# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

JS PASSES RESOLUTION

# Recognise Bangla as an official language of UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad last night unanimously passed a resolution calling on the United Nations to recognise Bangla as an official language of the UN.

"The opinion of parliament is that Bangla, one of the richest languages in the world, be recognised as an official language of the United Nations," reads the resolution.

The resolution will be sent to the Secretariat of the United Nations immediately for necessary actions.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh celebrates the

World Health Day today with

the slogan 'Save lives: Make

hospitals safe in emergencies'

along with the other United

and Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina in separate statements

wished successes of the week-

long programmes taken by the

government, non

government and international

organisations would take

necessary steps to provide

emergency services to the

people of disaster-prone

areas, the president termed

the slogan of the World Health

Hasina said, "Natural calamity

hinders our social and eco-

KHALEDA'S RESIDENCE

tace movement

BNP, JCD warn PM

Opposition BNP yesterday

threatened to wage a move-

ment if Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina does not withdraw her

recent statement in parliament

Zia's cantonment residence.

about chairperson Khaleda

The threat came from a

meeting of BNP and its student

wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

(JCD) in front of Naya Paltan

meeting protesting the

remarks of Hasina asking the

BNP chairperson to vacate her

Shaheed Mainul Road resi-

dence in Dhaka Cantonment

paving the way for construct-

ing flats for the family mem-

bers of the army officers killed

in the Feb 25-26 carnage at the

Mirza Abbas said, "Please

withdraw your remarks and

protect your own dignity. You'll

only disrespect yourself by

disrespecting Shaheed

President Ziaur Rahman and

Hasina either mistakenly made

the remarks or did it after being

influenced by anyone's ill-

come to power for five years.

Why do you want to leave

quicker by doing such things?"

Amanullah Aman said if

Hasina does not immediately

withdraw her statement, a

movement demanding her

resignation would be

President Azizul Bari Helal, the

meeting was also addressed by

Shafiul Bari Babu and Khairul

Kabir Khokon, Fazlul Huq

Presided over by JCD

Abbas said it seems that

He said, "You (Hasina) have

BNP Organising Secretary

BNP Joint Secretary General

BDR Headquarters.

his wife Khaleda Zia."

advice.

launched.

The JCD organised the

Withdraw

remarks or

UNB, Dhaka

central office.

Day this year time worthy.

Expressing hope that the

government.

President Zillur Rahman

Nations member countries.

WORLD HEALTH DAY TODAY

to disaster-hit people

Participating in the general discussion on the motion, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud said all necessary steps will be taken under the dynamic leadership of the prime minister to obtain the recognition of Bangla as an official language of the UN.

Both treasury and opposition bench lawmakers, who took part in the discussion, extended their all-out support and asked the government to take necessary steps to this end.

lawmaker Mainuddin Khan

Call for emergency services

nomic development in many

ways and brings distress to the

people. But it is very much

possible to reduce unwanted

death and loss by taking timely

steps, though we cannot

Ki-moon in his statement said

collaboration between differ-

ent United Nations entities

and other international actors

is crucial for countries to

health by designing and build-

ing health care facilities that

are safe from natural disasters.

We must also ensure they are

not targeted during conflicts,"

he said, adding that health

care workers must be trained

rather than becoming victims

programmes will cover all the

health facilities of the country

highlighting the day. The

government will scrutinise the

the existing resources, said

Replying to queries of

newspersons at a press brief-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special bench of the High

Court (HC) will hear on April 22

the bail petitions filed by some

persons who were earlier

sentenced to imprisonment in

Party leader Anwar Hossain

Manju and former BNP law-

maker Nadim Mostafa are

The one-member HC

bench of Justice Md Imman Ali

fixed the date, as the matters,

which involved the question

whether a person sentenced

in absentia can seek bail from

the HC without surrendering

to the trial court, came up for

hearing on the cause list of the

division bench delivered split

orders on the petitions.

UNB, Dhaka

6:00pm today.

Savedpur.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

country, Met office said.

5:44am tomorrow.

On February 23, a HC

bench yesterday.

Former minister and Jatiya

absentia in different cases.

among the petitioners.

services to the patients using cyclones.

TRIAL IN ABSENTIA

to hear bail

The week-long

to work safely in emergencies

for emergencies.

Prime Minister Sheikh so that they can save lives,

themselves.

Ruhul Haque.

prepare their health systems

"We must protect public

UN Secretary General Ban

control disaster completely."

Badal placed the resolution while ChiefWhip Abdus Shahid brought amendment to the motion, which was passed.

The JSD lawmaker said Bangladeshi citizens living in the United Kingdom are campaigning for the recognition of Bangla, the fifth most spoken mother language in the world, as an official language of the UN.

He said 25 MPs of the British parliament supported their movement and proposed that this House (British Parliament) welcomes the campaign initiated by

said that bureaucratic bottle-

neck holds back the recruit

ment of doctors, while the

Nursing Act 1997 needs to be

amended for removing the

barrier of recruitment of the

nurses to ensure better health

health, the government has

already started working to

provide wireless internet

connection to 800 points of

the public health facilities.

Concurrently, a cellphone in

418 upazila health projects

each and a web camera to

every civil surgeon will be

the community clinics effec-

tively is a priority in health

sector and by this time some

5,000 community clinics has

(WHO) Regional Director for

South East Asia Dr Samlee

Pilanbangchang said health

facilities need to be structur-

ally strong to ensure that

buildings do not collapse

At the same time, a safe and

needs contingency plans and

a well-trained health

workforce ready to deal with

Following the HC's split

verdict on the issue, the Chief

Justice last month constituted

the one-member HC bench to

General (AAG) M Enayetur

Rahim, who appeared for the

government, yesterday prayed

to the court to hold hearing of

the petitions without any

delay, since the issue is very

Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq

sought two weeks' time to the

court for hearing the petitions

told The Daily Star that the

special HC bench will give the

final decision whether those

sentenced in absentia can

seek bail from the HC without

surrendering to the trial

Enayetur Rahim yesterday

for taking preparations.

Petitioners' lawyer

Additional Attorney

settle the question.

important.

courts.

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty

or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka,

Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over

Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours as

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at

Highest temperature 35.7 degrees Celsius was recorded

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

Min

27.0

24.5

23.4

27.0

25.4

23.2

24.5

Humidityin

percentage

Morning

76

79

Evening

yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 20.2 degrees Celsius at

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

33.7

31.0

35.4

35.2

34.0

32.1

33.0

Temperaturein

Celsius

World Health Organisation

The minister said running

provided soon," he said.

started functioning.

scope for providing utmost during earthquakes or

Health Minister Prof AFM functional health facility

Special HC bench

petitions Apr 22

ing at the ministry, he further emergencies, he added.

"To implement digital

services for the people.

government to give its support to this proposal. **Education Minister Nurul** 

the discussion on the motion.

Sangsad's membership of the (IPU) has been restored.

The governing council of IPU unanimously adopted a resolution to restore the membership of Bangladesh parliament, said a press release of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat vesterday.

The Jatiya Sangsad had lost its membership of the IPU as it was not active in the past two years during the tenure of the caretaker government.

## Bus strike in Bogra

northern districts came to a halt as bus owners and workers of the district began an indefitransport workers and protest ing hike in transport toll.

## Obituary

METRO DESK



Kaiser, wife of Awami League presidium member Ataur Rah-

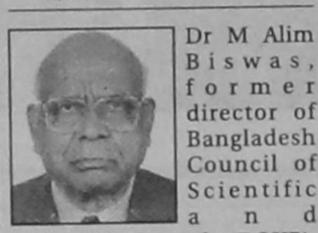
Bahadur Faizur Rahman, passed away due to prolonged illness at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of

Nilufer Kaiser was a celebrated women's right activist, an ardent social worker and president of Chittagong Nagar Mahila Awami League, vicepresident of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League and president of Chittagong Mahila Sangstha. She left behind her husband, three daughters and sons-in-law, four grandchildren and host of friends and admirers to mourn her death.

held at the Kazim Ali School grounds in Chittagong after Asr prayers today and she will be buried at her family graveyard at Bangshal Bari.

Dr M Alim Biswas

UNB, Dhaka



Industrial Research (BCSIR),

He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death. His qulkhwani will be held at

his Mohammadpur residence at 3/8, Block-A, 41 Asad Avenue after Asr prayers on April 8.

Alhaj Syed Abdur Rashid STAFF CORRESPONDENT

father of Abdus Salam, treasurer of Chittagong city unit Awami League and a noted industrialist, passed away at his Chittagong residence yesterday at the age of 97, says a press release.

Heleft behind his six sons and four daughters. He was laid to rest at his IPU membership

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the

20th death

anniversary of Mohammad Hussain, news editor

Daily Gono Kontho, The Daily Janapad and the Daily Sangram, and vice-president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), says a of parliament secretariat. press release. On the occasion, a doa

Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, Mujibul Haque, MP and Rumana



Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

# Body to formulate edn policy soon: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**Education Minister Nurul Islam** Nahid yesterday said the government is going to form a committee soon to review the report of Shamsul Haque Education Committee-1997 in order to formulate the national education policy in line with the Oudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission-1974 report.

A committee will be formed within one or two days and it will submit its report in a few months, he said at a seminar as the chief guest.

Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association organised the seminar on 'Modernisation of education: urgent task' at the National Press Club in the city.

The minister said there is no specific national education policy in the country and that if a government formulate a policy, the next government changes it. He also said that although 91

percent of children are enrolled in the primary school, half of them drop out before reaching class five. At the secondary level, 42

BCL urges

Hasina to

decision

reconsider

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra

percent of students drop out

before their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, the minister said, adding that the main reason behind the dropout is poverty and lack of oppor-

educational institute in about 2000 villages, Nahid said, "We want to ensure enrolment of all children in school by 2011 and we have started working to check

The minister said only 2.23 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) has been spent on the education sector, although the amount should be

"It means we could not provide the minimum allocation for the education sector yet," he said. "If we want to bring about changes in the country, we have to attach highest priority to the education system. So, we have to increase the budgetaryallocation."

Stressing the upgradation of the vocational education, the minister said the government wants to establish a vocational institute in every upazila.

Nahid said the government will try to include the real history

of the Liberation War in the textbooks so that children can know about the glorious history of the country.

The government will also try to increase the salary for the Mentioning that there is no teachers, he said and called on the teachers to improve the quality of education.

Rashed Khan Menon MP, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on education, underscored the need to review the curriculum and modernise the education system.

Prof Mamtazuddin Patwary of Bangladesh Open University Prof Sheikh Zinat Ali of Bangladesh Agriculture University and Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University (DU) presented three separate papers at the seminar.

Presided over by Prof Dr M Akhtaruzzaman, the seminar was also addressed by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, National University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kazi Shahidullah and Bangladesh Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Prot Dr M A Sattar Mandal also spoke.

## Hunt on for world-class actor to play Bangabandhu

UNB, Dhaka

Red Rose Films Limited, a London-based film production house, looks for a worldclass actor to play the main role in its English movie being made based on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, noted columnist and chairperson of the production house, told reporters at a press conference here yesterday that they are trying to cast a world-class actor to play the role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the movie titled 'A Poet of Politics'.

He said, "We've even talked to Indian legendry actor Amitabh Bachchan and film director Shyam Benegal about the movie."

Quoting Amitabh, Gaffar Chowdhury said the Bollywood superstar, now in his mid 60s, does not have any schedule for the next five

Gaffar Chowdhury, also scriptwriter of the movie, said they had talked to a number of world famous actors to play the main character, but appropriate person for Sheikh Mujib is yet to be found.

Journalist Aminul Haq Badshah, director of Red Rose Films, said the movie will portrait three phases of Bangabandhu's life in which Indian film star Shabana Azmi and at least 50 important actors and actresses will per-

A director panel led by Indian film-maker Gautam Ghosh, who migrated from Gopalganj, will work at three locations - Hyderabad of India for indoor shooting, and Pakistan and Gopalganj for outdoor shooting, he added.

The movie is projected to cost around Tk 67 crore which will be managed by voluntary donations, loans and investments from prospective in to

Gaffar Chowdhury said the inaugural ceremony of the film will be held in May in Dhaka, while the production

will start in November. Actor Hasan Imam and

another director of the house Parveen Sultana were present at the programme.

## Razzaq withdraws 3 petitions against govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami leader barrister Abdur Razzaq yesterday withdrew three contempt and writ petitions filed with the High Court (HC) against government after the attorney general assured the HC that government would not restrict Razzaq from going abroad.

The HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui disposed the petitions considering they were not submitted to the court as the government already made submission to Razzaq's peti-

The court was to pass orders on the two contempt petitions yesterday while the writ petition remained pending.

Meanwhile, the government also withdrew its petition filed with the Supreme Court (SC) against the HC order that directed the government to allow Razzaq to go abroad for treatment.

The petitioner's counsel barrister Azmalul Hossain agreed to withdraw the petitions following the submis-

sion of the attorney general. At his office, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star yesterday that the government has decided not to restrain Abdur Razzaq from leaving the country at this moment since the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had already interrogated

him for his alleged link to the Pilkhana carnage. Razzaq on March 19 and March 22 filed two separate contempt of court petitions against the government since it did not allow him to leave the country for treatment though

He earlier filed a writ with the HC challenging the legality of the government action of obstructing him at the airport.

Razzaq said he and his wife would leave for Singapore

League (BCL) yesterday urged Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina to reconsider her decision to resign as the student body's organisational chief. BCL leaders at a press conference at its central office in the city also demanded an amendment to the Election

> of People's Order (RPO) Act so that Hasina can return as BCL organisational chief. Terming Sheikh Hasina the 'heart' of BCL, its President

Commission's Representation

Mahmud Hasan Ripon said all the leaders and activists are shocked at Hasina's resigna-Hasina quit as the BCL's

organisational chief on Saturday at an AL presidium meeting and directed law enforcement agencies to take stern actions against those involved in criminal activities, extortion and tender manipulation, no matter which organisation they belong to.

Answering to a query, Ripon said they could not form fresh committees to different units of BCL across the country as politics was banned for a long time during the tenure of the caretaker government.

He, however, said that steps would be taken immediately to form fresh committees to its units.

Ripon said BCL would not take the responsibility of clashes at educational institutions where they had already dissolved BCL committees.

He urged all BCL men to show maximum restraint at educational institutions and not to get involved in clashes.

BCL General Secretary Mahfujul Haider Chowdhury Rotan urged law enforcement agencies and authorities of educational institutions to take stern actions against those involved in clashes.

restored

UNB, Dhaka

(IPU) membership of Bangladesh has been restored unanimously at the governing council meeting of the IPU, the international organisation of Parliaments of sovereign States, held at Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa yesterday.

now in Ethiopia to lead a Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation to the 120th assembly of IPU, attended the general council meeting and delivered a short speech, said a press release

with VSO and the Ministry of Youth Shawkat was assisted by and Sports and UN Information

## Improved Capacity for Energy

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali,

Mahmood, MP at the meeting.

## Wall collapse kills one, injures eight STAFF CORRESPONDENT A worker was killed and eight lapsed on them leaving one

others were injured as a wall collapsed on them while they were digging a drain to set up a water pipeline in the city's Jatrabari yesterday. The accident occurred at

around 10:30am when the workers were digging earth along the wall to install the water pipeline of Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) at Al-Madina lane at Matuail in Jatrabari. The dead was identified as

daylabour Abdul Haque, 40.

The five injured identified as Jalil Bepari, 50, Alamgir Hossain, 26, Joynal Uddin, 40, Babul Mia, 38, and Rafiqul Islam, 25, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while the remaining others took their treatments at local clinics.

Locals said as the workers dug around 2.5 feet deep drain in this connection.

along the 25 feet long and seven feet high wall, it suddenly coldead on the spot and eight others injured.

> thing hard falling on my back and in no time, I was nearly thrashed into the drain." Locals rescued him from under the bricks of the wall, he

added. The contractor, who engaged workers, alleged that the owner of the wall assured the contractor

Injured Babul told The

Daily Star, "While digging the

drain, I suddenly felt some-

that the wall had strong foundation which would not collapse. Locals said there were 8,000 to 9,000 bricks piled inside the wall which created pressure on

workshop. Venue: IDB Bhaban.

Sammilita Tarun Peshajibi Parishad

organises a roundtable titled The

role of the government and mass

people in trying the war criminals'.

Venue: National Press Club. Time:

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of

'Chimney r mukhe shono siren

shonkho' by Prof Mesbah Kamal

and Jannat-e-Ferdousi will be held.

Venue: Asiatic Society auditorium.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of

annual sports and cultural

competition of Dhaka Commerce

College will be held. Venue: College

The orientation for the freshers of

World Health Day, Venue: In front of

National Museum. Time: 10:30am.

auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Orientation

Jatrabari police said no case was filed and none was detained

Time: 9:00am.

3:00pm.

Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

## DHAKA ODA

#### Award giving ceremony HSBC and the Kali O Kalam will

hand over the Torun Kobi O Lekhak Purashkar' to the winners. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

## **World Health Day**

The inaugural ceremony of the programmes to mark World Health Day will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Convocation The 8th Convocation of East West

University will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time 11:00am.

## Roundtable

Access (ICEA), a project of USAID, organises a roundtable on 'Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Committed to improving the lives of all Dhaka International University will Bangladeshis: One light bulb be held. Venue: Engineers' matters'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 10:00am.

### Workshop The inaugural ceremony of the

'Sixth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications' will be held. Venue: Atomic Energy Centre auditorium. Time: 10:00am. Book fair

#### The inaugural ceremony of the twoday UNESCO Book Fair 2008 will

be held. Venue: Public Library. Time: 10:30am. Workshop UNV Programme in collaboration

#### Human chain Campaign for Good Governance will form a human chain to mark

Workshop

Institution. Time: 2:30pm.

Ministry of Industries, SME Foundation and Bangladesh Engineering Shilpa Malik Samity will organise a workshop on light engineering industries. Venue: Sanai Community Centre. Time: 10:30am.

## **KFC Bucket**

Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) will launch 'KFC Bucket a bucket full of good times!' Venue: Gulshan outlet Centre will organise a national of KFC. Time: 11:30am.

he had HC's order.

tonight.

METRO DESK

### Milon, Nazimuddin Alam and Habibun Nabi Khan Sohel. Chinese military dy chief passes busy day

Visiting Deputy Chief of the General Political Department, PLA, China Lieutenant General Jia Ting'an passed a busy day yesterday, says an ISPR release. He laid wreaths at Shikha

Anirban to pay tributes to the memory of the members of the armed forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971. Later, he paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General

Moeen U Ahmed at Army headquarters in the city and discussed matters of professional interests.

Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal (JSD)

Bangladeshis in the United Kingdom and calls upon the

Islam Nahid, AL lawmakers Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, BNP lawmakers Joynal Abedin and ZIM Mostafa Ali and Jatiya Party lawmaker TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury took part in

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Inter-Parliamentary Union

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bus communications in eight nite strike in Bogra Sadar, demanding punishment to the people involved in assaulting



man Khan (Kaiser) and daughter of Khan

Her namaz-e-janaza will be



Biswas, former director of Bangladesh Council of Scientific

passed away at Birdem Hospital on April 4 at the age of 82.

Alhaj Syed Abdur Rashid,

family graveyard at Mohra.



Zohr prayers today.

of the Daily Azad, the

mahfil will be held at Mirpur Jannatul Mawa graveyard after