

# \$15m FAO, UNDP project for agriculture dev

**BSS, Dhaka**

The FAO and UNDP will assist Bangladesh to carry out a 15 million US dollar project under a five-year programme advancement in biotechnology in the field of agriculture development in the country.

A 5 million dollar fund will be needed for the implementation of the first phase of the programme. UNDP will provide 3 million dollar and FAO will contribute 0.4 million dollar. The rest amount of 1.6 million will be provided by the government.

FAO representative in Bangladesh Ms But Thi Lan and Assistant Resident

Representative of UNDP Shireen Kamal Sayeed said this at a meeting here yesterday with Agriculture Minister M K Anwar at his office.

They said the organisations have made contacts with EU, Canadian CIDA, DANIDA and other development partners and got encouraging responses so that the second phase of the programme would be funded by the donors, a press release said.

Lan then handed over the Actionable Policy Brief (APB) of the Agriculture Sector Review (ASR) done by the joint initiatives of FAO, UNDP, DANIDA and the World Bank on the request of the Agriculture Ministry.

Welcoming the efforts made by FAO, UNDP and other development partners in developing agriculture, including furnishing ASR, M K Anwar said, we have got an excellent document about the past and present status of our agriculture and the ways to face the present and future challenges to give a big push in the sector.

He asked the officials to gather recommendations on the APB of the ASR from the concerned ministries. He also asked them to arrange an inter-ministerial consultation to finalise the strategy to implement the recommendations.

The FAO representative said, the AFPB contains immediate short and long-term strategy to implement. She said, development partners have also shown interest to participate in the implementation process, the press release added.

The minister said "we will have an exercise to prioritise the actions recommended in the APB" and said we have already done some ground works, including strengthening of BADC to increase its seed producing capacity and provide service to the private seed growers.

## Islamic course for children

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) is offering Islamic Deeniyyat classes for children, says a press release.

These classes are a building block towards social interaction, identity development and moral and character building. The essence of these courses is to teach the basic principles of peace and tolerance in Islam and elementary values applicable in various aspects of life.

These courses are offered in English in a modern Islamic education system. The six-month course will begin on April 2. Classes will be held every Saturday from 4.00pm to 5.00pm for the children aged between 5 and 7 years and from 5.00pm to 6.00pm for the children aged between 8 and 12 years.

Salma Rahman, principal of Willes Little Flower Higher Secondary School, will be the chief conductor. The deadline for registration is March 30 and no registration fee is required. For further information, interested persons can contact the Institute at House # 22, Road # 27, Block # K, Banani.



LLB (Preliminary) examinees under National University observe a hunger strike at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding that their results be published immediately.

## Death anniversary

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Siddique Ullah Bhuiyan of Amarpur village under Chatkhil upazila of Noakhali district, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and a feeding to the destitute will be held at his village home after Juma prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend.

**Abdul Quddus**

The second death anniversary of Abdul Quddus, former director general of Islamic Foundation, will be observed today, says a press release.

A Qurankhwani and a milad will be held on the occasion at the Kha Block Mosque at Mohammadpur Pisciculture Housing in the city after Juma prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Arifur Rahman Khan, a former member of Bangladesh Water Development Board, will be held at his residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Engineer Arifur Rahman passed away on March 22 while under treatment in the USA at the age of 69. He left behind his wife, one son and a daughter.

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

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Md Mujibur Rahman, a former railway officer, is due to be held at his residence at Victoria School Road in Sirajganj at 7:00 am today.

Mujibur Rahman, father of Awami League leader M A Rouf and the daily Bhorer Kagoj Photojournalist Enamul Kabir, had passed away on January 28 due to old-age complications at the age of 94.

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

## 1,395 more held

**UNB, Dhaka**

Police arrested 1,395 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered six firearms, 364 bullets and three bombs and filed two cases against two people under the Arms Act.

## CASES AGAINST AL, BCL MEN

### 24 leaders asked to appear before court in Barisal

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Twenty-four Awami League, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League men have been directed to appear before the magistrate's court in Barisal within seven days starting from March 22.

The summons notice published in local newspapers on March 22 also said arrest warrants for the leaders have been issued in connection with three cases against them.

The BCL and Jubo League leaders are Rafiqul Islam Khokan, Sheikh Masud Ahmed Rana, Jasimuddin, Safiqullah Moneem, Moazzem Hossain Chinnu, Sheikh Manna, Mainuddin Prince, Shawkat, Faruk Ahmed alias Panama Faruk, Chhakku, Mona, Bimal Das and Ratan Shil, sources said.

Arrest warrants have also been issued against three Awami League leaders – Khokan Das, Shawkat and Aftab Hossain.

They were accused in a case lodged on June 22, 2002 in connection with the attack on the district and city BNP offices during the tenure of previous Awami League government.

BCL leaders Shariar Babu and Mainuddin Parvez and Jubo League leaders Chandan Ghosh, Helal, Md Jamal Molla alias Pecha Jamal, Babul Bepari, Alal, Panama Faruk and Abdul Mannan were asked to surrender before the court in connection of two cases filed on August 30, 2001 and October 6, 2002.

The investigation officers have already submitted the charge sheets to the court.

## Dr Mahfuz joins BPC as chairman

Dr Mahfuzul Haque, Joint Secretary of the Government, has joined Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) as chairman on March 20, says a press release.

Prior to his joining the BPC, he was the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Dr Mahfuz joined BCS Admin Cadre in 1981. Earlier, he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.



BNP leader Col (retd) Oli Ahmed visits a photo exhibition on late president Ziaur Rahman at TSC in the city yesterday. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) organised the exhibition on the occasion of the Independence Day.

WEATHER TODAY

Kalbaishakhi squall likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong 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.

It forewarned that temporary west/northwesterly Kalbaishakhi squall at a speed of 60-90 kph, or more at places, are likely to occur in 18 hours from 3.00pm yesterday. The divisions to come under the storms are Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.

Highest temperature 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 18.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:57am 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	24.5	19.4	85	91
Chittagong	26.2	19.5	70	67
Rajshahi	25.5	20.6	87	82
Khulna	25.5	20.3	100	98
Barisal	24.4	19.6	100	96
Sylhet	22.3	19.0	80	96
Cox's Bazar	32.7	22.0	45	77

# Plan to make Ctg an attractive mega city

**UNB, Dhaka**

Concord authorities said Foy's Lake would be made one of the attractive tourism spots of South Asia with investment of about Tk 300 crore.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Kaji Abul Kashem, Communications Secretary Shafiqul Islam and other high officials and representatives of Concord were present on the occasion.

A three-member Thai delegation, led by Thai Ambassador Suphat Chitrakunroh called on the Minister on Wednesday to convey Thai government's desire to make Chittagong a twin city with Chinmai.

The minister assured the delegation of all possible cooperation for development of Chittagong.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin said here yesterday that Chittagong would be beautified to make it an attractive tourist spot and a mega-city of South Asia.

"Three major projects have already been undertaken to make Chittagong a South Asian mega-city," he said while presiding over a meeting to finalise the draft of the tripartite agreement on management of Foy's Lake.

Draft for the 50-year lease agreement with Concord Entertainment Company was finalised at the meeting to make Foy's Lake an attractive recreation theme park and resource centre.

## 700 bundles GCI sheets for twister-hit people

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) donated 700 bundles of high grade GCI sheets worth Tk 29 lakh for rehabilitating the twister-hit people of four upazilas of Gaibandha and Rangpur, says a press release.

The catastrophic twister swept the villages of four upazilas of Gaibandha and Rangpur districts leaving many villagers dead and injured and thousands homeless.

Dutch-Bangla Bank dispatched a number of trucks carrying 700 bundles of GCI sheets for Gaibandha and Rangpur to rehabilitate the stranded people. Gaibandha and Rangpur bound trucks left Chittagong on March 22.