

# German donor agrees to fund HIV programme

**NURUL ALAM, Chittagong**

A German donor agency is ready to provide 20 million US dollars to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for HIV programmes in the port city, official sources said.

"The funds are in the pipeline as the German donor agency, GTZ, took interest in the project and the process is underway to launch the HIV programmes," said Selim Akter Chowdhury, a health official of CCC.

"We have also planned to set up an Aids monitoring centre in Chittagong port area for screening the foreign sailors arriving here. Besides, other programmes will be launched with that funds as part of preventive measures," he said. "The work will start as soon as we receive the funds."

"We are in contact with the officials of the donor agency, which agreed to provide the funds after fruitful talks with the CCC authori-

ties three months ago," the health official said.

According to experts, Chittagong is vulnerable to cross-border invasion of the epidemic as it borders Myanmar and India, the two regional countries with high prevalence of HIV/Aids.

Around 1,500 vessels call at the Chittagong port a year and the crew members move freely in the city without any health check-up, a reason for concern over the spread of the deadly disease, port sources said.

Although the CCC planned to set up an Aids monitoring cell about three years ago, it could not be implemented due to lack of funds, they added.

So far, a number of HIV positives were detected in Chittagong and two of them died, according to medical sources.

"About ten people carrying HIV are receiving treatment and coun-

selling, but we don't disclose their identities to protect them from stigma and discrimination," said Dr Akter Hossain, an associate professor of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital.

They were infected while staying abroad, he added.

## Graphics exhibition begins today

An exhibition titled 'Signes' based on graphics begins at the Alliance Francaise auditorium today, says a press release.

The works of eight young artists will be put on display.

The exhibition provides significant testimony to the advances of graphic design in various fields. It symbolises the evolution of a generation that has experienced the computer revolution and lived through the brutal mutations in graphic design at the beginning of the nineties.

The exhibition will remain open from Saturday to Wednesday from 4.00pm to 8.00pm and on Thursday it will be closed at 6.00pm. It will continue till February 7.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at the party's presidium meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

# AL accuses govt of imposing 'undeclared censorship' on newspapers

**UNB, Dhaka**

Leader of the opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the BNP-Jamaat alliance government of imposing 'undeclared censorship' on newspapers.

She said that after the killing of journalist Manik Saha in Khulna, death threats were issued to seven more newsmen of the southwestern region.

"Creating panic and imposing undeclared censorship, the government wants to stifle the newspapers so that its misdeeds remain unreported," Hasina said.

The Awami League president was speaking at the party's Dhanmondi office when teachers under the banner of Gonotantrik Shikkhak Forum from Bangladesh Agricultural University came to meet her.

She said her 15-point demand

came in the wake of 'intolerable situation', but none of the ministers are yet to speak about these demands.

"These are the demands of people. These are the demands of the present time. But none of the ministers are talking about them, rather they are trying to increase seats in parliament to divert public attention," she said.

Hasina said many mills and factories have been closed to cut expenditures, but on the other hand, the government was planning to increase seats in parliament, which involves increased public expenditures.

Referring to reserved seats for women, she said women must be elected through direct votes.

Referring to the killing of a DB police officer in the capital, she said even the law enforcers are not safe.

The AL president sought the

teachers' cooperation in realising the demands announced at a grand rally on January 15.

Prof. Noor M Talukder, Dr M Shahjalal, A Sattar Mandal, Syed Sakhawat Hossain, Dr MA Awal and Dr M Manjurul Alam also spoke.

Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Nurul Islam Nahid and BM Mozammel Huq were present.

# Youth arrested after gunfight with police

## Three wounded

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

An alleged criminal was arrested after a gunfight with police at South Badda in the early hours of yesterday.

Tipped off, a police team went to Akhi Villa at South Badda to nab Moidul Islam alias Biplab, 30, at about 2:45am.

The youth and two policemen were wounded in the gunfight that erupted after he opened fired at them, police said.

Biplab received two bullets in his knees. The wounded policemen are Sub-inspector Saiful Alam and constable Ratan Chandra.

The youth, however, claimed that he is a cultural activist and he was returning home after attending a cultural programme when police shot and caught him.

Police said that a pistol and a

revolver with seven rounds of bullets was seized from his possession.

Police rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Later, he was shifted to orthopedic hospital.

Meanwhile, police arrested two extortionists after a mob beat up them at Mahakhal Sattala slum yesterday morning.

Police said Khaliur Rahman, 28, and his brother-in-law Mohammad Khalil, 26, went to a restaurant at Sattala slum and demanded toll from its manager after having their breakfast at around 8:30am.

As the manager raised an alarm, locals and restaurant workers caught the two and beat them.

Later, Gulshan police rescued them and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police also recovered a pistol with four bullets from them.

# 4 fake examinees held at DU

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

Four fake examinees including one university student were arrested while they were appearing at the Ga unit admission test of Dhaka University yesterday.

They were identified as Khalequzzaman, Mamunur Rashid, Shahadat and Sakhawat and handed over to Ramna police who arrested them for interrogation.

Dean of Business Studies Faculty Prof Sirajul Islam caught them from the examination hall.

He noticed that some examinees had submitted more than one mark sheet and certificate of their SSC and HSC examinations using the photographs of others.

Khalequzzaman submitted six sets of mark sheet and certificates, Mamunur Rashid two sets, Shahadat three sets and Sakhawat two sets with their application forms.

While examining the mark sheets, certificates and photographs of the examinees of Ga unit, Prof Islam found that a total of 161 faked students had submitted the forms.