



PHOTO: STAR
Awami Jubo League, youth front of the Awami League, brought out a procession in the city yesterday in support of today's hartal.

Bangladesh-Myanmar road project Joint survey soon

BSS, Dhaka

An 18-member expert team will visit Myanmar soon to join the Myanmar's team to conduct a joint survey on implementation of Bangladesh-Myanmar friendship road construction project.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said this at a meeting with Ambassador of Myanmar U Thane Myint at his office yesterday. They discussed introduction of the survey work for implementation of the Bangladesh-Myanmar project.

Myanmar's ambassador said the prime minister of his government has given necessary directives to the construction minister to start survey work immediately. He hoped that his government is very sincere in finishing the construction of the road.

The Additional Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Department and chief of Bangladesh's survey expert team, Engineer Abed Uddin Ahmed, will lead the delegation.

The Bangladesh delegation with the Myanmar's team will jointly conduct survey on construction of a 60-metre bridge at Tamkharul border and a 55-metre road from Tangbaro to Buchidang.

For accelerating the construction of Bangladesh-Myanmar road, the construction minister of Myanmar will visit Dhaka soon, the meeting was told.

1232 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,232 people, including five listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered three firearms and 48 bullets and filed four cases against three people under Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.



PHOTO: STAR
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal(JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, took out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting today's hartal.

DHAKA
T O D A Y

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a solo art exhibition titled 'Phire Dekha' by Mosur-ul-Karim will be held. Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

The exhibition will remain open till March 1 from 12.00 noon to 8.00pm daily.

Film show

Dhaka University Film Society will screen a film titled 'Rosemary's Baby' directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Devdas' (1958). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Drama

Prachyanat, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'Circus Circus' directed by Azad Abul Kalam to raise fund for the treatment of children. Venue: Auditorium of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

AIDS discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion on 'AIDS risk in Bangladesh: Perspective of women's health. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 3.30pm.

Discussion

A discussion on the 'Role of leadership in resisting crimes and corruption', organised by Bangabir Osmani Smriti Parishad, will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion-Osmani

Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad organises a discussion to mark the 20th death anniversary of Bangabir M A G Osmani. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion-Aref

Kazi Aref Parishad will hold a discussion to mark the fifth death anniversary of Kazi Aref, an organiser of the liberation war. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.00pm.

JP meeting

A presidium meeting of the Jatiya Party will be held. Venue: 7/10/A Block-D, Lalmatia. Time: 7.00pm.

11 Party rally

A rally will be organised by the 11 Party demanding an increase of and direct election to reserve seat for women in parliament. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 4.30pm.

Memorial discussion

'Over 60pc population still exposed to arsenic contamination'

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 60 percent of the population drawing water from tubewells are still exposed to arsenic contamination, said the speakers at an international conference on arsenic yesterday.

They said even after seven years of deliberation, the public sector and the development partners are still debating over the mitigation problem.

The three-day conference was organised jointly by Dhaka Community Hospital and School of Environmental Studies of Jadavpur University of India in the city.

In his opening speech, Prof Mahmudur Rahman, co-ordinator of Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, said seven years have passed since we called for formulating a concrete policy on addressing the arsenic problem but no progress is noticed.

In his paper on 'Health Water and Environmental Issues,' Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman of DCH, said many seminars on arsenic contamination were held ignoring the social problems of those suffering from arsenic contamination.

He said the government and development partners should come forward to help and rehabilitate the arsenic victims.

Unicef Chief in Bangladesh Morten Geirings said "We are very concerned about the quality of water samples being tested from tubewells by some NGOs." Do the

tests really attain minimum standard?" he asked.

Prof Willard Chappel of the University of Colorado, USA said, "I have witnessed groundwater arsenic problem in many countries. But in terms of number of people exposed to the contamination, Bangladesh is the worst. I am sorry to say that not enough has been done to mitigate the problems."

Besides, Dr David Christiani on 'Arsenic Exposure', Deoraj Harry Caussy on 'Health Impact of Arsenic Contamination' and Baosham Zheng on 'Arsenic Contamination Problem in China' presented papers at the day-long session.

The conference is being attended by about 150 representatives including 30 foreign scientists.

Water experts, chemists, biologists, geologists, medical practitioners and soil scientists from home and abroad also called for urgent action to develop guidelines on the

treatment of arsenic patients and their rehabilitation in the face of the groundwater arsenic contamination in the country.

They also called for immediate shift to surface water as an alternative source of drinking water in the face of arsenic contamination problem.

Studies on people exposed to long term use of arsenic contaminated water, presented at the conference yesterday, indicated serious effects from drinking the poisoned water.

The studies found many people in West Bengal suffered neuropathy or neurological problems due to arsenic in central nervous system in human body.

Another study, also in West Bengal, found serious outcomes from drinking contaminated water among pregnant women. There are evidences of significant rise in spontaneous abortions and still birth, it revealed.

Sayeed Ahmed new envoy to Kenya

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Major General Syeed Ahmed, BP,AWC, PSC, at present Bangladesh Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, as the country's next High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya.

Ahmed held various important posts in Bangladesh Army before joining as ambassador to Kuwait, says a Foreign Ministry press release.

He is married and has two daughters.

Construction of Shaheed Minar at JU demanded

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Progotisheel Chhatra Jote (PSJ) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday announced a three-day agitation programme demanding immediate construction of a Shaheed Minar on the campus.

The PSJ through a leaflet said the university authorities even after 34 years of establishment of the JU are yet to construct a Shaheed Minar in honour of the martyrs of our War of Liberation and Language Movement.

The three-day programme includes demonstration on the campus today to be followed by submission of a memorandum to the vice chancellor.

Obituary

Jahanara Khan, wife of Hemayet Uddin Khan, son of late Khan Bahadur Sayeed Uddin Khan of village Shirjig, under Jhalakathi district, died of prolonged illness at Barisal on February 14 at the age of 72, says a press release.

She left behind his four sons, six daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She is the younger sister of litterateur Khondoker Mohammad Elias and journalist KG Mustafa.

Abdur Razzaque

BSS, Dhaka

Abdur Razzaque, Assistant Registrar of Rajshahi University, died at his residence in Rajshahi city early yesterday morning at the age of 55.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters and a host of relations to mourn his death.



ACI, the first ISO certified pharmaceuticals of Bangladesh, recently arranged a raffle draw at its centre on Floxabad Quiz Competition. M Mohibuz Zaman, Chief Operating Officer of ACI, picks up coupons to select the lucky winners.

WEATHER
T O D A Y

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Light fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said predicting slight rise in the night temperature.

Highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 10.3 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:54pm today and rises at 6:31am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	29.8	15.7	56	41
Chittagong	29.4	14.8	63	50
Rajshahi	28.1	14.0	85	67
Khulna	30.1	15.5	88	72
Barisal	30.2	14.5	88	58
Sylhet	29.5	14.3	60	40
Cox's Bazar	30.8	15.3	55	66



Resource Integration Centre (RIC) Director Abul Hasib Khan receives the "CGAP Pro-Poor Innovative Challenges" award from the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) representative Syed Hasemi (Left) yesterday. CGAP, an international organisation of 28 donors.