Charges framed

Jubo Dal leader

COURT CORRESPONDENT

dence in September last year.

against Keraniganj

A Dhaka court yesterday framed

charges against South Keraniganj

thana unit Jubo Dal President Ziauddin

Pintu in a case filed for possessing

firearms and ammunition at his resi-

ARMS CASE

# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

# Massive resettlement plan to save cultivable lands underscored

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday underscored the importance of having a massive resettlement plan in place for rural areas to save the shrinking cultivable lands.

"We need to have a massive rural resettlement plan to encourage people to live in multistoried structures instead of their traditional wide houses so that we can save our valuable arable lands," he said this while he was addressing the inaugural session of a workshop titled 'Housing Finance Market' at a city

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed and World Bank country director Xian Zhu spoke at the workshop organised by World

The finance adviser said it is very hard to motivate the rural people to live in multistoried buildings leaving their traditional sprawling houses. "It's very hard and sensitive too, as we know the rural people are accustomed to leaving in their own traditional houses," he said.

possible right now to put the rural people in multistoried buildings altogether, "but we'll have to do that in the future."

Talking about the existing housing policy of the country, the adviser said there is still a scope to formulate a pro-active housing policy.

Criticising the financial institutions for not having the habit of providing long-term housebuilding loans, the finance adviser emphasised providing housing loans to low-income group rural

Dr Salehuddin also underscored the need for a planned housing system in rural areas and said, "Housing in rural areas is eating our valuable lands."

He stressed the importance of putting rural houses in common places as those are built in a scattered manner reducing cultivable

Dr Salehuddin is also against construction of numerous roads across the country as those contribute to rapid loss of croplands.

কিবরিয়া স্থারক বভ্তা

नि : व्यनि मुक्ति क्यान विकासका, बावित बार्स, नेत्रद मार के बांज़बी ३००४, विस्त 8 में

দেশ ফাউভেশন ফর ডেভেলপমেট রিসার্চ (বিএকভিমার)

विशः वाश्मामित्मत विमिन-नीष्ठि धवर मामम किवतिया ब्रिक्त १ थि, ध्वर, थे, खुर्स्ट

Dr Aziz said although it is not VAT and tax rate to facilitate housing in the country. "There should be lower rate for lower-income group

> apartments, moderate rate for middle-income group of people and higher rate for the rich people," he told the programme.

Saying that the interest rate of housing loan in the country is comparatively higher, he said, in India the interest rate has come down from 16 percent to 11 percent in the last couple of years, boosting the housing sector.

He also stressed the need for long-term loans for the young people as they could repay loans by saving money from their wages.

Xian Zhu said despite considerable economic and social potentials, housing finance remains underdeveloped in Bangladesh.

"The House Building Finance ing sector is now a declining player, in part, because of decreasing government support and in part, He suggested making a three-tire because of its history of opera-

tional ineffectiveness."

He said in its (HBFC) place, domestic and international comof people who will buy low cost flats mercial banks and a few new specialised institutions have entered the market with a significant potential growth.

> World Bank chief in Bangladesh Xian Zhu said affordable housing remains scarce in Bangladesh.

"Most mortgages are small, unaffordable, and only available from a few institutions. Modern methods of mortgage processing and risk assessment are starting to provoke interest, but are still not widely used. As a result, housing finance is expensive and rationed in favour of salaried employees with relatively high incomes, or those who can offer adequate land as collateral," he

He blamed legal, regulatory and taxation frameworks for the Corporation (HBFC) which has shrinking housing finance market traditionally dominated the hous- development, and said homebuyers who can afford it prefer paying for their homes in cash instead of taking out mortgage



Dhaka Medical College students form a human chain demanding honourary training facilities for the fresh graduates on the college premises in the city yesterday.

### First ever Modified Bentall Operation

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has stepped into a new era of cardiac surgery as physicians at a city hospital successfully carried out the first ever Modified Bentall Operation.

Renowned cardio-surgeon Dr Asit Baran Adhikari and his associates successfully performed this miraculous operation on Md Sydul Islam, an LLB third year student, at Al-Helal Specialised Hospital at Mirpur in the city on Saturday.

The patient, having Marfan Syndrome and Ascending Aortic Aneurysm with Aortic Regurgitation Grade-IV, has been struggling with his blood pressure (BP) of 130/0mm of Hg and palpitation since last two months.

The operation procedure took six hours while the patient was declared out of danger in the next six hours.

Sydul, now convalescing at the hospital, can freely talk to his relatives and doctors without any medical support. The doctors are of the opinion that he will be able to go home in a week.

According to a press release of the hospital, such operations are very costly at foreign hospitals. But, doctors at Al-Helal Specialised Hospital preformed this critical operation within an affordable

### Regional workshop on good sanitation, hygiene today

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day regional workshop on 'South Asia Sanitation and Hygiene' begins today at Brac training centre at Rajendrapur to focus on the need for greater access to good sanitation.

The workshop jointly organised by IRC International Water and Sanitation Center, Brac and Water Aid with support from Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, will bring together over 50 sanitation and hygiene professionals from the region, said Dr Babar Kabir, director of Brac yesterday.

Dr Babar said, discussions would be held as to how to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015.

FROM PAGE 16

companies.

## Amendment to law to punish non-iodised salt producers soon

UNB, Dhaka

The government is going to amend the Iodine Deficiencycaused Diseases Prevention Act to provide punishment to the producers of non-iodised salt.

This was disclosed at a meeting at the industries ministry with Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Mahbub Jamil in the chair.

As per the proposed amendments, all salt-producing companies must have laboratories in their factories for instant iodine The meeting decided to inten-

sify mobile court drive in the salt factories to ensure production of standard iodised salt.

It also decided to set up patent, design and trademark department as a powerful and

modern institute to preserve the

The meeting was told that necessary measures have already been taken to turn the department into an integrated intellectual property complex equipped with latest technolo-

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution

production.

Nurul Amin, heads of different present at the meeting.

we will select the company," Biman

CEO Dr MA Momen, also a mem-

ber of Biman Board, told The Daily

Flight schedule of Biman

Bangladesh Airlines collapsed in

the recent days due to scarcity of

aircraft and technical glitches,

causing untold sufferings to its

seven international routes, which

Biman was compelled to cut in

### matter Rab pressed charges against him on October 18, 2007. country's intellectual property.

(BSTI) and Bangladesh Small

and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) to conduct frequent surprise visits by mobile courts and surveillance teams, and collect samples from the salt factories to ensure its standard Industries Secretary Dr M

corporations concerned and high officials of the ministry were

### Biman to lease Boeing-747 for one year "After scrutinising all tenders,

STAFF CORRESPON DENT

Biman will lease a Boeing-747 for

The Board of Directors, the highest body of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, yesterday approved it in principle at a meeting with Cabinet

Secretary Ali Imam Majumder in the chair. The meeting also approved buying an engine for a DC10-30

The national flag carrier will launch flights on the new Dhaka-

Kunming-Hongkong route after getting the leased aircraft. All members of the Biman board

attended the meeting held at the office of the cabinet secretary.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines earlier floated tender to lease one Boeing.

include New York, Yangon,

Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Chalermpol Thanchitt speaks at a press

conference titled 'Thai food to the world' at the National Press Club in the city

yesterday. Thai embassy in Dhaka organised the conference to promote the

Thai food and increase the number of Thai restaurants worldwide.

Mumbai, Frankfurt, Orly (Paris) Brussels and Manchester and reduce flight frequencies on five profitable international routes like Riyadh, Jeddah, Kuwait, London

Starlast night.

passengers.

sources at Biman said.

and Rome. Thai Food to The Wor is bring the great That cuisine to the whole world ka on 28, January 2008

She left behind two sons and three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her body has been kept at Birdem mortuary.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Masjid in Gulshan on

hursday.

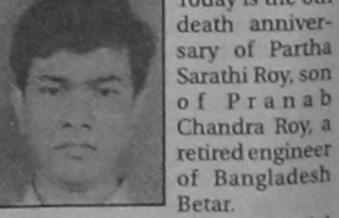
She will be buried at family

graveyard at Beraid.

and made significant contribu-

tions to liberation war. She also established

Death anniversary



To mark the occasion, a special prayer will be held at his father's RK Mission Road residence.

and destitute.

# presence of professionals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adabar ASI

suspended

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Adabar Police Station was suspended yesterday for recording a mugging incident as a general diary instead of a case.

Development Research organised the lecture.

ASI Bazlur Rahman refused to record the mugging incident as a case when a woman wanted to file a case after a gang of muggers snatched away Tk 50,000 and some gold ornaments from her at Shyamoli Ring Road in the morning, sources said. The ASI, rather, recorded the incident as a general

Deputy commissioner (DC) Mahbubor Rahman of Tejgaon zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police suspended Bazlur Rahman in the evening in this regard.

police station and suspended the ASI in the evening for not recording the incident as a case.

Mahbub said he has visited the

He said police are bound to record the complaint as a case if it is an incident of mugging.



### Roundtable

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) in collaboration with Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh will organise a roundtable on 'Strategic change'. Venue: Goethe-Institut auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Workshop

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and Food and Agricultural organisation (FAO) jointly organise a workshop on programme for food security. Venue: RDEC conference room, LGED building. Time: 9:30am.

### Roundtable

Bangladesh Jaitya Mahila Ainjibi Samity organises a roundtable on 'Protection of women and children reflected in landmark judgment'. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

### Publication ceremony

**Rotary Dhaka** 

The publication ceremony of a book of poetry by HM Gazi will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

# Talks should be held in

Says Amu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said the dialogue between the caretaker government and the political parties must be held as early as possible in presence of representatives of

Prof Kabir Chowdhury speaks at the Kibria memorial lecture titled 'Bangladesh foreign policy and Shah ASM Kibria'

at the Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium at the National Museum in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Foundation for

different professional bodies. "Since complexity has already arisen prior to holding the dialogue, it must be held in presence of representatives of all professional bodies including civil society members, teachers, lawvers and businessmen, so that none could pin the blame on others if the dialogue fails," Amu told the reporters at his Eskaton

residence in the capital. Reiterating the party's position of not taking part in the dialogue if any condition is imposed, he said the government must finish holding dialogue with

political parties before March. Amu, an influential AL Presidium member, also

broadcast live.

Referring to BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, the AL leader said the process of holding dialogue must be observed closely so that it remains transparent and none could raise question about it.

THE REAL PROPERTY.

He said although they demanded that dialogue must be held without any condition, the government has been trying to impose conditions now.

Replying to a query whether the government is making delay in holding dialogue, he said it's their matter. But the government should start working immediately, he said.

He said the government should hold bilateral dialogue with all the political parties except Jamaat-e-Islami and the war criminals.

Amu said they are ready to

### discuss all the issues including intra-party reforms and price hike of essentials during the dialogue if the government sits with them without imposing any condition. demanded that the dialogue be

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Ishwardi.

Weather will remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Jessore and Srimongal and it may spread out elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. It also said that light to moderate fog may occur over the river

basins of the country during early morning. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. Highest temperature 24.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.0 degrees Celsius at Jessore and

The sun sets in the capital at 5:42pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidityin Temperature City/Town percentage in celsius Morning Evening Max Min 22.6 11.4 Dhaka 22.2 13.7 Chittagong 22.5 09.2 Rajshahi 90 22.7 11.8 Khulna 58 92 11.6 23.1 Barisal 58 13.5 21.8 Sylhet 52 24.3 14.8 74 Cox's Bazar

### contemporary British sculpture begins BSS, Dhaka

Exhibition on

Adviser for Foreign Affairs Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday inaugurated an exhibition on contemporary British sculpture hoping that the exhibition would bring the cultures of the two countries closer.

Britain and Bangladesh share many commonwealth values and have ties embedded in their intellectual relationship that dates back centuries, he said adding, the ties provide the matrix on which the bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries is also based.

The exhibition titled 'Long Distance Information' was jointly organised by the British Council, Dhaka and Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, a press release said. Terming the art as a mathematical

result of the emotional desire for beauty,

the adviser said, it is through art and art

only that we can realise our perfection that help shield ourselves from the sordid perils of actual existence. "This definition of course does not render full justice to art. The purpose of art should be to do more than protecting ourselves from the humdrum work-a-day daily life-styles and enrich it with the appreciation of things of beauty by providing that value-addition to the quality of our

porary sculpture is a form of art that does that very well. "It is also evident in these art forms that Bangladesh and Britain have a common historical heritage that we share. While we had a past that was rich in sculptures, it was the liberation war that lent vigour and a unique style

lives," he said adding, British contem-

to the art form," Iftekhar added. "Our national icons like Aparajyeo Bangla, Swaparjita Swadhinata and Doyel Square are representing this genre. Legendary sculptures like Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, Novera Ahmed, Shamim Shikdar, Abdur Razzak and more have paved the way for a new generation of sculptures who are working creatively at

homeandabroad," he said. Referring to government's phenomenon encouragement to art, the adviser said "We regularly host the largest Asian Biennial doubled as one of Asia's most prestigious art gathering."

### 22 idols of Hindu Goddess damaged in Pirojpur

UNB, Pirojpur

Miscreants early yesterday damaged 22 idols including the images of Hindu Goddess "Kali" and "Saraswati" at Palpara in the municipal area.

The sculptors alleged that a group of drug addict youths of the area attacked their houses at dead of night and damaged the images, being made for Kali puja and Saraswati Puja to be held on February 6 and 11 respectively. Deputy Commissioner M Abdul

Kaiyum, acting Police Super Kamrul

Hasan and district administration

### officials visited the spot. Birth anniversary of Vivekananda today



146th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of the most famous and influential spiritua leadersw of the philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga and

Today is the

chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, says a press release. To mark the day aratrika, devotional songs, special puja, reading from the scriptures will be held at Ramakrishna Mission premises in the city. A discussion meeting on 'Swami

Vivekananda: Symbol of Service

will also be held.

consumable and equipment price.

for oil companies -- a benefit that was offered in the previous block bids. The bid documents will readily offer a model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to the bidders. The Bay of Bengal holds enormous prospects of oil and gas discovery.

Bangladeshi waters. Myanmar also discovered seven tcf gas in the Bay close to Bangladeshi boundary. Bangladesh now has 10 operating PSCs with foreign oil companies. The first PSCs were signed in 1994 and 1995, with British company Cairn and US company Occidental (now Chevron) based on unsolicited negotiations. The government continued this trend till 1997 and signed a couple more PSCs which ended without any results. Following the 1998 sec-

Between 2005 and 2006, India discov-

THIRD ROUND BID FEATURES The oil companies will have tax-free

Govt weighs today tender proposal

The bidding will offer attractive gas price prospects, but it also withdraws zero corporate tax facilities imports, with some exceptions. The biggest incentive for the third time a provision of "abandonment round bidding would be a new gas pricing formula where Bangladesh is ready to pay higher prices for gas extracted by deep-sea rigs. The past PSC models spelled out maximum three gas price structures. The new PSC adds a fourth price structure.

Gas price under the PSC uses a ered at least 100 trillion cubic feet (tcf) formula where the price of High of gas, mostly in the Bay, close to Sulphur Fuel Oil (HSFO) in the Singapore market acts as the benchmark. Under this formula, oil companies were offered per thousand cubic feet gas price at 75 percent of the price of HSFO for gas produced from regular on-shore areas, 93 percent of HSFO price for gas in offshore area and 93 percent of HSFO price for the gas found in the western region. The new PSC gives 100 percent of HSFO price for gas found in deep waters in the Bay.

The ceiling price of gas has been raised to \$180 from the present \$140 ond round block bidding, the per thousand cubic feet, while the government signed a few more floor price remains at \$70. PSCs with Tullow, Unocal (now Chevron) and a few other oil

In case of oil discovery, the contractor will have to sell 85 percent of management skills.

the oil to the local market at a price 15 percent less than international The model PSC adds for the first

cost" to ensure that an oil company

does not just abandon a gas or oil

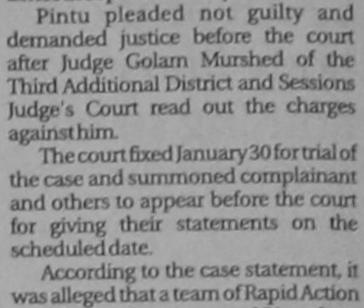
field without proper de-installation

of related equipment. The model PSC says, "Contractor shall commence payment to Petrobangla into a fund to be hereinafter referred to as the "Abandonment Fund" on the first anniversary of the First Commercial Production." This clause ensures that an oil company does not try to avoid its responsibility while closing

Emphasising local manpower employment, the model PSC asks bidders to justify employment of all foreign nationals during production phase. This provision is relaxed for the exploration phase. Contractor will be obliged to

its operations.

arrange for the systematic transfer of its technology, know-how and experience to Petrobangla. Contractor shall establish a programme to train Petrobangla personnel locally and abroad to improve technical and



Battalion (Rab)-11 arrested Pintu from in front of Victoria Park in Kotwali area in the city on September 17 last year and as per his information a rifle and two bullets were recovered from his Kutia Madhyapara residence in Keranigani Following the incident, Sub-Inspector Azizul Islam filed a case against Pintu, close associate of

detained former BNP lawmaker

Amanullah Aman, under the Arms Act

and after the investigation into the

### RU JCD CLASH No action taken yet

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities are yet to take any action regarding Sunday's clash between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Mahbub Jamil asked Dal (JCD) that left three students injured. The authorities are yet to form a

committee to investigate into the incident while police are yet to arrest anyone responsible. "The authorities don't want to take the case seriously as both the groups belong to JCD. We are waiting if they reach a consensus," said a

senior teacher of the university

seeking anonymity. When contacted, RU Proctor Enamul Haque denied the allegations and said RU authorities directed police to take action against the responsible JCD activists.

### More donation to CA's fund

UNB, Dhaka

More individuals and institutions yesterday donated over Tk 7 lakh to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare

Fund in aid to the Sidrvictims. Leasing the Boeing-747 for one Among the donors, American year will cost about \$19-20 million, Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh donated Tk 4.25 lakh while Barisal Club of Toronto, Canada Tk 80,000, Nurul Islam, editor of the daily Cox's Bazar Tk 5,000 and Rajibpur Degree College Tk5,000.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alifa Khatun, mother of Gonoforum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, died of old age complications at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 97.

She left behind six sons and

three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. She was buried at Banani graveyard. Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain and acting general secre-

tary Subrata Chowdhury have

condoled the death of Alifa Khatun.

Shamsun Nahar Rose

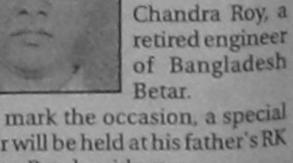


on Sunday at the age of 79.

Shamsun Nahar, wife of late Mokhlesur Rahman Sidhuvai, was one of the founders of Chhayanaut

Muktijuddho Gobeshona Kendro and Sidhuvai Kolyan Trust.





Food and clothing will also be distributed among the orphans