owners

Khulna bus

from today

enforce strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Divisional Bus-

Minibus Owners' Association

has called a strike on 14 routes

of the country for an indefinite

period from today to press

The association had earlier

"We have been compelled

to call the strike as there was no

response from the govern-

ment," said Md Mokammel

Hossain, president of the

include withdrawal of all

Nasimons and Karimons (human haulers), reduction of

toll at Kharnia bridge on

Khulna-Satkhira route, with-

drawal of all unauthorised

transports from Khulna-

Satkhira highway, allotment of

khas land for setting up bus

The five-point demand

association.

given an ultimatum to the

government on March 21 to

meet its demands by March 23.

home its five-point demand.

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Dhaka to further strengthen ties with Asean countries: FM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh would further strengthen its ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) countries.

She said the proposed link road through Myanmar would be helpful in increasing political, economic and cultural relations with the South-East Asian countries.

She said this when the heads of the missions of the ASEAN countries paid a courtesy call on the minister at the foreign ministry yesterday.

City's diarrhoea

situation

700 by midnight.

said scientists.

Mohammadpur, Tejgaon,

Gulshan, Demra, Sutrapur,

Kotowali and Shyampur.

HC grants

bail to 199

RU Shibir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

activists

deteriorates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city's diarrhoea situation

has slightly deteriorated in the

last three days, Prof Shahadat

Hossain, scientist and head of

longer stay unit of

International Centre for

Diarrhoeal Diseases and

Research, Bangladesh

Phae Thann Oo, Ambassador of Thailand Chalermpol back. Common culture and Thanchitt, Ambassador of Philippines Zenaida Tacorda-Rabago, Ambassador of Brunei Haji Abdul Rajzak bin Haji Mohd Hussaini, Singapore Consul General Tan Kok Nam, Indonesian Charge d' Affaires Tri Surya and acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Hamizan bin Hashim were present.

Hossain, director general of the South Asia Cell of the foreign ministry, was also present.

The foreign minister said,

Ambassador of Myanmar U "Our relation with the South- mentioned of the Mekong-East Asian countries dates long values and similar aspirations of the peoples have strengthened the relation further. We are determined to take the

relation to a new level."

The relation between Saarc and Asean is getting stronger day by day. Both alliances have immense potential. If Saarc and Asean work together utilising this potential it would be Mohammad Enayet helpful for improving the quality of the lives of 180 crore people of the region, she

The foreign minister also

Ganges Cooperation Initiative.

"As a down riparian country of the Ganges, Bangladesh has the right to participate in this initiative. We will also have to work together to survive the prevailing world economic crisis," she said.

She added that Bangladesh has been playing a significant role in different international forums, including for promot-

The envoys of the Asean countries invited the foreign minister to visit their respective countries.



European Union Election Observation Mission chief Alexander Graf Lambsdorff calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Prioritise activities to address overpopulation

Speakers tell BDHS report launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a report launching ceremony urged both govern- Demographic and Health nutrition. ment and non-government Survey (BDHS) report 2007 officials to work out ways to ensure better programme implementation.

They also called on them to bearing are still major obstaidentify priority activities to

Dhaka-Delhi

FROM PAGE 16

"It has been mentioned in the election manifesto of Awami League and the government will implement the project (deep seaport) if it does not face any hindrance in its implementation," he told reporters after holding a meeting with the Indian delegation, reports UNB.

The minister said they would soon sit together to discuss further the issue and a presentation ceremony will

take place on April 12. "The trade between Bangladesh and India will enhance following the treaty," said Secretary in-charge of the Shipping Ministry Md Masud Elahi who led the Bangladesh delegation and signed the

protocol for Bangladesh. Shri Vijay Chhibber, additional secretary to Indian ministry of Shipping, Roads, Transport and Highways, led a 24-member Indian delegation. He termed the protocol a "winwin situation for both countries" and said Bangladesh can import goods at much cheaper rate from India.

Before inking the protocol, the two delegations agreed to continue the discussion of technical committees from April.

Besides the existing river ports, Dhaka and Narayanganj ports will be used under this protocol from next year.

The technical committee will discuss several issues, including the navigability of Bangladesh rivers like Padma, Meghna and Teesta where movement of vessels is disrupted due to poor navigability.

Bangladesh receives levy worth Tk 2 crore annually from India for allowing Indian goods cargoes to use Bangladeshiwaterways. Entering through Godagari,

Under this protocol,

Rajshahi, the Indian cargoes go to Karimganj in Assam using a

shortcut way. Pakistan! slip of tongue? Instead of saying the trade

protocol was signed between Bangladesh and India, acting Shipping Secretary Md Masud Elahi while delivering speech after signing the protocol said twice that the trade protocol was signed between India and Pakistan.

address issues of overpopula- improve future policies and tion and primary healthcare. The Bangladesh

was launched at a city hotel. The report said early child marriage and early child

cles to fertility decline in the country. Women on an average in

the country have 2.7 children, while required target of total fertility rate (TFR) is 2.2. TFR is highest in Sylhet division (3.7) and lowest in Khulna (2.0),

that huge shortage of manpower creates an obstacle to implementing all approaches for improving facility-based and medically assisted safe childbirth and overall family

programmes relating to health, population and 'In order to ensure health

facilities for every citizen of the country, our government would review and adjust the heath policy according to the demands of the time," he said, adding that community clinics established during the Awami league Rule would be commissioned.

Speaking as the special guest, US Ambassador James F Moriarty said the US government's foreign assistance priorities for investing in people through basic services like health and education.

"The United States provides Bangladesh with \$35 million a year for family planning and reproductive, mater nal and child health. And our Speaking as the chief guest, efforts have helped Health and Family Welfare Bangladesh reduce infant Minister AFM Ruhul Haque deaths by two-thirds and said the BDHS report would increase contraceptive use really help design and seven-fold," the envoyadded.

management problems and

Launching ceremony

Launching ceremony of the project

'Legal assistance to the children in

conflict and contact with the law in

Bangladesh' will be held. Venue:

The Fine Art department of

University of Development

Alternative (UODA) organises a

street art programme and other

cultural programmes to mark the

black night of March 25. Venue:

Darul Ihsan University will hold a

discussion to mark the

Independence Day. Venue: South

campus of the university, Motijheel.

Documentary screening

Association of Travel Agents of

Bangladesh (ATAB) organises the

screening of 'Bangladesh Tourism'

Venue: ATAB conference hall. Time:

The European Union Election

Observation Mission (EUEOM) will

launch its final report on the 9th

parliamentary elections. Venue:

Hotel Lake Shore, Gulshan-2. Time:

Manik Mia Avenue. Time: 6:11pm.

LGED Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Street art

Discussion

Time: 10:00am.

12:00noon.

Report launch

counters, reduction of fares collected by the ferries and an end to toll collection by police. 2 accused flee Jatrabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

police station

Two accused in a snatching case escaped from Jatrabari police station breaking open the ventilator of a toilet yesterday morning.

Police, however, could arrest one of them four hours after their escape at Pagla in Fatulla of Narayanganj.

The accused Mohammad Babu and Amir Hossain were arrested at around 5:30am on Monday for snatching a mobile set and Tk 300 from a pedestrian at Dayaganj Intersection at Jatrabari.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Wari Zone Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star that they were conducting drives to nab Amir.

Correction

Lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem sent a clarification regarding The Daily Star report headlined "Ship breaking ordered shut" published on March 18.

The report mentioned that "SM Al Mamun, son of Awami League lawmaker Abul Kashem Master, destroyed 125 acres of Para forest in Sonaichhari, planted 18 years ago, to build a shipyard after

the AL came to power" In the clarification Abul Kashem said his family owns the shipyard called m/s Unique Traders, established on February 9, 2009 on a 5.25-acre patch of land. Of that land, 2.5 acres were privately owned land of his family and the rest 2.75 acres were leased out by the government in favour of

their ship-breaking yard. There was no tree on the yard owned by his son SM Al Mamun, the lawmaker said in the statement, adding that destruction of Paraforest was not true.

Students asked to devote more to knowledge-based learning

METRO DESK

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud has said students should devote themselves more to knowledge-oriented learning to pave the way for establishing a Digital Bangladesh within the

next ten years. He was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the Department of Social Sciences of East West University (EWU) at its Study Centre on Monday,

says a press release. Dr Hasan Mahmud taught environment and ecology for more than four years at the

department. EWU a centre of excellence.

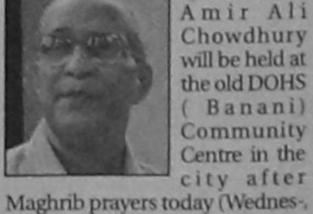
He urged the authorities to

take all possible steps to make

He also assured the EWU authorities of all cooperation to this end. Jalaluddin Ahmed, presi-

dent of the Board of Directors, EWU, Prof Mohammad Sharif, vice chancellor, and Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Fazlur Rashid Khan also spoke at the programme chaired by Prof Bijoy PBarua, head of the department.

Qulkhwani



Chowdhury will be held at the old DOHS (Banani) Community Centre in the city after

Qulkhwani of

day), says a press release. Relatives, friends and

The home ministry offered | admirers are requested to join the prayers for peace and salvation of the departed soul.

BDR-BSF confce cut short by 3 days

The six-day director general (DG) level conference between the border guards of Bangladesh and India, which was scheduled to start in New Delhi on March 27, has been cut short by three days due to the last month's carnage at BDR headquarters.

(ICDDR,B), said yesterday. Home ministry sources He said a total of 504 patients were admitted to the said that the conference hospital till yesterday evening, would no longer be a formal one to resolve outstanding but the number might exceed issues and border related crises as both sides agreed to The situation is not likely to go ahead with the talks, makimprove soon until water ingit a courtesy conference.

supply in the city improves. "There will be no agenda of The increasing number of the conference," said a home diarrhoea patients might ministry document, which linger during April and May added that a six-member with the rising temperature, delegation led by the newly appointed DG of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Brig Gen Md The ICDDR,B has already Mainul Islam would leave declared 10 areas in the city Dhaka on March 30 to attend diarrhoea-prone, including the courtesy conference. Mirpur, Jatrabari,

The sources said the February 25-26 mutiny and killings at Pilkhana also changed the officers of the Bangladeshi team.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT ence but the number has been reduced this time around," a home ministry official told

The Daily Star yesterday. He said the Indian side proposed to reduce the conference taking into consideration the mutiny that left 74 people, including 56 army officers, killed.

Female RMG worker strangled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Unidentified criminals strangled a female RMG worker while she was returning home from her workplace at Fatullah in Narayanganj on Monday night.

Fatullah police recovered the body from the railway crossing near Seharchar Pilot School at Fatullah and sent it to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

Mokseda Begum, 25, had been working at MM Garments in BSIC industrial area at Fatullah.

Int'l dialogue on migration begins in Geneva today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

logue on migration begins at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG), Switzerland today focusing or practical protection of human rights of the migrants.

Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud will represent Bangladesh at the meeting. He has been invited as one of the guest speakers in the session on 'Labour Mobility: Rights and Responsibilities'.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Director General William Lacy Swing will inaugurate the dialogue, says an IOM release.

The two-day gathering states, observers, international and non-governmental ways to overcome the obstacles preventing migrants from fully enjoying their human rights.

The dialogue will examine existing legal frameworks to deal with migrants' human rights and their implementation, besides migrants' right to health and health services fight discrimination and xeno phobia, and human rights in the context of labour mobility.

to death by madrasa teacher

A CORRESPONDENT,

Munshiganj yesterday.

student of class six of Rans Ruhitpur High School and daughter of Enamul Huq of Rans village at Munshiganj municipality. Police recovered the blood-

Maulana Sarwar had been

teaching at Rans Ruhitpur Al-Madrasatul Madinatul Ulum He had also been serving as

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Faizul Kabir told The Daily Star that Sarwar killed Rinki when he came to her residence to teach her

Rinki and her father were at the residence then, as her lying in another room, he added.

killing.

Pichchi Masum held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a criminal, Sarder Pichchi Masum, and recovered five rounds of bullets and explosives from him after he stabbed a youth at Pathantuli in Narayanganj on Monday night.

Local people first caught Masum as he tried to flee after stabbing Obaidul Haque Abbasi, younger son of the Jainpuri Pir. The mob also beat him up.

a Rab team rescued Masum from the wrath of the mob. Agitating people then hurled bricks at the Rab men. Pichchi Masum is an

accused in 45 cases, including seven murder cases. He was involved in the killing Narayanganj Chhatra Dal leader Irabhim Rony, the police said.

to be alert," he said. The state minister said if

any militant outfit is hidden under any NGOs, stern action would be taken against them.

garment sector.

specific information on mili-A 42-member BGMEA delegation, led by its newly-elected tant infiltration or attacks but President Abdus Salam the government would never allow the 14 crore people and Murshedy, placed their demands at a meeting with Home Minister the garment industry to be taken hostage.

of it and our government will salaries to workers in the comprotect the sector at any cost." ing months. Sohel Taj said, "The govern-

ment would take stern actions if any NGO or militant outfits try to destabilise the garment He said some militant outfit JMB and some labour outfits might try destructive activities in garment factories

direct the intelligence agencies

Asked whether foreign

elements are involved in this, he said whoever they are the government would flush out those elements inimical to the He said they do not have any

BGMEA leaders pointed out that due to the global recession there has been a 17.5 percent export fall since January and 20 percent price drop. They said for this most of the owners of medium-size garment factories would not able to pay

In their statement addressed to the home minister, the BGMEA leaders observed, "Banned militant organisations patronised by fundamentalists are trying to destabilise the sector."

conspirators, criminal activities including ransacking, torching and barricading roads have been going on based on rumours

ment, read the statement, signed by BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy. It said a united effort is

regarding delay in salary pay

must to face these problems that are expected to intensify in the coming days.

The BGMEA leaders

demanded more security measurers to protect the country's premier foreign currency earning sector. They suggested that the government form upazila- or zone-based committees comprised of garment owners, local lawmakers police and intelligence agencies to check labour unrest.

demands including establishment of industrial police to maintain peace and discipline in the apparel sector, allowing covered vans engaged in export work to ply the city streets during the day, strengthening the hotline between the crisis management cell, BGMEA and the police department, strengthening highway police patrol, ensuring smooth supply of electricity and monitoring the activities of different NGOs and labour organisations.

solve the problems.

to reopen in a week STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to 199 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir of

them for assaulting Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men on the campus. After hearing the five bail petitions jointly filed by the 199 accused, the HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury issued a

Rajshahi University unit in five

separate cases filed against

the petitioners should not be granted regular bail. The accused Shibir leaders and workers appeared before

rule upon the government to

explain within six weeks why

the High Court (HC). On March 17, the HC granted anticipatory bail to 27 activists of RU Shibir for two months in a case filed against them on March 13 on similar

charges. On March 15, 16 and 17, five RU BCL leaders, including its president Ibrahim Hossain Moon, filed five cases with Motiher Police Station against 500 Shibir men, including Shibir president Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, in connection with the

clashes on March 11. In the case, the complainants stated that the Shibir activists attacked and assaulted the BCL men, leaving at least 20 people injured.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq and Advocate Tajul Islam appeared for the petitioners.

Fugitive convict held

at Fatulla OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested a fugitive convict at Fatulla in Narayanganj on Monday

night. The arrestee was identified as Awami League (AL) activist Tanim, 28, who was sentenced to 31 years imprisonment in an arm case.

Fatulla police said acting on an information they arrested him from in front of the Isdair Octo office at Fatull.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Badrul Alam of Fatulla Police Station said there are several cases against him with the police station. He said Tanim returned to

the area and was trying to take control of jhut business at Faulla.

Police said she might have "Usually a large team attends such a major confer- been raped before she was killed. Rajshahi edn institutions

Top officials of all closed higher educational institutions in Rajshahi last night at a meeting

on student politics.

closed sine die following the March-13 violence on Rajshahi University (RU) Hossain Badsha and Rajshahi City Mayor AHM

Khairuzzaman Liton organ-

ised the meeting to discuss the

reopening of closed institu-

tions at Rajshahi Circuit

House. Rajshahi Divisional

The institutions were

Rahman Bhuiyan chaired the meeting where top brasses of all the educational institution attended.

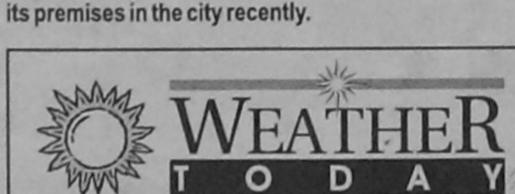
The reopening of RU and Rajshahi University of decided to reopen almost all Engineering and Technology their institutions within a week will be discussed in another enforcing a three-month ban meeting. According to their decision,

Rajshahi Medical College, Rajshahi College, New Degree College, City College, Polytechnic Institute and Health Technology Institute Local lawmaker Fazle will resume academic activities in seven days.

"The students bodies cannot bring out any procession or hold meetings on campus for three months,' Shefaul Karim, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi, told reporters after the meeting.



Students of Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT) display some scientific projects at a two-day annual science fair of the school on



No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka

over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at

5:57am tomorrow.

City/Town

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky

recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 15.6 degrees at Srimongal Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius

Country's highest temperature 36.5 degrees Celsius was

Humidityin

percentage

	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.3	22.0	46	31
Chittagong	34.0	21.5	53	50
Rajshahi	35.8	20.2	59	49
Khulna	36.0	21.6	67	54
Barisal	34.6	21.0	72	55
Sylhet	34.8	20.0	53	34
Cox's Bazar	36.0	22.5	68	61

A two-day international dia-State Minister for Foreign

brings together IOM member organisations, civil society and the private sector to find out

Schoolgirl hacked

A schoolgirl was hacked to death by a madrasa teacher in

The victim was identified as Maimuna Huq Rinki, 13, a

stained machete used in the killing and picked up three colleagues of the killer Maulana Sarwar Hossain, 35,

who managed to escape. Madrasa for the last one year.

a private tutor for Rinki and her elder sister for the last three months, police said.

Arabic at around 5:30pm. mother and elder sister went outside. Her ailing father was

Police, however, could not ascertain the cause behind the

On receiving information,

Rab handed over Masum to

Siddhirganj police yesterday

added the report. The report also highlighted

Art exhibition

March 31.

Workshop

DHAKA TODA

challenges in Bangladesh', Venue: The inaugural ceremony of a solo National Press Club. Time: 9:30am. exhibition titled Onupreronal Digital Expo Oboyob by artist Kiriti Ranjan Bangladesh Computer Samity Biswas will be held. Venue: (BCS) organises BCS Digital Expo Contemporary Art Gallery, beginning today. Venue: Shilpangan. Time: 6:00pm. The Bangladesh-China Friendship exhibition will remain open from Conference Centre. Time: 3:00pm. 12:00pm to 8:00pm everyday till

workshop on 'National harm reduction strategy for injecting drug use and HIV; progress, opportunity

CARE Bangladesh organises a

and challenges'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 10:00am. Memorial meeting Dhaka University Alumni Association will organise a memorial meeting and hold a candlelight vigil in memory of the army officers killed during the BDR carnage. Venue: Central Shaheed

Minar. Time: 5:30pm. Discussion

Liberation War Museum will hold a discussion on the necessity of researches on mass killing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Venue: Museum

Bangla Optica Bangladesh Optical Industries and Traders Association organises Bangla Optica 2009 beginning

premises. Time: 5:00pm.

Kha. Time: 12:00pm. Workshop Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation organises a workshop

today. Venue: Hotel Raj Moni Isha

RMG owners fear unrest ahead

on 'Chemical hazards and

industry.

FROM PAGE 16 labour unrest takes place. The government yesterday alerted intelligence agencies about possible infiltration of militants in the garment sector in the guise of workers and their subversive acts to create anarchy in the apparel

Sahara Khatun and State Minister Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj at the homeministry. After the meeting, Sohel Taj told reporters, "Militants might infiltrate the garment sector and NGOs might also try to destabilise it. We are well-aware

on the outskirts of the capital. Instigated by local and foreign He said the government is determined to strike back. "We

It put forward some

all necessary cooperation to