



PHOTO: STAR  
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) and the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh jointly organised a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday welcoming the High Court verdict declaring the construction of Speaker's Bhaban in the Jatiya Sangsad area illegal. Sitting from left are Abu Naser Khan, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Mobashwer Hossain.

## Jica assures support for dev programmes

A formal Equipment Handover Ceremony 2004 by Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) was held in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The ceremony was organised to commemorate the friendship and cooperation between the two organisations.

Out-going Resident Representative of Jica, Takashi Sakamoto and the newly appointed Resident Representative Arai Akio were present.

Arai Akio said, the Rural

Development Engineering Centre Project (RDEC) has turned out to be a successful project. He said, the project has made a great contribution towards the capacity building of LGED, which in turn augment rural development and poverty alleviation programmes here. He assured of further support and cooperation for future development programmes.

Takashi Sakamoto and LGED chief engineer Md Shahidul Hassan also spoke.

Earlier, Arai Akio handed over a number of technical equipment to Shahidul Hassan.

## Six get life

BSS, Naogaon

Six persons, including two women, were sentenced to life with hard labour for kidnapping a minor boy and demanding ransom.

Special Judge SM Solaiman of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Court of Naogaon handed the punishment here in presence of the accused on Sunday.

The convicts are: Afzal Hossain, Moula Box, Zakia Bewa, Samayun, Ohiron Bibi and Ahsan Habib.

The miscreants abducted Maimul Islam Rubel, 5, son of Reaz Uddin of village Chak Roghunath of Naogaon at gun point on January 20, 1998.

They demanded Tk 2 lakh as ransom for his release.



## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nayeem Hossain, a three-year-old boy, has been suffering from hydrocephalus, also known as 'water on the brain', since his birth.

His father Md Nurul Islam of Haragacha upazila, Rangpur, appealed for financial assistance for the treatment of the boy who urgently needs surgery to remove the fluid accumulated in his head. His brain, however, is functioning normally.

The operation will cost Tk 70,000 at the Apollo Gleneagles Hospital in Kolkata, Islam said.

He appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save his son.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Md Nurul Islam, savings account No. 1830, Uttara Bank, Haragacha Branch, Rangpur.

## Gulam Kibria new chairman of Lions Clubs



A K Gulam Kibria has been elected chairman of Multiple District Council, Lions Clubs International, for 2004-05, says a press release.

He was elected at the 17th annual convention of Multiple District 315 Bangladesh at Sonargaon Hotel on June 19.

Multiple District is the apex body of the international association consisting of six sub-districts in Bangladesh. Kibria is currently the district governor of Lions District 315A1, Bangladesh.

## Environment education underscored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury has underscored the importance of environment education for environmental conservation and natural resources management.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the 12th Environment Congress for Asia and Pacific in Japan on Saturday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Japanese Minister for Environment Yuriko Koike inaugurated the congress attended by 22 countries from Asia and the Pacific region.

Jafrul, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation, highlighted the steps taken by the

Bangladesh government for conservation of environment.

He listed out some successful measures: ban on polythene shopping bag, promotion of afforestation and introduction of environment-friendly CNG three-wheelers.

He also informed the meeting that the government has taken an initiative to introduce environment curricula in primary and secondary education.

The Japanese environment minister lauded the Bangladesh's success in banning polybags and other measures for the preservation of environment.

Delegations from Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam took part in the two-day meet.



### DUJA seminar

The annual seminar and prize distribution ceremony of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Conference room of the business studies faculty. Time: 10.30am.

### Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of children's art competition, organised by Haji Shahab Uddin Social Welfare Foundation to mark the World Environment Day, will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

### Workshop

The opening ceremony of a workshop titled 'Experience sharing on reproductive health service delivery under Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)' will be held with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: DCC conference room. Time: 12.00 noon.

### Academy film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a Japanese film titled 'Freezer' (2002). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Memorial discussion

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a discussion in memory of noted dance artiste Bulbul Chowdhury. It will be followed by a cultural function. Venue: Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.

### Roundtable

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organises a roundtable on 'Development of agri-business in Bangladesh' with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman as chief guest. Venue: DCCI Auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 11.00am.

### Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.



GrameenPhone MD Ola Ree hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to SHP Director Alejandro Escalona at a ceremony in the city recently.



## Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy fall at places over Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	25.0	96	81
Chittagong	29.5	24.8	92	86
Rajshahi	26.0	25.0	97	98
Khulna	31.6	24.8	97	93
Barisal	31.6	25.4	98	92
Sylhet	28.0	24.1	96	93
Cox's Bazar	31.8	26.0	90	90



Participants at the closing session of the two-day ICT Teachers' Training Workshop 2004 at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) auditorium in the city on Sunday. The AIUB computer science department organised the workshop.



PHOTO: STAR  
Awami League Presidium member Zillur Rahman speaks at a roundtable on "Evolution of Bangladesh Politics and Awami League" at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Awami League organised the roundtable on the occasion of its 55th founding anniversary.

## Free treatment for high blood pressure patients

SGM Chowdhury Memorial Hypertension Centre treated about 7,500 patients free of charge last year, says a press release.

In addition, 15,000 registered patients receive regular treatment and advice from reputed physicians at the centre.

The centre has been treating patients with high blood pressure for the last 24 years free of charge. It started as an outdoor hypertensive clinic at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital at the initiative of late Prof. SGM Chowdhury.

Later, he formed Bangladesh Society of Hypertension, a non-profit social welfare organisation, and shifted it to the present location at 64/E, Green Road.

The society funds the centre from own arrangement and voluntary donations from individuals and organisations.

The society has a pathological service and dispensary. It is planning to extend its services to more people with modern equipment in future.

## Rickshawpuller strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshawpuller died six hours after the owner of his rickshaw strangled him at a slum in Basila, Mohammadpur, on Sunday.

Kaiser Ali, 35, died at around 2.00am yesterday at his home at another slum in the same area. He earned his living by pulling a rickshaw belonging to one Shahid but a mobile court of Dhaka City Corporation seized the rickshaw on June 19 as it had no valid papers.

Angered at losing his rickshaw, Shahid called Kaiser to his home at Pata Miah slum at around 7.00pm and, along with his son Halim, strangled the rickshawpuller with a scarf. They also hit him in his head, according to the inquest report.

Hearing the screaming of the rickshawpuller, neighbours rushed to the scene and rescued Kaiser. He was then sent to his home at Kaderabad Housing slum where he died.

Police also arrested Shahid but Halim went into hiding soon after the incident.

Mohammadpur police sent his body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy in the morning after his brother lodged a case.

Police also arrested Shahid but Halim went into hiding soon after the incident.

## UCEP certificate award ceremony

The Underprivileged Children Education Programme (UCEP)-Dhaka Technical School organised a certificate award ceremony recently, with Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, as chief guest, says press release.

Speaking at the ceremony, Yeasin Ali lauded the activities of the institute and hoped that the students will make significant contribution to the society.



Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, distributes certificates among the technical graduates of Underprivileged Children Education Programme (Ucep)-Dhaka Technical School at a function in the city on June 16.

## GP contributes Tk 5 lakh to children's project

GrameenPhone Ltd. contributed Tk 5 lakh to the Social Harmony Project (SHP) for the Bangladeshi theatre delegation who will attend the eighth World Amateur Children's Theatre Festival and International Arts Fair in Cuba in July, says a press release.

Ola Ree, managing director of GrameenPhone, handed over the cheque to Alejandro Escalona, director of SHP, at a simple ceremony at the GP office in the city recently.

Khalid Hasan, director, Corporate Affairs, and Syed Yamin Bakht, general manager, Information Department of GrameenPhone, Cliff Boucher, director of SHP, and Anita Bell, Friends of SHP, were also present.

The Social Harmony Project is a cultural exchange programme between young Bangladeshi and Cuban children. It aims to foster ideals of tolerance and friendship and to promote the very best of Bangladesh.

Out of 29 participating countries, Bangladesh is the only country representing Asia in this year's festival, which is held every two years.

For the first time, Bangladeshi children will be the prime guests of the Cuban government and of La Colmenita, an internationally renowned theatre group of Cuban children. They will also open the seven-day festival with a joint fusion theatre presentation.

The 18 children involved in the SHP are aged between 6 and 17 and come from all backgrounds and social strata.

The SHP plans to hold a mini festival in Bangladesh in 2005.