



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, left, offers prayer for 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 and order frame to improve law and order and curb corruption so that trade and commerce can flourish.

pledged to separate the judiciary but failed to fulfill their election pledges in this regard. Speaking as special guest, Prof Anisuzzaman said, "We must rethink the utility of two-track education system -- general and madrasa."

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.

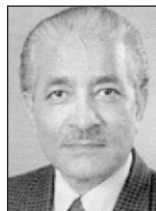
Teletalk risks another legal challenge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teletalk Bangladesh Limited, the state-owned mobile phone company which is already facing legal disputes, has risked another legal challenge by announcing a dealership programme for selling pre-paid refill cards for its cellphone service.

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Obituary



Wing Commander (Retd) AMM Enayetullah of Bangladesh Air Force died on Wednesday at Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka at the age of 72, says an ISPR press release.

Engineer Parvez Sayeed UNB, Dhaka

Engineer Parvez Sayeed, a senior assistant secretary at the Planning Commission, passed away due to kidney ailments at the Millennium Hospital in the city on Wednesday.

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.

Begum Anowara Islam UNB, Dhaka



The first death anniversary of Begum Anowara Islam, founder-director of Eastern Group, will be observed today. Qurankhawa ni, milad and doa Mahfil will be held at Baitus Sharaf Mosque and Madrasa at Ishwardi town on the occasion.

Next JS elections to be free, fair

US envoy hopes at panel discussion in Washington

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.

Bangladesh.

He said the US government is trying to extend assistance to Bangladesh in education, health and other social sectors. The envoy noted that Bangladesh made democratic progress and achieved economic and social development. He praised NGOs role for their grassroots-level activities to strengthen the economy and ensure education of men and women in rural areas.

Bureaucratic control obstacle to strong local govt

Dr Kamal tells UP convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bureaucratic control is the biggest impediment to strengthening local government institutions, said eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain at a convention of union parishad chairmen and members in the city yesterday. 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.

ment has to give direct allocation of adequate fund to make it effective. 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.

Dhaka elected member of UN HR body

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim and a number of UP representatives also spoke on the occasion. 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 yesterday.

'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 yesterday. They said a combined effort engaging government, non-government 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. "Total 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 ASF.



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

CCC ELECTION Moudud seeks vote for Mir Nasir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A huge gathering of the voters hailing from greater Noakhali was held here yesterday to drum up support for BNP-led four-party alliance candidate for mayoral post in 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.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Mirza Abdul Wadud, former district registrar, will be held at 2/8 Block-B, Lal-matia in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Wadud, who hails from Courtpara, Kushtia, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on April 26.

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 Indra Road residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Syeda Zakia Banu died on April 25 at the age of 75. Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

'2.8 lakh children affected by autism'

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.

prevents individuals from proper understanding of what they see and hear," said Dr Rounak Hafiz, chairperson of Autism Welfare Foundation in her presentation on autism. People having autism can improve significantly with proper education and family care, she added. 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 treatment. "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 Rukhsana Hafiz and Coordinator of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed Valery A Taylor also spoke on the occasion. The discussion was rounded off with a cultural function participated by the autistic children.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Aminah Sarniyabat, sister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur 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 Mujibur 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.

WEATHER TODAY 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.

DHAKA TODAY Film show World Literature Centre will screen two films titled 'The Exorcist' by William Friedkin and 'Breathless' by Richard Gere. Discussion meeting A discussion meeting of cancer patients, their relatives, physicians, anti-cancer organisations and drug companies will be held. Theatre seminar Theatre organises a seminar on 'King Lear' of William Shakespeare.