

## Ctg Int'l Medical Exposition begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong International Medical Exposition (CHIMEXPO)-2005, first of its kind in the port city, began here yesterday.

Some 32 reputed medical equipment manufacturers and healthcare providers from home and abroad are taking part in the three-day fair. Of them, fourteen are from India, Thailand and Singapore.

The exhibition has been organised by Triune Exhibition and Event Management Service.

Phuket Air and GMG Airlines are the co-sponsors.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin inaugurated the exposition at the local auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

He said steps have been taken to attract foreign investment in the country.

Chittagong chamber President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury called for building up more hospitals of international standard in the country.

He also called for introducing Dhaka-Chittagong-Singapore direct flights to expedite trade and commerce.

Erfan Haq of GMG Airlines, MS Gayle of Phuket Airlines and Publisher of the Dainik Purbokone Jasim Uddin Chowdhury also spoke at the inaugural function chaired by CHIMEXPO Chairman Kazi Wahidul Alam.

In the afternoon, Singapore Medicine organised a seminar on Advanced Healthcare Treatments.

## Death anniversary



The 19th death anniversary of Justice Syed Muhammad Hussain, former chairman of Bangladesh chapter of International Law Association and Amnesty International, will be observed today, says a press release.

Justice Hussain was also a former general secretary of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts and the then Pakistan Arts Council.

He was awarded 'Swadhinata Padak' (posthumous) in 1998 in recognition of his contribution.

## Dr Nurul Haque Bhuiyan



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Prof Dr ASM Nurul Haque Bhuiyan, a Language Movement veteran and a former member of the first senate of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Prof Nurul Haque was the first convenor of the 'Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Committee' that played a leading role in initiating the Language Movement.

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

## Prof Md Idris



The third death anniversary of Prof Md Idris, a noted social worker and educationist, will be observed today, says a press release.

Prof Idris was the former chairman of the botany departments of Jagannath University College and Sylhet MC College.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad will be held at Wapda Road Jame Mosque at West Rampura in the city after Asr prayers today.

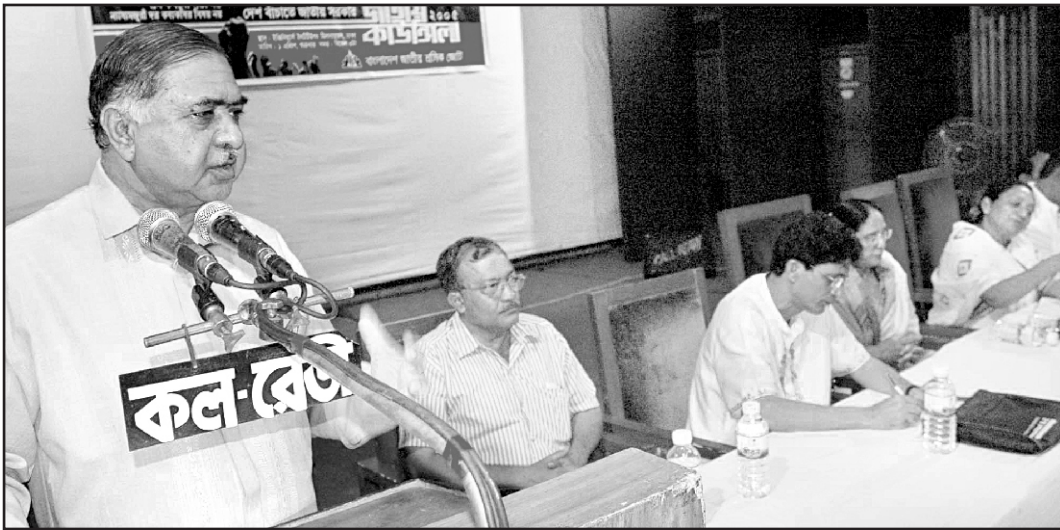


PHOTO: STAR  
Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at the fifth National Council of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote the Engineer's Institute in the city yesterday.

## 'Resist black money holders to bring change to politics'

UNB, Dhaka

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called for resisting untaxed and black money holders from entering parliament to ensure a meaningful change in politics.

"If the black money holders cannot be controlled, they will sit in parliament and resist efforts to bring change to the lot of the common people," he cautioned while addressing the 5th National Council of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote at the institution of Engineers in the city.

Chaired by Shirin Akhter, the function was also addressed by General Secretary of Bangladesh Economic Society Dr Abul Barakat, JSD Chhatra League President Shariful Islam and former DUCSU VP Mahfuza Khanam.

Dr Kamal said, "Even after 34 years of independence, we have failed

to make a meaningful change to the fate of the countrymen. By the time, disparities among the people have widened and the common people have become to hostage to political criminals."

"Bangladesh has now become a detracted vehicle. We have to put it back right on the track. We have to identify the black money holders and drive them out of political parties and salvage the sinking people. Now we need a representative democracy," he said.

Dr Kamal said, "After the liberation war, we made a commitment in the Constitution to make a society to be free from financial exploitation. It has an option to discourage 'unearned income'. But the words 'unearned income' have been erased from the Constitution and now all are encouraging the unearned income, and that's why we're becoming champion in corruption."

Despite that there are a number of laws to control black money, but those laws are hardly enforced, he added.

Dr Kamal said, "A section of people's representatives are depositing their black money in the banks of different island countries like Singapore and British Virgin Island where only a number, not the client's name is mentioned. We want to identify them."

Dr Abul Barakat said 75 percent MPs got elected spending Tk 128 crore although the permissible limit was only Tk 5 lakh.

"If one becomes parliamentarian spending such huge amount of money, how we can expect from them to be free from corruption?" he asked.

Dr Barakat presented a 21-point recommendation for the proposed 'national government'.



PHOTO: STAR  
Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad organises a grand rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding immediate implementation of its agreements with the government.

## Consultancy firm swindles Tk 3 cr out of students

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student consultancy firm has disappeared reportedly with Tk 3 crore it amassed from a large number of students and also others promising to send them abroad.

Some of the victims said the office of the firm, Vega, on lane 12 in Baridhara DOHS in Dhaka has remained closed since March 24.

Nur-e-Alam Badal, an official of a Chinese organisation in Dhaka EPZ, and his wife had given M Islam Arif, owner of Vega, Tk 10 lakh for immigration into Canada.

Hailing from Chittagong, Badal had to sell valuables and ornaments of his parents to collect the sum.

Like Badal, around 100 students

of Dhaka University (DU) and different colleges in the city deposited about Tk 3 crore to Vega.

Mohammad Shahnawaz, a fourth year student of DU, had given the fake company Tk 2.55 lakh to get a visa for studentship in Germany.

Vega officials told him to receive the visa on March 28, but like many others, he found he was deceived by the cheats.

"We have filed a case with Cantonment Police Station against Arif and four others of his firm for misappropriating our money," one of the students said.

They suspect the culprits have already left the country.

"Arif called me to say that he is a

foreigner and came to Dhaka to fulfil a mission of swindling Bangladeshi students," Shahnawaz said.

Cantonment police confirmed Shahnewaz filed a cheating case on March 29.

Students said Vega took sums of Tk 2.25 lakh to 5 lakh from them to arrange them student visa for Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy, Canada, US and other countries.

"I was encouraged to go abroad seeing an advert of Vega in the daily Prothom Alo last month. But it's now impossible to believe they have cheated us," Nur-e-Alam, a Dhaka College student, said.

Alam has lost Tk 2.35 lakh to the swindlers for a German visa.

## Charity painting exhibition begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Troik, a group exhibition of three young painters, begins in the city today to help the underprivileged children of the country.

The joint exhibition, first ever by Shaela Sharmin, Haleema Ahmed and Sabira Shahinur Pallabi the three friends who did their Bachelors and Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Chittagong, will take place at Zainul Gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

Noted artist and cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharjee will be present at the inaugural programme of the event at 6:00pm.

The exhibition will remain open from 12:00pm to 7:00pm everyday till April 7 where a total of 19 paintings will be exhibited.

"The themes of the paintings are social and political imbalances, human loneliness and the crises in human relationships," Shaela Sharmin said at a press conference at the Reporters Unity in the city yesterday.

"We see many underprivileged children everyday working around us being deprived of their minimal rights to education and health. We would like to bring some changes in their lives", Halima Ahmed told the journalists.

"Through creative works, we want to encourage people to work for a better Bangladesh where people will live peacefully", said Sabira Shahinur Pallabi.

The money, collected from the event, will be spent for the poor and destitute children, they noted.

## Children's recitation festival held

UNB, Dhaka

The third 'Shishu Abritti Utsab-05' was held at Bakultala of the Fine Art Institute of Dhaka University yesterday.

The daylong children's recitation festival with the slogan, 'Aaj Srishti Sukher Ullashe', was inaugurated by eminent writer Muhammed Zafar Iqbal. Bangladesh Abritti Samannay Parishad organised the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Zafar Iqbal said he was very happy to get the opportunity to mingle with the children for a while "even though I'm not the perfect man to open such a festival."

Some 200 children representing 15 organisations from across the country joined the daylong festival.

The Fine Arts Institute premises took a festive look on the occasion. Children as well as their guardians came to the venue wearing colourful dresses. A colourful rally was also brought out after the inaugural function.

## Road accident kills one in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Traffic on Sylhet-Companyganj road at Khagail was disrupted for about four hours on Thursday evening following a road accident that left one man killed and two others injured.

Police recovered the body of Sultan Mia, 35, a tractor driver hailing from Zakiganj upazila, and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Sultan Mia died on the spot as he was thrown into a roadside ditch after his tractor was hit by truck in its bid to save a cow which strayed on to the road about 6:30 pm.

Injured Kamal and Murshed, who were travelling on the tractor, have been admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.



PHOTO: STAR  
The namaz-e-janaza of former industries minister AM Zahiruddin Khan was held in Chittagong yesterday.

## Acute water crisis in SW region

### Underground water level receding fast

BDNEWS, Khulna

The southwestern parts of the country are facing acute drinking water crisis as the underground water level is receding at an alarming rate.

As the tubewells cannot pump out sufficient water, a pitcher of water is being sold at Tk 2 to 3 in Jessore, Magura, Jhenidah, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga and at different parts of Khulna, sources said.

Though water crisis worsens during the dry season, the government is yet to take up any long-term project to resolve the crisis.

Seven lakh shallow tubewells have been installed so far in 10 southwestern districts at the government and private initiatives, but about four lakh tubewells cannot reach the underground water level, said sources at the Department of Public Health and Engineering said.

A high official of the department said the underground water level in several parts of Meherpur district went down 26 feet from its usual level, leading to a severe water crisis.

He said all the rivers in the southwestern region almost dried up as the neighbouring country withdrew

excessive water from the river Padma through the Farakka Barrage.

Excessive use of shallow tubewells in extracting water is also a major reason for the fall in the underground water level, according to experts.

The Department of Public Health and Engineering sources said they are working to supply water to all by setting up deep tubewells with the fund provided by IDB.

It will bring a permanent solution to the problem, if implemented, they added.

## Japanese grant for construction of community centres in CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Japanese embassy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a grant contract of Tk 52 lakh for construction of multi-purpose community centres in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), says a press release.

With this Japanese grant, the UNDP will construct 10 community centres in the CHT, which will be used for different purposes of the CHT community.

Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi and UNDP Resident Coordinator Jorgen Lissner signed the grant contract in the city on Thursday.

The contract was signed under the Japanese grassroots grant assistance for human security project with the UNDP.

The multipurpose community centres will make a significant impact on the efficiency of the traditional leaders as well as on the lives of local people.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Sayeeda Begum, wife of Din Mohammad, joint director general of Bangladesh Railway, passed away at Railway Hospital yesterday at the age of 46.

She had been suffering from cancer, family sources said.

Sayeeda Begum left behind her husband, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her quikhwani will be held after Asr prayers on April 4 at her Lakhanpur village home in Sharsha.



Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi exchanges grant contract of Tk 52 lakh with UNDP Resident Coordinator Jorgen Lissner in the city on Thursday.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Film show

Argenta International Film Society will screen three Bangla films titled 'Mr and Mrs Iyer' by Aparna Sen, 'Tin Akke Tin' by Moloy Bhattacharya and 'Abar Aronye' by Goutam Ghosh. Venue: Centre for Creative and Performing Arts, 64/C, Green Road. Time: 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

### Tagore song conference

A three-day-long national Tagore song conference will be inaugurated by Sardar Fazlul Karim. Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 9:30am.

### Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of an audio-CD on Lalon song by Sweetie Rahman will be held. Venue: VIP Lounge of National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

### Memorial discussion

A discussion and cultural function will be held in memory of Principal Ibrahim Khan. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4:30pm.

### Founding anniversary

The 14th founding anniversary of the Aker Kagoj will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time: 5:00pm.

### BCSIR seminar

A seminar on the activities of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research towards industrial growth will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: IFST Auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

### Dutch-Bangla programme

The Dutch-Bangla Bank organises a programme titled 'Helping the acid and dowry victim women to become self-reliant' with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

### Founding anniversary

The 13th founding anniversary of Dhaka Wasa Jatiyatbadi Employees Union will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers' Auditorium, Ramna. Time: 3:30pm.

### Roundtable

11 Party organises a roundtable titled 'Reforms of electoral system and caretaker government and representation in parliament'. Venue: National Press Club conference room. Time: 9:30am.

### Cooperative discussion

Bangladesh Samabay Bank Limited organises a discussion and cultural function. Venue: Shishu Academy conference room. Time: 4:00pm.

### EU seminar

Eastern University organises a seminar on 'Higher Education in Australia'. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 2:30pm.

### UITS seminar

University of Information Technology and Science organises a seminar on 'Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People'. Venue: University auditorium, 17 North Gulshan. Time: 9:30am.

### Inauguration

The Dhanmondi campus of Dhaka Language Club will be inaugurated. Venue: Flat-A/3, House-12, Road-14, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00pm.

### Rotary Dhaka Central

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1:30pm.

### Rotary North West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5:30pm.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Ranganamati and the lowest of 20.4 degrees at Jessore.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:15pm today and rises at 5:49am 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	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	22.8	83	58
Chittagong	34.2	24.7	66	53
Rajshahi	33.7	22.8	88	57
Khulna	32.6	22.5	69	67
Barisal	33.2	22.5	71	71
Sylhet	32.2	21.8	76	61
Cox's Bazar	34.6	24.0	71	68



## Hampson new principal of Oxford School

Ian Hampson, a British national, has joined the Oxford International School as its principal, says a press release.

Hampson was a customer service consultant and EFL teacher at the British Council, Dhaka.

He also served as a principal of an English medium school in Chittagong.

He has a long experience in school and institution management in the UK, USA, Portugal and Italy.



PHOTO: STAR  
The publication ceremony of 'Netrakona Mukhosree' and a get together of the people of Netrokona was held at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.