



Autistic children perform at a cultural programme styled 'My Country, My Soil' at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. Caring Glory, a special education centre, and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly organised the programme. PHOTO: STAR

Sir Maurice Brown Int'l School starts functioning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sir Maurice Brown International School, an English medium school in national curriculum, started its activities with a motto of 'Forever learning' in the port city's Nasirabad area yesterday. Faujians Enterprise Limited, a group of former students of Faujdarhat Cadet College, set up the school being imbued with their ideals and training of cadet college life. Named after Lt Col William Maurice Brown, chief architect of cadet colleges in the country, the school aims at familiarising students with ideas behind cadet college education at an even earlier stage, said the organisers.

The school is committed to providing a solid English medium educational foundation for the children and enabling them to face any career challenge in tomorrow's globalised world, they added.

Noted educationist Zubaida Munawar has been appointed as the principal of the school that involves Yean Hampsan as the academic consultant and Sultana Nizam and Manisa Ispahani as the advisers.

FEL Chairman Saiful Islam, Vice Chairman Commodore (ret'd) AZ Nizam, Managing Director Taslim Uddin Chowdhury, also editor of local daily the Purbokone, economist Dr Irshad Kamal Khan, Dr Mahtab Uddin Hasan and Mehrab Mashuk also spoke.

8 shops burn down in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

At least eight shops burned down in a fire at Kalumunshi Bazaar in Kabairhat, Noakhali, early yesterday.

The fire started at a tea stall at about 3:00am and soon engulfed other adjoining shops, fire brigade sources said, but could not say what sparked off the blaze.

Fire fighters extinguished the blaze with the help of local people.

Shop owners estimated the loss at Tk15 lakh.

Citycell offers special Zoom package

METRO DESK

Citycell, a mobile phone operator, has been offering special packages of its high-speed wireless Internet service Zoom at Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) that began at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city on January 1, says a press release.

Md Tarikul Hasan, acting CEO of Citycell, inaugurated the Citycell Pavilion on the opening day of the fair.

Under the banner of 'Amazing Offers at DITF 2009', Citycell introduced special packages of its Zoom. The package includes attractive start-up prices for Zoom connections bundled with devices, together with exclusive monthly data plans and voice tariff.

Customers can purchase specific Zoom-enabled handsets, USB Modems or PCMCIA Data Cards at a discount, available only at Citycell Pavilion at DITF until January 31.

Visitors of all ages are also enjoying free internet browsing using Zoom at the pavilion. Citycell One connections with a range of handsets are also available at the pavilion.

'Bring autistic children to mainstream'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme in the city yesterday urged the conscious citizens to come forward to help autistic children of the society.

The cultural programme styled as 'My Country, My Soil' was organised jointly by Caring Glory, a special education centre, and ActionAid Bangladesh at the Shilpakala Academy.

While delivering the welcome speech Swarna Reza, secretary general of Caring Glory, said all citizens have equal responsibility to help end the alienation of autistic children from the mainstream of the society.

"Their rights should not be ignored in any case as they are the most innocent children and they love our country equally as we do," she added.

Bipasha Hayat, a cultural personality, lauded the struggles of the mothers of the autistic children to ensure their welfare.

She said one should not remain confined to home with all the necessities fulfilled, rather he or she should come out and stand beside these children.

"They do really need our assistance and we should not back off from our responsibilities," she added.

The programme was followed by a colourful cultural

function participated by the students of Caring Glory.

Earlier at the beginning of the programme, tributes were paid to the mothers of the autistic children, who were present there as chief guests, by the organisers and the performing artists.

Abed Khan, editor of Shamokal, Atiul Haq Chowdhury, head of programme of Ekushey TV, Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Jatiya Pratibandhi Unnayan Foundation, Rabeya Sultana of ActionAid Bangladesh, and Shahin Reza Noor, senior assistant editor of the Ittefaq were present at the programme as special guests.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visits party activist Nityalal Das, who was injured in post-poll violence at Kullarchar in Kishoreganj, at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday. PHOTO: BNP

Withdraw cases against teachers, students: Duta

DU CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected executive committee of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) has demanded immediate withdrawal of all cases filed against teachers and students in connection with the August 2007 campus violence.

They also demanded that the conviction of its former president, general secretary and a member in similar cases be overturned.

The committee placed the demands at a meeting on Thursday night, with its

President Prof Khandaker Bazul Haque in the chair. Duta General Secretary ABM Obaidul Islam moderated the meeting.

Expressing deep concern over violence on the campus in the wake of the national election, the Duta executive committee called on all to help maintain congenial academic atmosphere and ensure peaceful coexistence of all student organisations on the campus.

The teachers also demanded that stern action be taken against any students responsible for violence on the campus.

Tiger kills fisherman in Sundarbans

UNB, Satkhira

A fisherman was killed when he was attacked by a tiger in the Sundarbans on Thursday noon.

The deceased was identified as Khokon Sheikh, 35, son of Akbar Ali Sheikh of Shora village under Shyamnagar upazila.

Family sources said when Khokon along with his four associates went to the Sundarbans with legal pass for catching crab at Katesar canal, a tiger attacked Khokon and took him away in the deep forest.

Later, his companions recovered the decomposed body with the help of forest guards.

Institute of Medical Tech opens today

UNB, Dhaka

Ahsania Mission Institute of Medical Technology (IMT) will be formally launched today.

The launching ceremony will be held on the institute campus at Mirpur in the city at 11:00am, with Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam in the chair.

National Professor Dr MR Khan will be present as the chief guest while former Health Secretary and Managing Director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital M Fazlur Rahman as special guest.

IMT Principal Prof KS Zaman and Mirpur Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital Director Brig Gen (ret'd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim will also attend the ceremony, said a press release.

Zardari, Gilani greet Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raja Gilani yesterday greeted Awami League President Sheikh Hasina for the grand alliance's massive victory in the December 29 general elections.

Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Alamgir Babar called on Hasina at Sudha Sadan in the afternoon to convey their greetings to her.

During the meeting, they discussed various bilateral issues, Babar told reporters after the meeting.

He hoped that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan would be strengthened further in the days to come.

Former Ambassador Mohammad Zamir, Sheikh Hasina's younger sister Sheikh Rehana and Mahbulul Huq Shakil, deputy press secretary to Hasina, were present at the meeting.

Rab man robbed at Savar, three arrested

SAVAR, Unb

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) member was robbed of his salary and valuables by a number of armed muggers at Bhatpara in Savar in the early hours of Friday.

Police said the muggers intercepted Wahedul Islam, a Rab member posted in Rangpur, at Bhatpara when he along with his brother Kamrul Islam was returning home by a rickshaw after they came from Rangpur by a night coach.

The muggers stabbed the Rab man indiscriminately and took away his salary and other valuables.

Police arrested three people -- Sharif Ahmed, 20, son of Akkas Ali, Babul, 37, son of Samad, and Habibur Rahman, 35, son of Judge Ali -- in this connection.

JU reopens today after month-long vacation

A CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) reopens today after a month-long vacation for the Eid-ul-Azha, winter and the national election.

However, a tense situation has been prevailing on the campus as the renegade Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists have taken control of JU and the BCL men loyal to JU BCL president are also supposed to return to the campus.

General students are concerned over the situation and that's why they haven't returned to the dormitories, which are almost vacant.

Meanwhile, there will be no classes today since JU teachers are observing class abstention protesting the assault on Chairman of Drama and Dramatics department Sanwar Hossain Sunny on October 24.

Former president of teachers' union Ajit Kumar Majumder said the teachers' body might take a decision today to this end.

However, JU Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique is hopeful that classes will be held without any hindrance.



A UN panel on parliamentary election in Bangladesh led by Francesc Vendrell calls on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. PHOTO: AL

Ctg to be made world class city

4 grand alliance MPs-elect pledge

UNB, Chittagong

Four new grand alliance MPs, elected from the port city, have said they will work for infrastructure development of Chittagong to make it a world class city.

Talking to UNB over phone, the MPs-elect explained their plans for the development of the port city apart from fulfilling people's other demands.

The MPs are Executive President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Mainuddin Khan Badal (Chittagong-7), city unit AL Vice-president Alhaj Nurul Islam BSc (Chittagong-8), AL city unit Joint Secretary Dr Afsarul Amin (Chittagong-9), and AL leader and President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)

MA Latif (Chittagong-10).

MA Latif, who has been elected beating BNP stalwart Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, said he will work to keep up the present pace of operation in Chittagong port to help national economy achieve its expected growth.

Replying to a question, Latif said he does not believe in the concept of 'commercial capital', but believe in infrastructure development of the city to make it a city of international standard.

"My focus will be on removing power and water crises in the city with the involvement of private sector," he added.

Nurul Islam BSc, who defeated industrialist-turned-politician Shamshul Alam of BNP, said he wants to give prior

ity to education sector.

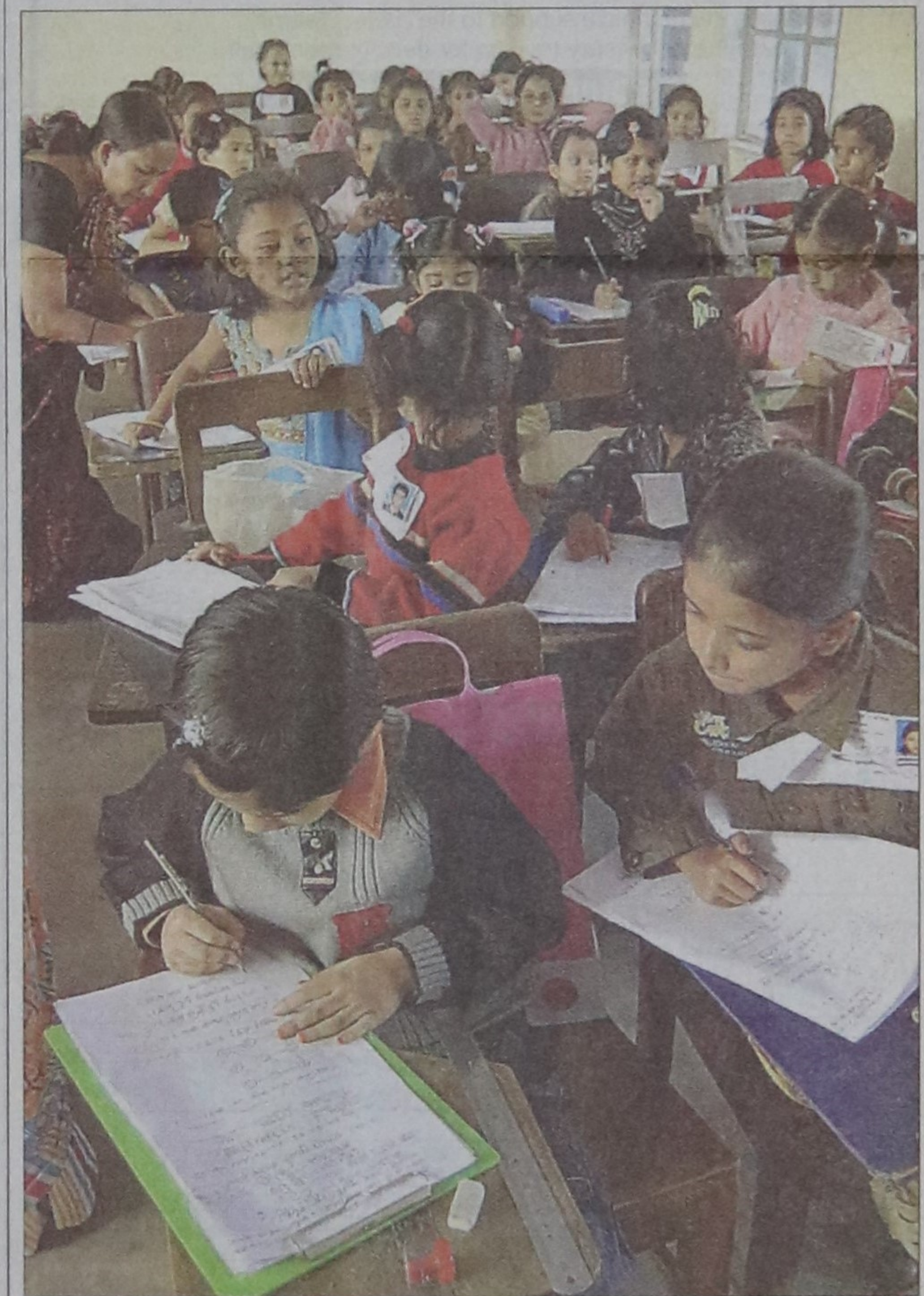
"I have a plan for ensuring access to education for nearly seven lakh slum children," he added.

Mainuddin Khan Badal said he will never deprive the people who have voted him to ensure their rights.

The road communication between the port city and Boakhal will be modernised to ensure smooth communications, he added.

"I am grateful to people and I will make them happy by implementing my election pledges in phases," said Dr Afsarul Amin.

He promised to work for setting up a 'captive power plant' under private sector to ease the mounting power crisis in the city.



A large number of children sit for admission test for class one at Viqarunnisa Noon School in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over northern part and the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country from midnight to morning. Mild cold wave may sweep over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Srimongal. Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the western part and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest of 8.5 degrees at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6:42am 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	25.9	12.7	71	50
Chittagong	26.4	14.4	69	50
Rajshahi	24.0	08.8	100	71
Khulna	25.2	12.0	96	65
Barisa	125.4	10.4	91	80
Sylhet	26.5	13.0	72	74
Cox's Bazar	27.8	15.8	59	58

Renowned ENT Specialist of the country is now a member of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

Eminent ENT surgeon Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Zillur Rahman has joined Apollo Hospitals Dhaka as Senior Consultant, ENT Department. His joining at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka further enhances our pioneering endeavors in different types of ENT Surgery. He served in different Govt. Medical Colleges for the last 17 years; lastly as Professor & Head of the Department. He received trainings in different globally acclaimed centres abroad, mainly in Australia, Belgium and Singapore. He specializes in Cochlear Implant Surgery, Ear Micro Surgery & all other Laser Surgeries in ENT, Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery.

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