who was absent in the House.

Tofail said an employee of a recognised private educational institution was to receive a minimum of 1005 Taka as government support while a teacher used to get 6,130 Taka back in 1996-97. The present government raised the support money to a minimum of Taka 1,485 for the employees and a minimum of Taka 9010 for the teacher.

The Industries minister said the present government has raised the support money for

the recognized private educational institutions by over 71 per cent from the level of 1995-96.

He said in addition to the government support in the form of salary and allowances for the private teachers, the prime minister has formed a Kalyan Trust for them to ensure their welfare.

The minister said the government is not in a position to sanction festival bonus for the private educational institution employees and teachers which will require an amount of Taka 200 crore annually.

Several members from the Treasury Bench who included Wajiddin Khan (Pabna-3), Shamsur Rahman Sharif (Pabna-4), Kazi Sirajul Islam (Faridpur-1), Begum Shahin Monwara Hoq (Women Seat-7) and Meher Afroze (Women Seat-20) spoke on the resolution while moving their amendments on it.

Later, Mirza withdrew his resolution which was approved by the House by voice vote.



The first batch of teachers from Aga Khan School who completed a training programme under the Institute of Education Development (IED) of Aga Khan University received certificates yesterday on completion of the course.

Follow code of conduct, Sayeed, tells filmmakers

State Minister for Information Prof Abul Sayeed yesterday urged the film personalities to follow the code of conduct of film and censorship, formulated by the present government, reports BSS.

He was exchanging views with the members of the Bangladesh Film Censor Board at the ministry.

Information Secretary M Akmol Hossain, Additional Information Secretary Dipok Ranjan Sengupta and members of the board were present.

Prof Sayeed said that the hopes and aspirations of people should be reflected in films and efforts should be taken to motivate people on social and state philosophy and spirit of the War of Liberation, human values and democracy.

He said that the filmmakers must refrain from making vulgar movies as society rejects those.

WTO

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this needed approval of the cabinet which would take a long time.

A cell could be set up using the power of a minister, Jalli said. He assured that officials of the cell would not be transferred frequently to keep the cell functioning smoothly.

The committee headed by Mahbubur Rahman will submit its recommendations to the commerce ministry shortly, one source said.

JS

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deliberation concerning his local government ministry.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid entered the House on half an hour after the scheduled 9:30 a.m. to take up the Order of the Day. But the House fell short of quorum even before the first agenda — the question-answer session — was over. The day's business went on monotonously without the required number of lawmakers.

None of the three private members' bills could be placed due to absence of the relevant MPs belonging to the boycotting opposition parties.

Only two of the five private members' resolutions were introduced and disposed of, again because of relevant MPs' absence.

As the quorum crisis continued unabated, the Chair was apparently forced to adjourn the House at 12:25 p.m. with only 37 members present, leaving the day's business incomplete.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury did not turn up despite a 'prior' announcement that he would inform the House yesterday of the report of investigation by a parliamentary sub-committee on alleged negligence to medical treatment of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a Jatiya Party MP who died recently.

Meanwhile, another BNP legislator Amir Khosru Mahmud Choudhury attended yesterday's sitting briefly. Khosru was about to leave after signing the attendance register. But he sat for a few minutes following a request from the Chair.

Sena Kalyan

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Bazar is "beyond doubt an illegal encroachment on River Buriganga not only hindering water flow but also obstructing navigation".

The BIWTA has officially decided to sue the Sena Kalyan Sangstha. "But now we will try to convince them to remove the encroachment as soon as possible or face legal action," said a BIWTA official.

Other official sources said just after the Sena Kalyan Sangstha started to landfill, BIWTA lodged an official complaint with the Sangstha stating that the area is classified as "freshshore" and it belonged to BIWTA. No landfill could be carried out there and no structures should be built.

In reply, Sena Kalyan Sangstha said that they would 'soon' obtain permission from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka. But BIWTA officials pointed out that the DC had nothing to do with the said area as it belongs to BIWTA. The Sena Kalyan Sangstha nonetheless went ahead with the landfill and built their structure encroaching on the River Buriganga. Moreover, the Sangstha failed to obtain an Environmental Clearance from the Department of Environment as required by law, officials confirmed.

At the spot this correspondent talked to people who were busy noting down official accounts and who also claimed that they were responsible for putting the development of the project. The person identified himself as Narayan and whatever information he provided, does not, in any way, contradict the statement made in Sangstha's note of protest. The picture printed with the report did not represent the Sangstha's installation but another illegal installation near it.

The Daily Star stands by its report and urges the Sena Kalyan Sangstha to stop its work forthwith which is damaging and killing the river. We also like to point out that such responsible organisation of the government and Armed Forces is out to play havoc with our environment. Buying some land from some people does not entitle anybody, especially high profile organisation like the Sena Kalyan Sangstha to do something which threatens to destroy our collective heritage and national wealth.



Mufazzal Karim, a former secretary, presenting bouquet to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia prior to his joining the party yesterday. — Star photo

AL has no moral courage to seek vote, says Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday the government is trying to establish democracy in the country by unleashing terrorism.

"But democracy can not be established by unleashing terrorism with the help of goons. Educated, skilled and patriotic people are needed to establish democracy."

It is BNP which has a large number of people required to establish democracy and run the state affairs."

Addressing a joining programme at her 29 Minto Road, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said people cannot expect any welfare, development and peace from this government because the Awami League believes in autocracy, politicisation, relativism, corruption, terrorism and looting of people's wealth.

Retired Secretary of the government AH Mofazzal Karim alongwith local people from Kulara formally joined BNP yesterday.

Khaleda said the country and its people are not important to the AL, rather they put individual and party interest and money above everything.

The BNP chairperson said the AL has now no moral courage to face the people and seek vote for the next national election. Because the government has miserably failed to do any give security of life and property and ensure congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

She said there is no alternative of BNP to free the country

from clutch of anarchy. The ruling AL conspiring again to come to power by rigging polls. She called upon the people to unite and foil the conspiracies of the government.

Welcoming Mofazzal Karim in BNP, Khaleda Zia said he was an efficient bureaucrat who devoted himself to the welfare of the people during his service.

Karim said there is no alternative now for the nationalist and patriotic people but to join hands with BNP.

Bushra murder

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children. Asked why Samad's children requested him to come to their house while Kader was already staying there, Islam said, "It is their business."

Meanwhile, the Namaj-e-janaza of Phool was held at Noor Mosque at Malibagh Chowdhurypara yesterday and her body was taken to Faridpur town for burial at Alimpur graveyard.

Some sources alleged that police made some changes in the inquest report. The report earlier said sperm was found in her private organs but now it says there was blood in it, the sources mentioned.

Asked about this the DC of DB said "It is simply impossible."

Jahanara Imam

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Lecture. Speaking at the discussion meeting, Nirul Committee leader Hasan Imam criticised the main opposition BNP for 'using communalism as part of its politics'. He also blamed the ruling Awami League for often issuing 'communal statements'.

Dr Kazi Faruk Ahmed said political leaders are using religion for their political gains. Barrister Shafiq Ahmed said that the 1972 Constitution has to be restored to put an end to communalism.

Poet Shamsur Rahman said, "We are not against religion, rather we are against communalism and fanaticism."

World Cup

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also have won the European title three times. The South Africans campaigned throughout that it was Africa's turn and that it had a far better bid than Morocco, which currently had only three stadiums that satisfied the Fifa requirements. South Africa had nine stadiums already built including the FNR in Johannesburg which is being increased to 110,000.

The South African bid also appeared to have the support of Blatter who has said publicly that the 2006 championship should go to Africa. Thursday's decision appears to be a major blow to the president's policy.

He had argued that the World Cup should be hosted on a rotating basis with each of the confederations taking it in turn. After Europe had France 1998 and Asia will stage 2002, co-hosted by South Korea and Japan, Blatter argued that Africa should get 2006 with may be South America in 2010.

The South Africans also did a deal with Brazil, persuading the South Africans to withdraw their bid only three days before the vote in return for the African delegates supporting Brazil's candidature in 2010. They figured that guaranteed them the votes of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay while the Germans doubted that.

As the campaign atmosphere turned a little ugly, Beckenbauer described the deal as "horse trading" while the Moroccan suggested that Blatter himself had been behind it. England's cause was severely damaged by the violence of English hooligans in Brussels and Charleroi last month at the Euro 2000 championship.

Their bidding team also were dismayed to hear that the Fifa inspection team rated their facilities behind those of Germany and South Africa even though England already has 11 40,000-capacity stadiums already in use with four more, including a new 90,000 seater Wembley stadium, to be built whatever the result of the bid.

Morocco's case was that it had lost twice before and, if Africa were to get its first World Cup, it had a stronger case than South Africa.

OIC

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lutions and pronouncements of the OIC on matters that are entirely within the domestic jurisdiction of India are completely unacceptable and we reject them outright," he said in a statement.

India controls about 45 per cent of Kashmir and arch-rival Pakistan holds a third. The rest of the Himalayan territory is with China.

New Delhi blames Pakistan for a 10-year revolt in its side of Kashmir which has left over 25,000 people dead.

Islamabad, which is a member of the OIC, denies Indian allegations of direct support to the militants in Kashmir but says it offers moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination.

Businessman

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said. The incident occurred at about 7:15 pm, when some of his friends called him over cellular phone and asked him to come near the Sufia Clinic.

When he went there and started talking with his friends, someone shot him from behind. He was hit in the head and shoulder.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the attending doctor declared him dead at about 8:45 pm yesterday.

Duty officer of Tejgaon police said last night that no case was filed.

Victimised

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section of officials while disbursing earlier installments of the UN compensation money.

When this correspondent tried to talk to Mahbubur Rahman, BMET Director for UNCC affairs, he said he has to obtain permission from higher authorities to meet the press.

It took him two weeks to get a 'permission' from the DG's office.

When this correspondent went to meet him on Monday, his office was found locked from outside and a peon sitting on a stool in front of it. When this correspondent gave his identity, he opened the door, allowed him inside and locked it again.

Asked, Rahman said the door is kept locked from outside to avoid disturbance by compensation seekers.

He acknowledged that he received complaints about toll collection. "No official is involved. I think some outsiders are cheating them (compensation seekers). We caught some of them in the past," said Rahman.