



A photo and poster exhibition titled '60th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism' began at the National Museum in the city yesterday. The Russian embassy organised the exhibition.

New law soon to recover grabbed land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has prepared the draft of a new law to facilitate recovery of public and private lands from illegal occupation during the last six months, he said while briefing the newsmen at the sixth meeting of the secretary committee on monitoring of land recovery at the cabinet division at the secretariat.
The new law has two key components, said Dr Saadat, one is how to evict the illegal occupiers of private land and structures and the other is

how to provide 'effective relief to the forcibly dispossessed.'
"The new law will have provision so that police or administration does not turn down a case of illegal occupation as a civil matter but treats it as a criminal offense on immediate filing of the complaint," he said.
But there are still many 'subtle' issues to be settled to bring the law into effect, he said.
Referring to the Land Ministry's presentation at the meeting, he said that the government had recovered Khas land worth Tk 634 crore during the first three months of the drive till January last and Tk 2055 crore during the following three months till April.

"We have asked for a detailed outline of the recovered land from the ministry so that we can prepare a specific mapping of it," he said.
Terming the land grabbing a deep-rooted problem of the country, the cabinet secretary said, "It is not our consideration whether the grabber is influential while carrying out recovery drive but what hinder the drive are inadequate funding, manpower and equipment."
Dr Saadat, who leads the 11-member secretary committee, also said that punishment for grabbing land has been increased up to five years of imprisonment from the existing two years, adding that it is often difficult to retain the recovered land.

Need for bringing cities, towns under a master plan underscored

BSS, Dhaka
LGED and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday underscored the need for bringing all

towns and cities under a 'master plan' to ensure civic amenities to the people.
"It would not be possible in future to provide civic amenities to the people living in different towns and cities if these were not brought under a master plan as almost all towns are being built in an unplanned manner," he said.
Inaugurating a day-long workshop on "Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF)" at LGED auditorium here, Bhuiyan said respective Pourashava (Municipal) chairmen has to take steps to formulate a master plan for his/her areas. BMDF was set up in 1994 as a government-owned company aimed at bringing about improvement in the infrastructure of city corporations and pourashavas. The activities of the company began with an initial capital of Tk 780 crore provided by the government and the World Bank.
He urged the people's representatives to take initiatives for bringing necessary recommendations aimed at making the existing union parishad, pourashava and city corporation laws time befitting.
He also urged them to take effective steps for full implementation of sanitation programmes, waste management and combating child marriage and dowry in their respective localities. The poura chairman has to work with transparency and accountability for the

welfare of the people, he said.
He described the existing system of "no-confidence" against an elected chairman as an undemocratic and said this practice of removing an elected chairman by some commissioners should be repealed.
Secretary (Local Government Division) AH M Abul Kashem, presided.
The inaugural function was also addressed by President of Municipal Association of Bangladesh and Chairman of Tongi Pourashava Ajmat Ullah Khan, Chairman of Singra Pourashava and Secretary General of the Association Shamim Al-Razi and Director of BMDF and Shitakunda Pourashava Chairman Abul Kalam Azad.
On the occasion of the sad demise of Lt. Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, a condolence book will be opened at the High Commission of India at House 2, Road 142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka and at its Cultural Centre at House 120 (Old), New 24, Road 2, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka on today.
It will remain open everyday from 10:00am to 5:00pm till May 7, said a press release yesterday.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A helpless father has appealed to the generous people for financial assistance for the treatment of her minor daughter.
The three-and-a-half-year-old Kazi Sajeda Akter Priya has been suffering from cerebral (brain) encephalitis since last February.
She was first diagnosed at the city's Central Hospital where the doctors advised her shifting to the Daccabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) for advanced treatment.
Priya is now under the treatment of Prof Mizanur Rahman.
Being unable to afford the cost of treatment, her father Jamal Uddin Mamun, a local correspondent of news agency Aabash in Satkhira, has appealed for generous help.
Contributions can be sent to: Jesmin Akter, Savings Account No 34077651, Sonali Bank Local office, Dhaka.

CCC Polls Army on roads to assess situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Army personnel are on vigil on the city streets two days ahead of schedule to maintain law and order during the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections.
The army personnel moved around the city yesterday on jeeps and visited a few polling centres.
They also asked locals about the prevailing situation but declined to speak with journalists when a reporter of The Daily Star approached, asking them not to take snaps.

However, government officials in the city denied the deployment of the army ahead of schedule.
Witnesses said the army personnel visited a number of important points including MES College, Police Lines, in front of BWA Girls School and College, and Kazir Dewry.
"The army will be deployed during the polls but they'll take up position on May 7," said Golam Quddus, additional divisional commissioner and returning officer for the CCC polls.

On the appearance of army personnel on the streets and different polling centres, Quddus said, "They're moving on their own to get first hand idea."
"Probably, they are looking for suitable locations for setting up camps," he observed.
The witnesses said the army personnel were using at least six vehicles and carrying maps.
The returning officer claimed law and order is normal in the city and that there is no clash between the supporters of rival candidates. He also ruled out the fears among the minority people of attacks and repression.
"We'll arrest anyone if they are found guilty of threatening the minority people or creating anarchy," said Quddus.
When asked about the minority people's demand of deploying the army three days before the polls and keeping them on vigil three more days after the election on May 9, the

officer insisted the government must maintain rules for the deployment of army.
"We can't take a decision without specific allegations or calls and there are none," he headed.

Maintain neutrality

IGP tells CMP officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Hadisuddin yesterday asked the officials of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) to discharge their duties maintaining complete neutrality on the day of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls on May 9.
He gave this instruction in a meeting with the CMP officials yesterday morning at Dampara Police Line, sources said.
The IGP in the meeting said the government is determined to hold the CCC polls in a free and fair manner and no one would be allowed to disrupt the atmosphere, they said.
"Police was asked to maintain neutrality in the run-up to the CCC elections and not to show any kind of favour to any of the contesting sides," the IGP was quoted as saying.

We are not obligated to carry out any unjust instruction from any body, he told the hour-long meeting, attended by top CMP officials, including the newly appointed acting commissioner Md Moniruzzaman and the deputy commissioners.
The IGP reminded the CMP officials about the government's 'strict instruction' to maintain law and order during voting and ordered them to follow it properly to uphold the image of the government.

2nd death sentence to be executed in Barisal jail tonight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The death sentence of Kamal Hossain Howlader will be executed in Barisal central jail at midnight tonight (zero hour on Friday) for killing his wife for dowry, said Muhammad Abdul Kader, senior jail superintendent in charge of Barisal central jail.
Security has been tightened in the jail.
Letters have been sent to the district magistrate, district judge, civil surgeon and other related officials of Barisal district to attend the formalities during the execution. Local PDB authorities are asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the jail.
This is the second execution of death sentence after independence and another was executed in 1983 in Barisal jail.
There are 47 convicts, including one female, are in death row in condemn sale of Barisal central jail.
Kamal Hossain Howlader, 40, of Uzirpur upazila gave poison-mixed medicine syrup to his sick wife Hanufa Begum on May 22, 1998, two years after their marriage, sources said.
Hanufa died at a local hospital the following day. Victim's elder brother Hanif Howlader lodged a murder case with Uzirpur police station accusing Kamal Howlader.



Shamsul Haque honorary consul of Kyrgyzstan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Shamsul Haque has been appointed honorary consul of the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan in Bangladesh.
A professional banker Shamsul worked with the United Bank of India and Bangladesh Shipa Bank. He was also a director of Padma Sonali Group.
He travelled widely in Europe, America and Asia.
Son of late Kazi Azheruddin Ahmed, Shamsul hails from Vikrampur in Munshiganj district.
He completed his Master's degree from Dhaka University, a press release said.

Condolence book for Aurora

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the sad demise of Lt. Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, a condolence book will be opened at the High Commission of India at House 2, Road 142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka and at its Cultural Centre at House 120 (Old), New 24, Road 2, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka on today.
It will remain open everyday from 10:00am to 5:00pm till May 7, said a press release yesterday.

Death of Aurora condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social and cultural organisations yesterday condoled the death of the Indian army legend Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, who oversaw the surrender of about 93,000 Pakistani troops in Dhaka on December 16 in 1971.

Aurora passed away due to heart failure in sleep at a private hospital in New Delhi on May 3 at the age of 89.
On the occasion of his sad demise, Indian High Commission will open a condolence book at House 2, Road 142 in Gulshan-1 and at Indian Cultural Centre in Dhanmondi on today.
Leaders of these organisations expressed sympathy to the family of the deceased recalling his unending sacrifice during the War of Liberation in Bangladesh and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.
Leaders of Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal (JSD) led by JSD president Hasanul Huq Inu placed wreaths to a portrait of Aurora at the Indian High Commission and stood one-minute in silence. Later, they signed the condolence book.
JSD will organise a condolence

meeting at Shaheed Colonel Taher Auditorium tomorrow.
Bangladesh Bharat Sampriti Parishad President KM Sobhan and General Secretary Professor Nim Chandra Bhaumik said the nation would always remember Aurora for his great contribution on our independence.
Jatiya Party (Monju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju MP and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam expressed condolence at the death of Aurora recalling his vital role in the War of Liberation.
Bimol Biswas, co-ordinator of left leaning 11-Party, said Bangladeshis people will never forget Aurora as his name engages with our history.
Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menan said Bangladesh lost a good friend at the death of Aurora.
Among other organisations, including War Crimes Facts Finding Committee, Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP), Liberation War Museum and Bangladesh Chhatra Union condoled the death as well.
Gen. Aurora presided over the historic surrender by the Pakistani troops under Gen AAK Niazi in Dhaka on December 16, 1971.

Docs divided over setting up of RCPS centre

STAR REPORT

An examination centre of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPS) of the United Kingdom could not be set up here in the face of the opposition by a section of doctors in the country.
Once the local doctors can obtain degrees like Member of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP), Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS), Member of the Royal College of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (MRCOG) and Member of the Royal College of Dentistry (MFDS) through this centre, they will be able to practise in most of the developed countries including the UK, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Italy.

The issue was also raised in the Jatiya Sangsad on March 7, when Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain assured of exploring all possible opportunities in favour of setting up of a centre in the country.
"If we have the centre, the standard of medical education would eventually improve," said Dr Rakibul Islam Litu, secretary general of Postgraduate Doctors' Association.
Principal of Bangladesh Medical College Prof M A Zaman said, "We must explore all opportunities for quality education and I believe having an RCPS examination centre would mean that local doctors can obtain degree of international standard sitting down at home."
Prof Ruhul Haq, former director of National Institute of Traumatology and Rehabilitation (NITRO) also spoke in favour of having RCPS examination centre here.
He said, "To raise quality of education we should encourage setting up of the centre. In fact, it is an opportunity for our doctors to be recognised globally once they obtain degree from RCPS."
Dr Iqbal Arslan, head of the department biochemistry of BSMMUH, said, "To generate qual-

ity specialists we must grab all opportunities. So a RCPS centre here will be a boon for our doctors."

Those opposing the idea of opening a RCPS centre here said once it is set up value and respect for BCPS would gradually disappear.

"I am against having a RCPS exam centre in Bangladesh," said Prof Rafiq Uddin, head of the department of medicine of Dhaka Medical College (DMC).

"Our effort should be to further improve and enhance the standard of BCPS so that our degree gets equal global recognition. In fact, once the RCPS centre is established, I fear that a 'brain drain' would take place and all the top ranking doctors would be employed abroad," he added.
When contacted, Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain, secretary general of BCPS and secretary general of BMA, said, "Why should we have RCPS exam centre here when we already have formal ties with them. In fact, we formally requested the RCPS to accredit our institute which would be more helpful than having just an examination centre here."

Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, former BMA president, also opposed the idea of having a centre here and said, "We should further improve the BCPS for higher education."



Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at the 'Meet the Press programme' at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city yesterday.

Obituary

Meer Md Mujibul Haque, leader trainer of Bangladesh Scouts and commissioner of Mymensingh district scouts, passed away due to cardiac arrest at a city clinic yesterday at 60, says a press release.
His namaz-e-janaza was held at the National headquarters of Bangladesh Scouts.
Bangladesh Scouts President Manzur Ul Karim and Chief National Commissioner Md Fazur Rahman expressed deep shock at the death of Mujibul Haque.

Death anniversary

Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Ustad Fuljhuri Khan (Bar Rasul Khan), says a press release.
On the occasion, a milad mahfil and doa will be held at his residence at 93 East Rampura in the city after Asr prayers.
Begum Nurunnahar Aktar
Today is the second death anniversary of Begum Nurunnahar Aktar, says a press release.
On the occasion, alms will be distributed among the poor at her village home Arpara near Kamarkhali Ghat in Faridpur.

Qulkhwani

UNB, Dhaka
Qulkhwani of Hasne Ara, wife of former customs official Alhaj Muzammil Haque Bhuiyan, will be held at her residence at 25 Jigatala (old road) in the city after Maghrib prayers today.
Hanse Ara died of cardiac arrest at her city residence on Monday night at the age of 77.
She left behind her eight daughters and a lot of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Chehlum

UNB, Dhaka
Chehlum of Quazi Fazul Haq, an eminent philanthropist and Managing Director of HAKS Industries Ltd, will be held on the Sonargaon Quazi Fazul Haq Women's College campus at 11:00am today, says a press release.

Dhaka invited to D-8 meet

UNB, Dhaka

Iran yesterday invited Bangladesh to participate in the upcoming 9th Council of Foreign Ministers of the Developing-8 (D-8) forum.
Iranian Ambassador to Dhaka Muhammad Beheshti Mofared called on Foreign Minister M Mosharraf Khan at his office yesterday and handed him a letter of invitation from the Iranian Foreign Minister.
During the meeting, the ambassador briefed Mosharraf Khan about his country's preparation for hold-

ing the meeting of the foreign ministers of the D-8 countries and of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).
He also handed over a letter of invitation from the Iranian Foreign Minister inviting Mosharraf Khan to visit Iran on a "mutually convenient date".
The FM assured him of "positive consideration" in this respect and underlined the need for closer cooperation between the two countries. He conveyed thanks for the letters of invitation extended by the Iranian side.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka
Rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met office said.
Highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:21am tomorrow.
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	29.0	25.3	83	69
Chittagong	32.7	24.6	67	60
Rajshahi	33.5	22.5	73	73
Khulna	35.4	24.8	78	71
Barisal	34.4	23.5	79	95
Sylhet	28.0	20.0	100	66
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.5	63	73

34th martyrdom of Abdur Rahim today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ABM Abdur Rahim (Yusuf), a freedom fighter who was captured by Pakistani occupation forces during a secret meeting with the workers of Ujala Match Factory at Shyampur in the capital on this day in 1971, never returned home from the army camp.
Recently, Bangla Academy published an article on him in a book titled 'Smriti 71' and Bangladesh Postal Department released a commemorative stamp in honour of martyred Rahim.
He hailed from Basudeb union of Brahmanbariya district.
He left his wife, four sons and one daughter.
A doa mahfil will be held on the occasion of his 34th martyrdom, a press release said.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show
World Literature Centre will screen a film titled 'Life is Beautiful' by Roberto Benigni. Venue: Film Circle Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6.00pm.

Indian film show
The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Sonar Kella'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2. Time: 6.00pm.

University film show
Northern University Bangladesh will screen two films titled 'Macbeth' and 'As You Like It' by Shakespeare. Venue: University Auditorium, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 11.00am and 2.00pm.

Academy film show
Academy film society will screen two films titled 'Black' and 'Duel'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatala. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Brac workshop
Brac University organises a workshop titled 'Building code and pre and post earthquake disaster management' with Food and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ina Yusuf as chief guest. Venue: University seminar room, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00am.

BMSF meeting
A meeting of the district representatives of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonny Parishad will be held. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Colloquium
The inaugural ceremony of a three-day Judicial Colloquium on Justice for Women through Muslim Family Law, organised by the British Council, will be held with Chief Justice Syed JR Mdassir Husain as chief guest. Venue: British Council Auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 10.00am.

Launching ceremony
The launching ceremony of Arushi Mini Bazaar and Food Court, a pilot project of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Women Entrepreneurs, will be held. Venue: House-10, Road-23, Gulshan-1. Time: 12.00noon.

Roundtable
Save Environment Movement organises a roundtable on 'Recent building collapse and the necessity of building code' with its Advisor Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Installation ceremony
The installation ceremony of the newly elected executive committee of Feni Samity, Dhaka will be held with Information Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers' Auditorium, Ramna. Time: 4.00pm.

Rotary meeting
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Venue: House-14, Road-27, Block-J, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.