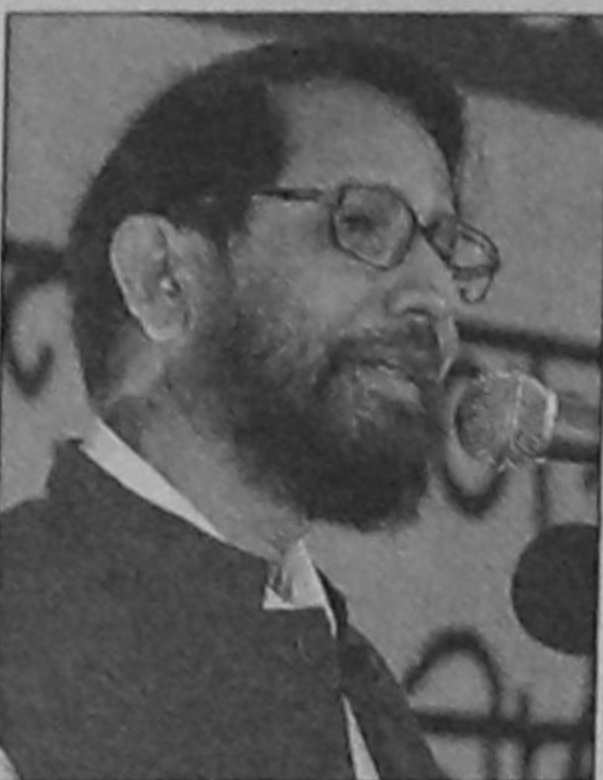


Eliminate militancy at any cost to save nation: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said militant groups should be eliminated at any cost to save the nation.

"However, we do not want extrajudicial killings to achieve the target, rather we



Desh TV Managing Director lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor speaks at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Des TV goes on air Mar 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a promise to ensure objectivity and professionalism in presentation, Desh TV, a new private satellite channel, will go on air from March 26, the Independence Day.

The channel with the combination of high-end technology and people's feelings and emotions will start its much-awaited journey through live telecast of national anthem from Shikha Chironton at historic Suhrawardy Udyan in the city.

Later, it will also televise a five-day programme to mark its auspicious journey, said the organisers, adding that the channel will focus on enriching the country's culture, values and communal harmony which, they believe, will strengthen democracy.

Des TV Managing Director lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday said, "I hope we will be able to give something new to our audience, but will not compromise with the quality of news and programmes."

"More commercial broadcasting is not our aim, we are committed to presenting healthy entertainment, thought and society as role of TV media is inevitable in building a healthy and progressive-minded society," he added.

Seeking cooperation from the audience and cable operators, Noor said they want to bring new dimension in presenting news, adding that the TV will speak for the country as well as for its people.

Asked whether there will be any political influence in the programmes and news of the channel, the lawmaker said overall programmes and news of the channel will reflect their large-scale professionalism.

"But we will pay our highest honour to the spirit of liberation war through our plan and programmes," he said.

Barrister Razzaq files contempt petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat leader Barrister Abdul Razzaq yesterday filed a contempt petition with the High Court (HC) against the authorities concerned of the government for preventing him from going to Malaysia and Singapore in spite of having an HC order allowing him to visit the two countries.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad and Eliza Sharmin, officer-in-charge (Immigration) of the special branch (SB), have been made respondents in the petition.

In his petition, Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Razzaq stated that he was scheduled to fly to Singapore via Malaysia in the early hours of March 17 with his wife. At the time, Eliza Sharmin told him that she had instructions from superior authorities not to allow him (petitioner) to leave.

The petition prayed to the HC to issue a contempt rule against the respondents and to direct them to appear in person before the court in connection of the contempt petition.

After holding hearing on the petition, the HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui fixed March 23 for passing order.

would follow legal procedures," he added.

He was addressing a meeting on the progress of preparing the master plan for the Sylhet city at the deputy commissioner's conference room yesterday.

"We need social resistance against the militants, who really have no courage to run their activities by now," said Muhith, adding that the law enforcers will have to remain vigilant to this end.

Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran chaired the meeting while Divisional Commissioner Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, Deputy

Commissioner Sazzadul Hassan, Prof Abdul Awal Biswas of Shahjalal University, District Awami League President ANM Shafique and General Secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim spoke.

Muhith said participation of common people is a must for preparing the master plan for any city. He said the city corporation should take a 5-year programme of its own for meeting the immediate demands of the city dwellers especially ensuring water supply and addressing water logging and solid and clinical waste management issue.

Urban Development Directorate officials said works for the 20-year structure plan of the Sylhet divisional town and surroundings are almost finished and the interim report will be ready by May.

Speakers at the programme said although the Sylhet region is an earthquake-prone zone, there had been no effective initiative to create awareness among the city dwellers about the risks and vulnerability of the probable disaster.

Later, the minister laid the foundation of the Pir Habibur Rahman Library Complex at Topkhana.

Students, traders clash: 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured in a series of clashes between students of Dhaka Biggan College and owners of shops on a plot adjacent to the college at Malibagh in the city yesterday.

The clash ensued as the college authorities tried to evict the shop owners from the plot belonging to the college.

Among the injured, four students received treatment at local clinics while two students and one trader were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The police said trader Mizanur Rahman came in the morning to open his fish shop but found that a brick wall was built overnight closing the entrance to the plot.

Mizan then asked the college authorities about his fish, but they did not give any satisfactory answer. Rather, they tried to drive him away, resulting in clashes between local traders and students.

At around 10:00am, the traders and their men attacked the college and hurled brickbats at the college building, damaging several windowpanes.

Students of the college were again locked into clash with the traders around 12:00 noon, locals said.

At one stage, some students took fish trader Mizanur to the college compound and beat him up.

Later, the police brought the situation under control around 1:00pm.

16 cops transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the latest reshuffle in the police department, 16 officers were transferred yesterday.

The transfer order of Assistant Police Commissioner Syed Mezbah Uddin to Bandarban as assistant superintendent of police (ASP) has been altered, says a press release of the Police Headquarters.

The press release says that Senior Assistant Police Commissioner Mohammad Niamat Ali has been transferred to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Senior Assistant Police Super Mizanur Rahman to Bagerhat Sadar Circle, ASP SM Shafullah to Circle-A in Jessore, ASP Mohammad Maksudur Rahman to Khagrachhari Sadar Circle, ASP Sayeed Akhter Newaji to DMP, ASP Ruhul Amin Siddique to Sitakunda Circle in Chittagong, ASP Naima Sultana to Munshiganj Sadar Circle, ASP Mohammad Mohidul Islam to Lama Circle in Bandarban, ASP Biplob Bijoy Talukdar to Habiganj Sadar Circle, ASP Mohammad Ilut Mish to Rapid Action Battalion, ASP Syed Mezbah Uddin to Patia Circle in Chittagong, ASP Mohammad Tareq Ahmed to Sadar North Circle in Sylhet, ASP Mohammad Farid Uddin to Magura Sadar Circle, Senior Assistant Police Super Abu Ahmed Al Mamun to Ramgar Circle in Khagrachhari, ASP Nesar Ahmed to CMP as assistant police commissioner and

ASP Mohammad Kamruzzaman to 7th APBN at Muktachacha in Mymensingh.

CTG ARMS HAUL Investigators start grilling 2 ex-CUFL officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Investigators took two former top officials of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) on a three-day remand for interrogation yesterday in connection with the sensational 10 truckloads of arms haul case.

On Tuesday, a Chittagong court granted the remand of the former officials - former managing director Mohsin Talukder and former general manager (Administration) Enamul Haq -- following a prayer by the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case.

The investigators brought them to Chittagong divisional headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department at Dampara Police Lines around 11:30am for interrogation.

They interrogated the two former officials alternately throughout the day before sending them to safe custody in the evening.

IO Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, a senior ASP of CID, Chittagong division, said the interrogation would continue today and tomorrow.

CTG SARDER MARKET Owner gets building after 24 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The owner of a three-storied building, known as Sarder Market in Chittagong, finally took possession of the building yesterday, around 24 years after he bought it at auction.

The district administration handed over the building to its real owner after evicting all illegal occupants from the building, which housed at least 50 shops and a Homeopath Medical College.

During the eviction drive, tension ran high in the area when a dozen of CCC ward councillors and CCC high officials tried to prevent the magistrate and the police from evicting the illegal occupants.

A group of students of Dr Zakir Hossain Homeopath Medical College and Hospital run by CCC also tried to form a human chain in front of the college at Sadarghat at around 11:00am in a bid to foil the drive.

BNP programmes on independence day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has chalked out three-day programmes to celebrate the Independence and National Day with due respect and solemnity.

A joint meeting of the party, however, decided to cancel the colorful rally in view of the "tragic incident" inside the BDR headquarters.

Party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain presided over the meeting held at the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the city.

The programmes include a discussion that will be held at Engineers' Institute auditorium at 3:00pm on March 25.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar and at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman at 9:00am on the day.

BNP leaders MK Anwar, M Nurul Huda, Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, Amanullah Aman, Rizvi Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Nazimuddin Alam, Kabir Murad, Khairul Kabir Khokon Jubo Dal president Barakat Ullah Bulu, General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal and Swetchhasebak Dal General Secretary Fazlul Huq Milon were present at the meeting.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



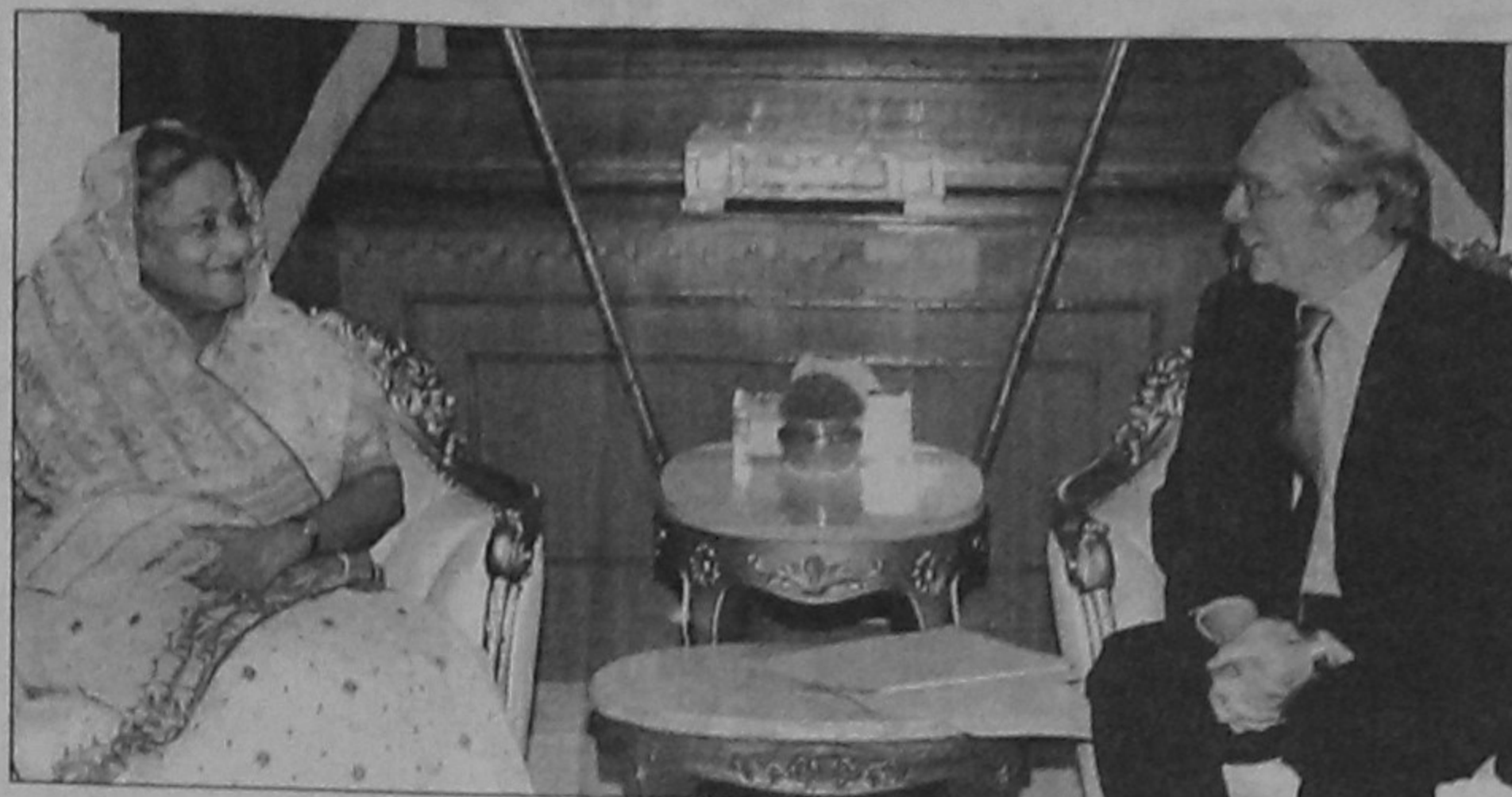
h Teachers' Training College, will be held at the Suritola Model Primary School on the North South Road at Bongshal in Old Dhaka after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

His family members have requested all his students, colleagues, well-wishers, relatives and neighbours to attend the doa mahfil and pray for the departed soul.

Prof Salahuddin died of a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on March 16 at the age of 72.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was the father of Shamsuddin Haider Dalim, newscaster and chief of news production of Banglavisión.



Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Bangladesh Representative Ad Spijkers calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Modhumoti Model Town project illegal SC upholds HC judgement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) judgment declaring illegal the controversial Modhumoti Model Town project of Metro Makers Ltd, an institution of Bhaiya Group, at Aminbazar in Savar.

The apex court also upheld a portion of the HC verdict that had directed the authorities concerned to protect the interest of the people who had already purchased the plots of the project on the outskirts of Dhaka.

The three-member full bench of the Appellate Division (AD) headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, however, granted five separate leaves to appeal filed on behalf of the project authorities, plot purchasers, Rajuk and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) against the HC verdict.

The Appellate Division also said the hearing of the regular appeals against the HC verdict will be held after two months.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir Litan, a lawyer of Bela, yesterday told The Daily Star that the SC upheld the HC verdict on the grounds that the project authorities had been filling up Aminbazar sub-flood-flow zone, violating the Environment Conservation Act, Town Improvement Act and Rajuk rules, and a number of people had invested a lot of money for purchasing plots of the project.

Upon a writ petition, the

HC on July 27, 2005, had delivered the verdict declaring the Modhumoti Model Town project at Bilamalia and Baliaurpur near Aminbazar at Savar unauthorised, illegal and against public interest.

The writ petition as public interest litigation with the HC challenging the legality of the project, as it was filling up the sub-flood-flow zone, violating the Environment Conservation Act, Town Improvement Act and Rajuk rules.

UDAYAN SCHOOL Guardians protest fee hike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Guardians of the students of Udayan High School in the city staged a demonstration in front of the school gate yesterday protesting fee hike.

Agitating guardians took out a procession demanding cancellation of all increased fees, including session, development, examination and readmission, and fees for syllabuses, diaries and identity cards.

Talking to reporters, they alleged that the school authorities have increased around 33 percent fees this year from the previous years, adding that students had to pay Tk 8,800 last year, but they are now asked to pay Tk 11,700 this year.

DHAKA TODAY

Exhibition
The inaugural ceremony of a photographic exhibition titled 'Kagojer Chayay' by Dhali Al Mamun and Wakulur Rahman will be held. Venue: Nolinikanta Bhattacharya Exhibition Room, National Museum. Time: 5:00pm.

Cultural programme
Marie Curie School organises a cultural programme. Venue: House # 28, Road # 4, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00am.

Painting competition
Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote organises a painting competition for the children. Venue: Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University. Time: 8:00am.

Soccer lesson
Former Japanese football star Tsuyoshi Kitazawa will conduct 'Kitazawa Soccer Lesson' for kids. Venue: Japanese School, Baridhara. Time: 10:00am.

Theatre festival
Ichchey Media Group and Child Protection Movement jointly organise the 4th Theatre for Development Festival 2009 beginning today. Venue: Rabindra Sarobar. Time: 2:30pm.

Reunion
Dhaka University History Department Alumni Association

organises its 10th reunion. Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Sachetan Nagarik Samadhi organises a roundtable titled 'Bloody Pikhana: Context our national security'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Alphabet writing
Karak Natya Sampraday organises an alphabet-writing contest. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 8:00am.

Conference
Bangladesh Paediatric Association (BPA) organises its 16th biennial conference. Venue: Hotel Radisson. Time: 6:00pm.

Dictation contest
The High Commission of Canada and the Embassies of Egypt, France, Morocco, Switzerland and Vietnam organise a French dictation contest. Venue: French School, Road # 3, Plot # 13, Baridhara. Time: 4:30pm.

Discussion
Bangabandhu Shishu Academy will hold a discussion to mark the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Independence Day. Venue: Bishreshtha Matur Rahman High School premises. Time: 4:30pm.

Top floors defy height limit

FROM PAGE 1

built up to 210 feet.

While Rajuk officials suspect that the actual unauthorised height of the tower might be even more, the government's role has always been dubious as it never asserted its stance by following up Rajuk's actions.

Rajuk in fact served similar notices on the owners of 25 other high-rise buildings situated in the air funnel of Tejgaon airstrip.

Rajuk officials said Bashundhara City tower has 21-stories but Bashundhara officials claim that the building is 19-storied. They, however, said they have approved design for 18 stories.

The Rajuk has so far served five notices on Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, the latest being on August 16, 2007, asking him to demolish the unauthorised top part of the building within 60 days.

The previous four notices

were served in 2001, 2002 and 2007. Bashundhara Group did not comply with any.

The group's Senior Executive Director (construction) MA Sattar claims that they built the building as per the approved design. "We do not accept Rajuk's argument and we do not know on what grounds they served the notice," he said.

Sattar told The Daily Star that Rajuk approved a design for an 18-storey building without specifying the permissible height. He said the design approved the building up to 260 feet but they actually built it up to 280 feet.

Rajuk officials said even 18 storeys mean 180 feet on an average.

Highly placed official sources said Bashundhara first got approval for a nine-storey building in 1999. In 2001, the group managed approval for an 18-storey building. The mall opened to public in 2004.

BDR MUTINY Eight SSC examinees sit for math exam

4 edn insts at Pikhana to reopen after probes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight SSC examinees affected during the BDR mutiny appeared at their mathematics exam at Government Laboratory School in the city yesterday, while the four education institutions inside Pikhana will not be reopened until the ongoing investigations are completed.

Dhaka Education Board granted this opportunity to the students who missed maths exam scheduled for March 1 due to the atrocities during the February 25-26 massacre.

The schedule of other examinations is Physics (theory) and Business Studies on March 22, Chemistry (theory), Business Entrepreneurship and Accounting on March 24, General Science and Social Science on 29 March, Islamic Studies on March 31, Biology (theory) on April 2, and Computer Studies (theory) and Agriculture Studies (theory) on April 5, said a government handout.

Visiting the exam centre, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said: "The affected students are taking this examination under special arrangements."

Six students of Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College, one student of Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College and one student of Kamrangirchar Waizuddin High School sat for the math exam, said Tamiz Uddin Ahmed, principal of Abdur Rouf Rifles College.

Academic activities of around 10,000 students of four educational institutions - Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College, Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College, BDR Government Primary School and Fazlur Rahman Bir Pratik English Medium School at Pikhana remain closed since February 25.

RAOWA programmes cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 27th founding anniversary programmes of Retired Armed Forces' Welfare Association (RAOWA), scheduled to be held on March 21, have been cancelled due to the brutal killings at the BDR headquarters at Pikhana, says a press release.

RAOWA will hoist flag at half mast on its premises in memory of the army officers killed during the BDR carnage.

Peace cottage 'Swapnolok' to be set up in Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women entrepreneurs yesterday approved the design of peace cottage valley 'Swapnolok', the first personal old-age home (OAH), to be set up in Savar for providing different types services for the elderly people.

The Swapnolok will be a structure of 100 cottages, both one-storey and two-storey, in a half moon pattern facing the river.

Besides, the cottages will have a lake, fresh farming area, private gardening space and river view, says a press release.

All kinds of services such as health care, recreation and legal aid to the women will be ensured in the home. The caregivers will be trained in gerontology as well, it added.

Former adviser to a caretaker government Rokia Atfal Rahman at the meeting at MIDAS office in the city said this type of initiative is required to ensure the rights of elderly people, especially women, in the society.

Speaking as the chief guest, Rokia said she accepted the theme with full convictions, adding that it is a short term as well as long-term plan.

Expressing her wish to reside as one of the cottage owners in Swapnolok, she said there are many scopes for business in the valley and the theme will upgrade the life and dignity of the OAH cottage owners.

Proprietor of Aakor Salina Akhter, who developed the concept, also spoke.

Aakor won the first The Daily Star-DHL Award in 2000.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra



Jaohar Mallik, assistant editor of the Daily Karotoa and a student leader of the

60s, passed away at Bogra Medical College Hospital Wednesday at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

Today is the 6th death anniversary of M Fazlur Rahman, a council member of Labour Party in London and a journalist, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quranikhwani will be held at Khan Mansion (first floor) at 55 Naya Paltan in the city and a milad mahfil will be held at his village home in Pabna and at the Mohammadpur Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today.

Shraddha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Muslim High School, will be held at his village home at Gajaria in Rugganj, Narayanganj, today, says a press release.

Madan Mohon passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 59 on March 10.

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

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail and Comilla, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 6:02am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dhaka and Sitakunda and lowest 17 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	35.5	21.5	56	29
Chittagong	33.0	20.4	77	53
Rajshahi	35.0	19.3	72	50
Khulna	33.5	20.5	72	62
Barisal	33.0	20.0	84	61
Sylhet	33.7	20.2	50	36
Cox's Bazar	31.7	20.5	80	75