MAGSAYSAY AWARD

Matiur Rahman

Dhaka University Alumni

Association yesterday accorded a

reception to Matiur Rahman, editor

of the daily Prothom Alo and life

member of the alumni association.

for winning the Ramon Magsaysay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Award 2005.

DU Alumni

MIGRANT CHILD WORKERS

'Frame national policy to protect rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

urged the government to formulate a concrete national policy on migrant child workers who often face problems of wage rate, health safety and minimum standard in workplaces.

They said acute poverty and absence of viable alternatives at home force the children to migrate in search of works, while for some parents it is a strategic choice that their children will eventually return home with a sizeable amount of money.

The workshop on 'Migration for livelihood: The case of children in Bangladesh' was organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University in collaboration with Development Research Centre (DRC) of Sussex University.

Presenting a study Prof Sumaiya Khair of Dhaka University said death or absence of parents and maltreatment at home are also important factors for children's migration to urban

She said most child migrants live on the streets, vehicle stations and slums while very few of them can afford to live in the rented houses, hostels or

In most cases, they have no access to adequate sanitation,

"Working in informal sector, they are outside the purview of existing labour laws and have to work for long hours at nominal wages," Prof Sumaiya said, adding that these children occupy an extremely fragile position within the power hierarchy in the urban labour market.

She said absence of immediate family and friends reinforces the vulnerability of migrant children to abuse.

"Although the children constitute a significant proportion of the migrant population in Dhaka, their position in the migration paradigm is largely unacknowledged," she emphasised.

Speaking as chief quest former advisor to caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman said

Bangladesh has a rich culture of nourishing the children by their mothers even after remaining hungry, but unfortunately many children have to go through exploitation for economic reasons.

Though child labour was removed from formal sector, it could not be done in informal sector as it has been observed that termination of jobs resulted in the starvation of many children, she

"So the better solution for them is to create option for education alongside their work," she said.

However, the best option is to encourage them to stay back with their families, Rokia said, adding that vocational training could be incorporated for the children in the village schools or NGO schools.

She also laid emphasis on framing national policy to protect the rights of the migrant child workers.

RMMRU Coordinator Dr CR Abrar, Prof HKS Arefin, Prof Munirul Islam Khan, Dr Shahdeen Malik and Prof Firdous Azim also



Rokia Afzal Rahman, former advisor to a caretaker government, speaks at a workshop on 'Children's migration for livelihood: The Bangladesh case' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right are Dr Shahdeen Malik and Prof Sumaiya Khair and on her left are Prof HKS Arefin and Prof Munirul Islam Khan.



Appeal for help

Md Abdus Salam, a cable TV line mechanic, has been suffering from heart diseases and one of his heart valves needs to be replaced immediately, says a press release.

The surgical intervention for replacement of valve involves about Tk 2 lakh, which he cannot afford. He appealed to the generous

people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Donations can be sent to the following accounts: A/C No. 34367419, Sonali Bank, Dhaka Cantonment Branch, and A/C No. -6222, Nagarpur Krishi Bank Branch,

Dhanmondi lake

living in Dhanmondi regarding the lake management and maintenance of the residential character of Dhanmondi.

At a rally held at road no 8 near the Dhanmondi Bridge, the speakers alleged that DCC has received proposals from six water bottling companies and is planning to permit one of them to purify and bottle the lake water for selling. This step will have harmful effects on the lake environment they said and asked the authority to refrain from doing it.

They also asked the authority to remove the sewerage lines discharging wastes to the lake from the lakeside buildings.

DCC has made no efforts to develop parks and other recreational opportunities in other neighbourhoods of Dhaka, they added.

Professor Nazrul Islam spoke as

the chief quest at the rally. "Dhanmondi was developed as a residential area and the government should try to protect it," he said. The negative impact would be huge if the government fails to protect the residential area," he added.

Tarique talks party position with grassroots leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to reviewing the party's position at the grassroots level, the ruling BNP yesterday started meeting its leaders from union and municipality levels.

On the first day, party's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman held one-to-one meeting with 32 grassroots level leaders from Barisal district at the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the

With the next elections round the corner, Tarique's meeting with the grassroots level leaders are seen by many as an elaborate election preparations, which might have an impact on the selection of BNP candidates

Earlier this year, Tarique also sat with the thana level leaders of the

The 32 leaders who met the senior joint secretary general yesterday represented 10 thanas and six municipalities of Barisal district.

Besides taking stock of the organisational strength, Tarique also learnt of intra-party conflict in different places and suggested ways to resolve those.

He also wanted to know about the development programmes of the government as well as the main opposition Awami League's position in different areas, party sources

He will sit with the field level leaders from Kushtia today.

Meanwhile, Organising Secretary Akhter Majhi of Chandpur district BNP was relieved of his post and expelled from the party, according to a party press release issued

Syed Emran Saleh Prince, assistant office secretary of BNP, signed the press release.



No change in temperature likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast, adding that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

try.
Highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.9 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:36am tomorrow.

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

	dity in
percentage	
Morning	Evening
94	73
77	65
84	75
88	81
95	90
58	64
73	71
	percer Morning 94 77 84 88 95 58

SCBA demands compensation within 10 days

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has given Tk 10,000 to each lawyer injured in the bomb attacks in Gazipur for their treatment.

The SCBA leaders also demanded the government to give Tk 50 lakh as compensation to each family of the 20 victims who were killed in the bomb attacks in Gazipur, Jhalakathi, Chittagong and Netrakona within 10 days SCBA President Advocate

Mahbubey Alam and Secretary Advocate M Enayetur Rahim made the demands at a press conference on the SCBA premises.

They also demanded better treatment for the injured abroad.

They told the press conference that the leaders of the SCBA executive committee on Thursday and Friday visited the injured lawyers at different hospitals in Gazipur and gave five lawyers Tk 10,000 each for treatment.

Indo-Bangla border survey starts Dec 22

PTI, MALDA, India

India and Bangladesh will conduct a joint survey of the Indo-Bangla border in West Bengal's Malda district from December 22, a senior

BSF officer said yesterday.
BC Dey, commanding officer
(CO) of Border Security Force (BSF) Malda Sector, said some rivers in Malda have changed courses and the joint survey will demarcate the international border at such places.

The CO said the survey will start from the Adampur sector of the Indo-Bangla border.

A meeting was held at the Malda district magistrate's office yesterday to discuss the border-related issues of the district. The district magistrate, superintendent of police, MLAs of the district and senior BSF

MILITANCY

Remote control in PM's hand : Inu

BDNEWS, Dhaka

JSD (Inu) President Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday said the remote control behind militancy and bombing is in the hand of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

"This remote control has to be taken away to stop bombing in the country," Inu said.

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president was addressing a meeting at his party office with the leaders of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation led by its Chairman Alhaj Syed Nazibul Bashar Maiibhandari. He held extensive discussions on political situation

The Tarigat Federation leaders accused Jamaat-e-Islami, an ally in the BNP-led four-party coalition government, of bombing, killing and all destructive activities in the country.

Jamaat is patron of all bombings and killings and they misuse religion for petty politics. They must be resisted unitedly, the Tariqat Federation leaders said.

Unesco Club Journalism Award from next year

The National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh is going to introduce 'Unesco Club Journalism Award-2006' from next year, says a press release.

The association will award 15 young and rising journalists and correspondents working in print and electronic media in recognition of their outstanding contribution to The association hopes that the

award will encourage young journalists in their challenging profession.

Journalists capable of creative reporting on various social issues have been requested to send a biodata to Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, secretary general of the National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh, C/o Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco, BANBEIS Bhaban, 1 Asian Highway, Plassey-Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205, or may contact over telephone no 0171-520146, 8627969 and 7411346.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rasula Khatun, mother of Mohammad Akram Hossain, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), died of old age complications at a city hospital on Friday at the age of 78, says a press release.

She left behind three sons, two daughters and a host of grand children and admirers to mourn her

Qulkhwani of Rasula Khatun will be held at the residence of her youngest son at 2, Nowratan colony (Bailey Heights) on Bailey Road at



Information Minister Shamsul Islam hands over a crest to Matiur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo, at a reception accorded to him for winning the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2005 at the BIAM auditorium in the city yesterday.

Hasina accuses govt again of harbouring militants

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina has again accused the government of patronising militants, saying the BNP-Jamaat alliance is launching terrorist attacks to divert people's attention.

Hasina, also Awami League chief, said the government wants to cling on to power by creating panic through massacre, as it has realised people would not vote for them. Addressing a discussion on

Bangabandhu Bhaban premises in the capital yesterday, she urged the people to unite against the 'failed government and the militants. A list of the militant bombers and

their patrons has to be prepared and

they have to be netted, she said

emphatically. The collaborators of the defeated force in 1971 are now in power, she said, adding, "Our flag of the Liberation War is stained with blood They are out to wipe out the glorious history of the War of

They are looting the wealth of the country through corruption and exploiting people by hiking the prices of essentials, she alleged. Urging the prime minister, she

said, "Lower the prices of essentials, stop bomb attacks and save the people. The people of the country want to get rid of the prime minister and Jamaat-e-Islami. No-one is safe from their

clutches and that is why everyone has to come forward to save the nation from the government 'misrule', she added.

AL presidium members Zillur Rahman MP and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP. lawver leader Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, AL leaders Mohammad Hanif. Obaidul Kader, Mukul Bose, Asaduzzaman Noor MP, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also spoke on the occasion.

Rehana in city

UNB, Dhaka

Sheikh Rehana, younger sister of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, arrived in the city yester-

Hasina received her sister at the airport on her arrival by a British Airways flight from London in the

Two daughters and one son of Rehana accompanied her. She is expected to stay in Bangladesh for two weeks, party sources said.

called off

The Road Transport Workers Federation (RTWF) called off the 48-hour transport strike yesterday afternoon following compromise at a five-hour meeting with the district administration.

Secretary of RTWF Chittagong regional unit Md Yakub Ali told UNB that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the

The RTWF enforced the strike, starting from yesterday morning, on 17 routes in the greater Chittagong region demanding release of its two workers arrested on December 10 following a clash between transport owners and workers at Ukhia. Cox's Bazar.

in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, dent reports

People in long queues were seen waiting for transports at the city bus

A three-day strike was observed

Transport strike in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Earlier, thousands of commuters

Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Rangamati were stranded on the first day of the two-day strike, our Chittagong University correspon-

n the southern districts of Chittagong until last Thursday and the port city was included in yesterday's fresh two-day strike



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a consultation meeting of 11-Party at the Institute of Diploma Engineers' auditorium in the city vesterday

Convention The national convention against

repression on journalists will be held with Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

HIV seminar A seminar on 'Health and HIV vulnera-

Time: 3.00pm.

bility of migrant workers' will be held Venue: Sasakawa auditorium of ICDDRB, Mohakhali. Time: 10.00am

Debate competition The final debate and prize giving ceremony of Presidency University

Victory Debate Competition will be held.

Venue: Press Institute of Bangladesh

auditorium. Time: 3.00pm. Discussion Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh jointly organise a discussion on the threat of militancy. Venue: Engineers' Institute auditorium, Ramna.

Migrants day Welfare Association of Repatriated

Bangladeshi Employees organises a discussion to mark the International Migrants Day. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium. Time: 3.00pm. Sharing session

Campaign for Popular Education

organises a sharing session on Unesco's Global Monitoring Report 2006 on EFA. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 3.00pm. **Exhibition**

The inauguration of Climate Change Exhibition will be held. Venue: National Museum Gallery, Shahbagh. Time:

Workshop The launching workshop of advocacy toolkit on 'HIV/Aids and Education' will be held. Venue: BANBEIS conference hall, Nilkhet. Time: 9.00am.

Journos' Forum formed Aseven-member convening committee

Greater Dhaka

of the Greater Dhaka Journalists Forum was formed at a meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday, says a press release Ahmed Selim Reza and Ataur

Joint Convenor of the Forum aimed at uniting journalists of greater Dhaka. Other members of the convening committee are Bhanu Ranjan Chakrabarty, Shirin Sultana, Obaidul

Kabir, Manzurul Islam and Shafiul

Rahman were made Convenor and

Alam Ratan. Borhan Ahmed, Nurul Huda, Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, Monowar Ahmed, Yusuf Pasha, Rafiqur Rahman, Monowar Hossain, Quamruzzaman, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Hasan Hafiz, Dr Abdul Hai Siddique, Qayum Khan Milon, Sayed Mesbahuddin, Ashish Saikat, Shaheen Choudhury, Humayun Kabir Badal, Nurul Amin Rokan and Suman Islam were present at the

The meeting asked the committee to submit a draft constitution of the Forum within two months.

Information Minister Shamsul slam handed over a crest to Matiur Rahman at the programme, hailing his winning the award as a source of pride for the nation "The role of Matiur Rahman in raising awareness in society through the media is really praiseworthy," the minister said as the

chief guest. Matiur Rahman won the prestigious Magsaysay award this year for his contribution to journalism, literature and creative communica-

Scores of DU alumni and distinguished personalities attended the programme held at the BIAM auditorium in the city. Secretary General of the Alumni Association Raquibuddin Ahmed read out the welcome speech.

Among others, former advisor of a caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz, President of the Alumni Association Syed Manzur Elahi, former chief justice Mostofa Kamal and senior journalist ABM Musa spoke on the occasion and felicitated Matiur Rahman. Wishing him a long life, the

through his paper is doing a great job in creating awareness about drugs and HIV/Aids, raising funds for the acid survivors and arranging their rehabilitation and organising Mathematics Olympiad. Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said the role of mass media and the pattern of presenting information

speakers said Matiur Rahman

are changing rapidly in this age of technology, but people find it difficult to get the right information through a trustworthy media. The credit of Matiur Rahman ies in the fact that the Prothom Alo

always provides the right information, he added. Expressing his gratitude, Matiur Rahman said the credit of winning the Magsaysay Award goes to his

colleagues and well-wishers.

Recalling the memories of his university life, he expressed deep concern at the present situation of the university such as the trend of student politics, session jam and other irregularities. "It is the duty of the government,

civil society and the alumni association to develop future leaders of the country properly," he said and free the contributions to the Alumni Association for educational pur-

The Prothom Alo editor also said that upholding democracy and establishing the rule of law are a must to combat the militant forces. It is time to work towards implementing the spirit and goals of the

Congratulations

liberation war, he added.



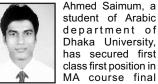
Nilim, assistant professor of management, has obtained Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi University, recently, says a press

Mahbub Sharfaraj

release The title of his thesis is 'Motivational programmes of employees in pharmaceutical sector: A comparative study of domestic and multina-

tional companies in Bangladesh'. He is currently working as a specialist of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB). Dr Sharfaraj is a son of late Obaidul Hoque Bhuiyan and Shamsun Nahar Bhuiyan of Kazi Bhuiyan Bari of village Fazil Pur, Feni.

Ahmed Saimum



Dhaka University has secured first class first position in MA course final examination this year, says a press He is a son of late Sheikh Md Afsar Uddin Munshi and Begum

Halima Afsar of Narun village in

Naila Akhter Naila Akhter, a

Kaliganj, Gazipur.



the 'A' level examinations, says a

The subjects are physics, chemistry, mathematics, pure mathematics and biology