



Opposition Awami League lawmakers took out a procession from Sangsad Bhaban during hartal hours yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

#### CHEF OF THE YEAR CONTEST

### 10 finalists selected

Ten finalists, five from the professional group and five from the amateur group, have been selected for Monitor Chef of the Year Competition 2005, says a press release.

They will prepare their recipes in front of dignitaries at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on April 13.

The jury committee of the competition selected the 10 finalists at a meeting at the office of The Bangladesh Monitor recently.

The finalists are Nazma Huda, Xavier Gomes, Md Motaleb Hossain, Baby Kushum Lipi and Jamal Hossain from the professional group; and Shahida Akter, Nasrin Nahar Dora, Achia Khatoon, Monowara Islam and Sufia Khatoon from the amateur group.

A panel of judges, members of the jury committee and media representatives will finally select the 'Monitor Chef of the Year 2005' in each category.

The two winners will receive Tk 10,000 each while other finalists will also receive prizes.

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Emirates Airline, Bangladesh Edible Oil Ltd. and Square Consumer Products Ltd. are the co-sponsors of the competition.

### AUST convocation on Sunday

UNB, Dhaka

The 2nd convocation of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) will be held on Sunday at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will preside over the ceremony while State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Huq will be present as special guest.

## Mock exercise on post-quake recovery in city on Apr 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mock exercise on post-earthquake recovery measures will be held in the old part of the city on April 12 to create public awareness and build capacity of the government and non-government agencies during the disaster.

An audio-visual documentary on the exercise will also be made by Bangladesh Television and Press Information Department to screen it at upazila level apart from distributing one lakh leaflets among the people on how to tackle the post-earthquake situation.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf disclosed this at a meeting on mock exercise at the conference room of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday.

"The objective of the exercise is to create public awareness and build our capacity at every level," he added.

Replying to a question, Kamal said an earthquake warning system has not been developed as this country is not a quake-prone area. But the tsunami in South-East Asia in December last year and the recent earthquake in Indonesia have evoked the country to think of it.

"We are discussing the matter with some donor agencies," he added.

Initiated by the food and disaster management ministry, the programme will be participated by the army, fire brigade and civil defence, police, DCC, Water and Sewerage Authority, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, Titas Gas, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Sandhani, and Anjuman-e-Mufidul.

In the mock exercise, an artificial city will be built up where an artificial

earthquake will take place and then the authorities concerned will immediately launch its rescue and relief operations, the meeting was informed.

The venue of the exercise has been selected at Dhupkhola maidan in the old part of the city as many buildings in this area are vulnerable to earthquake, said Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

He apprised that a survey is going on to identify the vulnerable buildings in the old town and these will be demolished, if necessary.

The city mayor said as severe earthquake generally takes place in

every 100 years, the country is now passing a danger period.

He apprehended that many buildings in the city would collapse if an earthquake measuring only three to five in Richter Scale occurs.

Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu refuted the press reports that the administration was asleep on Monday when an earthquake hit Indonesia.

"Immediately after the broadcast of the news by the BBC at 11:00pm, I directed the secretary to alert all deputy commissioners, and it was done accordingly," he added.

## 3 killed, 14 hurt in Jhenidah road accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Three persons were killed and 14 others injured, five of them critically, in separate road accidents in Jhenidah on Wednesday night.

Police said two of the dead, identified as Khairul Islam 25 and Yunus Ali 45, were killed on the spot when a truck hit a Jibannagar-bound passenger loaded tempo from behind at Patibila area on Kaliganj-Jibannagar road at around 9.30pm on Wednesday.

Four others were injured in the accident.

The other accident took place at Ahsannagar area on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway at around 7.30pm on the same night when a Kushtia-bound bus collided head on with another bus killing a youth, identified as Anisur Rahman, 25, on the

spot and injuring 10 others.

Among the injured, Shafiuddin, Ashok, Faruk, Mahtab and Alam were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital and Kaliganj Health Complex.

### HABIGANJ BY-POLLS One withdraws candidature

UNB, Habiganj

Syed Mamun Mia, an independent candidate for the by-election in Habiganj-3 parliamentary constituency, withdrew his candidature yesterday.

Five candidates submitted their nomination papers on Tuesday and all of them were declared valid.

April 7 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

### Husband gouges out eyes of wife for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A cruel husband gouged out both the eyes of his wife at village Shankarpur in Kaliganj on Tuesday as she failed to bring dowry from her parents.

The victim Achhia Khatun, 30, a mother of four, was rushed to Satkhira Hospital in a critical condition as her husband Alim Uddin also beat her with an iron rod mercilessly.

Police arrested Alim Uddin after the victim's brother filed a case with Kaliganj police station.

Alim married Achhia about 15 years ago and her parents gave Alim several thousand taka as per his demand soon after the marriage, police said quoting the local people.

Two weeks ago, Alim again demanded dowry, but her father could not afford to pay, leading to such brutality.

Local people demanded exemplary punishment to the culprit.

### Indigenous youth beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A drug-addicted indigenous youth was beaten to death allegedly by his younger brother in the town.

Ripon Chakma, 28, son of Arun Kumar Chakma, was rushed to Rangamati General

Hospital at around 1:00am on Wednesday night with serious head injuries where

he died in the early morning yesterday, hospital sources said.

Sources close to the victim's family said Ripon's younger brother Bitu Chakma, also an addict, beat him severely following an altercation between them on Wednesday night.

### 'Withdraw enhanced course fees'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of doctors at a protest meeting on Wednesday demanded that government immediately withdraw the increased course fees of the post graduate medical students, says a press release.

They warned that they would go for a tougher movement unless their demands are met within seven days. They also urged the concerned authority to refund the extra course fees already taken from the students.

The meeting was held at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University Cafeteria in the city.

"The authority, without showing any reason, increased the course fees for the government and private postgraduate medical candidates up to Tk 49,000 while government candidates would pay no fee and private candidates only Tk 6,000 earlier", the leaders said.

Presided over by the association's general secretary, Dr Rakibul Islam Litu, the meeting was also addressed by Dr Monir Hossain, Dr Golam Rabbani Rashed, Dr Polash, Dr Hedaet Hossain and Dr Setu.

## Nasir pledges to make CCC corruption-free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, the ruling party candidate for the mayoral post, vowed to make the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) free from corruption, if elected in the upcoming elections.

He said that he wants to bring about planned development of the Chittagong city as the 'corrupt' CCC administration has failed to provide civic amenities for the city dwellers.

Mir Nasir, also the state minister for civil aviation and tourism, was addressing a huge public meeting at Laidighi Maidan here on Wednesday.

The Chittagong city, north and south district units of BNP organised the meeting in support of BNP-led four-party alliance candidate Mir Nasir and in protest against violence and anarchy resorted to by the opposition Awami League.

Mir Nasir alleged that the CCC is now engaged in the real estate business instead of ensuring healthcare, education and uninterrupted power facilities for the city residents.

It is constructing markets on drains, causing waterlogging, and developing residential plots on its land only for money, he said.

The CCC has also deprived its employees of housing facilities, he alleged.

The mayoral aspirant pledged that he would do everything to make the city a commercial capital and a place of tourist attraction in a real sense.

He also promised not to increase holding tax, if elected. Rather, he would exempt thatched houses from such taxes and undertake income-generating projects in phases, he added.

Mir Nasir said he would take up special projects to remove waterlogging through digging and re-excavation of canals.

Projects would also be taken to rehabilitate hawkers in phases and the fee for rickshaw licence would be decreased, he added.

He also assured that the CCC staffs who were appointed on temporary basis would be made permanent.

The mayoral aspirant also

### Charity film show to help a mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A four-day charity film show from April 5 to 8 will be held at the TCI auditorium in Rangamati aiming at raising fund for Kolpana Chakma, mother of a one-year-old baby girl, who have been suffering from kidney and heart ailments.

The laudable event has been initiated by Tainnya Hani Pinon Hadi Gutti, a socio-cultural organisation, in collaboration with Red Crescent Society, Rangamati, to help the indigenous young mother.

Western movies like God Must Be Crazy, Mummy Returns-2, Unforgiven, Anaconda-2 and seven other popular Hindi and one Bangla films will be screened during the event.

Tickets will be available at Tk. 30 each at various points of the town, says a press release.

### CHT debate festival begins tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A two-day debate festival in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) titled 'Jatya Parbattya Bitorka Utsab' will begin tomorrow in the tiny hilly town of Rangamati.

The festival, first of its kind in the region, will be jointly organised by National Debate Federation and Global Village, a Rangamati based pro-environment organisation.

Debaters from across the country will take part in the event, which will be presided over by its convener AKM Shoeb, says a press release.

Jiotirindra Bidhipriya alias Santu Larma, chairman of the CHT Regional Council and chief of Parbattya Chattogram Jono Sanghaty Samity, will inaugurate the festival at 10:00 am while Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapon Dewan will attend as chief guest.

### Flood Info Centre starts functioning today

BSS, Dhaka

Flood Information Centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will start functioning from today

The centre will disseminate day-to-day information on rainfall and water levels of all major rivers of the country, said a BWDB press release yesterday.

It will remain open everyday from 9:00am to 4:00pm excluding the holidays, work round the clock in any emergency situation and operate till October 10 this year.

The centre is located on the 8th floor of the WAPDA building in Motijheel Commercial Area of the city.

assured the city dwellers of taking steps to solve the power supply crisis to a great extent.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain attended the meeting as chief guest while former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam

Chowdhury, State Minister for Water Resources Gautam Chakrabarty, Sarwar Jamal Nizam MP, Golam Akber Khondaker, Mostafa Kamal Pasha MP were present as special guests.

Chittagong (south) district BNP President Ahmed Khalil Khan presided over the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

A procession was brought out in the city yesterday marking the centenary celebration of cooperatives in Bangladesh. Rural Development and Cooperatives Directorate organised the procession.

7x3

11x2



PHOTO: STAR

Police arrest several activists of Jubo Mohila League near Bangabandhu Bhaban as they try to hold a rally during hartal hours yesterday.