Former BNP

'VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT'

Vow to achieve goals of eliminating blindness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A four-day international conference ended in the port city yesterday with a vow to achieve goals of 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight', a global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness by the year

International Association for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) organised the conference, the first in the South East Asia, at Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC).

Experts at the conference suggested guidelines for prevention and cure of diseases identified or considered as the main reasons for causing blindness in this region.

IAPB President and Board of Trustees Chairman Dr GN Rao and IAPB South East Asia Regional Chairman Prof Rabiul Husain disease areas, said the IAPB leadyesterday held a press briefing on the conference that began at CEITC on February 5.

days' intensive discussions on progress and future directions for VISION 2020.

Involve Bapex

in oil and gas

exploration

CPB urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

boundary into 27 blocks.

Communist Party of Bangladesh

(CPB) yesterday expressed concern

over the floating of international

tender for exploring oil and gas by

dividing the country's maritime

Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General

Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim

said the interest of general people

was not considered in production-

sharing-contract model that has

getting oil and gas in the sea is very

high, the people must be informed

about the details of the contract

government to involve the

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration

& Production Company Limited

(Bapex) in oil and gas exploration

of every block to enhance the

capability of the national organisa-

would reject any decision to

increase the profit of foreign com-

panies as well as their native

cohorts by sacrificing the national

strengthen their agitation for pro-

tecting the country's oil and gas

Film show

on drug, HIV

The premiere show of two films

aiming to assist the police, pris-

ons, narcotics and community

services in communicating the

messages against crime, drug

dependence and preventing the

spread of HIV was held in the city

on Thursday, says a press release.

The film 'Mukto Jibon' is a 24-

minute film, focused on raising

awareness among prison inmates

about STIs, HIV and drug use and

the film 'Fera' is a 29-minute film

focused on raising awareness on

health and drug detoxification

services available after being

(FHI) Bangladesh in collabora-

tion with South-South Centre

(SSC), IOM, CREA and Ministry of

Home Affairs organised the pre-

mier show at Spectra Convention

Inspector General of Prisons

presided over the function while

Dr Sk Abdur Rashid, additional

secretary of Ministry of Home

Affairs attended the function as

the chief guest, and Sheri-

Nouane Johnson, Director, PHN,

USAID, and Humayun Kabir,

Director General, Department of

Narcotics Control attended as

The chief guest said we can not

live in peace and tranquility if we

do not consider our neighbors

who are with problems like drug

He pointed out that these films

would carry the messages in

raising awareness among the

vulnerable groups to the prob-

Officials from Ministry of

Home Affairs, Departments of

Police, Prisons and Narcotics

Control attended the

special guests.

abuse and HIV.

programme.

Brgd Gen Md Zakir Hasan,

Family Health International

released from prison.

prevention

They also called on people to

interests.

resources.

held

They said the countrymen

The CPB leaders urged the

They said as the possibility of

been designed for this time also.

before floating new tenders.

In a statement, CPB President

VISION 2020 is a joint initiative of IAPB and World Health Organisation (WHO) that aims at raising profile of vision impairment, mobilising resources for blindness prevention and helping governments in implementing national eye care plans, they said at the press conference.

It incorporates three key principles-- cost-effective disease control interventions targeting disof its kind in Bangladesh as well as eases like cataract that is accountable for nearly half the world's blindness, secondly, developing human resources through training and motivation, and finally, if necessary, developing infrastructure, including facilities, technology, medical supplies and funds. Besides, with prevalence growth

within aging population diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma were recently included in the emergent According to WHO statistics,

they said, the worldwide number of The conference had several blind people stood at 45 million while that of the people having significant vision impairment is 314 million. Without concerted

international intervention, the magnitude of blindness is feared to reach a shocking 76 million by the vear 2020.

They said every five seconds one person in the world goes blind and a child goes blind every minute although 75 percent of the worldwide blindness are avoidable.

Saudi Prince Abdul Aziz bin Ahmad Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud also attended the conference as the president of IAPB Eastern Mediterranean Region comprising 40 Middle Eastern countries.

Speaking at the conference, Health Secretary Zafar Ullah, also the chairman of the National Committee of Blindness Prevention, highlighted the steps like approval of the national eye care plan by the National Economic Council and allocation of some fund for its implementa-

Louis Pizzarello, secretary general of IAPB, Columbia University, USA, Professor Bruce E Spivery, president of International Council of Ophthalmology, USA and Dr Serge Resnikoff of WHO also participated at the conference.



Former BNP lawmaker and General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal being taken to a court in the city yesterday.

Four killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Khagrachhari, Satkhira and Feni yesterday.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports: one person was killed and six others were injured in a road accident at Muslimpara under Matiranga Upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday.

Muhammad Nur Alam, 20, a truck helper from Charpara Muslimpara village under Matiranga Upazila. The injured were Mohammad Riaz Uddin Ahmed, 26, Md Abul Kashem, 35, Md Aktarul Islam, 26, Mohammad Anowar, 32, Abu Mia, 31 and Mohammad Rafiq,

said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound truck fell into a roadside ditch leaving the truck helper Alam dead on the

sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and others were sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

UNB, Dhaka

tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Light rain or drizzle likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Khulna,

Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain

mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in the

country during early morning, Met Office said, predicting that night

recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest of 15.4 degrees at Srimangol.

Temperature

incelsius

Max

28.4

27.8

26.41

29.5

30.0

29.3

29.5

temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.3 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:35am

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Min

18.9

18.2

7.0

19.0

17.2

17.0

18.8

Hospital for autopsy.

Our Satkhira correspondent adds: A motorcycle rider was killed in a road accident on Satkhira-Khulna road at Labsa intersection in Sadar Upazila vesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Liton, 22, son of Shahidul Mistri of Sultanpur village under Kalaroa Upazila.

Quoting locals police said the The victim was identified as accident occurred when the motorcycle collided head on with a Satkhira-bound bus leaving Liton seriously injured. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

BSS reports: Two people were killed in a road accident at Kazirbag on Feni-Parshuram road yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Police and hospital sources Zahirul Islam, 35, and Mizanur Rahman, 25.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck rammed a roadside electric pole failing to locate the pole due to Three seriously injured were dense fog and fell into roadside ditch. Zahirul, driver of the truck and Mizanur, helper of the truck, were killed due to electrocution.

Their bodies were sent to Feni

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

67

75

74

71

82

85

63

Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar

Flute concert

Murtuza Kabir Murad and his students will perform at a flute concert. Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, House # 72, Road # 15A, Dhanmondi. Time

Seminar

The opening ceremony of the seminar titled 'One for all - Persons with disabilities self-initiatives in development, organised by Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS), wil be held. Venue: Dhaka Regency Hotel

Time: 6:00pm. View exchange

LPEP Renewable Energy organises view exchange meeting on development of renewable energy. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

The Daily Manabzamin organises roundtable on future of democracy in Bangladesh. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Science fair

Marie Curie School organises a science fair. Venue: Marie Curie School Dhanmondi. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

The Post Graduate Programmes in Disaster Management, Brac University and Brac in collaboration with Disaste Management Bureau will organise a roundtable on 'Experiences in Tsunam warning systems in Bangladesh'. Venue Brac University. Time: 3:30pm.

Art exhibition

The opening ceremony of an international art exhibition will be held. Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises the exhibition to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Asiatic Society's auditorium. Time: 4:00pm. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 2:00pm to 8:00pm till February 24.

Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will organise a dialogue on 'Input delivery strategy for higher boro production'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Scientific meeting

The inaugural ceremony of the '9th IEA South East Asia regional scientific meeting' will be held. Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh and Eminence jointly organise the meeting. Venue: ICMH auditorium, Matuail. Time: 9:30am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Infant taken to baby care home from Ctg jail

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The confined three-and-a-halfmonth old infant was taken from Chittagong jail to a baby care home on Thursday. The infant - a baby girl, along

with her self-claimed and mentally disabled 'mother' Mubaraka Khanam had been behind the bars since January 14, as the relationship between them could not be confirmed.

With police suspecting Mubaraka as a baby thief a court on January 28 ordered for sending the infant to a baby care home --Chhotomoni Nibash in Roufabad.

The baby girl was taken to Chhotomoni Nibash under the supervision of Department of Social Service (DSS) after the court order reached the jail authorities, sources said.

At the directive of the DSS higher authorities led by Deputy Superintendent Bandana Das took the baby under their custody when her self-claimed mother was behind the bar.

Residents of Madhyam Rampura in Halishahar stopped Mubaraka Khanam, 30, wife of Kaisarul Islam of Chakaria in Cox's Bazar, when she was wandering aimlessly with the baby on January 13. The locals turned them in to police finding inconsistency in her statement and filed a GD with Halishahar Police Station accusing

her of stealing the baby. A metropolitan magistrate's court sent the two to jail the next

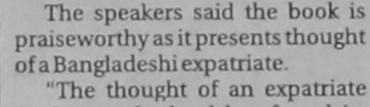
The Daily Star ran a report on the incident on Wednesday, drawing huge attention.

While talking to The Daily Star, DSS Chittagong Deputy Director Begum Halima Akteri said, "We could have taken steps to bring the baby under our custody had we heard of the court order."

"However, we spent no time in bringing the baby to the baby care home before 2:00pm on the day when we learnt about the matter from the news report," she added.

out of various crises facing the nation," said Advocate Sultana Assistant Commissioner of CMI Kamal, former adviser of the care-Double Mooring Circle Iltutmish taker government. said they were trying to hand over "We value logic when we conthe baby girl to her parents.

sider things from individual "We asked our men (district aspects, but we become illogical police) at Chakaria to investigate when we thing collectively," said into the incident to know the whereanother former adviser of the abouts of Mubaraka and are waiting caretaker government Akbar Ali for their reports," said the AC.



Advocate Sultana Kamal.

launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

respective positions.

unveiled the cover.

Protidhwani

Speakers at a programme yester-

day said Bangladesh will not

remain entangled in crisis if its

people love the country from their

at the National Press Club in the

capital yesterday to unveil the

cover of a book titled 'Protidhwani

(Echo), published by Ananya and

written by Harun Chowdhury, a

Bangladeshi expatriate in the USA.

presided over the programme,

experiencing a crisis of good writ

ers and books worth reading.

Prof Dr Anisuzzaman, who

The speakers said Bangladesh is

As a result, the readers are buy-

ing books considering the name

instead of their contents, they

Bangladesh would definitely come

"If all people love the country,

The programme was organised

for his motherland has found its readable expression in this book,' said Shamokal Editor Abed Khan, adding, "Now-a-days a good piece of writing gets lost easily in the crowd of so many trash writings. As a result most of the readers now buy books just considering their

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam was present as chief guest at the programme which was attended by Nurul Islam Anu, a former CSP officer, Advocate Shahida Begum and Monirul Huq, publisher of the book.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 24th edition of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Feni Government College in Feni

Former lawmaker and Feni district unit BNP president Mosharraf Hossain, former minister and Awami League leader Col (retd) Zafar Imam, senior journalist ABM Musa and Joint General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Shirin Akhtar will take part in the programme as panellists.

Kamal Ahmed of BBC Bangla Service will moderate the Sanglap. The recorded programme will

be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 8:00pm tomorrow and on Channel iat 8:00pm on Monday.

(DU) yesterday.

'Radio journalism can help ensure right to information' tor of Federation of Asian Bishop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Protidhwani' by Harun Chowdhury at its publication ceremony at the National

Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Regulatory Reforms Commission Chairman Akbar Ali Khan, Prof

Anisuzzaman, Harun Chowdhury, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam and former adviser to the caretaker government

Speakers at a conference yesterday called for development of radio journalism, saying that this media can play an important role in ensuring underprivileged people's right to information.

Over 300 listeners from 32 districts across the country joined the daylong conference organised by the Bengali Service of Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) of Philippines at Christian Pastoral Centre in Rajshahi city. Those who cannot afford a

television, cable TV connections or newspapers depend on radio for information, the speakers said.

Father Eillers, executive direc-

tion commission, Father Boby, general manager, RVA, Philippines, Father PJ Joseph, director, Chitrabani, Kolkata, Robin Gomez, rector, Nitika, India and Komol Koraia, director, Banidipti, also attended the conference. RVA Bengali service council's

Conference's social communica-

co-chairman and Rajshahi Bishop Gervas Rozario presided over the conference while RVA Bangladesh Correspondent Saifuddin Sabuj conducted it.

RVA Council also honoured Gabriel Kosta, an educationist and human development activist, with an award at the conference.



Leaders and activists of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote present a bouquet to language movement veteran Gaziul Haque at a reception accorded to him at his residence at Hazipara in the city yesterday.

Set target for reduction of neonatal death

Experts say at confce

BSS, Dhaka Bangladesh has halved its under-five

child morality during the last decade but yet to set any target to reduce the mortality of neonates, who make up 55 percent of the total child deaths annually, said the experts at a neonatal conference yesterday. The three-day international

conference has been organised jointly by Bangladesh Neonatal Foundation in association with UN International Children Fund and Save the Children, USA, at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city. "It is important to set a target for

reduction of neonatal deaths in line with the millennium development goals (MDGs)," said Pro Mohammad Shahidullah of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at the policy session. He said around 120,000 neona-

tal deaths are being occurred annually in the country, most of which could be prevented through family awareness and ensuring safe delivery by trained persons at homes where 85 percent birth take place.

But things have not been improved much due to inadequacy of trained birth attendants (TBAs) and skilled birth attendants (SBAs) at local levels, he added.

Prof Shahidullah said the high est importance should be laid on the reduction of neonatal deaths considering their high proportion in child mortality in the country which, experts say, is on track to achieve maternal and child health related MDGs by 2015. In this context, he called for

fulfilling the vacant posts of health staffs at grassroots levels. "We have failed to keep doctors

at village levels, but we will take care of it," observed health ministry Additional Secretary Abu Kalam Azad, who attended the concluding session as chief guest. He reaffirmed the government's

commitment to reduce the child mortality at least by two-thirds in line with MDGs.

Prof MQK Talukder, a noted pediatrician, said the exclusive breastfeeding could alone save many lives.

MP Masud Arun sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Former BNP lawmaker from Meherpur-1 Masud Arun, his personal secretary Oashes and Meherpur Poursava BNP President Jahangir Biswas have been sued for allegedly taking money from a person by making a false promise.

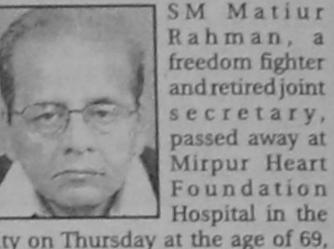
One Mohsin Ali of Fulbaganpara of Meherpur town filed the case with Sadar Police Station on Thursday night.

In the case, Mohsin alleged that Masud, Oashes and Jahangir took Tk I lakh from him on January 7 of 2005 assuring him of the job of a primary school teacher. But they did not provide him with the job. As he asked for refunding the money, they threatened him with

Masud, now in Dhaka, is already an accused in three other cases, police and other sources

dire consequences, Mohsin

Obituary



city on Thursday at the age of 69, says a press release. He left behind his wife, one

daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death. During his long career, he also served as the chief metropolitan

magistrate in Chittagong. He was a circle officer in Tentulia during the liberation war. On behalf of the Mujibnagar government, he helped the freedom fighters directly and turned the office of the circle officer into a health centre for the freedom fighters.

Matiur Rahman was the first to hoist the flag of independent Bangladesh in Tentulia.

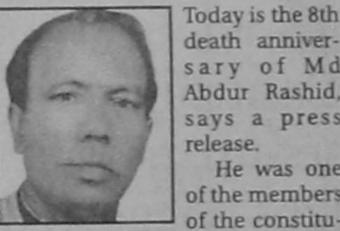
Maksuda

Maksuda, mother-in-law of Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, president of Sutrapur Thana Awami Swechchhasebok League, passed away due to kidney disease at her Armanitola residence in the city yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

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

Dhaka City Awami Swechchhasebok League (South) President Debashish Biswas and General Secretary Arifur Rahman expressed deep shock at her death and prayed salvation for the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary



death anniversary of Md Abdur Rashid, says a press release. He was one of the members

Today is the 8th

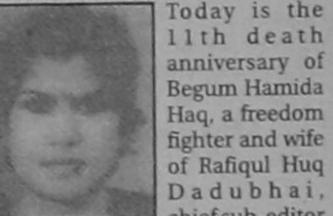
tion formulation committee, former member of the parliament and one of the organisers of the LiberationWar.

He was also one of the close associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the occasion, Qurankhwani

and milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his residence (Nayana Neer, House-36, Road-1, Block-1, Banani) in the city. Relatives, political associates

and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Hamida Haq

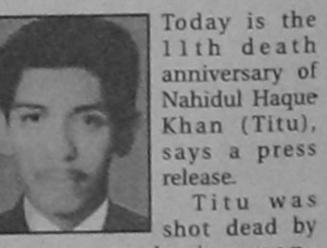


Dadubhai, chief sub-editor of the daily Jugantor and a child welfare activist, says a press

release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her Shantinagar residence in the city

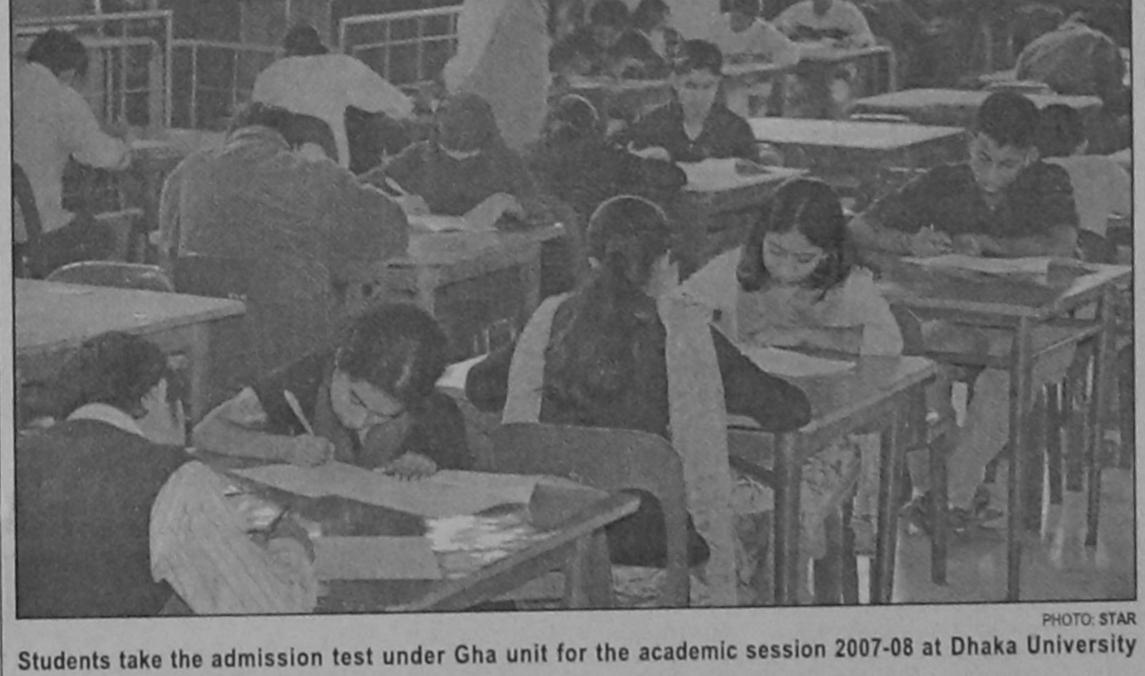
Nahidul Haque Khan (Titu)

and at Rangpur town.



shot dead by miscreants during noncooperation movement in 1996 while he was a student of Rajshahi On the occasion, a milad mahfil

will be held after Asr prayers at his residence (574, Uttar Relatives, friends and admirers



University.

Shahjahanpur) in the city.

are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.