



FBCCI and ntv organised a discussion titled 'The budget we want' at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. From left are MCCI President Latifur Rahman, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, FBCCI President Annisul Huq, economist Wahiduddin Mahmud and former adviser to the caretaker government Syed Manzur Elahi. (Story on Page 1)

Nazrul birth anniversary programmes

UNB, Dhaka

The 109th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated tomorrow with extensive programmes taken up by the government and various socio-cultural organisations.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the national-level programme at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium at 10:00am tomorrow.

In the inaugural function, Dr M Abdul Quayyum will deliver a commemorative speech on Nazrul. Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar, private TV channels and radios will broadcast the programme.

Ministry of Cultural Affairs will publish a souvenir on the occasion.

At 6:45am on the day, Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman will place wreaths at the mazar of the great poet on Dhaka University campus.

Later, in the evening, a cultural programme on Nazrul's various creative works will be held at the National Drama Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Noted artists will perform in the programme.

As part of the national programme, Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion at Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the National Museum at 4:00pm on Monday. Chairman of institute's Trustee Board Prof Rafiqul Islam will preside over the discussion.

Besides, a book fair and exhibition will be held at the Central Public Library on May 25-31.

Similar programmes have also been taken up at Darirampur, Daulatpur and Chittagong.

Fazle Hasan Abed honoured

BSS, Dhaka

Brac Founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law by Columbia University of the United States for his comprehensive approach to fighting poverty, the powerful model of social change, and abiding commitment to serving the poorest and most vulnerable.

The degree was conferred upon Abed by Lee C Bollinger, president of Columbia University, during its 254th commencement ceremony in New York on May 21, a Brac press release said.

"One of the world's most effective humanitarians, you have transformed the lives of millions through the work of your organisation Brac. Your vision is audacious, the scale of your work inspires awe and the results you have achieved are a stunning example to the world of our potential to successfully fight poverty and success. You have been recognised by many organisations for your commitment to improving life on this planet, we are honoured to acknowledge you again today," the citation reads.

Introduce health insurance for govt employees

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, chairperson of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), yesterday said health insurance could be introduced for government employees instead of existing medical allowance.

Speaking at a roundtable, he said the amount of money that the government employees are receiving as medical allowances is not enough to use for treatment purpose at all.

"So we can think of introducing health insurance system by utilising the money of medical allowances as the treatment cost has been increasing day by day," he added.

Criticising the health service system in the country, Prof Muzaffer said in the name of market economy, a 'cafeteria style' healthcare service has already started emerging making the

healthcare service costlier for people.

Terming the health issue as a multi-disciplinary one, he said, "Health-related knowledge should be incorporated into practical knowledge of our day-to-day life."

The roundtable was organised by Pharmacy Graduates' Association Bangladesh and Doctors' For Environment at the National Press Club in the capital.

"Environment pollution causes different diseases like asthma and if we know what are the allergens that cause asthma, we would be able to prevent the disease," said the experts at the roundtable.

They said some 70 lakh people of the country have been suffering from asthma. Of them 40 lakh are children aged between 1 and 15.

As the environment varies from country to country, the asthma management guidelines are also different depending on their cli-

mates, said Dr Gobinda Chandra Das, allergy and asthma specialist at Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital.

But it is proved that 70 percent of asthma patients suffer from mite, a germ that lives in dust, he added.

A book titled 'Allergy and Asthma: Disease and Prevention' written by Dr Gobinda was launched at the programme.

The book highlighted different types of allergies, false notions regarding asthma, how to diagnose asthma and its treatment to make people aware of the disease and the ways to prevent the disease.

Presided over by Prof Rashid E Mahbub, the roundtable was also addressed by Prof AK Azad Chowdhury of Dhaka University, Dr Shubhagata Chowdhury of Birdem Hospital and Ishtiaq Ahmed, general secretary of Pharmacy Graduates' Association Bangladesh.



Children render songs at a cultural programme organised by Kendriya Kachi-Kanchar Mela to pay tribute to poets Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Sukanta Bhattacharya in the city yesterday.

Denmark sees unlimited IT potential in Bangladesh

7 partnerships to be formed with Danish companies

UNB, Dhaka

Denmark sees the IT sector in Bangladesh to have an outstanding advantage in attracting foreign investment in comparison with many other competing countries.

"IT (information technology) in Bangladesh is a relatively new business, but with an unlimited potential," Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Einar Hebgard Jensen told

UNB.

He said DANIDA's Business to Business (B2B) participated in an IT matchmaking event in February this year bringing a group of eight Danish IT companies to the SoftExpo. Denmark was declared as the partner country of SoftExpo 2008.

Out of these eight companies, five were related to software programming, two dealt with graphics and DTP and one had expertise in some specialised hardware components.

During the SoftExpo, more than 110 pre-arranged contact meetings between Danish companies and Bangladesh partners were held.

The ambassador said the Danish participants expressed that quality of the Bangladeshi partners they had teamed up with during the matchmaking sessions has been very impressive and satisfactory.

He said it is believed that a number of new alliances and long-term cooperation would grow out of these contact meetings during the next couple of months.

Jensen said already some of these Danish companies have started their second visit to Bangladesh in order to progress with their initial cooperation with some of the Bangladeshi companies they met during the SoftExpo.

DANIDA's B2B side hopes to see at least seven new IT sector partnerships being formed, he said adding that at present, 16 Danish companies are already established in Bangladesh.

The Danish ambassador said off shore IT and IT related service is a

multi-billion dollar market that is growing rapidly, creating many new business opportunities for countries like China, Vietnam, India, Pakistan and Eastern Europe.

"This will give Bangladesh an unprecedented opportunity to develop a whole new industry in providing IT service for Europe and the US."

He said the development of IT sector would undoubtedly benefit Bangladesh in terms of job creation, export revenues, transfer of new technology and developing new business opportunities and models.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 39th edition of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital today.

Senior advocate of the Supreme Court Barrister Rafiq-ul Haq, Secretary General of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Agricultural Affairs secretary of BNP Shamsuzzaman Duda and Assistant secretary for Women's Affairs of Awami League Shagufta Yasmin Emeli will take part in the sanglap as panellists.

The recorded programme will be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 8:00pm tomorrow and on Channel 1 at 8:00pm on Monday.

HSC, Alim exams begin

May 29

6.2 lakh students to sit for exams

BSS, Dhaka

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations, including Alim and HSC in Business Management (BM), will begin across the country on May 29.

A total of 6,20,020 candidates from 7,120 educational institutions will sit for the examinations this year, officials said.

Of the examinees, 5,02,796 will appear under seven education boards, 62,505 under the Madrasa Education Board and 54,719 under the Bangladesh Technical Board.

All preparations have been completed to hold the examinations across the country, official said.

A number of vigilance teams comprising officials of the education ministry have been constituted for ensuring holding the examinations peacefully, education ministry sources said.

The HSC examinations will be held at 1,800 centres across the country. Of them, 1,024 centres are set up under the seven education boards, 348 under the Madrasa Education Board and 428 under the Bangladesh Technical Board.

The board-wise number of candidates are: Dhaka Board-1,51,247, Rajshahi Board-1,36,745, Comilla Board- 50,719, Jessore Board- 70,809, Chittagong Board- 41,515, Barisal Board- 32,164, Sylhet Board- 19,597, Madrasa Board- 62,505 and Technical Board-54,719.

WEAB comes to aid of acid survivors in Sidr-hit areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to raising fund for acid victims in Sidr-affected areas to make them self-reliant, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) yesterday organised a discussion, mini exhibition, sale of paintings and cultural programme at Gulshan Club in the city.

Besides, WEAB also awarded seven successful entrepreneurs from the remote areas for their accomplishments.

WEAB President Nasrin Awal Mintoos at the discussion called upon all to extend their hands to help the acid survivors in Sidr-affected areas.

"So far we have got five sponsors," she added.

Speaking at the programme as the chief guest, Home Secretary Abdul Karim said they are trying to introduce women-friendly policy so that women get better service from police.

Saying that stern actions will be taken against the culprits who throw acid, he underscored the need for mass awareness campaign for eliminating this crime from the society.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Abdul Awal Mintoos, its Vice President Abul Quasem Ahmed and Gulshan Club President Engineer Faizul Islam Selim were also present.

CU student suspended for two years

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) syndicate has suspended a Shibir activist for two years on charges of assaulting two teachers in separate incidents.

The Shibir activist, identified as Maksudur Rahman, is a second year student of Bangla Department, sources said.

The syndicate took the decision at an emergency meeting on Thursday following submission of a report by the probe committee formed to investigate into the incidents.

Maksudur assaulted Assistant Proctor Mohammad Alam Chowdhury on May 3 in front of the proctor's office.

Alam Chowdhury noticed that Maksudur was overhearing a meeting between the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) CU unit and the proctorial body outside the office.

The teacher then quizzed the student and asked for his identity card, but Maksudur grabbed his collar and gave him a punch.

Earlier, a group of Shibir activists manhandled Proctor Prof Jasim Uddin on April 30 over a trifling matter on the CU Railway Station premises.

CU syndicate in an emergency meeting on May 4 formed a two-member committee headed by Dean of Biological Science Faculty Prof Mohammad Atiqur Rahman to investigate into the matters.



Members of Safe Water Transport Implementation Movement hold a candlelight vigil at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in memory of the people killed in launch disasters.

Safe water transport system demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nirapad Nou Chalachal Bastabayan Movement (Safe water transport implementation movement) yesterday took out a mourning procession demanding implementation of a safe water transport system in the country.

The procession started from in front of the National Museum that paraded the Dhaka University campus and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar in the afternoon.

Around 30 people took part in the procession.

Coordinator of the movement Sumon Shams demanded a safe water transport management system in the country.

He demanded the government to take steps so that no faulty water

transport can run taking help from some corrupt employees of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

"A monitoring team should be there to ensure that sufficient life-saving jackets are available at the launches and also to check no launch and steamer carry extra passengers", he added.

Suman urged the government to launch campaign through media to create awareness among the people.

The organisation has been arranging such programmes since 2004 after a massive river accident at Chadpur where launch MV Lightingsun sank.

Reza Gotak, another coordinator of the movement, and Prof Shahrir Iqbal also took part in the programme.

THEFT FROM SHOP Tk 11.36 lakh recovered, one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Labagh police yesterday arrested an employee of a wholesale shop and recovered Tk 11.36 lakh, out of Tk 14.65 lakh he stole from the shop at Moulavibazar in the city several days ago.

Md Ibrahim, 45, was arrested with the money from his residence in Chandpur.

On Thursday evening, Md Delwar Hossain, owner of M/S Sayed & Brothers, filed a case with the Labagh police accusing Ibrahim of stealing Tk 14.65 lakh sometime between 9:00pm on May 18 and May 20 morning.



Winners of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) award pose for photograph with Home Secretary Md Abdul Karim and other guests at the award giving ceremony at Gulshan Club in the city yesterday. WEAB awarded the women entrepreneurs for their contribution to the small and medium enterprise sector.



'Country Partner' invited to carry forward the 'no petrol' revolution in Bangladesh

Electrotherm India Ltd., an India-based leading engineering conglomerate, invites 'Country Partner' in Bangladesh to market its range of revolutionary electric (battery-operated) two-wheeler - 'YObykes'. Since its launch two years ago, we have already sold over 50,000 electric two-wheelers and have won the coveted 'Overdrive - Automotive Product of the Year' 2007 award.

With network of more than 200 dealerships spread across the country, YObykes is India's biggest electric vehicle brand.

We invite applications from companies with prior automobiles distribution/sales background, strong financial status and capability to build distribution network across Bangladesh.

Contact details: **Electrotherm (I) Ltd.**
72, Palodia (via Thaltee), Ahmedabad-382115, India.
Attention: Abhijeet Bose, Ph: +91-99251 90533,
e-mail: abhijit.bose@electrotherm.com

No Petrol
YObykes
Ab raasta hai angke paas!



GROHE
GERMANY
ENJOY WATER

Exclusive Distributor For Bangladesh
GREEN AGENCY TRADING LTD