

# Parliamentary caucus on edn launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus on Education was launched in the city yesterday with a view to improving the quality of education, especially at the primary level.

The caucus was formed with 12 lawmakers from different political parties, including BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat. State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Huq Milon and Prof Alauddin Ahmed MP were made its chairperson and secretary general.

It called for allocating four per cent of GDP for the education sector, reducing the discrimination between the rich and the poor and ensuring a primary education free from corruption and politicisation.

The other lawmakers of the caucus are Abu Yusuf Md Khalilur Rahman, Faruk Khan, TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, Rustam Ali Farazi, Abdur Razzak, GM Kader, Hamida Banu Shova, Ishrat Sultana Elen Bhutto, Panchanan Biswas and Shahjahan Chowdhury.

To mark the launch of the caucus, Peoples Empowerment Trust (PET) and Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) organised a discussion on 'Quality primary

education: Role of the lawmakers' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Speakers at the discussion said the quality of education in the country is not satisfactory at all.

They called on the caucus members to take a strong stance in the parliament to ensure adequate allocation for primary education.

They also suggested setting up a parliamentary monitoring system to ensure quality primary education.

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon said all should work together keeping aside their political differences for the development of the education sector.

He also said the education commission should work impartially and properly.

Prof Hayat Mamud, Prof MM Akash, Dr M Masuduzzaman and Shakhawat Ansari jointly presented a keynote paper with a recommendation for an increased allocation for primary education.

The allocation for primary education in Bangladesh is the lowest among South Asian countries, they said.

Former minister for education ASHK Sadek, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Kazi Rafiqul Alam of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Rasheda K Chowdhury of Gonoswakkharata Avijan, Rafiqul Islam Sathi of Save The Children, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of Coast and President of Non-government Primary Teachers' Association Md Shamsul Alam also spoke.

## President hosts Iftar for ministers, MPs

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed hosted Iftar in honour of the cabinet members, members of parliament and leaders of different political parties at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia attended the Iftar party. Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker, ministers and members of parliament attended the Iftar.

President Iajuddin and Mrs Iajuddin Ahmed welcomed the guests and exchanging pleasantries with them.

Prior to Iftar, a munajat was offered "seeking divine blessings for the welfare of the people and continued peace and progress of the country", it said.



PHOTO: STAR

Demonstrators holding placards and banner form a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding steps to reduce the number of private cars on the roads to ease traffic congestion.

# Two PBCP cadres lynched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The angry people lynched two cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) at Kurhia village in Batiaghata upazila yesterday.

The PBCP cadres were identified as Nasir Moral, 30, of Kurhia village and Mahub Shaikh, 28, of Bujbunia village under Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district.

The incident occurred when they went to Kurhia village to collect tolls from a shrimp grower.

Police said Nasir and Mahub were armed cadres of Janajuddho faction of PBCP and wanted in several criminal cases, including murder.

Batiaghata thana officer-in-charge (OC) said that the outlaws had threatened to kill the shrimp grower if failed to pay toll.

OC refused to name the shrimp grower on security reasons.

The bodies were sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) morgue for autopsy.

## DUC 1966 meet on Oct 29

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Club 1966 (DUC) will hold a meeting on October 29 at Bangladesh Institute of Administration Management auditorium at New Eskaton in the city, says a press release.

The DUC 1966 was formed with the students of first year honours, 1962 batch, first year master's, 1964 and second part master's, 1965 batch of Dhaka University.

The purpose of the meeting is to organise a reunion after Eid-ul-Fitr. Kamal and Faisal could be reached at 8151159 and 9873201 respectively.

## 5 kidnapers get life

BSS, Pabna

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal here yesterday sentenced five youths to life imprisonment for abducting a schoolgirl.

Judge Amirunessa pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed courtroom.

Amirunessa also fined them Tk 10 thousand each, in default, to suffer six months more imprisonment.

The convicts are Golam Mohiuddin Roni, 19, Abdullah Al-Mamun, 19, Mamunur Rashid Himel, 18, Biduyt Sheikh, 22, and Shohel, 20.

According to the prosecution, the convicts kidnaped 14 years old girl, daughter of a Sonali Bank officer, on July 16, 1993.

She was a student of class 10 of Pabna Government Girls School. The abductors swooped on her at Chatala point of the town when she was going to school. They forcibly boarded her in a microbus.

Police intercepted the minibus near Nurpur Dak Bungalow and rescued the girl and arrested the abductors.

## Rs 2 cr Pak aid for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan High Commissioner Manzar Shafiq called on Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, the High Commissioner handed over an allotment letter of relief materials worth Rupees 2 crore to the Minister for the flood-affected people of the country.

The relief materials include 500 metric tons of wheat, 2.12 lakh water purification tablets and 8,500 pieces of CI sheet.

Whip Shahidul Haque Jamal MP and Hafiz Ibrahim MP were present, says an official release yesterday.

## 3 get 20 yrs' RI for forcing girl to work as sex worker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced three people to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk10,000 each for forcing a teenage girl to work as sex worker.

The convicts are Shahjahan and Yakub Ali of Manora village and Kajali Yasmin of East Dashara under Manikganj Sadar upazila. Another accused Roji was acquitted of charges.

Md Motahar Hossain, Additional Sessions Judge and Judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2, Manikganj pronounced the verdict.

The convicts brought Ruma, 12, daughter of late Golam Hossain, of Barabasti village under Sirajganj Sadar upazila to a house at Manora village under Manikganj Sadar upazila to work as maid but forced her to work as a sex worker.

On information, police raided the house hired by accused Shahjahan, a police constable, and rescued Ruma on February 16, 2002. Police sent her to thana safe custody on April 16 the same year. Later was shifted to safe housing project at Laimatia in Dhaka.

Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Abdur Razzak filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2002 against the accused on February 16, 2002.

# DHAKA TODAY

**Theatre show**  
Goethe Institut, in association with the Centre for Asian Theatre, will stage a show titled 'The Mission' based on Anna Seghers' novel 'The Light on the Gallowes'. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.00pm.

**ICM meeting**  
A meeting of the Islamic Constitution Movement will be held with its Ameer and Peer Saheb of Charmonai Syed Mohamad Fazlul Karim as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Khan, Kakrail. Time: 4.00pm.

**Seminar**  
Khan Foundation will hold a seminar on the 'Role of MPs in local government' with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Democracy Auditorium, Momenbagh. Time: 10.30am.

**Reception**  
Dhaka University Journalists' Association will accord a reception to Abdul Hye Siddique, a founding member of the association, with Vice-chancellor Prof S M A Faiz as chief guest. Venue: TSC Auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

**Certificate giving ceremony**  
A certificate giving ceremony of Zia Shishu Academy will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium, Old High Court Area. Time: 9.00am

**Probarana discussion**  
Bangladesh Bouddha Krishti Prochar Sangha will hold a discussion to mark Shuva Probarana Purnima Festival with State Minister for Religious Affairs

**ICS meeting**  
Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir will hold a discussion with Industries Minister Matur Rahman Nizami as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 4.00pm.

**Meeting**  
A meeting of the executive committee of Chattagram Samity Dhaka will be held. Venue: 32, Topkhana Road. Time: 3.00pm.

**Women's rally**  
Sammilita Nari Samaj organises a rally to protest the proposed bill on women's reserve seats in parliament. Venue: Muktangon, Ramna. Time: 12.00noon.



PHOTO: STAR

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda speaks at 'Meet the Press' Programme at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is DRU President Alamgir Hossain.

## 159 RU students receive gold medals, awards

RU CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and fifty-nine students of Rajshahi University (RU) received gold medals and other awards yesterday for their outstanding results in honours and master's degree examinations.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk gave away the medals and certificates to the meritorious students as chief guest at a ceremony at the Senate Bhaban of the university. Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was present as special guest.

Among the awardees, 30 students received 'Agrani Bank Gold Medal', two students 'Akber Hossain Scholar Award', 115 students 'University Award', two students 'Dr AK Khan Gold Medal', two students 'Nurjahan Nessa Award', one student 'Mamtaz Uddin Gold Medal', two students got 'Mohammad Ismail Memorial Scholarship'.

RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki presided over the ceremony and Registrar Prof Abdus Salam conducted the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk gives away a gold medal to a meritorious student at a ceremony at Rajshahi University yesterday.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till 6.00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Srirangol.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6.02am 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       | 32.1                   | 22.4 | 57                     | 62      |
| Chittagong  | 33.5                   | 21.5 | 66                     | 76      |
| Rajshahi    | 31.4                   | 20.3 | 78                     | 71      |
| Khulna      | 31.8                   | 22.3 | 72                     | 75      |
| Barisal     | 32.0                   | 21.5 | 72                     | 95      |
| Sylhet      | 32.5                   | 21.2 | 64                     | 75      |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.5                   | 24.0 | 74                     | 71      |

## Death anniversary



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Rokeya Begum, wife of Miah Md Abdur Razzaque, a retired agriculture officer, says a press release.

Rokeya, mother of Hasan Jahid Tusher, Dhaka University correspondent of The Daily Star and general secretary of DU Journalists' Association, died in 1994.

A milad mahfil will be held at her village home at Sreerampur in Sadar upazila of Magura district after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Rafiqunnessa Khatun



The 10th death anniversary of Rafiqunnessa Khatun Chowdhury, wife of late Ghyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a former civil servant and a national sports

organiser, will be observed today, said a press release.

On the occasion a doa mahfil will be held.