# METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

COUNTRY.

SAVE

spots all over the country.

**Eco-friendly** 

demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

tourist sites of the country.

Museum.

Environmentalists at a rally in the

city yesterday demanded an eco-

friendly tourism policy and its proper

implementation for a flourishing

tourism industry as well as for

preservation of environmental

balance and biodiversity in the

They depicted a wretched condi-

tion of the country's spectacular

tourist sites -- Jaflong, Foy's Lake,

Cox's Bazar sea beach and St

Martin's Island at the rally organised

by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon

(Bapa) in front of the National

Bapa Joint Secretary Zakir

Hossain said the country's most

popular tourist spot Cox's Bazar sea

beach is now under threat as a

section of profit mongering busi-

nessmen is trying to construct a jetty

there, which will be detrimental to

biodiversity and eco-system of the

world's only coral island is facing

threat for unplanned, uncontrolled

and ever increasing volume of

Dr Nuruddin said the natural

beauty and environmental balance of

Jaflong is at the verge of extinction

esting the region indiscriminately to

schools often remain closed due to

air and sound pollution caused by

the dust of stones and giant stone-

grinding machines. The Khasis are

non-governmental organisations

joined the meeting and formed a

Bapa General Secretary Mohidul

alien in their own land, he added.

Mihir Bishwas said now the

due to 'stone eaters' who are defor-

collect stone for business purpose.

tourists rush at St Martin's Island.

Dr Abdul Hye Majumder said the

the place's eco-system.

tourism policy

PUBLICATION CEREMONY OF 'SHEIKH MUJIB: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY'

# 'Bangabandhu was personally religious, politically secular'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a charismatic leader whose uncompromising leadership and political farsightedness led to the independence of Bangladesh, said speakers at a publication ceremony of a biographical book on

He was personally religious but politically secular, they said, adding that his unending love for the Bangalees contributed to the framing of a constitution that speaks of democracy, social justice and secularism.

The publication ceremony of the book titled 'Sheikh Muiib: Triumph and Tragedy' was held at the Cirdap auditorium in the city. SA Karim, the first foreign secretary of Bangladesh, compiled the book after nine years of research and investigation.

The University Press Limited published the 424-page book comprising 58 chapters divided in five

"Sheikh Mujib had deep understanding of the politics of the Indian subcontinent. So, he would know very well that there would be no solution to the conflict between the West and East Pakistan unless the East wing becomes independent. That is why he motivated the people of Bengal to achieve independence," said Prof Harun-ur-Rashid of

The politics of Sheikh Mujib was

for the oppressed, which is still reflected in the programmes of his party Awami League, he added.

Bangabandhu was a democratic leader, Prof Rashid said, adding that he did not want to be a separatist leader. And this is very clear from the trend of his movements such as six-point demand movement in '66, mass upsurge in '69 and national election in '70, he added. "Finally, he made the call for war, as all else failed.'

He said Sheikh Mujib did not believe that the people of Bengal could assassinate him. "Even at a Commonwealth conference in

### Bangla Vision starts test transmission tomorrow

Bangla Vision, a satellite television channel of Shyamal Bangla Media Limited, is going to kick off its experimental broadcasting tomorrow at 6:00pm, says a press

It aims to express the truth and provide healthy entertainment for cultural advancement. Keeping up the spirit of the month of victory, the private channel starts its journey with a vow to ensure freedom of mass media and people's right to

Garments workers covering their faces with black clothes stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday

protesting the outcome of the WTO ministerial conference. Bangladesh Jatiya Garments Sramik Karmachari League

next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Dhaka

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

remark of the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that she had sensed some conspiracy against him," he added.

Former chief justice Kemal Uddin Hossain said, "We are proud that such a leader as Bangabandhu was born in this country and did everything possible to achieve independence of the country."

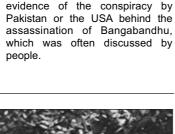
Senior journalist ABM Musa said it is unfortunate that Bangabandhu died a terrible death despite his unending love for the people of this

He quoted an interview where Sheikh Mujib said, "My best achievement is that people of this country love me. And the weakness is that I love them too much."

"It is not a tragedy that he was killed because he loved the people of the land, but the tragedy is that the Bangalees betrayed him by killing him," Musa said.

Lauding Bangabandhu's farsightedness, Prof Mosharraf Hossain said he was able to send back the Indian Army only in three months after independence, which is a rare case in the history.

The author of the book, SA Karim, said he did not find any



They urged the lawmakers to amend the family court laws. Women members of Union

Parishad (UP) from different coastal areas complained that they were not given chances to work for the welfare of local people.

"People still do not have confidence in the ability of women that they can work for the development of the country, which is the main obstacle to women empowerment," said a woman UP member from Barisal

The programme moderator, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, urged the local government to work to eliminate corruption in marriage registration since this is one of the underlying reasons of oppression against women. Advocate Fazle Ali Khan, presi-

dent of Coastal Network, delivered the welcome speech and Advocate Alka Nanda Das, vice president of Coastal Network, presented the

Md Mozahar Hossain MP, chairperson of the standing comaffairs, addressed the programme as the chief quest.

Advocate Bilkis Akhtar Jahan

## Light rain or drizzle likely

Humidity in

Morning Evening

72 87

92

100



organiser and social worker. On this occasion, a milad mahfil

## 'A' level under Cambridge Exam

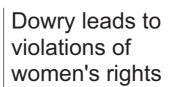
The Oxford International School (OIS) has launched 'A' level programme under Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in English, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, economics, accounting, business studies, computing and law, says a press

The launching ceremony was held at the newly built Dr Qudrat-I-Khuda Auditorium of the school in the city recently

Addressing the ceremony, Mark Parkinson, head of the school, said throughout the world CIE 'A' levels are considered to be 'gold standard'.

Principal Ramona Anand and

The school has invested significant resources for the 'A' Level



Reveals survey STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dowry, which is still prevalent in the country, is a major factor behind violations of women's rights, according to a survey by South Asia Partnership-Bangladesh

The survey was conducted among 3,182 people including government officials and representatives of local organisations in the coastal areas.

It revealed that physical torture, deprivation from inheritance. polygamy of husbands, illogical divorce, child marriage, rape, sexual harassment, forced marriage, abduction or trafficking are some forms of women's rights violation prevailing in the country.

Speakers expressed concern over the condition of women in the coastal belt (Noakhali, Patuakhali, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong) at a dialogue on 'Women's Rights Situation in the Coastal Belt: Problems and Prospects" held at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday. Sap Bangladesh and Coastal Network jointly organised the dialogue. Local government representa-

tives of coastal districts, local leaders, grassroots level womer from coastal districts, lawyers, academicians, researchers and members of the parliament participated in the event.

Lack of social protection mechanism at the grassroots levels and the adverse effects of family courts are responsible in some cases said the speakers.

MP, Jahan Ara Begum, UP member of Sitakundu and members of Coastal Network participated in the panel discussion.

#### Death anniversary Hoque Khan presided over the meeting while representatives of 20



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Dr Safia Hasna Jahan Ali, Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka, a sports

will be held at the residence of her husband Dr Shaikh Maqsood Ali at 135, Eastern Road, Lane-5, New DOHS, Mohakhali in the city after Magrib prayers today.

# OIS launches

Prof AFM Khodadat Khan, consultant for Training and Academic Development, also spoke on the occasion.

initiative, bringing together a team of high profile academics and teaching staff. The school has already set up modern science laboratory facilities according to the Cambridge specifications. In addition, there are computer labs with high speed internet connectivity, resource room for the teachers and students and library



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding conservation of natural environment at the tourist

Two cadres of Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddha) were arrested along with four bombs at Sadar upazila on Thursday night. The arrestees are Miarul Islam, 22,

PRESERVE TOTAL

NATURAL

ENVIRONMENT =

SAVE

COUNTRY.

BAPA

village, and Abdul Hamid, 45, son of late Mozammel Haq of Natun Darbeshpur village. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Miarul from Kola village. Later, according to his statement, police recovered

son of Mosharraf Hossain of Kola

four powerful live bombs from the kitchen of his house. In another raid, police arrested Hamid at Baradi bazar the same night. Police said the arrestees are the cadres of Purba Banglar Communist

Party (ML-Janajuddha).

Human chain

Bangladesh Development Partnership

Centre will form a human chain in favour

of peace and harmony. Venue: In front

Television Reporters' Association of

Bangladesh organises a cultural

programme to mark the Victory Day.

Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Khan. Time:

Shikkha O Paribesh Andolon organises

a roundtable on 'the role of working

class to protect interest in the national

election'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

of National Museum. Time: 11:00am.

**Cultural evening** 

Roundtable

Time: 2:30pm.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Dumuria police arrested Shudhir Mallick Ozha, 45, one of the top-listed terrorists of southwestern region, from his house at Baratia village of Khulna on Thursday night.

EXPLOITATION

OF NATURE .

Police said the terrorist is wanted in three murder cases and some other criminal cases. He fled the country two years ago in the face of operation clean heart. He came back to Dumuria from India on Wednesday, police said.

The arrested terrorist was an armed cadre of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP).

**Pre-Christmas** 

Archbishop organises a pre-Christmas

Day programme for editors and media

personalities. Venue: Archbishop

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue:

Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1:30pm.

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of

Dhaka North West will be held. Venue:

Gourmet Garden Restaurant

nouse, Kakrail. Time: 11:00am.

**Rotary Dhaka** 

Rotary meet

Central

programme

## PM conspires against independence

Says Jalil

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is killing people by giving indulgence to bombers and keeping the anti-liberation forces by

"She is conspiring against the independence and sovereignty of the country but trying to bring sedition charge against the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament", he added.

He made the allegation while he was speaking as the chief guest at a protest rally organised by Awami Swechchhasebak League at the Bangabandhur Avenue in the city

vesterday. Khaleda, who is almost on the verge of stepping down, wants to cling to power by issuing threat but the people would not tolerate it, he said, adding that the alliance gov-

ernment would be forced to resign through the united movement. Awami Swechchhasebak League organised the rally protesting the threat by the Prime Minister at the grand rally of BNP on

December 21 to implicate the opposition leader in a sedition charge. AFM Bahauddin, president of the organisation, chaired the rally. Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Pankai Debanath, Bachchu Miah, SA Mannan Kachi, Nirmol Ranjan Guha, Matiur Rahman Moti and

at the rally. Later, a protest procession paraded the main thoroughfares of

Golam Sarwar Mamun also spoke

### Japanese dental team arrives today

A 17-member delegation from Hokkaido University Graduate School of Dental Medicine, Japan, headed by Prof Shuichi Takinami arrives in the city today as part of Unesco international exchange programme, says a press release.

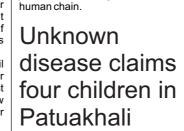
The visit is aimed at promoting mutual understanding and friendship among Japanese and Bangladeshi dental students and surgeons and sharing experi-

During their stay, the delegates will visit the Department of dentistry, Birdem Hospital, Dhaka Dental College, Sapporo Dental College and the faculty of dentistry of BSMMU. They will also conduct a dental camp in Comilla and collect data for collaborative research.

They will also present papers at the second scientific seminar of the Bangladesh Association of Dental Education and Research (BADER) to be held at the BIAM auditorium on December 29.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas will attend the seminar as the chief guest while Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi will be present as guest of honour. Dr Mahfujul Haq Khan, assis-

tant professor, Department of Dentistry, Birdem Hospital, and secretary general of BADER, Prof Khurshiduzzaman and Prof Mohiuddin Ahmed of Dhaka Dental College will coordinate all the programmes during their stay in Bangladesh.



OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Four children of two families died and 20 others were attacked with an ununknown disease at a village in Baufal upazila of the district within 12 hours until yesterday morning, creating panic in the area. The dead were identified as Razu,

13, son of Motalib, and Moni, 10, Sajib, 8, and Arif, 7, daughter and sons of Amir Hossain of village Paschim Mandarpara under Kachhipara union. Razu died at 10 pm on Thursday

night and the other three between 8:am- and 10:am yesterday. All were students of Kachhipara primary Family sources said vomiting and

loose motion with severe stomach pain are symptoms of the disease and condition of the patients worsen within hours. Of the 20 attacked with the dis-

ease, four are in a critical condition.

They are Humaun, 14, Mustafa,

50, Wasim, 5 and Anjan, 15. Locals alleged that the victims did not get any medical aid from the local community clinic.

Nurrunabi, upazila nirbahi officer and Dr Shah Alam, upazila health officer of Baufal, visited the area and confirmed the deaths and cases of

Shah Alam could not say if

these were cases of diarrhoea or

Health and administration officials also visited the spot, and a special medical team has been sent there



Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Sramik Federation takes out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding Tk 2500 as minimum

#### over the country, Met Office said in a forecast, adding that light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning It said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged at Chittagong division and fall by 1-2 degree Celsius elsewhere over the Highest temperature 28.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Temperature

19.4

19.5

16.0

17.8

18.6

18.4

26.4

22.5

27.0

27.0

25.5

25.8

Light rain or drizzle may occur at many places over Chittagong divi-

sion and one or two places over Barisal and Dhaka divisions in the

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere

They told the local people that their neighbour Mostafa brought them here from the capital promising their marriage at a village in Pirojpur. Later, Mostafa along with the

organised the protest.

in Khulna:

One held

here on Thursday night.

at about 8:00pm.

and cry.

UNB, Khulna

2 girls rescued

Police arrested an alleged human

trafficker and rescued two female

garment workers from Dhaka while

they were being sold to a brothel

Kathalbagan area in the capital.

The girls are residents of

Police said Mostafa, 28, brought

The local people at Phultala

Bazar rescued the girls from

Mostafa when the girls started a hue

the two girls from the capital and

tried to sell them to Phultala brothel

victims was handed over to local Mostafa, hailing from Rajapur

thana in Pirojpur, admitted his involvement in human trafficking. He was sent to the jail after police

filed a case against him under the Women Trafficking Act. The girls have been sent to the

capital under police escort.





Prof AFM Khodadat Khan speaks at the launching ceremony of the Oxford International School's 'A' level programme under Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) on the school premises recently. (Right) Mark Parkinson, head of the school, and other teachers pose for photograph at the launching ceremony.