# METROPOLITAN

## Sammilito Sangskritik Jote commemorates dark night

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ), a platform of cultural organisations, yesterday organised cultural programmes, discussion and a candlelit procession to mark the Independence Day.

Yesterday was the second day of the three-day programme chalked out by SSJ to observe the Independence Day

The cultural show started at 5:00pm and continued till about 9:00pm at the Central Shaheed Minar. Performers from SSJ, Udichi, Dhrubataan and other organisations rendered group songs, solo songs, poetry recital and dramas in remembrance of the thousands, who perished at the hands of the Pakistani army on the fateful night of 25 March, 1971.

On completion of the cultural show, SSJ and Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee jointly held a discussion at the same venue. A number of cultural luminaries, sector commanders in the Liberation War, family members of the martyrs, and political personalities took part in the discussion.

SSJ President Nasir Uddin Yusuf and General Secretary Golam Quddus and acting president of Nirmul Committee journalist Shahrier Kabir and General Secretary Quazi Mukul, among others, attended the programme.

The Jote and Nirmul Committee also brought out a candlelit procession at 9.30pm yesterday to commemorate the dark night of the 25th March.

The procession started from the Shaheed Minar premises and marched to the martyrs' gravevard at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

## 'Top dying' disease hits Sundarban JS body discusses ways

to combat menace

#### BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Environment and Forest discussed the ways and means to combat 'top dying' disease which has alarmingly affected the trees in the Sundarbans.

The committee members discussed the issue with the experts at the 17th meeting of the committee at the Sangsad Bhaban on Thursday with its chairman Mohammad Nazim Uddin Alam in the chair. The meeting decided to integrate research works of various organisations on this disease and work out a common approach to combat this menace.



PHOTO: STAR Artistes reneder song at a function organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in celebration of the endence Day

# **CCC ELECTION**

# **BNP stalwarts call for united** campaign for mayoral candidate

They said there might be differ-

The speakers also called upon

ence of opinion among the lead-

ers, but it should not stood in the

way of working and electing the

all the partymen as well as those

in the alliance partners to work

party candidate

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctq

Representatives of Chittagong city, north and south district units of BNP yesterday vowed to launch united campaign for its mayoral candidate in the city corporation election

At a meeting held at the city BNP office at Nasiman Bhaban, BNP stalwarts extended their full support to Mir Md Nasir Uddin, also the state minister for civil aviation and tourism, by sinking their differences. Salahuddin Quader

Chowdhury, advisor to the prime minister on parliamentary affairs, addressed the meeting as chief guest.

Whip Syed Wahidul Alam, former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury also attended the

meeting The speakers said the victory of Mir Nasir in the mayoral poll is a "prestige issue" for the party.

together to bring victory for Mir would also be restored at Chittagong City Corporation. Nasir. Chittagong (north) district BNP (AL) nominated candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury also con-President Golam Akber Khandaker presided over the tinued his campaign to retain the meeting where Chittagong city mayoral post for the third consec-BNP General Secretary Dastagir Chowdhury, Dr Nurun Nabi, CUCSU VP Nazim Uddin also spoke.

Earlier, Mir Nasir passed a busy day holding meeting with different organisations and carryng out mass contact in the city.

In the morning, he held meeting with the leaders of Chittagong City Hawkers' Federation, Padma Oil Workers Employees Union and Chittagong University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Áfter offering Jumma prayers at Agrabad Daipara Mosque, he

#### utive time Addressing a rally at Chawk Bazar Ward, Mohiuddin Chowdhury said he has turned the CCC into a people-oriented institution and implemented a number

development projects for the welfare of the city dwellers. If re-elected, he will make Chittagong a mega city without increasing any tax, said Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the General Secretary of Chittagong city AL.

Medical board

ailing AL leader

Abidur Reza Khan, a senior Awami

eague leader, former lawmaker

formed for

carried mass contact there and at

the neighbouring Rampura area

Addressing rallies, Mir Nasir

He said order and dynamism

Meanwhile, Awami League

said if elected, he would build up

Chittagong as a modern and

under Halishahar thana.

planned city.

### SHANKAR COMPETITION 20 Bangladeshi children win awards

#### BSS, Dhaka

Twenty Bangladeshi child painters won silver medals and other awards n the Shankar International Children's Competition-2004.

A total of 936 prizes were given to the participants from 68 countries. Of them, 10 Bangladeshi children won silver medals and 10 others won other awards, said a foreign ministry press release.

Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh received the prizes from Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on Thursday.

The winners are Nirad A Rahman, 5, Panama Shayan Tony, 9, Sabrina Zerin Islam, 9, Samia Salahuddin Oyshee, 9, Antora Mehrukh Azad, 11, Farhana Faruq Eva, 11, Rehnuma Mehzabin Orin 11, Tahseen Noor Upoma, 11, Tanzila Wahed, 11, Arifur Rahman Tapu, 12, Marzana Mallick Soma, 12, Nafisa Tanjim Dhima, 12, Panky Rajbongshi, 12, Rubaida Islam, 12, Farhana Sharmin Moon, 13, Sanjida Akhtar, 13, M Sarwat Yaman Antor, 14, Mukita Naz Chowdhury Bristy, 14, Umme Kulsum Shakila Juthi, 14, and Tajreen Akter Shupti, 15.

Razzag refutes minister's remarks on Ganges water

#### UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leader Abdur Razzaq MP yesterday refuted Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin's remarks that Bangladesh had received more water before the signing of 1996 Indo-Bangladesh Water Sharing Treaty than the present amount.

This is a blatant lie and malicious campaign by the water resources minister against the treaty," he said in response to the remarks made by the minister at a

press conference on March 20. Razzaq, who was the water resources minister of the previous Awami League government, said the 30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty has ensured Bangladesh's legitimate right to the Ganges flow and that the country will receive minimum 35 thousand cusecs of water during the lean period.

He also challenged the minister to prove his claim that Bangladesh gets less water after the signing of the treaty in December 1996.

In a statement, Razzaq said the previous regimes of Ziaur Rahman, Ershad and Khaleda Zia had failed to realise Bangladesh's legitimate share of the Ganges water.



# **'Observe dark night** of Mar 25 officially' and banners and chanting various

at Rajarbagh

atArambagh

genocide.

parishad

Anwarul also spoke

Earlier, the parishad organised a

Speakers at the discussion

blamed the previous governments

for not awarding punishment to

those who collaborated with the

Khan, Shahid Bablu and Syed

discussion at Dhaka District

Sporting Association (DDSA) Office

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of freedom fighters and school students took to the streets in the city yesterday demanding official observance of the dark night of March 25, 1971

They also urged the government to declare the night as a night of national mourning and take necessary steps to porject its importance to the new generation

On this night in 1971, the Pakistani military rulers launched 'Operation Search Light' against the unarmed Bangalees.

Dhaka University was attacked and students exterminated in the hundreds. Death squads roamed city streets killing some 7,000 people in a single night.

Led by Muktijoddha Gono Parishad, the freedom fighters and students took out the procession from Arambagh carrying posters

'Expansion of female edn a must for development'

The Daily Star

different city streets before ending

reliance.

The government is committed to the expansion of female education for the sake of overall development, said Rajshahi city Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu.

"There is no alternative to female education for the progress of the country," he said. The mayor was addressing as the

Pakistani occupation forces in the chief guest a prize giving ceremony of Mission Girls' High School on Thursday. "Our new generation does not He urged the guardians and others know the real history of the dark to extend their whole-hearted cooperanight and the liberation war because tion towards the expansion of female

no government in the past took any education. Listing various development effective steps to focus them, " said programmes undertaken by the gov-Ishtiak Aziz Ulfat, president of the ernment, Minu said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is putting in her best efforts Freedom fighters Sadek Ahmed to make the girls educated for their self



Muktijoddha Gono Parishad took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding official observance of the dark night of March 25.

# **42 Armed Forces personnel get** honorary promotion

effect today.

UNB, Dhaka

Fourteen Army and nine Navy personnel have been granted honorary commission on the occasion of the Independence and National Day, according to a notification of the defence minis-

Besides, 18 honorary lieutenants of Bangladesh Army and one honorary sub-lieutenant of

'Shikkha Bhaban' and publish a list

The Front at its national commit-

tee meeting held on March 23-24

announced a series of agitation

programmes, including submission

Bangladesh Navy also got honorary promotion on the occasion. These promotions come into The honorary lieutenants

promoted to the rank of honorary captain of the Army are Md Abdur Rouf Miah, Md Akbar Hossain, Md Shah Alam, Md Afaj Uddin, Md Nurul Haque, Md Abdul Ali Sheikh, Md Siraj Ullah, Md Nasir Uddin, Md Taslim Uddin Sarkar,

Mosleuddin Ahmed, Md Farooq Ahmed, Md Abdul Wahab, Md Harun-or-Rashid Mollah, Kazi Abdul Bashir, Md Selim Khan, Asaduzzaman Bhuiyan, Abdul Haque, Nur Uddin Ahmed, Ali A h s a n C h o w d h u r y, M d Mohiuddin, MA Wazed and AKM

#### Shahadat Hossain **Bangladesh Navy**

The junior commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Navy have been granted honorary

commission in the rank of honor-

ary sub-lieutenant are Noor

Mohammad MS Ahmed, MA

Kuddus, KAS Jhahangir, ML

Rahman, FMH Kabir, MH Rashid,

MUA Shiraji and MZ Islam

# slogans. The procession paraded BSS, Rajshahi

It also decided to take necessary steps to remove the affected trees from the Sundarbans.

The meeting also formed a subcommittee headed by Nazim Uddin Alam to verify various allegations against the forest department.

Committee members Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, Kalim Uddin Ahmed, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and Mohammad Shahidul Islam where present at the meeting.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhurv attended the meeting on special invitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Different political, social and cultural organisations have drawn up vari-

ous programmes to mark the 35th Independence Day today. Communist Party of Bangladesh will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at 8:30am and will hold a discussion in the city.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) will hoist national flag atop of its party office at 6 am and place wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar at 8:00am.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) will start for National Mausoleum at 7 am from its party office to place wreaths. The BSD will also hold a discussion at city's T & T colony playground at 4:00pm.

Jatiya Party (Manju) will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum and hold a meeting at patry's Lalmatiya office at 4:00pm to mark the Independence Day. Liberation War Museum will

organise an amusement

programmes

**Independence Day** 

programme for children at its premises at 10:00am

as part of its weeklong Independence Day programmes. Besides, a book fair, started on March 22 at the museum's auditorium which will continue till March 28. will remain open from 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a discussion and cultural program at its auditorium at 6:00pm. Noted poet and dramatist Dr Alauddin Al Azad will be present as chief guest.

Muktijoddha Oikyo Parishad will also hold a discussion and cultural programme at 'Shikha Chirantan' premises from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Other organisations, including Workers Party, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Jaityo Oikyo Mancha, will hold different programmes to mark the day.

residence of her youngest son Abul

Her eldest son and former chief

whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, on

behalf of the family, has requested

Khaer Serniabat at Dhanmondi after

Qulkhwani

Asr prayers tomorrow

all to pray for his early recovery. ESL teachers' training programme begins

says a press release.

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day training Programme titled Teaching Strategies for the ESL Classroom' organised by Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (Belta) began at the Presidency University auditorium in the city yesterday. A total of 160 English teachers

from different educational institutions of the country attended the opening ceremony of the training programme.

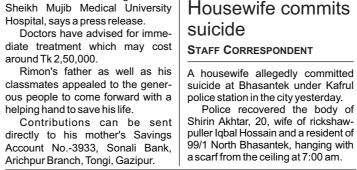
The training are being conducted by six English language training specialists from the USA and Japan.

Speaking as the chief guest, American Centre Deputy Director Dr Michelle Jones appreciated the effort. Belta President Dr Arifa Rahman also spoke.

treatment as hawking cigarettes is the only source of his income, but he is unwilling to give up like every other fathers.

around Tk 2,50,000.

26, says a press release. from blood cancer and undergoing treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, says a press release. Doctors have advised for imme-



Pranesh Chandra Chanda, Md Abul Khaer, Md Siraj Sardar, Md Teachers threaten Nurul Islam, Govindha Lal Sutradhar, Md Tobibur Rahman, to lay siege to Md Momtaj Uddin Khan, Md Abdul Maleque and Md Liakat Ali Shikkha Bhaban Sheikh.

The junior commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Army who got commission in the rank The National Teachers-Employees Front threatened to lay a siege to

Mollah. The honorary sub-lieutenant promoted to the rank of honorary lieutenant is KD Hossain.



Liberation War Museum organises a get-together of children and adolescents to mark the Independence Day. Venue: Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.00am.

and cultural function. Venue: Belalabad Colony, Moghbazar. Time: 6.00pm. Kachi-Kanchar

#### Theatre The Theatre will stage a drama titled

The Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela organises a function in remembrance of the liberation war and freedom fighters. Venue: 37/A, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10.30am.

Cultural function

Art competition

Mohammadpur. Time: 9.00am.

Udyan. Time: 8.00am.

Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad organises a

cultural function as part of its programme

to celebrate the Independence Day.

Venue: Shikha Chironton, Suhrawardy

#### Natyakunja The Natyakunja, a theatre group, will

Bangla Academy Bangla Academy organises a solo stage a drama titled 'Kabar' by Munir lecture and musical programme to mark Chowdhury. Venue: Auditorium of the the Independence and National Day. national archives and library, Agargaon. Venue: Academy premises. Time: Time: 12.00noon. 6.30pm.

#### Discussion

Global Campaign Against Terrorism will hold a discussion titled 'Rise of militancy in Bangladesh: People's responsibility. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Khan, Kakrail. Time: 10.00am.

#### Orientation

The orientation meeting of Bangladesh-In celebration of the Independence Day, Norway Friendship and Alumni Bangladesh Sangskriti Kendra organ Association will be held. Venue: ises an art competition for the children. Shwarma 'N Pizza, Kamal Ataturk Venue: 5/5 Gaznavi Road, Avenue. Time: 5.30pm

#### Blood donation

**Book Exhibition** Orca Blood for Life organises a volun-The Department of Archives and Library tary blood donation programme. Venue: organises a book exhibition, children's In front of the TSC Road Island of Dhaka art competition, and film shows on the University. Time: 10.00am.

#### BDNEWS, Dhaka Qulkhwani of Amena Serniabat, sister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be held at the

## **Thundershowers likely**

#### UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal division in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today

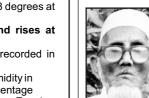
Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Barisal and Patuakhali and the lowest of 16.8 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:57am 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	
	Dhaka	29.5	20.4	78
Chittagong	26.5	20.1	93	70
Rajshahi	31.0	19.7	80	81
Khulna	30.0	20.3	87	72
Barisal	31.5	20.6	88	75
Sylhet	26.4	16.8	93	70
Cox's Bazar	23.5	21.0	96	82



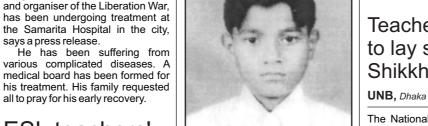
proprietor of Parijat Prakashani, says a press release. Qurankhwani and milad mahfil Relatives, friends and admirers

relatives, admirers and well-wishers to attend the gulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Death anniversary

Today is the second death anniversary of Afsar Uddin Sheikh, father of Md Monir Hossain Khoka,

will be held at his house at Farashganj Road after Asr prayers. have been requested to attend the milad.



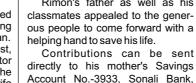
Appeal for help of corruption in the education sector as part of their movement to press Rimon's poor father wonders how its eight-point demand.

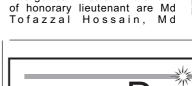
he would pay for his dearest son's Mohammad Rayhan Hossain

Rimon, a seven grader of Ashulia High School, has been suffering



Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association launches a five-day training programme for the ESL teachers at the Presidency University auditorium in the city yesterday





of memorandum to ILO office on April 3, campaign in districts and upazilas on April 10-17 and laying a Liberation War siege to Shikkha Bhaban on May Museum

Mela

occasion of the Independence and National Day. Venue: 32, Justice SM Morshed Sarani, Agargaon, Time: 11.30am.

'Ohe Tanchak' by Momtajuddin Ahmed.

Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium,

#### Nazrul Academy Nazrul Academy organises a discussion

Bailey Road. Time: 7.00pm.