# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon,

General Secretary of the Communist

Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam

Selim and a number of UP represen-

tatives also spoke on the occasion.



Leader of the Oppostion in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, left, offers prayer after placing wreath at the coffin of former foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad at his Kalabagan residence while British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, right, pays his last respect to the leader.

### Ensure universal edn for all Justice Habibur Rahman says at BUP discussion

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday called for ensuring universal education for all and technical education for the young people to move the country forward.

He also called for a reliable legal frame to improve law and order and curb corruption so that trade and commerce can flourish.

The Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) organised the discussion on 'The education system and the present and future of social science research in Bangladesh' to mark its 25th founding anniversary.

Justice Habibur Rahman, former chief advisor of a caretaker government, said the political parties had

pledged to separate the judiciary but failed to fulfil their election pledges in this regard. Speaking as special quest. Prof Anisuzzaman said, "We must

rethink the utility of two-track education system -- general and madrasa." Why is madrasa education still in place if it is not timebefitting? he asked.

service of teachers has been nationalised, but the education has become commercialised. He regretted that both the Bangla

and English language skills of the students are very poor. Even a master's degree student studying Bangla cannot express his or her views correctly in Bangla, he said. adding that similarly a student after

learning English for 10 years cannot write a correct sentence. The present education system is

responsible for such declining standards, he added. Noted economist Prof Muzaffer

Ahmad said the standard of research in social science is not up to the mark

PHOTO: STAR

tables and writing a description of those data is all that is considered as research here in the country, he said

only with book-based knowledge, he added. Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman

be free, fair

US envoy hopes at panel discussion in Washington

Bangladesh.

and other social sectors.

role under the UN.

NGOs role for their grassroots-level

activities to strengthen the economy and ensure education of men and

women in rural areas. He also

appreciated Dhaka's peacekeeping

the diplomat said three elections

free and fair manner as well.

On the caretaker government,

#### UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas has said Bangladesh's development depends on good governance and hoped that the next parliament elections would be conducted in a free and fair manner

"Prosperity of Bangladesh hinges on effective good governance," he told a panel discussion on "The Future of Democracy in Bangladesh" on Wednesday in Washington

Former US ambassador to Bangladesh William B Milam billed Bangladesh as a moderate Muslim country but noted that "We must be vigilant so that the achievements of Bangladesh in strengthening democracy are not eroded by political violence."

Bangladesh Ambassador to the Jnited States Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and Senior Policy Analyst of the Asia Studies Dana Dillon were also the panelists at the taken its firm root through the holddiscussion organised by the Heritage ing of regular elections. He men-Foundation, a leading think-tank in tioned free press and the presence Washington, said a news release from the foreign ministry.

of civil society in the country. The envoy noted that "poverty In his opening remarks, can lead to extremism" and urged Ambassador Thomas said providthe US government to allow dutyfree access of Bangladesh's textile ing health service to a growing population, employing the huge and apparel products to the labour force, diversification of American market to save the garexports and maintaining social ment industry that employs some 2 harmony as a pluralistic society are million women workers. the major challenges facing

### Next JS elections to **Bureaucratic control obstacle** to strong local govt

### Dr Kamal tells UP convention

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bureaucratic control is the biggest He said the US government is impediment to strengthening local trying to extend assistance to government institutions, said Bangladesh in education, health eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain at a convention of union parishad The envoy noted that Bangladesh made democratic chairmen and members in the city progress and achieved economic yesterday. and social development. He praised

The role of parliament members is to legislate and keep an oversight on the action of the executive branch, he said, adding that their involvement in the local government affairs is undesirable.

The convention was organised by Self-governed Union Parishad Advocacy Group-Bangladesh at the Shishu Academy auditorium.

were held successfully under this Dr Kamal said the Ministry of system and hoped the next general Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) should be abolished to strengthen the local government institutions, as the constitution provides for people's empowerment through strong local government.

"A union parishad, crippled by restrain and bureaucratic interference, is not consistent with the concept of a local government institution as envisaged in the constitution," said Global Vicepresident and Country Director of The Hunger Project Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar while inaugurating the convention. "A local government body, by

ernment has to give direct allocation of adequate fund to make it effec-

Prof Majumdar called upon the UP chairmen and members to make the country's oldest local government institution free from corruption.

Bureaucratic restriction and interference by parliament members over the local government institutions are undesirable because these institutions must run in line with the needs of the common men, said noted economist Prof Muzaffer

Ahmad As the dependence on the central government weakens the local government bodies, they have to devote themselves to resource generating activities, he said, adding that more than four thousand union parishads can form an alternative parliament with people's power to fight against social evils like dowry, repression on women, and drug addiction. Poverty alleviation and

institutionalisation of democracy are not possible without strengthening the local government bodies, said LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

President of the Advocacy Group Md Kabir Uddin Tota said the government should take measures so that the union parishads don't have to give 45 percent of their revenue to the upazila administration from next

definition, is a self-governed institu-President of the Workers Party of tion," he said, adding that the gov-

Dhaka elected member of UN HR body

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been elected a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights for 2006-08. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) elected Bangladesh as a member of the commission on Wednesday, said a Foreign Ministry press release yester

China and Japan are the other two countries elected to the UN body from Asia. Bangladesh earlier served in the commission from 1983 to 2000.

Election to this global body was an acknowledgement of the contribution that Bangladesh had been making towards the promotion and protection of human rights. It also reflects the country's commitment to social causes and achievements in the social

Bangladesh has also been elected to the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA for three years, with effect from January 1, 2006, by the same body, said the release

### 'Resist acid violence at grassroots level'

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Launch united campaign to resist acid violence at the grassroots level, said the speakers at a press conference

They said a combined effort engaging government, nongovernment and civil society organisations is a must to stop acid violence.

Violence: Achievement and Challenge of 2004' was organised by the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) at the National Press Club in the city.

"Atotal of 322 persons fell victims of acid attack in 2004. Among them 63 were men, 183 women and 76 children under 18 years," said Monira Rahman, executive director of the

She said most of the attack took place over land and property related conflicts, followed by conjugal disputes, refusal of marriage proposal, romance and sex in last year.

that the number of acid throwing cases decreased by 16 percent in 2003 and 21 percent in 2004, but we want to eliminate it from the country.

Special hospital like Jibon Tara. of the plastic surgery department of



Monira Rahman, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

pany which is already facing legal disputes, has risked another legal

**Teletalk risks another** legal challenge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teletalk Bangladesh Limited, the mobile phone com-

challenge by announcing a dealerthe age of 72, says an ISPR press ship programme for selling pre-paid

## Prof Anisuzzaman said the

Collecting some data, drawing

Research cannot be conducted

Ahmad, chairman of BUP, presided over the discussion held at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Wing Comman-

der (Retd) AMM

Enayetullah of

Bangladesh Air

Force died on

Wednesday at

Combined

Military Hospital

(CMH), Dhaka at

Enavetullah was suffering from

He left behind his wife, one son

He was buried at the Military

Graveyard at Banani yesterday

Engineer Parvez Sayeed, a senior

assistant secretary at the Planning

Commission, passed away due to

kidney ailments at the Millennium

He is survived by his wife, one

Hospital in the city on Wednesday.

colon cancer, diabetes, heart dis-

ease and other old age ailments.

and two daughters.

UNB, Dhaka

Obituary

release.

yesterday.

Media can also play a vital role in this campaign by disseminating necessary information to make the drive a success, they added.

Moudud seeks

The press conference on 'Acid **CCC ELECTION** 

vote for Mir Nasir

A huge gathering of the voters

hailing from greater Noakhali was

held here yesterday to drum up sup-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

ASE

Monira said it is a positive trend

run by the ASF, should be set up for the treatment of acid victims. The government also should set up more hospitals with proper equipment for the treatment of the victims," said Dr SH Khandaker, professor and head

election would be conducted in a Ambassador Shamsher Chowdhury told the meet that promotion of democracy is an area of Bangladesh-US relations, saying that democracy in the country has

### **BSMMU** to refund additional course fee

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) decided to refund the additional course fee taken from the postgraduate students of different departments of the university.

The process to refund the money is underway, said the authorities in a press release yesterday. But they did not set any specific date for refunding the increased fees.

The decision was taken after receiving a notice from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in this regard.

The government had increased the course fee but later withdrew the decision in the face of agitation by the Post Graduation Doctors' Association



### **Thundershowers likely**

### UNB, Dhaka

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

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Raishahi, Ishwardi, Dhaka, Faridpur and Madaripur may continue, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 40.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 18.4 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 5:25am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Dhaka	36.2	23.5	75
Chittagong	32.3	20.3	72	80
Rajshahi	38.5	25.6	65	42
Khulna	37.0	28.0	74	65
Barisal	35.0	26.4	84	83
Sylhet	25.5	18.4	78	86
Cox's Bazar	33.5	25.0	71	73

refill cards for its cellphone service.

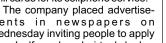
ments in newspapers on Wednesday inviting people to apply for a 'self-employed virtual dealer ship' through which they can sell Teletalk pre-paid cards.

On April 17, the High Court issued a rule asking the government to explain in the next eight weeks why the BTTB mobile phone licence and its subsequent transfer to Teletalk should not be declared

illegal It also directed the Teletalk Limited not to transfer any of its shares and movable or immovable property to anyone until disposal of the rule. The court issued the rule

freelance journalist and a citizen. virtually a transfer of assets, which is tantamount to a violation of the court rule, said a lawyer.

despite repeated attempts.

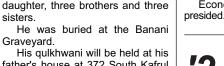


after namaz-e-janaza at New DOHS Mosque, Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam, senior BAF officers and relatives of the deceased attended the janaza. **Engineer Parvez Sayeed** 

following a writ petition filed by a

The dealership programme is Neither the telecommunications

minister nor the officials concerned were available for comments



father's house at 372 South Kafrul after Asr prayers today, said a family source.

### Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Dr Tanveer Ekram, only son of former secretary Dr Ekram Hossain, will be held today, says

a press release On the occasion, a milad mahfil

and special prayers will be held at his father's residence after Asr prayers

**Begum Anowara Islam** 

UNB, Dhaka



Qurankhawa ni, milad and doa Mahfil will be held at Baitus Sharaf Mosque and Madrasa at Ishwardi town on the occasion.

Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil

port for BNP-led four-party alliance Dhaka Medical College Hospital candidate for mayoral post in (DMCH). Chittagong City Corporation (CCC)

election scheduled for May 9. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed addressed the gathering as chief guest at the Chittagong Stadium

Gymnasium premises. He called upon all to elect Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin for the development of Chittagong.

Moudud said the people of greater Noakhali had a significant role in the economic activities of the port city. He said neither the BNP nor the

people of Noakhali believe in regional sentiment and always work in the greater interest of the country.

Mir Nasir, also the state minister for civil aviation and tourism and the president of Chittagong city unit of BNP, and former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury attended the gathering as special guest

Economist Dr Mahbub Ullah

Dr Faridul Hasan, associate professor of Eye department of DMCH, called upon all to donate posthumous eyes for the acid victims

who have lost their eyes. "Families and relatives of the victims should give them mental support for their return to normal life. said Dr Salauddin Kawsar Biplob. associate professor of psychology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The experts laid emphasis on physical and mental treatment of the victims at the same time. They urged all to come forward for

the treatment and rehabilitation of acid survivors. A lot of acid survivors were pres-

ent at the press conference where six organisations, working with the victims, were awarded for their service.

prevents individuals from proper

understanding of what they see and

hear." said Dr Rounak Hafiz, chair-

Foundation in her presentation on

improve significantly with proper

People having autism can

### 2.8 lakh children affected by autism'

autism

added.

ment.

occasion

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 2.8 lakh children are affected by autism, a brain disorder that hinders children's normal mental growth, said the experts at a discussion yesterday.

They said this alarming figure indicates that one in every 500 children in the country is affected by autism.

The discussion was organised by Autism Welfare Foundation to mark its first founding anniversary at

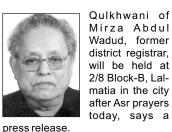
the Shilpakala Academy in the city. The experts said people should be more conscious and careful about autistic children so that they can lead a normal life and explore their potentialities.

"First of all we have to provide autism-affected children with proper education so that they can survive in the society like others, then we have to try for exploring their productivity so that they can be self-reliant," said Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk.

He assured to incorporate the affairs of autistic children in the textbooks to make people conscious about their problems.

"Autism is a lifelong disability that by the autistic children

Qulkhwani



Wadud, who hails from Courtpara, Kushtia, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on April 26.

He is survived by his 4 sons and 5 daughters to mourn his death.

#### Syeda Zakia Banu

Qulkhwani of Syeda Zakia Banu, wife of Shaheed Golam Hossain. former Additional Police Super of Barisal. will be held at her Farmgate Indira

Road residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

25 at the age of 75.

Relatives and admirers have person of Autism Welfare been requested to attend the qulkhwani

### Chehlum

Chehlum of Amina Sarniyabat, sister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman and wife of former flood control

and water resources minister Abdur Rab Sarniyabat, will be held today, says a press release. On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held on the

Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman Memorial Museum premises at Road No- 32, Dhanmondi in the city after Juma prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa and milad mahfil.



### **Discussion meeting**

World Literature Centre will screen two films titled 'The Exorcist' by William Friedkin and 'Breathless' by Richard Gere. Venue: Film Circle Auditorium, Bangla Motor, Time: 10.00am, and 6.00pm.

Film show

A discussion meeting of cancer patients, their relatives, physicians, anti-cancer organisations and drug companies will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Time: 5.00pm

PHOTO STAF

#### Jamaat meeting

**Banglar Mela** 

Dance evening

9.30am.

A representative meeting of Dhaka district Jamaat-e-Islami will be held with Theatre organises a seminar on 'King party Amir Maulana Matiur Rahman Lear' of William Shakespeare. Venue: Nizami as chief guest. Venue: Paltan Theatre Office, 1 New Bailey Road. Maidan. Time: 10.00am.

DHÂKA tomorrow

The Laurels organises a Banglar Mela

comprising a short cultural programme

along with an ethnic fair with State

Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque

Milon as chief guest. Venue: 765, Sat

Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time:

The annual dance evening of

Nrityanchal Performing Arts Academy

will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu

A ten-day-long exhibition of paintings by

Mohammad Mohsin will be inaugurated

with Information Minister M Shamsul

Islam as chief guest. Venue: National

Art Gallery Bhaban, Shilpakala

Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time:

Academy Auditorum. Time: 7.00pm.

Painting exhibition

### **FNB** meeting

Time: 4.00pm

Theatre seminar

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh will be held. It will be followed by the annual general meeting of the federation. Venue: Institution of Engineers' Auditorium, Ramna. Time: 9.00am.

### JSD meeting

A meeting of the national committee of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will be held. Venue: 35-36, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 10.00am

### Lion convention

The opening ceremony of a two-day annual district convention of Lions District 315A2 will be held with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 3.30pm.

### Reunion

The reunion of Management Net will be held. Venue: Dhaka University Business Studies Bhaban. Time: 10.00am.

### **Closing session**

The closing session of project cycle management training course of the Management for Development Foundation, Sri Lanka will be held. Venue: DORP Office, Panthapath. Time: 10.00am

### **BCS** forum

The reunion and annual general meeting of 13th BCS Forum will be held. Venue: Biam Auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 3.30pm

#### Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a discussion and stage a drama titled 'Satkara Ashi' to mark the death anniversary of Nurul Momen, a renowned dramatist. Venue: National Art Gallery Bhaban, Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.30pm.

### Rally

4.30pm.

Drama

Muktijoddha Gonoparishad organises a rally of freedom fighters. Venue: Muktangon, Ramna. Time: 11.00am.

education and family care, she Dr Rounak said the foundation is working with the aim of training and educating autistic children to make them able to support themselves. M R Khan, national professor

and noted child specialist, stressed the need for spotting out autism at very initial stage for better treat-

"We can only provide treatment which is not enough for autistic children to return to a normal life. rather the society will have to come

forward with care and sympathy in this regard," he viewed. Dr Ruksana Hafiz and Coordinator of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed Valrey A Taylor also spoke on the

The discussion was rounded off with a cultural function participated

