



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers prayers after inaugurating the Khilgaon Flyover in the city yesterday.

## Non-govt pry teachers for nationalisation of jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Braving rains and gusty wind, more than 100 non-government primary teachers held a daylong sit-in at Muktangan in the capital yesterday to press for their one-point demand for nationalisation of their jobs.

The Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association staged the demonstration from 9.00am to 4.00pm, with leaders from across the country.

Leaders of the association, a forum of about 92,000 teachers, said they will hold a grand rally at Paltan Maidan on May 17 if the government does not meet their demand by March 30.

They will also start staging demonstrations in different upazilas and districts from April 1 and submit memoranda to the prime minister.

"We have been agitating since 1992 to realise our one-point demand. Although the alliance government, even the prime minister herself, has pledged to nationalise our jobs, no step has been taken to this end," said association President Mohammad Shamsul Alam.

There are 23,000 non-government primary schools across the country, as against 37,600 government primary schools, he said.

Still, about 10,000 more schools are needed to materialise the government plan to establish primary schools at every village, he added.

## KHILGAON FLYOVER

# Govt distorts original design: Saber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday alleged that the present government has distorted the original design of the Khilgaon flyover out of political vengeance, depriving about eight lakh people of Khilgaon area of its benefits.

"The previous Awami League government had designed the flyover with two loops -- one at Khilgaon and another at Sabujbagh -- to avert traffic congestion on it and enable the residents of the areas to use it," he said.

"But the present government dropped the loop at the Sabujbagh edge and installed traffic signals, which will lead to traffic congestion on the flyover," said the AL leader, a former lawmaker of the area.

"The traffic jam will now be created on the flyover instead of the road," he said at a press briefing at his residence.

Not only the people of Khilgaon area but also others coming from Malibagh, Goran, Rampura, Badda and Uttara will face similar problems in using the flyover while going to Motijheel area, Saber said.

"They have to use the same road under the flyover as before because

the loop at the Sabujbag edge has been dropped."

The AL leader also pledged to construct the loop when his party will come to power.

On the flyover project, Saber said the previous AL government began its work using local resources and manpower but the present government has delayed the work deliberately.

"As a result, it took two more years to complete the project and also cost an additional Tk 15 crore to 20 crore," he added.

Saber also blamed local BNP lawmaker and Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas for the delay and said the government hesitated to complete the project as it was a major development work taken by the previous AL government.

Refuting Mirza Abbas's contention that the project was delayed due to acquisition of land, Saber said most of the lands belong to BTTB and PWD.

The AL leader, however, said he was happy to see the opening of the Khilgaon flyover for the convenience of the people even though it was delayed.

## Stamford signs MoU with Belta

The Stamford University signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (Belta) on Tuesday, says a press release.

Dr MA Hannan Feroz, president and vice-chancellor of Stamford University, and Dr Arifa Rahman, president of Belta, signed the agreement at a ceremony held on the Siddeswari campus of Stamford University.

According to the MoU, the university will provide logistical support to different Belta events and programmes and support the broad activities of Belta. They will also jointly organise conferences.

The Stamford University, one of the premier institutions of the country, started functioning as a full-fledged university in January 2002. With more than 7,000 students and 15 departments, the university has been enjoying success in keeping up with the pace of technology, trends and changing requirements.

The Belta, established in 1984, is a non-profit professional forum for practitioners involved with the teaching of English. Its objective is to develop and empower teachers at all levels -- primary, secondary and tertiary -- in order to facilitate effective communication within the English language teaching community and to improve the standards of learning and teaching English throughout the country.

## Suit to cancel BMA registration

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A suit for cancellation of Bangladesh Medical Association's (BMA) registration was filed with the Fourth Assistant Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Publicity Secretary of Bangladesh Democratic Party (BDP) Mohammad Mohisin Kabir of 35/9 Shantinagar, Motijheel filed the suit against Director General (DG) of Social Welfare Directorate.

## UNION BNP CONFCE AT KHULNA

# 'Resist conspiracy against dev activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP central leaders yesterday called on the party leaders and workers at the grassroots level to work together and resist the conspirators who are creating obstacles to development activities.

A quarter is carrying out anti-state activities, posing a threat to independence and sovereignty of the country, said BNP Senior Secretary General Tarique Rahman at the conference of party leaders at the union level here.

He also urged the party leaders to accommodate honest, sincere and patriotic people in the party to bring about a qualitative change in politics.

More than 3,000 union- and ward-level leaders from Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Narail districts attended the conference and exchanged views with the central leaders.

## FFs' Trust leaders threaten to boycott state functions

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Central Action Council of Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust yesterday protested the move to close down Tabani Beverage Ltd.

The Action Council leaders also threatened to boycott all state functions as the members of martyrs' families and wounded freedom fighters and stage a hunger strike if the authorities go ahead with the move.

They demanded that Poly Ethylene Tetra (PET) plant be set up at Tabani Beverage Company Limited, a subsidiary of the Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust, and cancellation of all agreements signed with some other companies by the Coca Cola Far-East Ltd (CCFEL).

They raised the demands at a press conference at the National Press club in the city.

"Tabani needs to establish its own PET plant to survive in the beverage market as the demand for conventional Returnable Glass Bottle is decreased to the margin," Amir Hossain Molla, convenor of the council, said. He read out a written statement at the press conference. He said "CCFEL, the Bangladesh office of the world famous soft drink brand Coca Cola, conspires to destroy Tabani Beverage, the local bottler of the brand, by disallowing it to set up PET plant and giving franchise to Aqua Marine Distributors Ltd. (ADL) and Pran group in Tabani's network area."

## Independence Day programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the Independence Day on March 26.

The three-day programme of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will begin at the Central Shaheed Minar and Rabindra Sarobar Mancha in Dhanmondi today.

Noted artist Quaiyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar at 5.30pm. Distinguished personalities will be present on the occasion.

A cultural programme will follow the inaugural ceremony.

The jote will bring out a candle-light procession tomorrow at 11.10pm in memory of the dark episode that took place on the night of March 25, 1971 when the Pakistani invaders cracked down on the innocent people.

The programme at Rabindra Sarobar Mancha will continue on March 25 and 26 starting from 4.30pm daily.

Nazrul Institute has chalked out a two-day programme at Kabibhaban in Dhanmondi. It includes discussions, poetry recital contest, and competition of patriotic and Nazrul songs.

The programme of the Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela includes a meeting at its auditorium at Segun Bagicha at 10.30am in memory of the greatest freedom fighters, according to press releases.

## INDISCRIMINATE DISPLAY OF POSTERS AND BANNERS

# Mayor seeks EC permission to clean Ctg city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unusual bid to keep the city clean, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Ahmed has appealed to the Election Commission (EC) seeking permission to stop indiscriminate display of posters and banners for the forthcoming city corporation election.

The EC however is in dilemma whether it will allow the mayor to take action in this regard as the electoral code of conduct does not allow stopping display of posters. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has consulted about the issue with other election commissioners, according to sources.

Mohiuddin, who is contesting in the election scheduled on May 9, also proposed to set up billboards at different points of 41 wards under the CCC for putting up posters of the contesting candidates, sources said quoting the mayor's letter sent to the CEC on March 20.

The mayor proposed to set up

41 billboards for the campaign of the mayoral candidates and five billboards in each ward for the ward commissioner candidates after the filing of nomination papers by the contenders.

Defending his proposal the mayor said random display of posters and banners by a number of candidates made the city dirty. "It's also a violation of the City Corporation Ordinance," he said in his letter.

The CEC has not yet responded to the mayor's letter. "The code of conduct does not allow setting up of such billboards for election campaign. So, we can't allow the mayor to take action against displaying posters by any contenders," an election commissioner told The Daily Star requesting anonymity. "The local government ministry has formulated the codes of conduct. So, it is the ministry's jurisdiction whether it will amend the rules allowing such initiatives," he said.

The EC secretariat officials however referring to the City

Corporation Ordinance said the mayor has the power to take action against indiscriminate display of posters in a bid to cleanse the city.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Mayor ABM Mohiuddin said he is determined to keep the city clean. "Nobody will be allowed to make the city dirty in the name of election campaign. I myself will not launch my electoral campaign through posters," the mayor said over telephone adding, "I will urge all the contenders to help me in keeping the city clean."

Our Chittagong office said although the date of submission of nomination is April 11, a number of prospective candidates have already started printing posters and banners for their campaign for ward commissioners' posts. A few contenders have already put up posters on different walls and buildings and hung banners at different points in the city.



PHOTO: STAR

Police intercept a hunger procession of Awami League leaders and activists at Muktangan in the city yesterday as they were protesting the price hike of essentials.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association stages a sit-in at Muktangan yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

## WEATHER TODAY

### No change in temperature likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places 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 lowest 18.5 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:58am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns today were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	28.0	22.0	80
Chittagong	29.0	21.4	68
Rajshahi	32.1	21.3	94
Khulna	32.6	20.7	87
Barisal	31.2	20.5	87
Sylhet	27.0	19.9	81
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.5	69

## Obituary



22, says a press release.

She left behind her husband Engr Mirza Tariqul Hussain, one daughter and one son to mourn her death.

Syeda Afifa was the granddaughter of late Khand Bahadur Syed Moshfeq Salehin and late Khanbahadur Syed Mohammad Afjal, the then central minister of Pakistan.

Zakia Alam

BSS, Dhaka

Zakia Alam, wife of Engineer KM Badiul Alam, died of cancer on Tuesday night at the Delta Medical Centre in the city at the age of 68.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Kalyanpur Housing Estate Jame Masjid in the morning and was buried at Shaheed Baddhijibi Graveyard at Mirpur.

Zakia Alam left behind her husband, a son and a daughter to mourn her death.



Dhaka University and Rajshahi University yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with four foreign universities.

## Tk 2.8cr fake brand cigarettes seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday seized 3.4 lakh cigarette packets of fake brand worth around Tk 2.8 crore in the city.

Tipped off, the police raided different areas at Shantinagar and Motijheel from Tuesday afternoon to yesterday morning and seized the cigarettes of fake Benson and Hedges brand.

Police arrested Sohrab Hossain and Mizanul Haq Nasim in this connection.

In another operation at Maddhya Badda, a DB team seized 15 fake notes of Tk 500 denomination.

One Anwar Hossain Sagar was arrested in this connection.

## MoU with 4 foreign universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University and Rajshahi University yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with four foreign universities to carry out joint collaborative research programmes regarding the seismic risk evaluation and management.

The four foreign universities are

Jadavpur University of India, Lyon University of France, Aachen University of Germany and University of Basilicata of Italy.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Dr M Asaduzzaman, French Ambassador to Bangladesh Jacques Andre Costilhes, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Pietro Ballero, UGC member Prof Monirul Hoque, Prof Md Badrul Islam, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Prof Bruno Helly and Prof Dr Riccardo Caputo signed the MoU at a simple ceremony at the UGC.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Rotary meeting

Chartered anniversary and weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Eastern Residence, House-14, Road-27, Block-J, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.

### Theatre festival

The concluding function of the National Children's Theatre Festival, organised by the People's Theatre Association, will be held. It will be followed by the staging of three plays. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Hall, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

### Film show

Goethe-Institut in cooperation with Jahangirnagar Film Society will screen three German documentary films titled 'Koenig's Sphere' (2002), 'The Prestige' (2003), and 'The Crocodiles of the Wandaogo Family' (2003). Venue: Goethe-Institut Auditorium, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

### Poetry recital

A poetry recital session, organised by Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

### Energy seminar

The opening ceremony of a national seminar and exhibition on 'Renewable energy in Bangladesh: Research and application' will be held with State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood as chief guest. Venue: Physics Auditorium of Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am.

### Congress

The fifth national congress of Bangladesh Khudra Mathshajibi Zelaya Samity will be held with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 12.30pm.

### Discussion

Bangladesh Ovivashi Mohila Samik Association, a forum of women migrant workers, will hold a discussion on 'Safe migration for women workers.' Venue: 69/1 Purana Paltan Lane. Time: 10.00am.

### Fertility seminar

The inaugural session of first international scientific seminar and annual general meeting of the Fertility and Sterility Society of Bangladesh will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00am.

### Prize giving ceremony

The annual prize giving ceremony of Muhamadpur Preparatory and Higher Secondary School will be held. Venue: School premises, Iqbal Road. Time: 8.30am.

### BCF conference

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day conference of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation will be held. Venue: Arts Building Premises of Dhaka University. Time: 11.00am.

### Buet seminar

A seminar on 'Chemical industries and entrepreneurship development' will be held. Venue: Buet Auditorium.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### Discussion

The Theatre will hold a discussion on 'Zamidar Darpan' by Mir Mosharrar Hossain. Venue: Guide House Bhaban, Bailey Road. Time: 4.00pm.

### Musical soiree

The Mridongo, a cultural forum, organises a musical soiree. Venue: 18 College Street, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

### BNP meeting

A meeting of the city unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: 80, Naya Paltan. Time: 6.30pm.

### Biennial meeting

The biennial general meeting and election of Khulna Zila Samity, Dhaka will be held. Venue: Institution of Engineers' Auditorium, Ramna. Time: 8.00am.