



The Dhaka City Corporation renamed the road from Panthopath-Sonargaon crossing to Russell Square after Col. (retd.) Quazi Nuruzzaman, Bir Uttam, a sector commander of the Liberation War. Quazi Nuruzzaman, holding a bouquet, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Md Rezaul Karim offer prayers after unveiling the name plaque reading 'Bir Uttam Quazi Nuruzzaman Sarak' yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CCC POLLS

Mohiuddin, Nasir pledge to make Ctg a better place

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The two main contenders in the election to the Chittagong City Corporation, incumbent mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury of the Awami League and former mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin of BNP,



ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury

have pledged to make the city a better place for its residents, if elected.

The mayoral election is scheduled for May 9.

Both the mayoral candidates have already initiated heated campaigns and are planning more ways to win the hearts of the voters.

Mir Nasiruddin, also the city BNP president and state minister for civil aviation and tourism, promised to make Chittagong a city of mosques' and said he would work at his level best in the interest of Islam and Muslims.

"If elected, I will try to bring back the dignity of the mayoral post and help root out corruption and nepotism at the Chittagong City Corporation," he said during an election campaign at Kapashgola in Chawk Bazar on Sunday.

His rival Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the general secretary of city AL, wants to make the city a safe abode for all faiths.

"Our candidate (Mohiuddin) is a humanist and he wants to ensure that Chittagong would be a safe place for all, irrespective of their castes and religion," said Khorshed Alam Sujan, a city AL leader, yesterday.

At an election rally at North Pahartali yesterday, the incumbent mayor promised not to increase taxes, if elected for the next five-year term.

In the last few days, Mohiuddin has made more pledges, such as taking an initiative to establish a modern port, construct a deep sea port, build a hanging bridge on the river Karnaphuli, create employment opportunities and reopen the

closed mills and factories.

Meanwhile, both the BNP and AL have set up election camps and formed different cells and committees to monitor and conduct the election campaign.

The main election office of BNP is located at Nasirman Bhaban, the residence of Mir Nasiruddin.



Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin

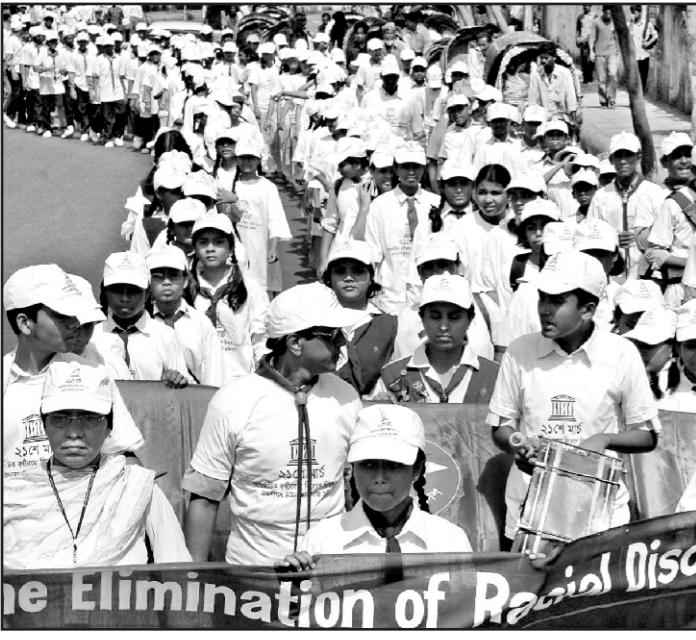
The AL has opened its main election office at a flat at Nandan Valley, the residence of former minister Mosharraf Hossain, in the city's Nandana Kanan area.

The party will also open election camps and offices at all the 41 wards under the city corporation.

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Bangladesh Unesco National Commission took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

New library at American Centre

A new library was inaugurated at the American Centre in the city amid festive ceremony yesterday, says a press release.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk, Winner of Pulitzer Prize 2004 Edward P Jones, and US Ambassador Harry K Thomas were present on the occasion.

Ambassador Thomas said, "We want this library to be a place where children, students, and adults will come to read for pleasure, to explore, to research, to answer questions about the United States, and to attend programmes. Our library is a little piece of America, where you can learn about us."

Dr Farruk also spoke on the occasion.

Jones read 'The First Day,' a short story from his collection 'Lost in the City,' and emphasised the importance of libraries and literacy.

The guests of honour were given library cards.

A seven-year-old Waziha Labiba Khan checked out the first book from the library.

Teri Khan and Tiffany Gourlay performed two musical numbers at the inauguration ceremony.

Scholarships for aspiring rural photojournalists

Chobi Mela III (www.chobimela.org) is offering two scholarships worth Tk 75,000 each to aspiring rural photojournalists for 2005, says a press release.

A total of six scholarships will be offered over the next three years.

The current scholarships are being given in memory of two legendary Bangladeshi photographers, Golam Kishem Daddy (1894-1998) and Alokkhitaracharya Manzoor Alam Beg (1930-1998).

The scholarships, provided through the support from the Prince Claus Fund, will be given for tuition fees, photographic materials and processing and subsistence costs.

Details can be obtained from Pathshala, the South Asian Institute of Photography, 16 Sukraband, West Panthopath, Dhaka-1207. Tel: 9 1 2 9 8 4 7. Email: Pathshala@bd.drik.net

The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo were media partners of Chobi Mela III, the festival of photography in Asia.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessor, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali till 6.00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature.

Highest temperature 38.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 18.6 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm and rises at 6:00am 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	35.5	24.0	74	61
Chittagong	31.0	23.0	73	77
Rajshahi	36.0	23.5	66	47
Khulna	36.0	24.0	85	64
Barisal	34.0	24.2	76	76
Sylhet	27.8	18.6	90	73
Cox's Bazar	32.0	22.4	72	74

RIVER LINKING

'Bangladesh won't accept one-sided India decision'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not accept any one-sided decision by India regarding widely publicised international river-linking project, said State Minister for Water Resources Ministry Gautam Chakraborty yesterday.

Chakraborty said India before taking any decision in this regard would have to discuss with Bangladesh and other countries, through which the international rivers are flowing.

"The government of Bangladesh has not yet registered any official complaint, as India keeps maintaining that it hasn't taken any steps towards the river-linking project," he added.

The state minister was speaking at a seminar arranged by The Bangladesh National

Commission for Unesco (BNCU). It was organised to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Chakraborty said Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony. People of different religions along with the indigenous people have been living here peacefully for hundreds of years.

But a vested quarter is relentlessly trying to portray the country as communal and fundamentalist in nature. The 'propaganda' is an attempt to smear the country abroad.

Prof Golam Dastagir of Jahangirnagar University read the keynote paper entitled 'Ways to Fight Discrimination: Some Reflections'.

Prof Aminul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University, Journalists Gias

Kamal Chowdhury and Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke at the seminar.

Prof Aminul Islam Chowdhury said law does little to resist discrimination throughout the world on the grounds of race, gender, education, economy and power. People should change their mindsets to contain various forms of discriminations.

On the issue of religion, he said no religion in fact permits any sort of discrimination.

The speakers said unity in diversity is important and the government should show utmost restraint and tolerance for bringing about an administration that is good and friendly towards people.

They also stressed the need for continuous dialogue and cultural exchange among the people of cross-cultural traditions for better appreciation.



PHOTO: STAR
The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and the Dhaka Union of Journalists held a meeting on the National Press Club premises yesterday to protest smear campaigns against journalists and the media.

Talk with neighbour for due share of water: Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No country should obstruct the flow of rivers at the upstream, causing damage to the lower riparian state, said Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday.

"An upper riparian country should not create any obstacle to the river flow on humanitarian grounds," he said at a discussion organised by the Nadi Sangskar Pani Shashon O Bahar Sangram Parishad at Muktagon in the city.

He also underscored the need for bargaining with the neighbouring country on the water issue.

At the same time, steps should be taken to reserve water in canals and other water bodies during the rainy season and maintain navigability of the rivers, he added.

A huge amount of national resources is often spent on building dams over inland rivers, he said, but these proved deadly for the rivers' natural course.

"The Farakka barrage has impeded the very existence of Bangladesh," said General Secretary of Samyabadi Dal (ML) Dilip Barua. "By means of it, India is creating a kind of psychological pressure on

Bangladesh."

Bangladesh gets less than half of its due share of Ganges water according to the treaty, he said.

Most of the major rivers in Bangladesh today face near-extinction, as India withdraws 90 percent of water from upstream of the cross-border rivers, said engineer

392 prisoners to be freed on Independence Day

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to release 392 prisoners from different jails of the country on the occasion of the Independence and National Day on March 26.

The beneficiaries will be under-trial prisoners and those convicted for minor crimes.

The government hoped that the freed people would lead their life as good citizens and play appropriate role in the socio-economic development of the country, says an official handout.

The papers, files, documents and other valuables were found scattered at the office at 68/2 Purana Paltan yesterday morning, they said.

The building houses the three offices on the ground floor and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) office on the 1st and 2nd floor.

Talking to the news agency, GBJ leader and Jatiya Mukti Council General Secretary Faizul Hakim Lala said, "We suspect none but police have done it."

Three left-leaning party offices ransacked in city

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The offices of Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote (GBJ), Trade Union Federation and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation at Purana Paltan were ransacked on Sunday night.

Leaders of the left-leaning political organisations alleged the police raided their offices in the midnight and damaged their valuable documents.

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Obituary

Dr Quazi Md Shamsul Ala

passed away after a prolonged illness at a city hospital on March 21 at the age of 78, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three grandchildren. Quazi Md Shariful Ala, managing director of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Limited, is his youngest son.

Dr Shamsul Ala graduated with honours from Presidency College in Kolkata and did his MBBS at Dhaka Medical College. He retired after more than 40 years of medical practice in Bangladesh and with the National Health Service, UK.

He was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur.

His kolkhuni will be held at his residence at House # 37, Road # 7, Block # G, Banani after Asr prayers on March 25.

Dr Arbinda Barua graduated with honours from Presidency College in Kolkata and did his MBBS at Dhaka Medical College. He retired after more than 40 years of medical practice in Bangladesh and with the National Health Service, UK.

He was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur.

His kolkhuni will be held at his residence at House # 37, Road # 7, Block # G, Banani after Asr prayers on March 25.

Dr Arbinda Barua, a Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter, passed away due to old-age complications in the USA yesterday at the age of 75.

Dr Arbinda Barua was also the head of gynaecology department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

On the occasion a memorial meeting will be held at the National Press Club Hall room at 5:00pm.

The guardians of the selected candidates have been asked to collect admission-related papers and rules and regulations from the respective cadet college by March 28.

Sylhet Cadet College

100107 100108 100109 100110 100111 100112 100113 100114 100115 100116 100117 100118 100119 100120 100121 100122 100123 100124 100125 100126 100127 100128 100129 100130 100131 100132 100133 100134 100135