



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gives away the certificates among the recipients at the ninth convocation of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

NINTH CONVOCATION OF BCPS Improve quality of medical services: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the physicians to render their services selflessly to the people, particularly the poor and the distressed.

"You have chosen a noble profession of serving humanity and have the opportunity to serve directly the distressed and the poor," she said while speaking at the ninth convocation of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) at the Bangladesh China Friendship Centre in the city.

Describing the physicians as the vanguards in ensuring basic rights of medical facilities to the people, she urged them to improve the quality of medical services by utilising their knowledge in medical science.

The prime minister pointed out that a large portion of the population is still

poor and do not have access to treatment of complicated and serious diseases. In this context, she urged the physicians to think about the treatment of the poor and to ensure specialised treatment facilities for them.

The prime minister distributed certificates among the fellows and members who obtained FCPS and MCPS degrees from the BCPS between 2002 and 2005 and also among some honorary members, including physicians and surgeons from foreign countries, including Pakistan and Ireland.

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Musharraf Hossain, State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha, President of BCPS Prof M A Hadi, former President of BCPS Prof A K M Mahbubur Rahman, and Vice-President of BCPS Prof M A Mazid also spoke.

CEC, secretary face contempt charge

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed and Secretary to EC SM Zakaria to show cause why a contempt of court charge should not be brought against them for violating an order of the court.

The rule made by a division bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman is returnable within three weeks. After hearing a writ petition, the High Court, on December 7, 2003, had directed the CEC and the secretary to take steps for immediate holding of the election to Chaluabari Union Parishad (UP) in Sariakandi upazilla of Bogra.

But, the election was not held in more than one year after the HC had passed the order.

Saidur Rahman, a chairman candidate, filed a contempt petition against the CEC and secretary to the EC in the High Court.

The petitioner submitted that steps are not being taken to hold election to the UP with a view to keeping the acting chairman of the UP in power.

Tk 2.1cr Danish grant for good governance, HR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk has approved three grants totalling Tk2.1 crore recently as part of the Human Rights and Good Governance Programme of the Royal Danish Embassy.

Durjoy Nari Sangha (DNS), a local NGO, will receive a grant of Tk 1.75 crore for the implementation of a three-year project that will focus on developing a model of 'Child Protection Centre' where sex workers' children would have access to very basic rights through protecting their childhood and preparing them for integration into the society.

The Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) will receive another grant of Tk 30 lakh for its project.

The main objective of the project is to empower and build confidence of the women members of the Local Contracting Societies (LCS) under Danida's Transport Sector Programme in Laxmipur.

The project aims at increasing the resources and opportunities for those

targeted women to enabling them to exercise influence on their life situation both in their families and in the society.

The Danish government will continue to support the initiatives through assistance to civil society organisations in an effort to reduce poverty and promote long-term development.

As part of Denmark's support for the indigenous people, Danida approved the third grant amounting to Tk 6.4 lakh to cover a co-financing grant to the Jum Aesthetics Centre for the celebration of the 8th Indigenous Cultural Festival, 2005 in Rangamati to be held from February 24 to 28.

This support is in accordance with Denmark's strategy to promote the realisation of the social, economic and cultural rights of the indigenous people with respect for their social and cultural identity, their customs and traditions and their institutions.

The grants are consistent with the Royal Danish Embassy's emphasis on supporting 'access to justice'.

One dies after taking sweet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One person died while four others of the same family fell seriously sick after taking sweet in the city yesterday.

Shamsul Haq, 50, died at around 1:30pm at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH). Four others, Romiza Khatun, 40, Rozina Khatun, 20, Fahim, 3, and Rina, 2, were undergoing treatment at the CMCH.

The family live on Sarder Bahadur Road of Jhataula under Khulshi thana.

Sources said they fell sick after having rasmalalai (a kind of sweetmeat) brought by one of their relatives from Dhaka yesterday morning.

Indian citizen held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An Indian citizen was held for suspicious movement after illegally entering the country through the port city yesterday afternoon.

Sources said the intruder, identified as Kamal Das, 30, son of Milon Das of Natan Nagar under Birula in the South-eastern estate of Indian, was found moving suspiciously around an isolated and hilly part of Foy's Lake.

The officials of Concord international, the authority of Foy's Lake amusement park, held Kamal because he failed to produce a passport or any valid documents.

Kamal Das was later handed over to police.

Madrassa closed as director accused of sexual abuse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A local committee of a residential area in the port city yesterday closed a madrasa after the director-cum-teacher of the institution was found guilty of sexual harassment of some students.

The committee suspended Hafez Mahmudul Hasan, 28, the director-cum-teacher of Rahmat-e-Alam Hizful Quran Madrasa at Halishahar Residential Area and upbraided him in the presence of hundreds of local people, guardians and father of the accused.

Mahmudul Hasan confessed his crime, gave an undertaking and sought apology.

The director had been engaged in the illicit act for the last three months but the four victims who are students dared not disclose it earlier, local people said.

On Monday night one of the students complained to the local committee against this.

The committee members immediately summoned Mahmudul Hasan to a social arbitration where he gave confessional statement. The committee admonished him and closed the madrasa.

Death anniversary

The fifth death anniversary of Safura Khatoun, mother of Prof Afia Dil, Prof AKM Aminul Islam and Prof Sharifa Hafeez, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered and a quarkhwani will be held at the martyred intellectuals' graveyard at Mirpur. A doa mahfil will be held at Safura Khatoun Girls' School at Karimpur in Narsingdi Sadar on February 28.

Relatives and friends have been requested to attend a milad mahfil to be held at her Dhanmondi residence in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Debendranath Shil

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Debendranath Shil, an educationist, says a press release.

He was a founder-teacher of Shirin Haque Girls' High School.

An annual Sraddha will be held at his village home at Mulghar of Fakirhat Upazila under Bagerhat District today.



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a stakeholder's meeting organised by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

'Police negligence bars justice to women, children'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police negligence, limitations of forensic accessories and insensitivity of the judicial department bar the justice to women and children, said the speakers at a stakeholder meeting yesterday.

The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) at Cirdap auditorium in the city to sort out the problems and figure out some recommendations to ensure human rights.

Speaking as chief guest at the meeting, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said despite its limitations the

Birsreshtha Hamidur Rahman's mother passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Mosammat Kaidasunnesa, mother of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman, died of old-age complications in Jhenidah on Monday at the age of 75.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman College ground at Khordo-Khalishpur village in Maheshpur and she was buried on the college premises.

Hundreds of people from all walks of life took part in the janaza. Local lawmaker Shahidul Islam Master also attended the janaza.

Abdul Jalil

Abdul Jalil, a freedom fighter and central leader of Bangladesh Krishak League, passed away due to cardiac arrest on February 20 at the age of 60, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and one son.

Jalil hailed from Shibrampur village of Munshiganj district.

Rezaul Karim Talukdar BSS, Dhaka

Rezaul Karim Talukdar, a deputy director of Islamic Cultural Centre, Mymensingh, died of kidney ailments at his Mymensingh residence on Monday night at the age of 52.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Shamsunnahar Begum

Shamsunnahar Begum, mother of Narayanganj Press Club Treasurer Hasanuzzaman Shamim, died of old-age complications on February 21 at the age of 86, says a press release.

She is survived by four sons, three daughters and a number of grandchildren.

She was buried at Paikpara graveyard.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Syed Moniruzzaman, a freedom fighter and retired district food officer, will be held at his home in Jamalpur today.

He died at the National Heart Foundation on Monday night at the age of 71, say a press release.

Muktijudha Sangsad Jamalpur District Command, upazila nirbahi officer, Jamalpur municipality chairman and different social and cultural organisations expressed condolence at his death.



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a meeting organised jointly by Jatiya Oikyamancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city yesterday. On his right is Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain.

Pro-liberation forces urged to unite against misrule of govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran opposition leaders, including former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and noted lawyer Kamal Hossain, from a single platform yesterday called for unity of pro-liberation forces and honest leadership to establish the rule of law and peoples' rights and to put an end to the misrule of the government.

They called on all, irrespective of party affiliation, to be imbued with the spirit of the language movement and the liberation war and join the 'oust-government movement' to bail the people out of the sick politics pursued by the government to cling to power.

They called came from a discussion organised by the Bikalpa Dhara in observance of the International Mother Language day at the

Diploma Engineers Institute auditorium in the city.

The event was jointly presided over by Gono Forum President Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara President Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Kader Siddiqui MP, president of Krishak Samik Janata Dal, Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, general secretary of Gono Forum, Maj. (ret.) Abdul Mannan, GM Kader of Jatiya Party, Noor-e-Alam Jiku, Feroz M Hassan and Mahi B Chowdhury, organising secretary of Bikalpa Dhara, also spoke.

Kamal Hossain underscored the need for honest leadership to establish a happy and prosperous Bangladesh for which the freedom fighters had sacrificed their lives.

Terrorism and corruption have now reached epidemic proportions and these need immediate treatment, he said and urged Dr Badruddoza, who has treated thousands of patients, to take the leadership.

Kamal said it is time to be united to stamp out terrorism and free the country from the misrule of the government.

Referring to frequent grenade attacks, the Gono Forum president said, "We have accepted it as a challenge and we are no longer afraid of grenade."

He also called on all to launch a movement against all sorts of anarchy and injustice.

Bikalpa Dhara President Badruddoza accused the ruling party leaders of amassing huge wealth through corruption.

"They have resorted to corruption to make money as they don't have merit and creativity," he said.



Artist Mostafa Monwar and agriculture development activist Shykh Seraj, who were awarded Sheltech Award 2004, pose with the guests at the award giving ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.



To celebrate actor Ahmed Sharif's 50th film, Concord Entertainment Co.Ltd. will hold a special programme at the Fantasy Kingdom on February 25. Anup Kumar Sarker, marketing manager of the company, speaks at a press conference on the programme recently. On his right are Ahmed Sharif and his wife.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, and Sylhet divisions and the region of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met office said, adding that night temperature may fall slightly during the period.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and Horinakunda and the lowest of 18.8 degree at Rangpur and Iswardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 6:25 am tomorrow.

The 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	28.8	20.6	71	47
Chittagong	33.0	21.6	85	60
Rajshahi	29.0	19.0	74	54
Khulna	30.0	20.0	82	56
Barisal	31.4	20.0	74	66
Sylhet	29.2	20.0	72	68
Cox's Bazar	31.3	23.0	81	73



Poet Shamsur Rahman unveils the cover of a book titled 'Rashtrabhasha Andoloner Itihash' by MA Barnik at a function at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

The Centre for Asian Theatre will stage a drama titled 'The Lesson'. Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 7.00pm.

Musical evening

Bengal Foundation organises a musical evening to mark the 57th birth anniversary of Nilufar Yeasmin. Venue: Bengal Shipalay, Gulshan-2. Time: 6.30pm.

Cultural function

Katha Lalitkala Academy will hold a cultural function to mark the advent of Spring. Venue: Kendrio Kachi Kanchar Mela Auditorium, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5.00pm.

Announcement ceremony

The nomination announcement ceremony for International Indo-Bangladesh Kala Music Award 2004 will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Shanti Premer Sabir Bani' edited by A K Lutful Karim will be held. Venue: Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University. Time: 4.30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad organises a discussion on 'Peace and Human Rights'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 3.00pm.

Consultation

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit organises a consultation on 'Social impact of riverbank erosion in Bangladesh'. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Maghi Purnima

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold a discussion in celebration of Maghi Purnima. Venue: International Buddhist Monastery, Merul Badda. Time: 5.00pm.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Residence of PP Maqboolul Islam. Time: 7.00pm.