medicated

mosquito

this year

New Delhi

net scheme

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

The Grameen Bank is going to

launch a new nutritional food

and medicated mosquito net

scheme in Bangladesh this

year in collaboration with

project had been signed and

it will be launched sometime

this year, Grameen Bank

founder Nobel laureate

Muhammad Yunus told

He said the nutritional diet

would be particularly for

pregnant women, many of

whom suffer from acute anae-

vided with medicated mosquito nets under the scheme.

reduce prevalence of diseases like malaria and dengue in

The poor would be pro-

Yunus said it would help

This is another example of

social business model that can

address poverty alleviation

and educational, environ-

mental and child nutritional

problems, he added.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maulana Gias Uddin, founder

of Miftahul Ulum Daorah

The agreement for the

German company BASF.

reporters in New Delhi.

mia in Bangladesh.

villages.

Grameen Bank

No labourers to go to Malaysia without availability of jobs

Dhaka, KL reach understanding, says Malaysian minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday reached an understanding with Malaysia to tighten laws to ensure that Bangladeshi labourers are not sent to manufacturing and plantation sectors in Malaysia without the availability of jobs.

Malaysia's Human Resource Minister Dr S Subramaniam said that Bangladesh has assured them of enforcing legislation in Bangladesh to monitor the activities of recruiting agencies in the country, Malaysia's official news agency Bernama reported yesterday.

Parliament lobby in Kuala Lumpur that the discussions centred on the issue of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and problems associated with the current

global economic challenges.

The statement came after Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain held a meeting with Subramaniam following Malaysia's cancellation of 55,000 work visas to Bangladeshis on March 10.

Mosharraf left for Malaysia on March 28. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who went to Malaysia on March 25, has already held meetings with high officials of the country to solve the labour related

The human resources ministry suggested that Bangladesh contact the Manpower Department directly to resolve the workers' issues more effectively, Dr S Subramaniam told reporters at the Parliament lobby in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Home Minister

Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday that his government was taking decisions on foreign workers in Malaysia in accordance with the country's law.

"We still use foreign workers, including from Bangladesh. Both countries have cordial relations and we will ensure that our actions are in accordance with the

Around 450,000 Bangladeshis work in Malaysia, the third largest labour market for Bangladesh. Many have become jobless and are not able to renew their work permits due to cutbacks forcing many workers to return home almost empty-handed.

Meanwhile, another 62 workers returned home yesterday; 45 from Malaysia, 15 from the United Arab Emirates and two from Saudi Arabia.

TIB hails govt

for passing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International

Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday

hailed the government for

passing the bill on the right to

information (RTI) in the Jatiya

bill a timely decision reflecting

the popular demand, TIB

Executive Director Dr

Iftekharuzzaman said this law

is a must for curbing corrup-

demanded that the govern-

ment make Anti-Corruption

Commission independent

and stronger, uphold the

independence of the judiciary,

ensure honesty and impartial-

ity of the administration and

strengthen the local govern-

ment to establish good gover-

hoped that the government

would form an independent

and strong information com-

mission and play a proactive

Dr Iftekharuzzaman also

In a statement, he also

Terming the passage of the

RTI bill

Sangsad.

nance.



Depositors Forum of Jubak stages a hunger strike in front of the National Press Club yesterday demanding return of their deposits.

Govt to implement CHT Peace Agreement

Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT not possible to implement the administration to work freely,

The government has taken ingthelandissue. initiative to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement, State organised the seminar on Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder said yester-

started the process of forming a committee to this end and has been seeking suggestions on ways to implement the peace accord gradually, he said at a seminar.

"The government will also ensure their basic rights. bring amendments to the land two months to ensure the

Samprity, a non-

government organisation, 'Human rights of minority and indigenous people: Postelection thoughts' at the The government has National Press Club in the city. Speakers at the seminar

called on the government to immediately implement the peace agreement and give constitutional recognition to the indigenous people to

government should do is to

peace accord without resolv- said Prof Ajoy Roy, who presided over the seminar.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury stressed the need to establish true democracy in order to remove all forms of discriminations against the minority.

Decentralisation of power is a must to ensure the rights of all community, he added.

Prof Dr Shaorav Sikder presented the keynote paper. Lawmaker Promod

Mankin, Prof Robayat Ferdous, Parbattya Chattagram Jana To implement the peace Sanghati Samity leader Ushatan Talukder, Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya and columnist

BCL factions

women's hall

A student was injured in a

clash between two factions of

Bangladesh Chhatra League

(BCL) over occupying a seat at

University (DU) last night.

Shamsun Nahar Hall.

threatens

movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Kazi Samity yester-

day threatened to wage a move-

ment from April unless the

government cancels the amend-

ment to the act regarding

Muslim marriage and divorce

Leaders of the Samity at a

overthe appointment of Kazi.

Kazi Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

clash at DU

Madrasa, passed away at the Birdem hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 80, says a press release.

> and two daughters to mourn his death. Death anniversary

He left behind his four sons

METRO DESK



Noorunnahar Fyzennessa. a professor of the IER, Dhaka University, says a press

Dr Fyzennessa was a front-

a female dormitory at Dhaka runner in the movements for women's rights as well as Sources said the BCL facindependence of the country. tions, one led by Sharna and She initiated Liberation War another by Momo, were memorials on the DU campus locked in a clash at 11:50pm and Rokeya Hall premises.

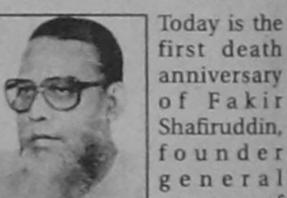
over a seat for a student at She was the first elected woman member of DU Syndicate and the National Pay Commission. She was also

provost of Rokeya Hall. Dr Fyzennessa was also the president of Dhaka City Mahila Parishad and Usha and

vice-president of Women for Women. On the occasion, foods will be distributed among the underprivileged children at

Deepshikha, Mouchak and at Dr Noorunnahar Fyzennessa Pre-primary School in Dhamrai.

Fakir Shafiruddin STAFF CORRESPONDENT



founder general secretary of Mirpur Thana Awami League, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Fakirbari Jame Masjid after

Zohr prayers. Relatives, friends and

admirers have been requested to attend the milad. Fakir Shafiruddin was

made chairman of collaborators court in 1972 to identify the war criminals and recover the bodies of the martyrs from various killing grounds at

Financial rules experts, formed to malign image of Sircar, who is contesting the taker government Dr Akbar Ali April 2 by-elections from Speaker Abdul Hamid on

Widespread allegations of atJSBhaban. financial anomalies were also raised against former deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip

allegedly misused in implementation of projects for trimming grass and farming ducks. The former deputy speaker supervised imple-

mentation of these projects. On the other hand, allegation of taking daily commodities worth a significant amount of money from the JS Secretariat cafeteria was raised against the former chief whip.

"The committee will inves-

The parliamentary body and Public Works Department to come up with all necessary documents on recruitment of officials and employees, purchase, tenders, grass trimming money to meet expenditure of

medical bills of the immediate in Singapore," Rabbi said.

The committee chief however did not make any comment concerned to come up with whether Sircar took the medical

Tk28lakhandTk12lakh.

also asked the JS Secretariat former advisers to the care-Khan and M Hafizuddin Khan Bogra-6 constituency. had earlier told The Daily Star

Sircar could not allocate the

return the amount. "We asked the officials pastspeaker. necessary papers and docu-

bills legally. Sircar had drawn ments of different activities including recruitment of officials, purchase, tender on or Rabbi said. The committee will sit again on April 12.

for his own medical treatment. alleged the probe body was

March 19 constituted the allparty parliamentary body, first time in the parliamentary But he did it ignoring the history of Bangladesh, to probe cial anomalies, misuse of power and waste of public money against the immediate

> The committee was also assigned to investigate any other allegation of corruption occurred in the JS Secretariat during the seven-year tenure of

The apeaker also said the comptroller and auditor gen-Opposition Chief Whip eral (CAG) would soon send a

WEIGHT MANIPULATION

BSTI plans use of weight sets with security logo

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

The council members of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) will sit today to decide whether they would use new weight sets with security logo to address weight manipulation.

The available weight sets in the market have a hole at the bottom. Before marketing of the weight sets, BSTI inspectors check those and if they find faulty weight sets, they seal lead in the hole to maintain accuracy.

However, weight manipulators usually remove the lead from the hole and cheat consumers by giving them less in

weight. The new weight sets, suggested by a committee headed by a teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), have no hole and do not require sealing of lead for accuracy, said is Besides, some unauthor-Director General of BSTI Azmal ised producers also produce

ATTACK ON ERSHAD'S

arrest culprits

Home Minister Sahara Khatun

said in the parliament yester-

day that she had ordered the

police to immediately arrest

people behind the attack on

the motorcade of Jatiya Party

chief HM Ershad in Kurigram

culprits behind the attack to

unwarranted and regrettable

and said following the inci-

vigilance of intelligence mem-

bers have been increased to

avert any untoward incident

in the Kurigram-2 by-election.

dent patrolling of police and

Sahara vowed to bring the

on Sunday.

not be spared.

maker.

Sahara asks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MOTORCADE

police to

little chance of preventing

manipulation of weights. As it is a simple mechanism of cast-iron, security logo alone cannot protect consumers' rights, sources said.

It needs strong monitoring and implementation of rules, they added.

of the available weight sets.

With the help of district and upazila administrations, BSTI conducted 1104 mobile drives in 2007-8 financial year and could check about 7000 weight sets across the country while the country's 16 licensed weight producers produce about 4 lakh weight sets annually.

Experts said availability of faulty weight sets in the market damages consumers' rights domestically and it could affect export of Bangladeshi products

In a survey at some kitchen markets and grocery shops in several areas in the city, The Daily Star found 1-kilogram weight sets of different sizes and shapes although only one size was supposed to be available.

A grocer at Pallabi admitted that he has three weight sets, but only one set gives accurate weight.

He hasn't seen any mobile

court since his shop is far from the market, he added. He said that such faulty weight sets are available at most of the hardware shops but

costlier than the accurate ones.

A shopkeeper of a hardware shop at Karwan Bazar said that an accurate weight set costs Tk 120 but a faulty weight set costs about Tk 200.

role in implementing the law. TIB is also ready to contribute to any necessary steps for the implementation of the newlaw, he added. In another statement, the

Campaign on Citizens' Right to Information also hailed the government for passing the

into a roadside tea stall at BNP to probe assault on Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia formed an enquiry committee to identify the people involved with the incident of assaulting party standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman.

The two-member committee led by party vice-president Sarwari Rahman will submit its report as soon as possible. The other member of the committee is joint secretary general of the party Prof Abdul Mannan.

"We will submit our report within two or three days after investigation," Sarwari Rahman toldThe Daily Star last night.

Lt Gen (retd) Mahbub faced wrath of a group of party activist at a programme at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on March 25.

Move to give MPs power in UZ parishad protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday protested the move to give special powers to Members of the Parliament (MPs) in upazila parishad. They demanded annulment of

Upazila Parishad (amendment) Ordinance 2009. Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB) Chairman Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement said empowerment of the people is necessary to strengthen democ-They said local government

bodies should be able to function independently with proper financial support. They termed the special power of MPs in the decision making process in upazila parishad as a violation of the constitution. In a statement, Revolutionary

Workers Party of Bangladesh Chairman Khandaker Ali Abbas and General Secretary Saiful Haque also criticised the move. They said the step would hinder establishment of a strong local

government system.

commission law within one or accord, the first thing the indigenous people's right to withdraw military camps from land," he said, adding that it is CHT and allow the local Syed Abul Maksud also spoke.

Campaign banned from tonight

UNB, Dhaka

BY-ELECTION

The Election Commission has imposed restriction on elecprocessions from Tuesday (March 31) midnight in areas where the parliamentary byelections will be held on April 2. Parliamentary by-elections

will be held in Rangpur-3 and 6, Bogra-6 and 7, Kurigram-2 and Kishoreganj-6 constitu-

completion of vote casting, plying of vehicles, the release

said the restriction is imposed rickshaw, taxicab, microbus, jeep, pick-up, car, bus, truck and tempo from April 1 and returning officers.

the ban will be in force till midnight of April 2 in the election areas.

"But this restriction will not tion campaigns; meetings and be applicable for vehicles plying on the highways," it said, adding that the restriction on plying of motorbikes is imposed from the midnight of March 31 until the midnight of April 4.

The restriction will not be applicable on the cars carrying the authorized domestic and foreign election observ-"The restriction will remain ers, journalists, election offiinforceuntil 48 hours from the cials, members of lawenforcing agencies and visian EC press release said yes- tors, and the vehicles engaged in ambulance, electricity, gas, About the restriction on postal and telecommunica-

tion services. Besides, the restriction will on the plying of baby taxi/auto be relaxed for the contesting candidates or their polling agents on permission from the

Call to repeal Labour Law (amend) Ordn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) yesterday demanded repeal of the Labour Law (amendment) Ordinance 2008.

A tripartite meeting among the government, owners and workers recently decided that the ordinance will be repealed, but the government is yet to implement the decision, they

said at a press conference. The leaders protested several provisions in the Labour Law 2006, saying that the then BNP-led four-party alliance government formulated the law ignoring the

rights of workers. And the caretaker government amended the law without consulting the labour leaders, they said, adding that the office in the city.

that they are not made in line with the ILO convention.

caused resentment among the workers. If the government does not implement the decision as soon as possible, frustration and anger may grow further. Skop leaders Abdul Matin Master, Roy Romesh Chandra,

Bhuiyan

amendments are undemocratic and anti-workers and

The leaders also warned that the ordinance has already

Shaidullah Chowdhury, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, Meshbah Uddin Ahmed, Khalilur Rahman, Razequzzaman Ratan, Zakir Hossain, Badal Khan, Mujibur Rahman ChowdhuryAshiqul Alam and Amirul Haque Amin spoke at the press conference at its

press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity announced a month-long-programme from April 8 if the government fails to meet their demand in a week. They demanded cancella-

tion of the fresh gazette notification of March 12, saying that the

and

new amendment would hamper stability in Muslim community and family ties. The amendment regarding appointment of Kazi makes students from both Madrasa and modern education, with HSC or any equivalent certificate, eligi-

ble for the profession, they said. The act regarding Muslim marriage and divorce passed in 1974 allowed only Alims to be a Kazi, as the profession requires knowledge about Islami

Secretary General of the Samity Kazi Mohammad Hossain read out the written statement.

JS probe body asks for all documents told reporters after the meeting could not allocate the money meeting as his party, BNP,

Khandaker Delwar Hossain. Around Tk 1 crore was

tigate allegations of corruption, misuse of power against the former deputy speaker and the former chief whip and corrupt officials of the Secretariat had refused to give

and duck farming projects. "We have looked into a few

medical bills twice amounting Available documents on the before the next meeting," medical bill of Tk 28 lakh show that Sircar took the money giving undertaking as the IS

his own medical treatment. documents and papers of basic principle of the financial widespread allegation of finanrules, they argued, adding the past speaker for his treatment immediate past speaker must

mittee chief Fazle Rabbi Mia had observed that the speaker however did not attend the Secretariat since 1972.

Sircar.

Zainul Abdin Farroque, who is special team to audit the Parliament Secretariat," com- the money. The JS Secretariat a member of the committee, expenditures of the Parliament

Dr Subramaniam told reporters at the

However, BSTI officials said security logo on weight sets has

At present, weight manipulators rampantly cheat consumers using inaccurate weight sets since the 29 inspectors of BSTI across the country can manage to check only a fraction

UNB, Bogra At least five people were killed

Rifles Square food shop

gutted STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fast food shop was gutted in

fire originated from an electric short circuit at "Food Park" on the third floor of the building. Security guards of the building said they rushed to

However, she alleged that Ershad was bound for Kurigram fire with fire fighting equipwith the motorcade on Sunday, ment kept at the market. which is complete violation of Later, fire fighters reached the electoral code of conduct. spot at 8:50pm and doused the The home minister's statefire at around 9:00pm. ment was made following the Furniture and electronic demand of Mujibul Haque gadgets worth Tk 20,000 were Chunnu, a Jatiya Party law-

5 killed as coach rams into tea stall in Bogra

and 15 others injured as a Dhaka-bound coach rammed

book and even if anyone of his party is found involved, would a fire at Rifles Square in the city last night. In a statement, the home Fire brigade sources said the minister termed the incident

> "Food Park" at 8:30pm when they found fume emitting from the shop.

They started dousing the

yesterday. Akbar Ali, 35, of Talibpur, Abdus Sattar, 60, and Raihan Ali, 12, of Rahbal and Abul Hossain, 40, of Boalbari village succumbed to their injuries

on the way to hospital. Fazlur Rahman, 35, of Rahbal village died soon after admitted to Ziaur Rahman Hospital at 10:00pm. Identity of another victim could not be known immediately.

All the injured were admit-

ted to the local hospital and health complexes. Witnesses said the coach of Shyamoli Paribahan from Rangpur rammed into the wayside tea stall as the driver lost his control over the steering while he was trying to

about 5:00pm. All the victims were sipping tea or gossiping in the stall

overtake a rickshaw van at

when the accident took place. The driver of the coach, however, managed to

Humidityin

escape.

DHAKA ODAY

Seminar The inaugural ceremony of a twoday seminar on inclusive development and climate change will be held. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:00am. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad organised the seminar.

Bangladesh-India Friendship

Society arranged a discussion

marking the Independence Day of

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar

Forum organises a seminar on the

UN convention on child rights.

Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Bangladesh. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 5:30pm. Seminar

Discussion

Time: 10:30am. Seminar Disaster Management Bureau organises a seminar on how informed women and right information strengthen disaster preparedness. Venue: LGED

auditorium. Time: 9:30am.



Rain likely

country, Met office said.

City/Town

gutted in the fire.

UNB, Dhaka Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:14pm today and rises at 5:51am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 19.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal and Chuadanga.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	19.4	62	66
Chittagong	31.4	23.5	70	80
Rajshahi	32.0	20.0	75	93
Khulna	34.0	21.7	80	69
Barisal	33.4	22.0	79	65
Sylhet	32.7	20.0	71	51
Cox's Bazar	32.6	23.0	67	76