

# Dhaka-Beijing friendship to be further strengthened

## Chinese Ambassador tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zheng Qingdian yesterday said the long-term friendship and partnership between Bangladesh and China will be further strengthened in the coming days.

"I firmly believe that with our joint efforts the comprehensive partnership between the peoples of the two countries will continue to grow in the days to come," he said.

The Chinese ambassador was speaking as chief guest at a seminar titled 'One China Policy' organised by Bangladesh-China Friendship Association (BCFA) at the National Press Club in the capital.

Zheng Qingdian said Bangladesh's support to China's core issues like Taiwan and Tibet is especially precious when some western governments and media attempted to take advantage of these issues to tarnish the image of China.

Reminding the audience of Beijing Olympics to be held in August this year and China's celebration of 30th anniversary of its Reform and Opening-up Policy, Zheng Qingdian said some vested quarters are making repeated attempts to politicise the Olympics.

About recent violence in Lhasa of Tibet, he said the incident was carefully designed and organised by Dalai Lama clique to disturb Beijing Olympics and jeopardise the stability and harmony of China.

Speakers at the seminar condemned "conspiracies" by imperialists to politicise the Olympics and

said they would support One China policy and urged Beijing to give lead in uniting the developing nations to fight the imperial forces of present uni-polar world.

"We shall never accept if someone wants to divide China. We are a very small country. Our geographical location is not very

favourable for us. There has to be some power balance in Asia for our integrity," said Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

China is going to be a number one economic power in the next two to three decades and there is no reason why Bangladesh will not maintain good relation with China, he said.

Referring to recent riots in Tibet, BCFA President Lt Gen (retd) M Mahbubur Rahman said such activities are meant to destroy China's national unity.

"We urge international community to stand united against all attempts to undermine the Olympics," he added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu said One China and Two Systems policy is very pragmatic where all people can enjoy freedom.

Former DU vice-chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Prof Mahbubullah, journalist Sadeque Khan, National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud, The News Today Editor Rezauddin Ahmed, BCFA Vice-presidents Nazmul Haque Nannu and Shahina Khan and communist leader Tipu Biswas also spoke.

## 'Free Hasina, Khaleda'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League (AL), and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), yesterday reiterated their demands for the release of Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia.

BCL activists staged a token hunger strike for two hours in front of arts building at Battala on Dhaka University (DU) campus, while JCD activists took out a procession and held a rally in front of the arts building to press home their demands.

Leaders and activists of both the organisations demanded release of the two detained leaders in their respective protest programmes.

General Secretary of Dhaka

University Teachers' Association (Duta) Prof Anwar Hossain, former Duta president Prof Arefin Siddique, Prof Muhammad Samad, Prof Saiful Islam Khan, Prof Mashiur Rahman, literature and human rights worker Shahriar Kabir expressed their solidarity with the BCL hunger strike programme.

They demanded the release of AL President Hasina and said a united movement is needed for the release of the party chief and freeing democracy from the present political crisis.

Human rights worker Shahriar Kabir said Hasina has been kept in jail without any sort of judgment, which is against the human rights law of the United Nations and constitution of the country.

# Fish Feed and Livestock Feed Ord 2008 Okayed

## New ordn to boost commercial fishery, poultry, dairy output

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved the Fish Feed and Livestock Feed

Ordinance 2008 aimed at boosting commercial fishery, poultry and dairy production.

The objective of the new law is also to increase supply of 'disease-free protein on the domestic market, bring dynamism in the export trade and maintain quality of standard of the products'.

A regular weekly meeting of the council of advisers with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair gave the final approval to the ordinance, which was earlier approved in principle by the council in December 2007.

Under provision of the new ordinance production of fish feed, livestock feed, its processing, import, export, marketing, buying, sale, distribution and other related

activities cannot be done without license.

## BTV dy director general Shahida suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday suspended Shahida Alam, Deputy Director General of (news current charge) of Bangladesh Television (BTV) due to her professional inefficiency, according to an official handout.

Director (Advertisement) M Monwarul Islam has been given the charge of the DDG (News) in addition to his current responsibility, the handout added.

A high official at the Ministry of Information told The Daily Star that Shahida Alam was suspended as she did not telecast the Friday's violent incident of Islamist activists in and around Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

## Birth anniversary of Prof Mozaffar



He was born in 1922 at Debidbar upazila in Comilla.

He was an adviser to the expatriate government and worked for creating public opinion and gaining international support during the Liberation War in 1971.



## BPRA executives

Mirza Tarequl Qader and ASM Bazul Haque have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRA) for 2008-09, says a press release.

The result of the election was announced after the 11th biennial national conference of BPRA at the National Press Club on Saturday.

Other office bearers are: Rowshan A Rahman, FM Mokammel Haq and Moniruzzaman Khan Majlish -- vice president, SM Mahfuzur Rahman and Mohammad Abdul Khaleque -- joint secretary, Sheikh Sadeque Ahmed -- treasurer, Faruk Ahmed -- organising secretary, Sharmina Nargis -- cultural secretary, Lina Ferdous Kakoli -- international affairs secretary, Mohammad Moniruzzaman Tipu -- publicity and publication secretary, Monoranjan Mondal -- education and research secretary and Sheikh Khairuzzaman -- office secretary.

The 15 executive members are: Mostofa-E-Jamil, Ferdousi Sultana, Dewan Rashidul Hasan, Mosharraf Hossain, Md Abdur Rahman, Azam Khan, Mahbub Ara, Abul Kashem Sikder, Mir Mohammed Moshed, Abdullah Mohammad Nazim, Mohammad Ataul Haque, Shahid Mohammad Mobarshah, Mohammad Shahjahan, Mohammad Arifur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam.

# Death anniversary of five martyrs tomorrow



Tomorrow is the 37th martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Engineer Fazlur Rahman, Shaheed Hosne Akhter (an NGO trainer), Shaheed Mostafizur Rahman Moazzu (college student), Shaheed Hasinur Rahman Hiron (school student) and Shaheed Azizur Rahman Babu (school student), says a press release.

They were killed at their railway government residence in Sayedpur under Nilphamari by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators 'Biharis' (Urdu speaking) on this day in 1971 for their martyr's involvement in the War of Liberation.

Hosne Akhter, an NGO trainer, was buried alive after charging bayonet by the killers. Her son Saidur Rahman and two daughters Dilruba Khatun and Camellia Rahman managed to escape during the atrocities.

Many innocent Bangladeshes were killed by the Pakistani forces with the help of Biharis in Sayedpur during the War of Liberation.

On the occasion, Quarkhwani will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute.

All are requested to attend the Quarkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed souls.

## LABOUR ACT 2006

## Govt urged to stop process of its amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour leaders and civil society members at a seminar yesterday demanded of the caretaker government (CG) to stop the process of amending the Labour Act 2006 because the move will undermine the labour rights violating the ILO conventions.

They said the government should discuss with experts concerned especially the leaders of trade unions and workers before promulgating an ordinance amending the Labour Act 2006.

The seminar titled 'Labour (Amendment) Act 2008' was organised by Samik Karmochari, Ojha Parishad (Skop), a platform of different bodies of labourers and workers, at the National Press Club in the capital.

"To hold a free and fair election is the main task of the present caretaker government. But they are now engaging themselves in many issues like the amendment of Labour Act 2006. We have objections to some sections and clauses of the proposed amendment," said Roy Ramesh Chandra, president of Samik League.

Prof Abul Barakat, a renowned economist, said the proposed amendment will not be good for workers while the owners will be benefited from the amendment.

"It is very disturbing that the CG is trying to change the existing labour act," he added.

Prof Barakat blamed the government for price hike of essential commodities and said a famine has already started in the country.

Skop Co-ordinator Dr Wazedul Islam Khan read out a keynote paper at the seminar which was conducted by labour leader Abul Basher.

Skop leaders Dr Ashik Alam Patal, Abdul Kader and Awami League former legislator Shahajahan Khan also spoke.

## Jharna Das wins Anannya award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



press release said.

She will receive the award in October this year. Besides, she will also get Tk 50,000 and a crest at the founding anniversary programme of the Anannya.

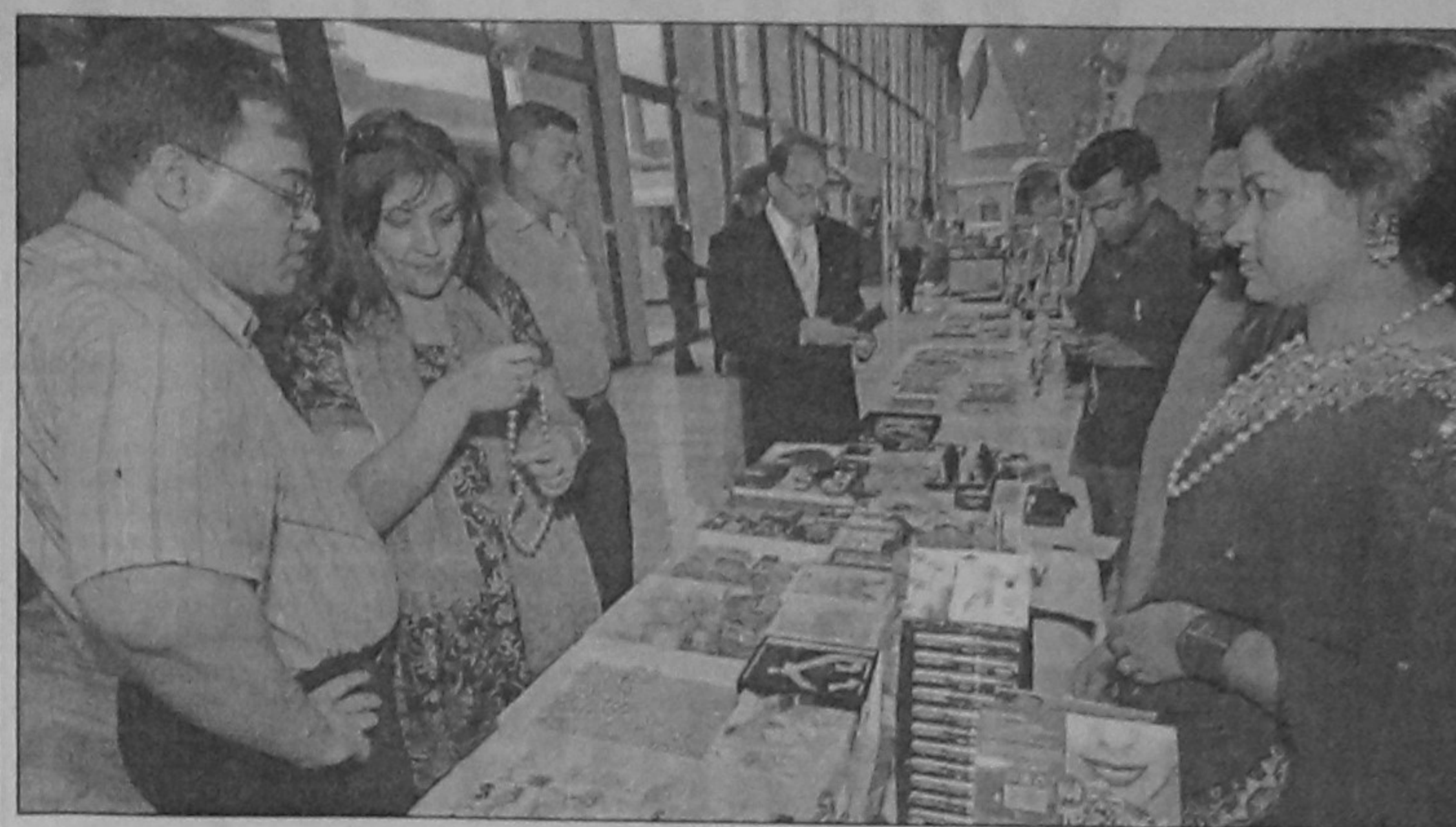
Meanwhile, a total of 45 books of the writer have already been published. Jharna is famous for novel, short story and juvenile literature.

## Scout leaders workshop tomorrow

Girls in scout mate course and scout leaders workshop will begin tomorrow at Bahadurpur Rover Scout Training Centre in Gazipur, says a press release.

Girls in Scout Division of Bangladesh Scouts organises the programme, which will continue till April 19.

About 110 rover scouts and unit leaders will participate in the event.



Visitors admire various items at a fair organised to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year, at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

# Arrest warrants against Aminul, ex-secy Zabiullah and his wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former post and telecommunications minister barrister Aminul Haque and former environment secretary Ismail Zabiullah and his wife Ayesha Zabiullah in cases filed for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in their wealth statements.

Meanwhile detained former BNP lawmaker MAH Salim alias Silver Salim confessed to a magistrate yesterday that his family members did not abet him in acquiring all the assets shown in the graft case against him.

Another Dhaka court allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to freeze 11,500 shares of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

## Employment for Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia on rise

### Says foreign ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Employment of Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia is once again on the rise following hectic diplomatic activity for reclaiming the labour market over there after a temporary lull in March for a smear campaign, according to an official disclosure.

A total of 1,924 visas were issued within the first ten days in April. "The number is increasing on a daily."

So far, there are over 1.7 million Bangladeshis working in that country.

A news release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said there were some reports of negative publicity against Bangladeshis, particularly through a website.

"But the Bangladesh authorities took up the matter with the Saudi counterparts and the website was finally closed down on March 27," it said about the recent diplomatic efforts.

During the recent OIC Summit in Senegal, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, also in charge of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, met with his Saudi counterparts Dr Nizar Obeid Madani and Deputy Minister Prince Turki.

Bin Mohammed bin Saud el Kabir.

Recently, a high-powered Saudi delegation headed by Deputy Minister for Labour Abdulrahman S Albwardi also met foreign adviser and others here in this patching-up process.

During the meeting, the Saudi deputy labour minister assured that the issuance of visas would be resumed and said that no legal Bangladesh workers would be deported.

Ward Commissioner Mirza Ekramul Haque alias Mirza Khokon and his wife Masuda Ekram kept with two companies in the city.

CASE AGAINST AMINUL After scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order against Aminul Haque for committing the offences.

The order for arrest warrant came following a plea submitted by the investigation officer (IO), as Aminul has been absconding since the case was filed.

ACC Assistant Director Syed Ahmed, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court on April 9, showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna Model Police Station against Aminul Haque on December 5 last year for amassing wealth illegally and giving false information in his wealth statement.

The commission in its primary investigation found that Aminul amassed wealth worth Tk 76.75 lakh beyond his known sources of income.

CASE AGAINST ZABIULLAH The same court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Ismail Zabiullah and his wife in the case filed against them for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in the wealth statement.

The court issued warrants against the couple, as they have been absconding since the filing of the case.

The investigation officer of ACC Deputy Assistant Director AFM Zahid Hossain submitted the charge sheet against Zabiullah and his wife to the CMM's Court on April 10, showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

ACC Assistant Director Helal Uddin Sharif filed the case against them with Ramna Police Station on November 5 last year for amassing wealth illegally and concealing

information in the wealth statement.

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant said Ismail accumulated Tk 1.30 crore beyond his known sources of income. He also concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 1.17 crore in the wealth statement.

His wife Ayesha Zabiullah has been accused of abetting her husband.

CASE AGAINST SALIM Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Al-Mamun recorded MAH Salim's statement after ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam, also the IO of the case, produced Salim at his chamber.

In his statement, Salim told the magistrate that his family members were not involved in acquiring the assets showed by the ACC in the case filed against them.

ACC Assistant Director Ali Akbar filed the case with Ramna police against the family on December 6 last year.

In the FIR, the complainant said Salim concealed information about a wealth of Tk 62.96 crore and other property worth Tk 12.38 crore in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

Salim's wife Ayesha Begum, daughter Sahara Selim, and sons Mehedi Hassan and Samith Hassan were accused in the case.

Earlier on March 27, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani allowed the ACC to freeze the bank accounts of Salim and his family members following a petition submitted by the IO.

CASE AGAINST MIRZA KHOKON Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after ACC Assistant Director SM Sahidur Rahman, also the IO of the case, submitted a petition for freezing the shares of the couple deposited at an advertising limited company and a housing limited company in the city.

The case was filed against them on December 10 last year with Motijheel police in connection with amassing wealth through illegal means.



National Press Club President Shaukat Mahmud, second from left, and World Telecom Chief Financial Officer Amin Marchant, second from right, visit a photo exhibition titled 'World Jatiya Rupashi Bangla Photo Exhibition' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association organised the event.

# New Ctg traffic system from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) clamps down on around 15,000 motorised three wheelers and 1,000 city service buses from today in a bid to ease the passengers' everyday hassles and streamline the commuter services within the periphery of 60-sq km area of the port city.

As per the drastic plan of the department, no passenger will be allowed to sit beside the driver of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw or tempo from today in the CMP area. Commuters are also prohibited to travel standing on the back of the tempo. They will have to buy tickets in advance from specified counters prior to their journey on board the city service buses.

"The move was taken to bring the unruly drivers and their assistants under regulation and to introduce civic sense as well as awareness in the second largest city of the country," said CMP Deputy Commissioner (traffic) Mohammad Ali Mia at a briefing yesterday at this office.

He said various measures including arrest, penalty and seizure of vehicles would be taken who would not abide strictly by the new rule starting on the first day of Bangla New Year.

The DC expressed hope that unwanted accidents would come down to a considerable extent with the introduction of their new initiative that also aims at streamlining the overall traffic system for greater benefit of the city and its dwellers.

Sources said around 13,000 CNG-run auto-rickshaws, 2,000 tempos and 840 buses ply on the city roads every day.

Of these, the buses ply through 11 routes with each of the routes having a pool of 75 buses, they added.

Mohammad Ali said they have identified 12 sites to monitor whether the new system is working or not and check posts will be erected at those places.

The sites are Muradpur Intersection, Sholoshahar, Tiger Pass, GEC Intersection, New Market, Olonkar Intersection, Agrabad-Badamtila Crossing, Nimala (in port area), EPZ area,

Oxygen (Jalalabad area), Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area and Colonel Hat.

It may be recalled that the department earlier took an initiative to ban mobile phone uses by the CNG auto-rickshaw drivers while driving the vehicles. It was a measure that has proved successful in preventing the CNG-based incident of mugging and other crimes, the DC claimed.

"Our record shows that no incident of CNG-based mugging have taken place in the city since March 1," Mohammad Ali said.

He lauded the role of media in building awareness among citizens about the importance of disciplined traffic system and sought its cooperation for the new initiatives.

The DC also sought cooperation from commuters and requested them to inform the department instantly through its help-line numbers about their complaints, if any. The numbers are: 01817-212322, 01727-400400, 01727-400500, 01727-500500, 01919-911911, 01919-911912, 01919-911913 and 031-619880.

## Salesman shot, robbed of

Tk 1.90 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A salesman of a flexload agent of GrameenPhone was shot and robbed of Tk 1.90 lakh by a gang of muggers at Banashri Project at Rampura in the city yesterday.

Mahmudur Rahman Elahi, 26, of flexload agent JK Group of Banani, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

DMCH sources said Elahi was shot in his backside and leg.

Elahi said three muggers intercepted him at Banashri Project while he was returning to office after collecting the money from different flexi-load centres at 1:30pm. He said the armed snatchers shot him when he tried to resist them while taking away the money.

Meanwhile, a gang of armed goons snatched the keys of the vaults of Bangladesh Bank Sadarghat branch from its senior executive Abul Kashem in the morning.

Kashem said the muggers also took away a cellphone and Tk 2,000 in cash from him in Goolgahat area at Sutrapur while he was going to his office in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

## Arshad-uz Zaman laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Former ambassador Arshad-uz Zaman was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Jorh prayers yesterday.

A large number of his friends, relatives, admirers, members of diplomatic corps of the Muslim countries and people from all walks of life attended the janaza.

His qukhwani will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow where separate arrangements will be made for female participants.

## Death anniversary of Prof Sukhranjan today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 37th death anniversary of Prof Sukhranjan Samadard of samskrit department of Rajshahi University (RU), who was brutally killed by the Pakistan Army in 1971.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), different students and cultural organisations of RU chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programme includes, silent procession, placing wreath at the grave, discussion and photo exhibition.

RU unit of BCU yesterday in a statement criticised the university authorities for not arranging any programme to observe the death anniversary.

## Dr Kamrunnahr



The first death anniversary of Dr Kamrunnahr, former doctor of gynecology department of Chittagong Medical College, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation the departed soul.

## Dr Saif-ud-Dahar

Today is the 10th death anniversary of comrade Dr Saif-ud-Dahar, one of the leaders of the communist movement in the subcontinent, says a press release.

On the occasion, comrade Dr Saif-ud-Dahar Smriti Raksha Committee will place wreaths at his grave at 10:00am at Martyred Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur in the city.

All have been requested to attend the programme.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Lecture**  
Department of History of Dhaka University organises the Independence Day lecture on 'Nationalism in Bangladesh: Historic perspective'. Venue: RC Majumdar auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Discussion**  
The Editor, an internet based newspaper, organises a discussion on 'Increase in food price, alternative food and how to overcome the current crisis'. Venue: Hotel Lakeshore. Time: 3:00pm.

**Fair**  
Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) organises a 10-day Baishakh fair. Venue: Field beside the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 4:45pm.

**View exchange**  
National Curriculum and Textbook Board organises a view exchange meeting on 'reforms in SSC examination system'. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

**Symposium**  
Unicef Regional Office for South Asia organises a symposium for policy makers on social protection. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:00am.