



Iftekharuzzaman elected TI board member

METRO DESK

Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Dr Iftekharuzzaman has been elected a member of the International Board of the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI), says a press release.

The election took place on October 29 at the Annual Members' Meeting of the TI, being held in Athens, Greece. The International Board of TI is the highest body for making strategies and policies of this global coalition against corruption.

Giving his reaction, Dr Zaman said this was a befitting tribute to all citizens of Bangladesh who are victims of corruption and recognition of all those who have been dedicating their time and effort to fight corruption in the country.

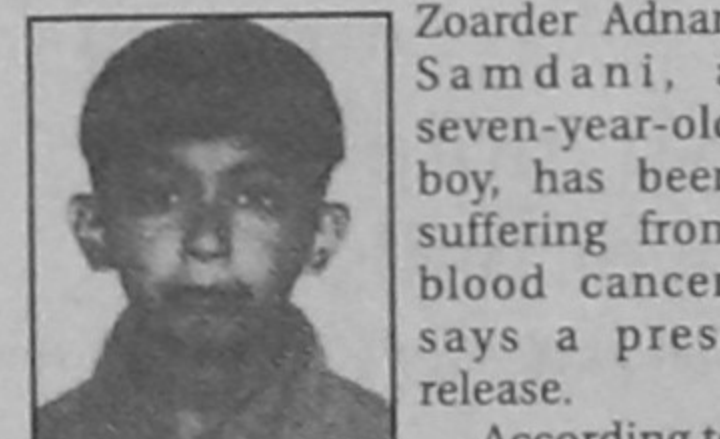
He commended the role of the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and members of Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups, working with TIB in 36 areas all over the country.

He expressed deep gratitude to them, Board of Trustees of TIB, members of the staff, TIB members and all others associated with TIB who have been his source of energy and inspiration to move ahead to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Dr Zaman said that as a TI Board Member, he will try to bring to the global anti-corruption movement the expertise and experience of some of the best practices introduced by TIB, in particular the importance of deepening and widening of civic engagement, especially the involvement of the young generation.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Zoarder Adnan Samdani, a seven-year-old boy, has been suffering from blood cancer, says a press release.

According to the doctors, he needs better treatment immediately, which will cost a huge amount of money.

But it is not possible for his father Zoarder Md Rezaul Haque, an executive officer of SWED Bangladesh, to afford the treatment cost.

So, Adnan's parents have appealed to well-off people of the society for extending financial aid to save their beloved son.

Contributions can be sent to Zoarder Md Rezaul Haque, savings account no # 12100094857, United Commercial Bank Ltd, Mohammadpur branch in the city.

36th anniversary of JSD today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 36th founding anniversary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

The party has chalked out various programmes across the country to observe the day.

A discussion will be held at the Shaheed Col Taher auditorium at 4:00pm today to mark the day.

Breastfeeding may cut infant mortality by one-third

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said it is the right time for promoting breastfeeding as the toxicity of artificial infant formulas has been proved in laboratory tests.

They said the melamine contamination issue has once again reminded us that nothing can be the alternative to breast milk for physical and mental development of the babies.

The roundtable titled 'Secure nutritious diet: Save children's lives' was organised jointly by Save the Children UK and Eminence at the National Press Club in the city.

Highlighting the infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practice in the country, the speakers urged the government to take necessary steps to halt marketing of breast milk substitution.

They said the rate of early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of childbirth is only 24 percent in the country while exclusive breastfeeding rate is 43 percent, which should be 100 percent.

"Our nutrition programme does not include food safety and food security and this leads to dispute like melamine contamination in the breast milk substitutes, said

Prof MQK Talukder while chairing the session.

"We have to be determined that no artificial formulas would be allowed for our babies under two years," said Prof MR Khan while speaking as chief guest.

He stressed the need for formulating a structure ensuring food security and increasing awareness to promote breast milk.

"It is good that the government of Bangladesh has developed policy and established baby-friendly hospital, still it needs to do a lot for supporting mothers to go through the right practice of breastfeeding," said Josephine Ippi, nutrition manager of Unicef.

"We need specific regulations so that marketing of the breast milk substitutes should be halted soon and the medical professionals should not prescribe any artificial formulas for children," said Dr SK Roy, senior scientist of ICDDR,B.

"In Bangladesh, breastfeeding could cut infant mortality by one-third saving the lives of 314 children everyday from killer diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. At the same time, the total value of baby milk and food imports is about 16 million pound per year, hundred times more than the

government can afford to invest in supporting breastfeeding promotion, said Dr Shamim Hayder Talukder, chief executive of Eminence, while presenting the keynote paper.

There must be a global movement to protect our children, the next generation from the dilemma of profitability, said Major General Mahbubur Rahman.

The speakers also stressed the need for testing all milk and milk products that are available in the market and urged the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) to be more active in this regard.

Dr Munir Ahmed of Save the Children UK moderated the programme which was also addressed by Lalita Bhattacharjee of Fao, Quazi Faruque of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, Dr AM Zakir Hussain of Eminence, Prof M Abdul Hannan of Bangladesh Paediatric Association, Prof AKM Azizul Hoque of Bangladesh Medical Association, Prof Fatima Parveen of IPHN, M Hamid of RTV, GM Kader of Jatiya Party and Mahmudur Rahman Manna of Awami League.

250 cops to join peacekeeping in Ivory Coast

UNB, Dhaka

Some 250 police personnel will join the UN peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast, replacing two contingents that had gone there earlier.

Two teams, each comprising 45 personnel, left Zia International Airport for Ivory Coast by a UN chartered flight on Wednesday night.

Deputy IGP (Training) Mohammad Mokhlesur Rahman and Assistant IGP (UN desk) Mohammad Harun-ar-Rashid saw them off.

A contingent of 90 police personnel is scheduled to leave Dhaka on November 5 while 70 others on November 8, said a release.

At present, 1,083 members of Bangladesh police force are engaged in UN peacekeeping mission in different parts of the world.

Khaleda visits ailing Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visited ailing Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain at his Namflat in the city yesterday.

She stayed there for some time and enquired about his condition.

Delwar has been suffering from a number of complications since last week.

The BNP chief also visited Habibur Rahman Khan, father of former state minister Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad, in the city's Square Hospital.

Habibur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Federation, suffered a stroke on October 17.



Participants at the Inaugural ceremony of 'Pran Frooto-Holy Cross 6th Inter-College Science Festival-2008' that began at Holy Cross College yesterday. From left are Prof Dr M Kaykobad of Buet, Sister Joseph Mary and Dr Ali Asgar, visiting professor of East West University. The festival will end on Saturday.

'Practise non-violence policy of Gandhi to restore democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday underscored the need for practising non-violence policy of Mahatma Gandhi to restore democracy in the country.

They said through applying the non-violence policy the politicians can eliminate violence-based politics that has brought sufferings for general people.

The discussion titled 'Non-violence policy is the way to world peace' was organised by Freedom Fighters' Co-ordination Council at Cirdap auditorium in the city to mark the 139th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

"We the politicians should follow the non-violence policy of Mahatma Gandhi to be the real

friend of common people which is essential to establish a non-communal country," said Surangit Sengupta, president member of Awami League.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said people's power was the main philosophy of Gandhi but our political leaders who run the country don't realise that philosophy and as a result conflict and violence are taking place pushing the country backward.

Presided over by Chairman of Freedom Fighters' Co-ordination Council Abir Rahat, the discussion was also addressed by its Vice-president Nargis Begum Runa, JP Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Barrister Mohsin Rashid and First Secretary of Indian High Commission Dr Dipal Mittal.

EC's role not neutral Says Mojahid

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid yesterday alleged that the Election Commission (EC) and the Chief Election Commissioner are not acting in a neutral manner.

Their activities prove that they want to install Awami League in power, he added.

Addressing a press conference at the party's central office, Mojahid also said that as per the Constitution, Islamic parties should get advantage for registration, but the EC seems hostile towards religion-based parties.

Replying to a question about registration of Awami League and other parties, he said Jamaat is a democratic party and it did not oppose registration of other political parties.

Mojahid said the CEC's political identity is clear from a statement about 1970 and 2001 general elections.

The Jamaat leader said the RPO provisions relating to party registration are illegal and undemocratic.

He apprehended that some groups, who want to form a national government, want to foil December 18 elections. The Commission's role also contributes towards creating uncertainty about the elections, he added.

Obituary

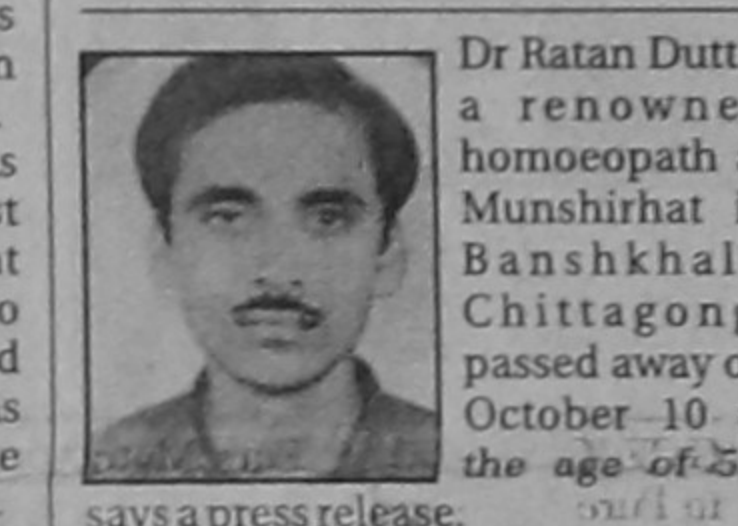
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Hafizur Rahman Pramanik, a former member of the parliament and former Jatiya Party Gaibandha district unit president, passed away due to brain stroke at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 68.

He left behind three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Dr Ratan Dutta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



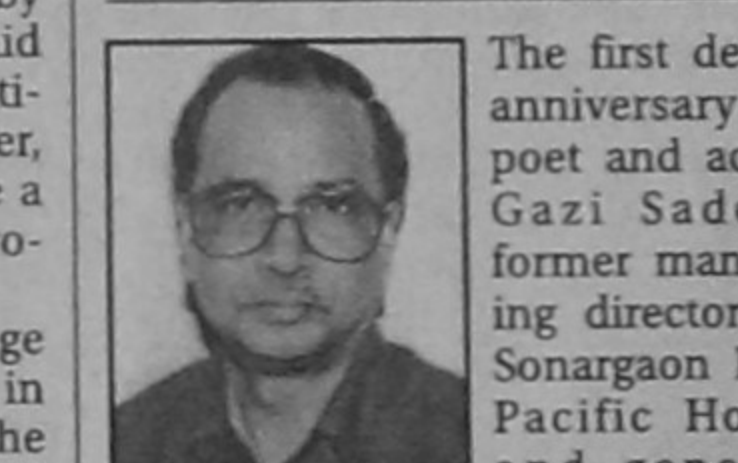
Dr Ratan Dutta, a renowned homoeopath at Munshirhat in Banskhali, Chittagong, passed away on October 10 at the age of 52.

He was very popular among the local people. He treated poor people free of cost.

Homeopathic Doctors' Forum organised a condolence meeting at his residence on October 25, with Prof Kanchan Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University as the chief guest.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



The first death anniversary of poet and actor Gazi Sadeq, former managing director of Sonargaon Pan and general manager of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, will be observed today, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his Shaymoli residence in the city.

He passed away on October 26 last year.

Achiya Parveen

METRO DESK



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Achiya Parveen, a senior teacher of Eskaton Garden High School and wife of former secretary MAM Ziauddin, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Md Ashraf Hossain, a former food inspector and father of Akhter Hossain Masud, news editor of the News Today, will be held after Asr prayers today at his residence (33/3, Litchubagan, East Nakhalpara) in the city, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

Milad mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A milad mahfil seeking eternal peace of late Abul Hossain, former headmaster of Maghbazar High School in the city, will be held after Asr prayers today at his residence (House-150/2, Road-2/1, Block-A, Mirpur-12) in the city, says a press release.

He passed away on October 21.

27TH BCS EXAMINATION Investigation into 2nd-phase results demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday said proper investigation should be conducted into the allegations raised regarding the publication of second-phase result of the 27th BCS examination.

He said that as the Public Service Commission (PSC) is a state-run organisation, it should make public everything that happened behind the second-phase result before the people.

Prof Arefin was speaking at a view exchange meeting on the publication of the second-phase result of the 27th BCS examination at the Teacher-Student Centre cafeteria of Dhaka University.

The unsuccessful candidates of the second-phase result organised the programme.

Prof Arefin said it should be

investigated why the children of freedom fighters were deprived in the second-phase result.

Former pro-vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University Dr Rashid-I-Mahbub alleged that a total of 209 doctors were excluded in a planned way in the second-phase result.

"It is unbelievable that those who have completed MBBS, will not get 40 marks in viva-voce, he observed.

Leaders of different left-leaning student bodies also expressed their solidarity with the unsuccessful candidates.

They demanded cancellation of the second-phase result and immediate removal of Dr Saadat accusing him of depriving a good number of meritorious candidates.

The unsuccessful candidates will bring out a protest procession on DU campus today to press home their demand.

Nat'l Debate Festival begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 4th National Debate Festival will begin in the city tomorrow.

The National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDFB) organised the two-day debate festival.

The inaugural session of the festival will be held at Shaheed Zia Auditorium of the National Museum, with Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury as the chief guest.

The federation will also honour Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural ceremony.

FCCI President Annisul Huq, Country Director of Tex-Ebo International Abdullah Hil Rakib and Deputy Country Director of Save the Children Margarita Clark will also be present. NDFB Chairman AKM Shoaib will preside over the session.

The festival will also feature colourful rally, presentation of history of 400 years of Dhaka city, public speaking competition, meet the personality, camp fire and cultural programmes.



RanksTel has donated an ambulance to Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital for providing healthcare service to the farmers in rural areas. Ranks Group Chairman and RanksTel Chief Executive Officer Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, second from right, hands over the key of the ambulance to Chairman of the hospital Dr Zonaid Shafique and Managing Director Dr Sarder A Naim in the city recently.

RanksTel has donated an ambulance to Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital for providing healthcare service to the farmers in rural areas. Ranks Group Chairman and RanksTel Chief Executive Officer Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, second from right, hands over the key of the ambulance to Chairman of the hospital Dr Zonaid Shafique and Managing Director Dr Sarder A Naim in the city recently.

Devouring Jamuna a threat

FROM PAGE 1

other establishments and huge cultivable land would come under threat if the ongoing erosion continues and the river's main flow can't be changed, warns Additional Chief Engineer Shaik Abdul Momin.

A renowned geologist said no river in the world has such a severe course-changing characteristic. "We call it braided river. It is the only river in the world that changes its course again and again," he said.

There is enough reason to believe that this is happening due to the geological structures of Bangladesh, the geologist said. The Jamuna is now a threat to areas under Sirajganj municipality and Sariakandi upazila headquarters. One of the top officials from the Jamuna Bridge Department says the river is threatening the west side bund of the bridge.

"If the trend of the river continues, the bridge will come under severe threat in future," warns an engineer from Dhaka.

The Jamuna is the main flow of the famous Brahmaputra, which begins at a great glacier mass in the Kailash Range south of Gunkiyud Lake in southern Tibet at an elevation of 5,300m from where it flows through China, India, and Bangladesh for 2,880km before reaching the Bay of Bengal through a joint channel with the Ganges, known as Padma in Bangladesh.

A few hundred years ago, the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh had a different course. It entered the country near Bahadurabad in Jamalpur and merged with the Meghna at Bhairab going through Sherpur. It shifted to the present course following an earthquake in 1777.

Officials of BWDB say recently collected satellite images show huge cultivable land along with many government and non-government establishments had been eroded in the last few years despite protection in the districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna.

The images further exhibit a dreadful picture. A huge tract of cultivable land and establishments is going to be eroded soon on the right side of the river within a few years if the main flow doesn't

change its course or precautionary measures are not adopted.

BWDB Executive Engineer (Ex-n) in Bogra Circle Officer Sarder Sirazul Haque said at least 80 metres of land on the right side of the river in Karnipara village in Sariakandi, Bogra was eroded in 10 days in April.

The CEGIS survey report says at least 2.3 million tonnes riverbed materials were accumulated in the main channel every day in July and August at Bahadurabad point in Gaibandha.

Creation of shoals with bed materials in the main channel has resulted in as many as 13 flows in Bahadurabad, says a senior BWDB official.

The main flow has been diverted towards the east and western side of the Jamuna bridge due to creation of many shoals in the up and down streams. Some people say the mighty Jamuna started to move towards west in the mid-70s and has so far advanced even 10 to 20 kilometres in some places.

In Kurigram many establishments including Chilmari police station and Ulipur Jol police station have been relocated. In Rajibpur, more than 800 families had to shift to Nunkahaor char from Charmiari due to erosion.

In Gaibandha, Phulchhari upazila headquarters had to be shifted from Gozaria to Kalibazar. Besides, the entire Mollachar union has been eroded in the past few years.

The Bera river port has also been relocated 15 kilometres away from its earlier location due to erosion, locals say.

Mohammed Jahir, 45, son of Mohammed Solaiman of Natunpenchakola in Bera, Pabna, said the house of his grandfather was eroded long ago and the land is still in the river.

He now lives on the embankment in Bera. Just 12 years ago, the Jamuna flood protection embankment stood 15 kilometres off from its present location, local people and officials concerned say.

In Sirajganj, the jailhouse, a helipad, post office and many other establishments were washed away and relocated during the 80s.

The right bank was then pro-

tection by Sirajganj town protection embankment. But now erosion is threatening the Sirajganj municipality areas. Devouring over one kilometre in a few years, the river is now only 100 metres away from Shariakandi upazila headquarters.

Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj has been declared as one of the most vulnerable upazilas on the right bank of the Jamuna, according to the survey reports of BWDB and CEGIS. A huge tract of land has been eroded and many areas of the upazila are on the verge of a merge.

Amjad Hossain, 60, son of Jellal Hossain, said a few years ago he used to live in Meghai Uttarpara village, which is now in the riverbed. "The river is moving towards west on average one kilometre every year," said Amjad.

Kazipur Union Parishad member Mohammed Sarwar Hossain said the continuation of river erosion has now become a fearful event for the people of the adjacent villages.

Thousands of families have become landless due to erosion by the Jamuna. One of the victims said he had inherited 100 acres of cultivable land from his grandfather, but now he does not even have a house to live in. All lost to the erosion.

"The entire Hatiagram village including my house in Ulipur in Kurigram was devoured by the Jamuna two years ago," said Md Shafiqul, 35, son of Abor Uddin.

"Now I am living in Nilkontho village of the same upazila in a small room two kilometres away from the previous house," said Md Shafiqul.

Naik Ali, 52, of Satarkandi village in Phulchhari upazila in Gaibandha, said his entire village was devoured by the Jamuna in 1993. Now he lives in Kanchipara in the same upazila four kilometres away from his previous village.

Mohammed Sirajul Islam, 53, of Newdhapgram village at Shariakandi upazila in Bogra said his house in Dhapgram fell victim to the river a few years ago.

The village he is now living in is just one kilometre away from the river, which has moved more than 10km westward from its original channel in Shariakandi in last 36 years, he said.

Cops foil march against removal

FROM PAGE 16

the airport roundabout reflecting the country's liberation war and folk culture, trial of war criminals, modernisation of madrasa curriculum, a ban on religion-based politics and ensuring science-based education and free environment for secular cultural activities.

Eminent educationist Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury at the rally at Aparajeyo Bangla said the people (who opposed erection of Baul sculptures at the airport roundabout) are not fanatics. They are using religion for political purposes, he said.

"The people of the country are pious and the communal forces are trying to use religion and the people's religious sentiment to gain political advantage," he added.

Questioning the neutrality of the caretaker government, speakers at both the rallies alleged that it has been favouring the communal and anti-liberation forces.

Prof MM Akash of economics department of the DU and also one of the initiators of the BRA said they would continue the movement to

press home their five-point demand.

"The government does not take any step against the anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces when they demonstrate on the streets violating the emergency rules. But it has barred us today from holding a peaceful rally at the airport," he said.

He also urged the democratic political parties to include their five-point demand in their election manifesto.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain also accused the government of being biased towards the anti-liberation and communal forces.

Deputy Commander-in-chief of the liberation war and Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) Chairman Air Vice Marshal (RET) AK Khandaker, sector commander Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafiqullah, DU social science faculty dean Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Prof Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Muhammad Samad, Prof Sadeka

Halim, Prof Parvin Hasan, Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, DU Mass Communication and Journalism department's associate professor Robayet Ferdous, Sculptor Rasha, cultural activists and leaders and activists of different student bodies were present.

Meanwhile, Sachetan Shilpi Samaj (SSS), a platform of artists, brought out a candle procession from the Fine Arts Faculty demanding erection of a better-quality statue at the airport roundabout and a free environment for practising arts and culture.

They also held a view exchange meeting with the students of University of Development Alternative (UODA) on the issue on the UODA campus.

Gano Forum will form a human chain in front of the National Eidgah at 3:00pm on Sunday protesting removal of the Baul sculptures at Zia International Airport roundabout. The party will hold the programme simultaneously in other parts of the country, said a press release yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY Workshop Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organises a workshop on upcoming parliamentary election, democracy and role of journalists. Venue: Sufia Kamal Bhaban auditorium. Time: 10:00am. Book launching The launching ceremony of the book 'People's participation in budgetary process in Bangladesh: In search of some policy reforms' by Dr Akbar Ali Khan. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 10:15am. BFUJ council The biennial council of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 10:00am. Poster contest UNFPA organises a poster contest for children to raise awareness among children about population and development. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 2:30am. Seminar Bangladesh Panibesh Andolon (Bapa) organises a seminar on urban waste management. Venue: Bapa office. Time: 10:00am.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature UNB, Dhaka Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast. Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 17.9 degrees at Rajshahi. The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:05am tomorrow. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage Max Min Morning Evening Dhaka 31.3 19.2 67 72 Chittagong 29.0 21.4 76 72 Rajshahi 30.5 17.9 87 79 Khulna 30.0 20.5 70 74 Barisal 30.4 19.0 74 87 Sylhet 31.8 21.3 84 78 Cox's Bazar 31.7 22.8 72 72

CPD honours Unctad secy gen METRO DESK Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised a lunch meeting in the city yesterday in honour of Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary general of Unctad, Patricia R Francis, executive director of International Trade Centre (ITC), and Dr Harsha V Singh, deputy director general, WTO, Geneva. Addressing the meeting, Dr Supachai spoke about the implications of the ongoing global financial crisis for developing and low-income countries, the relative roles of governments and markets, the role of public sector investment in attaining the MDGs and the role of Unctad in addressing trade and developmental challenges of developing countries. Representatives from leading political parties, leaders of trade bodies, representatives from NGOs, academic, media and development partners attended the meeting.